

YOUR EDUCATION NEWS



New Rickstones Academy Year 11 student Katie Chilvers won the Young Artist Award and the David Spiller Trophy



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Artistic achievements celebrated with awards and gallery exhibition

THE artistic achievements of young people have been celebrated with an exhibition.

The end of the school year was marked with the annual event at New Rickstones Academy, part of Academies Enterprise Trust in Witham.

Parents were invited to see the

work of their children displayed around the school.

Year 11 student Katie Chilvers won the Young Artist Award and the David Spiller Trophy for commitment, dedication and skill in art and design.

Louie Peters, Year 7, won the Head of Academy Award for his A1 pastel

piece created for extended homework. Damian Lee chose the piece as he felt it pushed the limits in terms of scale and use of media.

Kara Morton, head of art, said: "We are trying to push the limits with regards to skill and introducing opportunities to create bigger pieces.

"We are very proud of all our students and their work. This is an opportunity for parents to come and take a look. We are very lucky to have gallery space at New Rickstones. Every year, the event is getting bigger and bigger.

"The students love it. It is an opportunity to have their work dis-

played in a professional environment within an exhibition. That's quite a big deal and mirrors the professional world.

"The sky is the limit."

Year 11 were given the opportunity to present their own work to give them an insight into the skill of curating.

Hard work is paying off for dedicated sixth-formers

A SIXTH form has seen a leap in the number of teenagers offered places at top universities.

The number of students leaving Witham Sixth Forms this summer and heading to university is up by 23 per cent on last year.

A total of 60 per cent of this year's cohort are going on to further education - with many receiving offers from Russell Group universities.

The sixth form, part of Academies Enterprise Trust, has a mission to equip students with the knowledge and skills to challenge the next step in their journey.

Debbie Kershaw, director of Witham

Sixth Forms, said: "I am immensely proud of our students at Witham Sixth Forms.

"We have dedicated lots of time to allowing students to research different universities. We've encouraged them to not just settle for anything, but to strive for the best opportunities available to them.

"To see students take risks and challenge themselves has been inspiring. I wish them all the best of luck with their results this summer and look forward to hearing their university stories at their Key Stage 5 awards evening in December."

One of the sixth form's success stories

is Samee Abderraziq. The former New Rickstones Academy student, has studied A-levels in physics, maths, further maths and chemistry at the sixth form.

He has been offered a place at Nottingham University to study mathematical physics.

He said: "Nottingham has really good course content, it suits my interests in theoretical physics and in the fourth year they run modules on Quantum Field Theory which is something I am very interested in."

After university, Samee hopes to complete a PhD in maths or physics and to become a researcher.



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Youngsters get a letter from Queen

YEAR 3 students from Silver End Academy received a letter from the Queen.

At the end of the last term they were learning about the United Kingdom as part of their Creative Links lessons. They researched capital cities, found out about rivers and mountain ranges and researched the four countries that are part of the United Kingdom.

As part of the history side of their research they learnt about the Queen and her coronation and looked at artefacts from 1953, which they found really interesting. They also found out that the Queen is the head of all of the Armed Forces and her title is Commander in Chief.

In honour of the anniversary of the Queen's coronation and to celebrate Armed Forces Day, Year 3 learnt the National Anthem and gave a presentation to all of the students in Key Stage 2.

They also sent an anniversary card to the Queen and let her know about all of their hard work to find out about the country they live in.

Students were very excited at the end of term to receive a letter from the Queen stating how thrilled she was to hear about how much effort they had put in to discovering more about the United Kingdom, thanked Year 3 for supporting Armed Forces Day and expressed her pleasure at finding out that Year 3 had learnt to sing three verses of the National Anthem.



Silver End Academy students received a letter from the Queen

Students roll up their sleeves to take up renovation challenge

AN UNSIGHTLY area of Witham Rugby Club has been transformed by local teenagers.

Year 9 GCSE fine art students from Maltings Academy, part of Academies Enterprise Trust in Witham, took on the renovation challenge by the sports club. The metal containers were rusty and surrounded by overgrown greenery when the students arrived armed with spray paints. Kaye Murphy, head of Year 9 and art teacher, said: "This project was about giving something back to the community and sharing our love of art.

"Students used spray paint which was a whole new medium they are not used to. They worked on their teamwork and communication and improved their art skills by having to consider proportion and scale. We study graffiti artists, but we are not able to work on a project of this scale



Year 9 GCSE fine art students from Maltings Academy took on the renovation challenge

in school. It taught them how technically difficult it is to do graffiti effectively. This gave them an appreciation of the skill involved.

"I am so proud of them. They were resourceful and pulled together to do what needed to be done."

The community project was car-

ried out as part of the school's annual Activity Week where the traditional timetable is replaced with activities to enrich the curriculum.

The school has now vowed to devote time during every Activity Week to brightening up an area of the town.

MP pays tribute to work and passion of teachers

ALEX Burghart MP has paid tribute to teachers across Brentwood and Ongar as the new academic year approaches.

Their hard work means that more children are gaining the skills and knowledge they need to get on in life.

And 4,652 more children in Brentwood and Ongar are now in schools rated good or outstanding, compared with 2010, and 1.9 million more children are attending good or outstanding schools nationally. 85 per cent of schools are now rated good or outstanding, up from 68 per cent in 2010.

Literacy levels have been rising since the introduction of the phonics screening check in 2012, meaning more children are mastering the fundamental skills they need. In 2012, 58 per cent of six-year-olds in reached the expected level in read-

ing nationally, compared with 82 per cent last year.

Reforms to the curriculum mean more pupils are studying the core, academic subjects they need to get on and disadvantaged students are more likely to go to university than ever before. At the same time, reforms to apprenticeships mean that young people have quality, vocational options as they await their GCSE and A-level results.

Mr Burghart said: "I have always been struck by the passion and dedication of teachers working in schools across Brentwood and Ongar and as we look forward to the summer holidays I want to thank them for their hard work.

"The hard work of teachers, combined with this Government's reforms, means pupils will have more options than ever before - whatever path they chose to take."