



**University
Academy
Keighley**

Parents Newsletter

Special Student Review Day Edition - 27th January 2012

**Issue 2
January 2012**

Reminders:

Mathematics
GCSE Linear
examination,
Friday 2nd and
Monday 5th
March.

UAK6 Celebration
of Learning
Evening,
Thursday 2nd
February, 6.00pm.
An evening for all
to celebrate
achievement over
this term.

U13 girls'
badminton match
v Oakbank School
Monday 6th
February.

Poetry Live
(for all Year 11),
Friday 3rd
February.

Year 7 Yorkshire
Linking Project at
Driffield, Thursday
2nd February.

World Book Day,
Thursday 1st
March.

Welcome from the Academy Team



**Assistant Principal, Care
Guidance and Support,
Jennifer Thompson**

It is such a pleasure to have joined the UAK community! You have all made me feel so welcome already; I can only hope our future journey will continue to be as productive as our first weeks together. Thank you.

Introducing our Governors



**Vice Chair of Governors,
John Chuter, OBE, BSc,
MSc, MA, CEng, FIET**

My education and early life started in Essex and Nottinghamshire and continued into Electrical and Systems Engineering at the Royal Military College of Science. I am a Chartered Electrical Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. I trained as a paratrooper and served as an engineer supporting armoured and infantry units. I have travelled extensively overseas with my career and was a youth member of both the Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.

I was appointed the OBE in 1991 and retired from the Army in June 2002 as a brigadier. I settled in West Yorkshire and was appointed as a non-executive member of the Bradford District Care Trust and Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT. My other duties include being on the General Osteopathic Council and a lay canon of Bradford Cathedral.

My interests include listening to music, walking, canoeing, gardening, reading and restoring a 1943 Willys Jeep. I also lead a full family life with my wife Barbara, my three sons and a Labrador!. In my spare time I am currently researching a book on the Merchant Navy.

Being married to a teacher I have always had an interest in education and when the opportunity arose to contribute as a Governor to the future of UAK I leapt at it.

Good News!

Attendance Campaign Pays Off

Attendance at UAK is very good in all year groups and we should be proud of this. This is evidence of the success that can come from a concerted effort and presenting a united front from parents and the community.

We know things need to get better but this is an example of what we already have at the Academy that is very good! Your continued support will ensure it remains a strength.

Get Healthy Parent and Child Programme

As UAK's Parental Involvement Worker, I have been running a six week health and wellbeing programme for a group of Year 7 parents since the beginning of the academic year. Six parents have been regularly attending the sessions, making everything from Salad Nicoise to pizza and they will receive a certificate to mark their achievements at the end of the course.



The aim of the two hour sessions has been for the boys to build a stronger relationship with their mums by working alongside them to learn to cook healthy meals. Parents and children are bonding and working well together and parents have said the cooking experience has been great, because for some of them it was the first time they had cooked with their son!

I would like to say a big thank you to all the mums who have attended. The food has been delicious!

Nadia Majid

Year 9 Options



Perhaps the most important decision anyone in Year 9 has to make is what option subjects to take in Years 10 and 11. On Review Day we will be asking you what subjects you are thinking about taking from September.

The information you give us is vital to help us make sure the right courses are available for you.

Why are Options so important?

Your choice is important. The better you do in Years 10 and 11 and the more courses you pass means more choice for you at the end of Year 11.

Choices include going to Sixth form, going to College or University to get a degree. If you want to go to University you should think very carefully about doing the right combination of GCSE subjects to qualify for your university subject.

At the moment, young people can leave full time education at the end of Year 11. But as from 2015 all young people will have to stay in learning until at least their 18th birthday. This means that the current Year 9 and younger pupils will have to stay in learning until they are 18. This doesn't mean that all these students have to stay at school, but they do have to stay in learning.

This includes the options of:

- Full-time education i.e. school or college.
- Work-based learning i.e. Apprenticeships.
- Part-time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

What I need to think about?

Think about these three things:

- What am I good at?
- What do I like doing?
- What do I want to do in the future?

Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher or because your friend is doing it.

What I have to do?

Make sure, on Review Day, that you collect an Options Booklet and Expression of Interest form. Go and see Mr Wilson who will take you through the choices. Complete the form and hand it in before you leave. We will then work out the best courses to offer and you will receive a formal Option Choice form on which to make your actual choices.

Good Luck, Mr Wilson

Numeracy Challenges

For some time the Academy has been encouraging a greater awareness of numeracy, through its Numeracy Challenge. Maths competitions, numeracy puzzles or problem solvers are set every week for our Communities to have a go at. Points are awarded for the number of completed returns from each Community and so far it's clear that after the fifth challenge, Mercury are more switched on to maths than the others. The Numeracy Leader board currently stands at:

- Mercury 210 points
- Saturn and Neptune 120 points
- Year 7 110 points
- UAK6 and Jupiter 90 points



Learning Buddies



Learning Buddies are here! This scheme, which has been successfully running for half a term now, has been organised to help pupils in Years 8 and 9 with their Literacy and Numeracy skills.

