

Hadrian's (Wall) Paper

Autumn 2011

Produced by pupils and staff from Hadrian School

Hadrian School of the Environment, Technology and Design

Hadrian Success at GCSE

At the Academy GCSE results day in August, Hadrian Year 11 pupils yet again excelled themselves to produce the best performance since the Academy opened. The GCSE results (including Maths and English) in 2011 were 200% better than the results recorded in August 2009, which is outstanding progress by any measure. 75% of our pupils gained at least 5 GCSE passes at grade C or better. A number of pupils also recorded

exceptional individual results, most notably, Somia Shabaz who achieved the equivalent of 19 GCSE passes including a number at distinction and Mary Beth Farrell, who achieved 4 A* passes, 2 A's and 7 B's. It remains early days for our current Y11 cohort, but signs indicate that yet again Hadrian pupils are set to exceed the achievements of their predecessors.

Well done everyone, and good luck!

Merry Christmas
from Mr Taylor and all Hadrian Staff



Academy Awards

Annual Presentation Evening 2011

For the second year running the Excelsior Academy Awards Evening was held at the Banqueting Suite in Newcastle Civic Centre. The event held on the 21st November was again a huge success which saw over fifty Hadrian pupils presented with achievement

awards. The guest speaker was international female rugby player and weightlifter, Katy Storey, who gave an inspiring and motivating presentation about her life and career.

Notable Academy Award winners were Year 11 pupil Connor Taylor, who was presented with the Tony Pattison award for his



contribution to community, and the Destination Imagination Team who won the inaugural Chris Woodhead award.

Congratulations and well done to all the award winners.





Top: Destination Imagination Team
From left to right;
Farzana Islam, Elima Ahmed,
Attullah Samadi, Ryan Dornan,
Charlotte Baird.

Right: Keys Stage 3 and Key Stage
4 Ambassadors
From left to right;
Sophie Chapman, Ethan Isherwood,
Izzul Zalani, Victoria Kerr,
Scott Liddle, Jamie Sanderson.

Below: Hadrian Subject Award
Winners



Environmental Specialism

As an Academy we have been working with the Eco-Schools programme for the previous three years. This is an international awards programme that gives guidance on becoming an environmentally sustainable school.

Our pupils have set up, run and managed a recycling programme for the past three years. They have also created a garden with raised beds, a poly-tunnel, a BBQ and seating area. In previous years we have achieved the Eco Schools Bronze and Silver awards, but this year we achieved the Green Flag or Eco Schools award. This prestigious award means that Excelsior Academy is only one of two Secondary Schools in the region to have achieved this accolade.

Our next project has been to work on a new wildlife and pond area. We have excavated the pond site and are working with Scotswood Natural Community Garden to complete this project.



Student Leaders- 2011

The Hadrian School Student Leaders scheme has grown from strength to strength through 2011. It was originally created to give pupils an opportunity to develop leadership skills and to demonstrate that they can achieve if given responsibility. This has now moved forward to other areas.

The Student Leaders organise the successful Tuck Shop at break times. This involves handling the finances as well as organising the stock to ensure the most popular items are always available. Added to this, the pupils are timetabled to support staff at duties and help promote a calm, friendly atmosphere in the corridors.

They also support Miss Naylor at morning registration. Since September there has also been an early morning shop that sells healthy food as well as stationery items. There is also now a support network that allows younger pupils to discuss their concerns with older pupils. This is especially helpful to Year 7 pupils and other new starters.

The Student Leaders have helped out at Open Evenings, Review Days and also escorted guests around the Academy. As a reward for this admirable effort the pupils get the opportunity to spend some of their takings from the Tuck Shop on trips to local restaurants.

Looking towards 2012 there are plans to allow Student Leaders to support and even help teach in lessons. This will start in History lessons and Mentoring and will hopefully develop in other subjects as well. This will help the pupils' skills in public speaking and leadership, which will no doubt prove invaluable in future careers.



Developing TEEP

We are excited to share our journey into 'TEEP' which we began last year in Hadrian School. First of all, TEEP stands for 'Teacher Effectiveness and Enhancement Programme' and is a model of teaching that builds on what really good learners and teachers are like. Each year over 2000 teachers in the UK are trained in the various TEEP programmes. Lots of research has been carried out to see what difference TEEP makes. They found that the training positively transformed the way teachers set up and run their lessons. The findings show how engaged pupils were in their learning, how much behaviour improved in lessons, the increase in active learning by pupils, the increase in higher level thinking and the improved attainment. Training takes place at 3 levels. Level 1 is for classroom teachers and is a five day training course

that "models the model". The training is experiential, challenging and fun. Level 2, for people who lead learning, runs for three days and helps develop coaching and leadership skills. Level 3 is by invitation only and is to join the national delivery team. Mr. Shaw qualified at Level 3 this year and now joins the TEEP training team. Mr. Shaw has been working this year with the staff in Hadrian and Jefferson Schools to explore the TEEP model.



This work began with an intensive programme with five members of staff from each School who looked at the research and the model then tried things out in their classrooms. Some of our training sessions are shown in the pictures. We then included the rest of the teaching staff who are spending each term looking at a different area of the TEEP model and trying out new things in their classrooms. We have been recording this work as a series of blogs and will share more examples of our work in upcoming issues.



