



## **Message from the Principal - 21 school days until we are up and running in the new building!!!**

'D Day' is Monday 27 February when we will all start afresh in the new and exciting environment that the new building offers. In order to facilitate the smooth transition into this brand new learning environment, we are closed to students for the week of 20-24 February EXCEPT FOR YEAR 11 AND SELECTED 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM STUDENTS. Year 11s and those 6<sup>th</sup> Form students who are attending lessons during the week beginning 20 February will have their lessons in the new building. During the week beginning 6 February we will take groups of students across to the new building for their induction, further details will be issued to students nearer the time. It's all very exciting and once we are in and settled we will invite parents/carers in for tours around the new building, details will be posted on our website.

As well as all of the excitement over the new building we have also been visited by Scary Guy this week who has had a significant impact on our students (please see the article on page 2).

We have had early entry results for Maths and Science distributed to students this week – congratulations to all those who have the results they were hoping for.

We have a new event that all parents need to be aware of – we have introduced **ADVOCACY DAY** which will take place on 23 January when you are invited, with your child, to meet with their tutor to discuss overall progress and to set targets for the rest of this academic year. This is another step that the academy is taking to improve communication with parents and help students improve their learning. You will shortly be receiving a letter with the details of the day and we look forward to seeing you on 23 January. Miss Bull

## **Step by Step**



**An exciting opportunity to make new friends, share ideas and pick up practical parenting tips!**

**All** parents and carers are invited to this friendly 7 week programme:

Powers Hall Junior School starting on  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 1-3pm  
Or

Chipping Hill School starting on  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 1-3pm  
Creche available at both venues

For more information contact **Hazel Throssell**  
or **Hazel Large** on **01376 512310**

## **Middy Assistant Vacancy**

Can you spare an hour a day during term time? If so, New Rickstones Academy is looking to appoint a Middy Assistant to supervise the students during the lunch break between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Annual salary £1,492.36.

A full Criminal Records Bureau check will be carried out. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Sue Wright, HR Manager, at the Academy for a job description and application form.

Closing date Friday 27 January at 3 p.m.

## **ADVOCACY DAY - 23 JANUARY**

23 January is Advocacy Day where students will work from home on set tasks. They will be expected to attend for a 15 minute appointment with their tutor, along with their parent/carer(s). Letters will follow.

Thank you.

## **Coming soon to the new NRA library**

Author Dan Freedman will be visiting us soon to deliver an inspirational talk to students and staff. He will tell them about his journey from being a football fanatic at school all the way through to working with the England Team and becoming a football author. It is a fun and inter-active session, for both boys and girls, using their passion for sport to engage them in reading, writing, raising their aspirations and thinking about their futures. As part of his talk he will show a DVD of his interviews with David Beckham, Wayne Rooney etc. There will be a book sale and signing session. We shall also have a surprise guest from the football coaching world too. More details to follow. Dan was also one of the selected authors for the Year 7 free books 2011 from the 'Booked Up' organisation. For more information about this author please go to: [www.danfreedman.co.uk](http://www.danfreedman.co.uk)

**IF ANYONE RECEIVED A NEW MOBILE PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE US WITH ANY NUMBER CHANGES - THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. THANK YOU.**



Congratulations to Lauren Dillane, Shannon Dillane, Bethanie Grist, Jessica Johnson, Cara Wilsher, Paige Heard and Charlotte Newman for serving Christmas Dinner at the local Senior Citizens Luncheon Club in Witham Town Hall during the week before Christmas. Everyone who attended was so complimentary about their hard work and the way they engaged with the ladies and gentlemen who attend the Luncheon Club. Well done girls!



*'Caring for Achievement'*

## **GOODBYE 1977, HELLO 2012!**

Staff and students at New Rickstones Academy are preparing to move into their brand new 21<sup>st</sup> century building in February and to leave what has been their home since 1977. When it was first built in the mid-seventies, the old Rickstones School was considered to be the first of its kind, with its 'modern' flat roof and single storey classrooms built around a central walkway. How times have changed!

Tempered with the excitement of moving is a feeling of nostalgia for the old buildings and what they have meant over the years to the community so the Academy has organised a 'farewell to the old build' evening on Friday 27 January from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. when members of the community, ex-staff, students and parents can walk around the site and remember their school days. Visitors will be able to see displays of old uniforms, reports, photos and all things Rickstonian. Alongside the memorabilia will be presentations of the fabulous new buildings with a time-lapse presentation of the construction.

Everyone is welcome.



**New Rickstones  
Academy**  
To make our best better

## **SCARY GUY VISITS NRA**

As part of Essex Police's Community Engagement delivery, they have invited The Scary Guy and his KidsVisionHeart team to deliver his powerful programmes to a number of Essex schools. New Rickstones are delighted to announce that he visited us on Wednesday 11th (Yrs 7, 8 and 9) and Friday 13th January (Yrs 10 and 11).

The Scary Guy has been delivering emotional intelligence education programmes worldwide for the last 13 years. His work is highly successful, well respected and documented. He is a unique blend of comedian, philosopher and educator. He is renowned for his highly effective programmes in reducing the bullying, name-calling and negative behaviours experienced in our communities worldwide. In the last decade on the road he has worked with schools, police forces, military and a host of communities and corporate organisations - helping over 7 million people around the world to achieve personal peace and triumph in their lifetime. Scary Guy challenges all of us to take a good look at ourselves and delivers a wake-up call to everyone when he teaches how every person can take full responsibility for all of their own behaviour in the form of words and actions as energy. Scary presents clear strategies for how parents can support their children in the face of the negative energy and behaviour they may experience from others around them.



Please see our website for all the latest information regarding the Academy, including Accelerated Reader information, letters to parents and updated photos of recent events.