The young students meet with a 'Learning Buddy' from UAK6, the Academy's Sixth Form, every Tuesday and Thursday to practice number work, reading and writing skills. The ultimate aim of the project is to help our younger pupils achieve and progress. However, the flipside has been the work experience our older students have received and the development of positive relationships within the Academy. The Sixth Formers involved have also gained a greater understanding of the importance of being role models.



Dates for your Diary

GCSE Poetry Live

The whole of Year 11 have been invited to attend GCSE Poetry Live at Leeds on Friday 3rd February. This is an opportunity for GCSE pupils to see and hear live performances from a great selection of the poets they are studying; there are also vital sessions with AQA Chief Examiners. This trip will greatly enhance their learning for the GCSE Literature exam, which this year, includes an unseen poem element. We believe attendance is very important.

The ticket costs have been covered by the Academy, but we would appreciate your co-operation with the costs of coach travel and lunch for those who pay for school meals. Students are asked to wear uniform for the trip which will depart from the Academy at 8:40 am prompt, returning approximately 4:45 pm.

UAK6 Parents Evening

The UAK6 Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 9th February from 6.00 pm. Your son/daughter will shortly be making an appointment time for you to meet with their tutor and subject staff and you will be notified of this by post. Included will be the January grades and comments on how your son/daughter can achieve and exceed their target grade.

Half Term

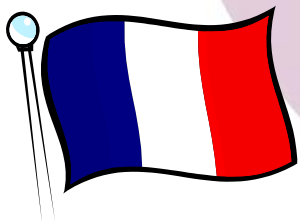
The Academy will be closed from Monday 13th February and reopen to students Tuesday 21st February. Please note Monday 20th is a staff training day.

World Book Day

UAK will again be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March, with events and activities. Watch out in upcoming issues for more information.

Forthcoming French Trip

The trip is planned for Monday 23rd to Friday 27th April, departing late Sunday pm/early Monday am 22nd/23rd April. We will be located in northern France between Normandy and Brittany visiting many sites of interest: the Bayeux Tapestry, traditional French towns, farms, Châteaux, markets and battle fields. The visit would prove to be an invaluable experience to enhance your child's French language skills. To find out more you, or your child, can obtain further information from Miss Rowe or Mrs Manning.



Forthcoming Events

Yorkshire Linking Project

UAK has again teamed up with Driffield School in East Yorkshire on a Linking Project designed to broaden students cultural experiences. The first of these project days will take place on Thursday 2nd of February, when forty Year 7 students will visit Driffield.



Last year our students had a great time with activities, such as Bollywood dancing and podcasting (pictured), that gave them the opportunity to meet fellow students with quite different

backgrounds. They also gained a better understanding of Yorkshire's culture, so we are looking forward to telling you more about this in the future.



Saturdays Get Set for Maths

Mathematics revision classes are now being held on Saturdays at the Academy, between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm. This is in preparation for the GCSE examinations that Year 11 students will be sitting in March.

To help students prepare at home, they have been given revision books, exam style questions and access to booster GCSE materials on the website mymaths.co.uk. Revising at home every day will help students to reach their potential and we would be grateful if you could encourage your child to do this.

Academy Visitors

Bob Kiddle	Institute of Physics
Julie Baxter	Healthy Living
Bryan Brooks	Beckfoot School
Kevin Maloney	Future Leaders
John Dennis	Governor
Nadira Mirza	Governor
Ian Bairstow	Governor
John Chuter	Governor
Naz Kazmi	Governor
Paul Cox	Governor
Gail Khan	Governor
Nadira Mirza	Governor
Mohammed Moin Uddin	Governor
Mohammed Zammir	Governor
Dorothy Clamp	Governor
Steve Grasham	Governor
Adrian Farley	Governor
Javid Bashir	Education Bradford

Letters Sent Home

Wednesday 18th January - GCSE Poetry Live issued to all Year 11 students.

Friday 20th January - Permission slips and details of Year 7 trip to Driffild School. Trip will take place on Thursday 2nd February.

Your Opinion Counts

We welcome your views on this newsletter which we hope will give you regular news and information about life at UAK.

Please email your comments and questions to:

issues@uak.org.uk



This Newsletter is published by:

University Academy
Keighley
Greenhead Road
Utle, Keighley
BD20 6EB

Tel: 01535 210333

Web:
www.uak.org.uk

Email:
office@uak.org.uk



Something Missing?

Here at the Academy we have plenty of safe and secure sheds where our students can leave their bikes.

We would love to see them full!

Why not encourage your child to cycle to school, it will help to keep them fit and healthy and save you petrol too!

Congratulations go to our Under 13 girls' Badminton team who beat Hanson Academy, 6 - 3, on Monday 23rd January.

Well done girls!



inspiring education
in the Bradford District