



# The City Academy, Hackney

## Values and Success

Issue Two | Winter 2008

# Welcome to the second issue of The City Academy, Hackney newsletter



By now parents will have made their secondary school choices. Initial indications are that The City Academy, Hackney has been a very popular choice.

We had over 400 people attend on both nights of our open evenings and have had many individual parent enquiries. It is timely then that the DCSF have now confirmed that the resources we require to provide a further 30 places at the Academy are

being made available, and so the initial number of Year 7 students in the first year will be 210.

Since the last newsletter we have recruited two new staff. Gareth Harris, Head of English and Literacy, and Holly Rose, Head of Learning. They start with us in January and will work for some of the time in primary schools supporting Year 6 students with booster lessons to ensure as many students as possible achieve a good standard in literacy before they enter the Academy.

The sponsors of The City Academy, Hackney also provided funding for 60 Year 6 students to attend an outward bounds residential in Wales during November. As part of their programme for the week Charlotte Rogers (KPMG), Mark Malcolm (Vice Principal) and myself ran an Academy focused day which introduced students to the approaches to learning that will be used in Year 7.

During the second half of this term the major focus has been to recruit the remaining 20 staff we need. We are also engaged in the detailed planning of the curriculum, systems, rules and procedures that will be required to ensure that the Academy is an efficient, well disciplined and exciting learning environment for our students.

We have achieved a lot so far and we will continue to work hard to ensure that we create an exemplary learning institution that the young people of Hackney so clearly deserve.

**Mark Emmerson, Principal**  
The City Academy, Hackney

## Key dates for secondary school transfer in September 2009

**November 2008 – February 2009**

Coordination of pan London admissions process

**12 December 2008**

Hackney children who attend a primary school outside the borough and children not resident in the borough whose parents/carers apply for a Hackney secondary school place take the banding tests at Cardinal Pole RC School

**2 March 2009**

Letters are sent by first class post to parents/carers informing them of the outcome of their application for a secondary school place for their child for September 2009

**17 March 2009**

Deadline for parents/carers to confirm acceptance of the school place offered

**24 March 2009**

Closing date for submitting appeals

**May-June 2009**

Appeal hearings arranged and held



## Opening evening a great success

The City Academy, Hackney held its first opening evening back in September this year. Both evenings the Principal spoke to a packed house. Parents and carers heard about the exciting new Academy and there were opportunities for families to ask questions afterwards. Said Mark Emmerson, Principal: 'There was a real buzz about our new Academy and huge enthusiasm from families who want the best for their children.'

For further information visit [www.thecityacademy.org](http://www.thecityacademy.org) or email [info@thecityacademy.org](mailto:info@thecityacademy.org)



The City Academy, Hackney is sponsored by KPMG and the City of London Corporation.



Mark Malcolm listening to a pupil

# A mark of success

Mark Malcolm is Vice Principal (Deputy Head) at The City Academy, Hackney and comes with over 15 years experience of education in the borough.

Before being appointed, he was Deputy Head of Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form, Media Arts and Science College having joined the school as a teacher in 1993. His own specialist subject is Design and Technology.

His role embraces the whole area of learning and teaching covering issues like the curriculum, the Academy timetable and student assessment. The aim is to ensure high quality teaching to ensure that the Academy is a successful school where everyone makes the most of their talents and abilities.

While he was at Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form he saw a huge rise in standards from a time when 19 per cent of students were achieving 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE to 65 per cent breaking this barrier.

He believes that being part of a successful school, in his previous job, gives him high expectations of the first group of students who will join the Academy next year.

A lot of work lies ahead to ensure that the Academy is ready to greet its first intake.

Mark says: 'One of the immediate priorities is to recruit teaching staff that can deliver the curriculum and we are also having to ensure that everything is in place, including the ICT structures, for the opening of the new building in September next year.'

Recently Mark took part in the residential week in North Wales with students from two local primary schools. Part of its purpose was to get children from different schools to break out of their friendship groups and take part in a range of activities as a team.

The City Academy, Hackney is already building strong links with local primary schools so that the move up to secondary school is a smooth and successful one.

# Good to meet you

It was great to meet so many parents and carers at the Secondary School Fair and the open evenings and to be greeted by so much enthusiasm for the new Academy.

As chair of governors I found it particularly valuable to hear the range of questions people wanted to ask, as did other representatives from our sponsors KPMG and the City of London Corporation.

There was a lot of interest and we gave out hundreds of copies of our prospectus which spells out the exciting vision for the Academy.

In the coming months we will reach significant milestones in the construction of the new building on Homerton High Street. Rapid progress has been made already and we are well on target for the opening in September next year when the Academy will become the latest member of the family of secondary schools in Hackney.



Catherine McGuinness  
Chair of Governors

# Primary school students get low down on the City of London

Groups of students from Berger, St John and St James, Millfields and Morningside Schools have visited the City of London Corporation to gain insights into its work and history and the role of the Square Mile as the major financial hub for the UK.

They were given tours of The Guildhall, as of part of the event, and took part in a quiz about the history of the City of London.



As part of their activities during an away week in North Wales, Year 6 students from local primary schools took part in a design competition workshop.

The new Academy will have four student houses which are named after key places in the City - Moorgate, Ludgate, Aldgate and Newgate.

Students were asked to design a logo to go with each of these names and the winning entries will be used as part of the individual house identities when the Academy opens in September 2009.

# Project update

Local students, involved in a Sorrell Foundation project, will take part in a topping out ceremony before Christmas at the Academy site.

It will mark the roof going onto the building at its highest point and underlines the progress that is being made at the new home of The City Academy, Hackney, on Homerton High Street.

The design project, involving local students, will run right up until the time that the Academy opens its doors.

Regular activities take place each month on the site and the students have been enjoying the experience.

Here is just a flavour of what they think:

*'Today we had a map and my team were the sprinkler team. We had to find out where the sprinklers go for when there is a fire. We also had to measure where they go. Before (this project) I didn't know anything about architecture and buildings, but now I can do some stuff, like the (scale) measuring today.'*  
Morningside Student

*'This is really different to my work (as an apprentice at Buckingham Palace) its much more industrial, from scratch, not just rewiring. So I'm seeing both sides of the industry.'*

Student, Hackney Community College

*'I never thought all the designs we would do would really come true, we did it, and it was fun, and now it's coming true.'*

Morningside Student

Work continues to create a brand new school and the Academy will be completed in the summer of 2009.

For local residents if you have any concerns about the construction phase please contact:

Sabah Abed, Operations Manager on  
07973 127095  
Martin Halley 07812 241106  
Dave Towner 07814 934972  
Outside office hours please call  
Optimum Security on 0845 6003582.