



PiXL Exam Success

**Students really are Partners in Excellence**

Year 11 students had their first taste of exam success when the results of the summer's PiXL papers were announced last month.

Partners in Excellence (PiXL) is a nationwide partnership of schools working together to achieve the highest outcomes for students. PiXL schools have access to a wide range of expert advice and teaching resources and can pick and choose the strategies that best suit their local circumstances.

In preparation for the new GCSEs in 2017, our students sat new-style exams in English and Maths... alongside 87,000 other students in English and over 100,000 in Maths. Papers were externally moderated, and grade boundaries were set in exactly the same way they will be in the summer on a national

scale. Grades A\*-G have been replaced by a scale from 9 to 1.

A total of 11 Elizabethan students were awarded a Grade 9 in either English or Maths and top of the class were Lucy Cross and Elizabeth Middleton, who achieved a fantastic Grade 9 in both English and Maths.

Vice Principal, Jason White, explained that the new GCSEs are significantly more challenging than in the past. "Only around 3% of students nationally are expected to achieve the top grades, so all eleven have done fantastically well. With pre-public (mock) exams starting straight after half-term, it has given our students a real confidence boost."

**Open Evening 2016**

Our Year 6 Open Evening saw a record number of families flow through the Academy's doors.



There was a plethora of activities available for everyone to enjoy from... Roald Dahl stories in the English department, which were brought to life by the staff dressed as the book characters, to... Mad Science where children experimented with potions, colour changing flames and made Elephants toothpaste.

Principal, Christine Horrocks, told parents that she only employs



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teachers who have the same educational philosophy as herself: "to make a positive difference to young people's lives and help them reach their potential and be successful young adults."



## Orienteering Champion

Student Alice Carley won the Year 8 girl's category in the British Schools Score Championship in Orienteering. The national event took place at Bagworth Heath in Leicestershire.

Alice scored an amazing 210 points, 30 more than her nearest rival. Her score was good enough to have placed her in second place against the Year 9 girls and in the top 10 against the Years 10 and 11. Alice said "I was so pleased when I heard I'd won I couldn't quite believe it. I train twice a week with my dad and my brother and winning today has made it all worthwhile."



George, Alice's brother, also took part in the highly competitive Year 10 and 11 boy's category finishing with an impressive score of 280 and placing him in 11<sup>th</sup> position.

## Macmillan Appeal

Staff and students at Retford Post 16 joined forces in aid of the Macmillan appeal last month.

An abundance of homemade cakes were on sale and students from the Elizabethan, Retford Oaks and Retford Post 16 took part in a Bake-Off challenge.



Esmee Howley, who joined Retford Post 16 from McAuley in September, threw herself into the fund raising by agreeing to have 'the cake in the face' challenge if enough money was raised.

A total of £323 was raised by the students for this very worthy cause.

## Most Promising Student

Year 11 student Henry Wilson has a lot to smile about, winning the Lynn Kenworthy Award for the most promising student at Awards Evening.

Henry has been attending maths lessons at the Academy since primary school.

He sat his GCSE Maths two years early, achieving an A\* and now has five GCSEs at A or A\* to his name, meeting or exceeding his targets in each, and will be sitting at least a further six GCSEs this summer.

Henry surpassed himself this year, achieving an "A\* with distinction" in his Further Maths GCSE. This is a grade reserved only for the iGCSE qualifications favoured by private schools in particular.



## The Next Big Thing...

Thirteen lucky Elizabethan students have been invited to take part in the Royal Society's 'The Next Big Thing' held as part of the Grantham 'Gravity Fields Festival'.

The Grantham Festival has taken the theme of 'Genius' to celebrate Isaac Newton's legacy in the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of some of his most scientifically significant discoveries.

Elizabethan Academy Principal, Christine Horrocks, was invited to host the event and introduced the panel of three eminent female scientists: Dr Libby Gibson (Newcastle University), Dr Lauren Guillette (St Andrews University) and Dr Meghan Gray (Nottingham University). All three spoke passionately about their

specialist fields but also about the importance of equality and diversity through promoting women in leadership.

The students, who were selected for their love and passion for Science, got to take part in a question and answer session with the eminent panel. Kieran D'Amelio said: "I'm really glad that I got to ask questions to real scientists, it gave me a clear insight into their work."

Gabby Holland said: "Today has shown me that there is a huge array of research within science, you can pursue an enormous range of careers if this is where your interest lies"

Mrs Horrocks told us that STEM careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are vital to the country's future. "We have recently appointed an Associate Principal to lead on STEM within our Academy, with a particular focus on encouraging more talented women into the subjects. Her brief is to prepare our young people for an exciting future in this field."

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