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Developing New Teachers

Where do teachers come from? Some children would argue that they are created in huge test tubes down in the school basement purely to annoy and bore them in lessons. As exciting as it may be to indulge in this fantasy it is unfortunately not true, in fact the next generation of future teachers come from University. During our time in Higher Education it is imperative that we get hands on experience with pupils and Hadrian School is one of the places we get a chance to do this.

Six Student Teachers, from both Durham and Sunderland Universities, have been in Hadrian School for the past 10 weeks now. During our time here we have been welcomed into the school and supported by the staff who work here. We have had the pleasure of teaching the pupils and getting to know the wide range of young individuals who make up the reasons why we are training to come into this exciting profession. The school has provided us with many experiences, far more than

I can convey in this short article. I particularly enjoyed watching Year 7 repeatedly falling over and clinging onto the railings for dear life whilst Ice Skating at the Centre for Life. I also enjoyed watching Mr Craig and Mr Taylor battle it out on the Bungee Inflatable whilst Mr Robson clenched his teeth during his leg waxing on Children in Need Day. The biggest enjoyment for Student Teachers has been the opportunity to get in front of a class and teach. Our time here has been fantastic and we wish the staff, pupils, parents and the whole school every success in the future.

Mr Pennock
PGCE Maths student

Year 7 Hadrian Learner

Explore, Imagine, Think, Me, Together, Technology

Our Year 7 curriculum represents the culmination of two years work in developing our own competence-based curriculum. We have drawn on the work of other schools, published research and our own thinking to define six competences under the heading 'Hadrian Learner'. Each week the children and staff have immersed themselves in a new theme as they have worked towards achieving Hadrian Learner status.

We have removed individual subject and lesson boundaries from the pupils' timetables and limited the number of staff they are taught by. This mirrors their Primary school experience, as our staff become teachers of children and not subjects. It also allows us to model the learning behaviours we want to develop in our pupils. We have made acquiring Hadrian Learner status the main focus for our Year 7 pupils.

The trip I liked the best was Den Building because I like building stuff. Out of all the trips we have been on this one was the best one ever! The others were also good fun too!
Brett Robinson



The first trip we went on was Whickham Thorns. We went on the donuts and we had a go at Archery it was really good fun. My favourite trip of the whole year was Alnwick Gardens. We went in the poison gardens and maze. The Centre for Life trip is also one of my favourites. We went on the ice rink which was good fun! I fell over a few times on my bum!!! Ouch
Alex Hamilton

All the Year 7 trips were brilliant!! I loved all of them. We had such a good time and learnt loads of cool stuff! My favourite trip was when we went to the Centre for Life. We looked at loads of amazing things and went on the 3D ride.
Tarisha Smith



'Investigate and Explore'
'Happy working with different people'



'Take responsibility'
'Show confidence in what you can offer'



We are all so lucky to have been on so many trips this term. Whickham Thorns, Centre for Life, Beamish, Chopwell Woods, The Sage, Tango Dancing, Vindolanda, Segedunum - They were all great!!! Thanks to Lord Laidlaw and Mr Taylor from all Year 7 pupils



Thanks For Being Here!

Massive thanks and congratulations to Hadrian pupils and their parents and carers for contributing to our continually improving attendance record. Overall attendance has improved dramatically each year since we opened and we are now around 10% higher than the same period in 2008.

Well done everyone!

We also have four times as many pupils who have achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn term this year compared to last year.

So congratulations to them!

As you may know, there is a clear link between good attendance at school and academic success. In short, the more you attend school - the better you will do. This is particularly important for Year 10 and 11 pupils currently studying GCSE courses.

So please keep up the good work. All our pupils should be aiming for between 95%-100% attendance over the whole year. That means

missing less than 10 days of school. Sounds easy enough doesn't it! Those pupils who are successful and maintain a good attendance record will qualify for rewards and prizes.

Don't forget - If you have any attendance or punctuality related enquiries - please contact Miss Naylor, the Hadrian Attendance Manager.

Ps - Well done to her too. She also has 100% Attendance!

Christmas Tree Wars



Wednesday 30th November, a cold, damp, dark day... the perfect day to put the Christmas tree up! However, no one could foresee the war that would follow! Four schools were in competition to have the best Christmas tree in the Academy! Milburn were the first to have their tree up and fully decorated, closely followed by a very chic and glamorous Hadrian.

A mini war pursued between Hadrian and Milburn, with a Christmas tree decoration being held ransom! Just another Christmas in Excelsior Academy!

Many thanks to Miss Thwaites, Miss Reid and Miss Naylor for their creative input into the Christmas decorations.

Important Dates

Academy closes for Christmas
16th December

Academy re-opens for Spring Term
3rd January

Academy closes for half term
10th February

Academy re-opens
20th February

Academy closes for Easter
30th March

Academy re-opens for Summer Term
16th April

May Day
7th May

Academy closes for half term
1st June

Academy re-opens
11th June

Academy closes for Summer Holidays
20th July

Review Days

30th March
28th June

Training Days

2nd March
29th June

**AIM FOR
95%+**

Intra School Football Tournament

We had a representative team from each year group in the Annual Intra School Football Tournament. The tournament was postponed by torrential rain at first, but eventually the girls played with enthusiasm and gusto. The results were as follows:

Year 7 captained by Rebecca Robson	1st
Year 8 captained by Katie Walton	2nd
Year 9 captained by Paige Donald	1st
Year 10 captained by Courtney Myhill	4th
Year 11 captained by Gulsen Haznedaroglu	2nd

WELL PLAYED GIRLS!