

# Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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## Recent Events

**Pantomime:** I didn't get to see it myself but I am reliably informed that our visiting pantomime group put on another excellent show and that the children enjoyed it immensely.

**Assemblies:** Thank you to the classes who have presented the recent class assemblies they have all been super – we are now looking forward to seeing the next ones. Thanks also to the 'Open the Book' group who always tell important Bible stories in a way that our pupils really enjoy.

**Ambassadors:** Well done to our elected ambassador pupils who recently went to the high school with Mrs Brown to meet via Skype with other pupil ambassadors from ATT. We were very proud of how well they spoke up and that one of their ideas (the buddy system) is now going to be adopted by other academies!

**NSPCC:** Well done to everyone who took part in the NSPCC 'Colour Run' which despite the cold went very well. I know the children enjoyed themselves and more importantly will raise lots of money for this very important charity. Thank you very much for your generous support of this.

## COMING SOON

- **Half Term**
- **FOGHS disco**
- **The return of the NSPCC**



**The Great Flood!** – As you may well be aware there was a burst water main at the top of our car park last Sunday which resulted in some quite spectacular cascades of water and consequently a significant flood in both our car park and the end of Girton Close. I know that many of you were anxious to know Sunday and on into Monday if the school was affected and therefore going to be closed. As such may I please remind you that I would only make the decision to close the school if absolutely necessary be it for flood, snow, broken heaters or any other reason and if I did so I would inform the local authority who would pass on the details to local radio and the county council website:

**Radio Stations** - Heart FM ~ 97.1 or 96.4 FM / Radio Suffolk ~ 95.5, 95.9, 103.9 or 104.6 FM  
**County Council Website** - <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/>

I would also put an announcement message on our own school web site home page <http://www.greatheathacademy.attrust.org.uk> and would recommend that this is your first port of call to get the most up to date information. Therefore, to avoid any confusion and/or miscommunication in the future please always assume that the school is open unless you have been informed otherwise by any of these means – thank you.

### **Academy Improvement – J'ai des bonnes nouvelles vous toi!**

For those of you like me who did not do very well with French at school you won't know it but this means I have some good news for you! It is very good news in fact as we have just been awarded the Bronze Linguamarque award for our teaching of French. We believe that it is important for our pupils to leave for the high school with a good grounding in a modern foreign language and as such teach French as this is the chosen language at Mildenhall College Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Macfarlane our lead teacher for languages for all her hard work in making sure we met the required standard for this award and of course all the other staff for helping her do so. Now we will look forward to silver and gold! As well as French of course we are working hard to make sure our pupils attain as highly as they possibly can in all other areas of the curriculum not least reading, writing and maths. As we head towards the mid-point of the year may I stress once again how much we value your involvement in the education of your child – your support and challenge mixed with ours will stand all the children in very good stead for the future.

**Premises Development** – No doubt you will have noticed some new display boards and even large containers spring up around the school not to mention the odd crane or two! This, in case you did not already know, is all part of a large building project that will eventually see us with 8 new classrooms. The work has started well and indeed it is now possible to see the layout of the main extension as the foundations have been dug on our field. We have created a link on our web site where we have posted some images of this so please do take a look if you can. We will update these regularly so you can get a good feel for how things are progressing. Eventually the temporary mobile classes will be removed and we will be able to use the new rooms as our pupil numbers increase. This has been marked as September so I will be watching and attending site meetings with interest over the coming weeks and months to see if everything stays on track!

**Staffing Update** – I mentioned in my last newsletter that we would be welcoming two new teachers to the academy and as such I would like to extend a warm welcome to both Mrs Davenport and Mr Hicks. You will know I am sure that both Mrs Cole and Miss Smith are expecting their first baby and as such will be starting maternity leave soon and that Mr Hicks will be teaching in Vulcan class and Mrs Davenport the upper key stage 2 maths groups. I know you will join me in welcoming them here.

Thank You – Steven Vincent - Principal

## Dates For Your Diary

Please find general dates for the coming year/s below and details of events that have already been finalised. **We will send out additional diary dates for other events during the year once they have been confirmed.**

Also please check our web site [www.greatheathacademy.atrust.org.uk](http://www.greatheathacademy.atrust.org.uk) for further information about us. You will also find useful links to such sites as our uniform supplier and of course our Twitter Feed!

## 2017

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May ~ May Day – **school closed**  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils **MUST** attend school all week – **VERY IMPORTANT**)  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - **IMPORTANT**  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday

**New Academic Year – Please note that all 5 INSET days have now been allocated – the main change to earlier newsletters is that we have set one for the 5<sup>th</sup> September so pupils will now return on the 6<sup>th</sup> and not the 5<sup>th</sup> as originally published. This gives us additional time to prepare the school for pupils in the new parts of the building should we need it i.e. if there is any delay to the project. The other new day is Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> June. Thank You.**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September ~ School reopens for pupils after the summer holiday  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

## 2018

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May ~ May Day – **school closed**  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils **MUST** attend school all week – **VERY IMPORTANT**)  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - **IMPORTANT**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday