

The Woodard Termly

It is the end of a successful academic year for our academies. We are looking forward to splendid results from the Summer examinations. The new buildings at Littlehampton and Lancing were officially opened. Each and every person who attended and contributed to the celebrations were a credit to the academies and to Woodard. We feel proud to have fostered communities within our academies that engender such warmth and openness.

To all our staff and students, on behalf of the Trustees, I send a big thank you for all that has been accomplished. Enjoy the Summer vacation and we shall look forward to the Autumn term with expectation of further achievements.

Best Wishes



Jan Richardson MBE DL JP BA
Chairman of the Trust

'Faith, Unity and Vision' are the three words that capture the very essence of a Woodard education.

Faith - Unity - Vision

SRWA Officially Opens New Academy Facilities

Rear Admiral Sir Robert and Lady Woodard were guests of honour in Lancing for the official opening of the new £35m facilities at the academy which bears his name.

Other dignitaries in attendance at the Sir Robert Woodard Academy included Major Tom Wye, Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, and The Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Charles James and Mayoress Mrs Pauline James.

March 21st was the chosen date for the ceremony as it is the birthday of Nathaniel Woodard, founder of the Woodard Corporation and Sir Robert's great grandfather.

After a service of dedication in the academy's chapel, guests saw the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, before enjoying a buffet lunch prepared and served by the academy's Hospitality and Food Technology students, while being entertained by its jazz orchestra.

Sir Robert, a former Commander of the Royal Yacht Britannia, said: "This is the most extraordinary moment; it's the reality of a dream and I am very, very humbled by having this wonderful academy named after me. The real excitement, however, is that it takes my great grandfather's name on, into the present day and beyond.

"This academy is exactly what he was looking for – affordable education for everyone, an education of very high quality."

Sir Robert had a special message for pupils at the academy: "Nothing is impossible," he told them. "Aim as high as you can and you will achieve it."

Woodard Academies Trust Chairman, Mrs Jan Richardson, said: "This is such a wonderful occasion. This is the first academy the Trust has opened and it has our founder's name, which is why it is so dear to us.

"It is carrying the Woodard tradition of education into the 21st century, and I'm very proud to be part of that, and I'm determined that this academy becomes a flagship."



Sir Robert and Lady Woodard with student.



Hospitality and Food Technology Students serve lunch.



Mrs Jan Richardson, Sir Robert Woodard with the Head Boy and Head Girl.

"..affordable education for everyone, an education of very high quality."

The Littlehampton Academy Opening Ceremony

Actor and comedian Hugh Dennis officially opened the new £32m facilities at The Littlehampton Academy, West Sussex, on Friday 7th June.

The star of *Mock The Week*, *Outnumbered* and *Radio 4's The Now Show* was joined by local dignitaries including Mrs Susan Pyper (Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex), Major Tom Wye (Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex), David Sword (WSCC Director of Learning) and The Rt Revd Mark Sowerby (Bishop of Horsham).

Before entertaining pupils, staff and invited guests at a packed school assembly, Mr Dennis visited a number of classes, including drama, geography and art, speaking to pupils and staff; he also baked his own bread in a food technology lesson.

After a dedication service in the chapel, Mr Dennis and Mrs Jan Richardson MBE, Chairman of Woodard Academies Trust, unveiled a commemorative plaque to officially open the new academy building.

Hugh said: "I've really enjoyed my day; it seems to be a really happy school with fantastic facilities and a fantastic atmosphere."

"Education is massively important as it's the key to everything; you want kids to come out of schools feeling they can do anything they want to do, and hopefully this school and its amazing facilities and ambience will do that."

Mrs Richardson added: "Today has been tremendous; this major building is now full of children working in a bright receptive place of learning."



Hugh Dennis and Jan Richardson with commemorative plaque.



Hugh Dennis Cuts the Ribbon.



Jan Richardson with Joyce Bowyer, Mayor of Littlehampton.

**"..fantastic facilities and a
fantastic atmosphere."**

Chaplaincy

The Scott Centre is Inclusion in Action



Bishop Lindsay Urwin with Senior Provost Brendan Clover & Chaplain James Di Castiglione.



At Woodard Academies Trust we are extremely proud of our Inclusion policy, which ensures that all children have access to the highest quality education and are not disadvantaged as a result of having special educational needs.

The Scott Centre at the Littlehampton Academy is an example of this policy in action. The centre runs full-time to support students with Autism, Asperger's and other communication and social difficulties. Supervised by specialist qualified staff, the students partake in as regular a school day as possible. Integration is a key tenet of the policy.

The centre is a twelve place facility for students with assessed social and communication needs who are able, or who are considered potentially able, to benefit from access to the mainstream curriculum.

Head of the Centre, Daphne Robinson said: "The new facility will enable us to support 12 students. This provision will help enable students to achieve their full potential, both academic and social."

The Centre aims to enable students to participate as fully as possible in mainstream education. It offers a supportive environment within which they receive therapeutic interventions designed to address their individual needs. Inclusion into the mainstream is a gradual process but students are expected to spend over 50% of their time integrated into mainstream classes with support.

The centre has been accredited with West Sussex Autism Aware Award, 2011-14.

Woodard is dedicated to transforming the futures of young people and the communities they serve. All our academies embrace a Christian ethos, promoting understanding, tolerance and diversity, whilst being open to all faiths and none.

The amalgamation of pastoral care and individual learning development is central to Woodard, providing an opportunity to support a young person through both their academic and personal development.

To develop 'The Whole Child', students' spiritual and personal developments are enriched through our Chaplaincy arrangements. Each academy has its own Chaplain who serves the academy community, offering pastoral support to students and staff.

The Chaplaincy acts as a central hub of support and advice for all members of the academy community. Outreach community work is normally led by the Chaplaincy.

Students and staff of all faiths and none are welcome to participate in events led by the Chaplaincy.

Kings Priory School Secures Funding Agreement



The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove on Friday, 5 July 2013 formally approved the Funding Agreement for the Kings Priory School, Tynemouth. The new Academy will now open on the site of the independent King's School, Tynemouth and the state funded Priory Primary School, in September 2013.

Sponsored by Woodard Academies Trust, the new Academy has already been described by the Prime Minister as "an exciting, innovative project" for being the first of its type in the UK to merge an independent school and a state primary to become an all through community Academy for 4-18 year olds. The new academy will serve the Tynemouth community with places for 1,150 students plus 200 sixth form students.

The Academy will serve the entire local community and the facilities will be available for all to use.

The Kings Priory School will open under the leadership of Principal Designate, David Dawes.

Jan Richardson, Chairman of Woodard Academies Trust said; "Since announcing our intentions last September, parents and carers have patiently waited for the green light with more than one thousand people signing the online petition in support of this merger. This really will be a school at the very heart of the community it will serve." David Bilton, CEO of Woodard Academies Trust, added;

"As a former pupil of The King's School, and someone who still lives in Tynemouth, I am delighted that Kings Priory School will be opening its doors to the community of Tynemouth and beyond in September. The school has wonderful facilities including a field centre in the Cheviots which will be of great benefit to all Woodard Academy pupils."

All students currently attending King's School and Priory Primary School will automatically transfer to the new academy.

In a letter received from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, Lord Nash, confirming the approval of the Funding Agreement, wrote, "The Secretary of State considers there is a strong argument for increasing parental choice through the provision of high quality places in the area and he considers that the new academy will provide high quality education. WAT is a proven sponsor which improved results in its open academies by an average of 11.5 percentage points between 2011 and 2012 and the Secretary of State believes that the Kings Priory School will benefit from the strong leadership that the Trust will provide."

The Trust is delighted to receive such an excellent affirmation for its work.



Academy Stories



The Sir Robert Woodard Academy

 www.srwa.woodard.co.uk

Debating at SRWA

The Mandela Debating team emerged victorious after an inter-chapter debating competition. The students tackled subjects such as the role of the Monarchy in modern society and whether the 2012 Olympics were the best use of public money. All involved in the debate performed to the highest standards, and were very impressive in their articulation and powers of debate, especially if one considers that the debaters were only told moments before approaching the podium which side of the argument they were to take!

Chapter Values

The students in Nightingale Chapter have been working towards defining a set of values for their Chapter. The values they decided on are now integral to the day to day workings of the Chapter, and each member of the Chapter work towards embodying the values at all times. The values they chose are: Independence, Honesty, Perseverance, Self-discipline, Compassion and Positivity. Earlier in the term the students presented their thoughts on the values at a Chapter assembly, and good discussions were generated.

Saint Augustine Academy

 www.saa.woodard.co.uk

Saint Augustine Academy students raise money for Rwanda visit

Three students and two members of staff at St Augustine Academy are heading for Rwanda after a long period of fundraising. Fundraising in most unusual ways!

Kaya Whiskin and Olivia Rundle spent five hours sitting in a bath of custard at Maidstone Mall! The event attracted a big crowd and lots of donations. Overall they raised £380.

Other events took a more traditional route and included a cake sale and raffle.

The students plan to teach children in Rwanda who don't have access to traditional methods of education, a most worthy cause.

Prayer Space

The Prayer Space was a week-long project delivered at the academy. The project, a partnership with CAST (Church and Schools Together), set up a dedicated space in the academy, and furnished it with lights, drapes and displays. The area served as a place where students and staff could reflect and discuss philosophical matters. All were welcome regardless of their beliefs, and the project was deemed a great success.

Visitors to the Prayer Space were very complimentary, with some branding it "amazing" and "peaceful".



St Peter's Academy

 www.spa.woodard.co.uk

Faith and Culture Day

Earlier in the term Muslim students from St Peter's Academy visited Biddulph High School to take part in its Faith and Culture Day. The SPA students led a workshop to enable Biddulph students to learn about the Islamic faith and culture, and to discuss the realities of living in Stoke-On-Trent as a Muslim.

The SPA students were once again a credit to their academy, and delivered a confident, engaging and knowledgeable workshop. The Biddulph students reported on their evaluation forms that the SPA visit was the highlight of the day. The RE department at the academy said they were "proud to be associated with these students, and it has reinforced our belief that the academy is blessed to be able to celebrate diversity and faith every day."

Sports Ambassadors

Two Year 11 students at St Peter's Academy have been nominated to become the academy's Sports Ambassadors, to join a programme run by the Youth Sports Trust. The roles and responsibilities of Young Ambassadors are:

- 1 To increase participation and healthy lifestyles in their school/academy
- 2 To be an ambassador and role model advocating PE and school sport
- 3 To be the young people's voice on PE and school sport in their school/academy and communities

It is a great initiative and delivers an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. The Trust is most proud to count these students as part of its academic community.



The Littlehampton Academy

 www.tla.woodard.co.uk

Year 9 Visit to Sussex University

A group of Year 9 students spent a taster day at the University of Sussex and were able to take part in a number of workshops. They looked at bees during one workshop and in another they were making a magnetic liquid called Ferrofluid, a recently developed nanoparticle that has a wide range of applications in new technology. A day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

TLA Steel Band wins Town Award

The Town Council merit awards are presented annually to members of the public who, in the opinion of the Council, have made a significant contribution to the town and the townsfolk. This could be through a combination of a number of factors involving the promotion of the town, enhancing its reputation, initiatives to improve quality of life for residents or a sustained contribution to a particular issue, which has wide reaching benefits for Littlehampton.

St Peter's Academy – New Build Overview



St Peter's Academy is committed to providing a world class education within a clear Christian ethos which purposefully serves the wide and diverse needs of the community of Stoke-on-Trent. The new Academy building will reflect and support this commitment.

Centrally located at Fenton Manor, the new building will act as a symbolic beacon of the Sponsors' vision: 'An Academy at the heart of the City with Faith at the heart of the Academy'.

Moreover, it will provide facilities for up to 1,200 students aged 11-16, and up to 150 post 16 students, including specialist ICT, media, business, technology and sports facilities. Therefore it will facilitate the delivery of excellent educational provision and allow for a high quality, personalised and rigorous education.

The multi million pound new facilities, which are being built as part of Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Phase 3 Programme, commenced at the end of 2011 and will be ready for use by September 2013.



Key features of the new building

- ✧ A Faith Centre for small group worship and personal reflection
- ✧ Flexible learning spaces
- ✧ An assembly, performance and sports hall with seating for 1,300
- ✧ Cutting edge ICT
- ✧ Lots of open spaces for lecture-style lessons, project based work, small group learning and work rooms for one-to-one mentoring and support
- ✧ Gardens for teaching, relaxing and reflection
- ✧ Extensive sports facilities including an Astro turf, football pitches, volleyball courts, a grass athletics track, a cricket pitch and excellent changing facilities
- ✧ High quality catering facilities and a spacious dining area
- ✧ Community also has extensive use of the facilities.



In the next Issue...

- ✧ A report on our Think Forward International (TFI) conference
- ✧ An exam results overview
- ✧ A new Trustee profile