



The Federation of Ramsgate Grammar Schools



Newsletter: End of Term July 2010

BSF ~ still hope

Delayed not cancelled? KCC has confirmed that they have lodged an official appeal against the recent DfE decision to stop the Wave 4 BSF building projects for schools in Kent. They are making the point that the BSF projects for a number of other schools in different authorities which are less advanced than the plans for the Thanet schools, *have* been allowed to continue. Watch this space – there may yet be better news in September.

Meantime, we are using the summer break to press on with improvement works around the Federation schools. The new CCVI ‘Student Union’ facility, being developed in the Cavendish Centre will be completed by September. The former common rooms are being converted to classroom use – with an additional ICT suite at Clarendon, and a new Music Technology suite at Chatham. The main Chatham House building will be refurbished from top to bottom, as will the main Hall. At Clarendon we are upgrading our infrastructure capacity to meet the increase in ICT use, whilst ‘B Wing’ and the Maths mobiles will also be decorated. A programme of further improvements has been drafted but will not be started until we have a final decision on BSF/“Successor to BSF” in the autumn.

Academy Status: A Reminder

To recap, at their meeting on 28 June the Governing Body voted to proceed with an application for new (grant maintained) Academy Status & an experienced firm of consultants has been commissioned to work through the conversion process over the next 3-4 months or so. The consultants will organise & oversee the process of consultation, and the outcomes will be available for their consideration before a final decision whether to sign-up to the Academy Funding Agreement is taken by the Full Board of Governors in the autumn term. If governors agree to confirm the change of status it would take effect from 1st January 2011. For more information about New Academy status and how it would affect Chatham & Clarendon, please see the June & July issues of the Federation newsletter and further information which is available on the Federation website.

From Federation to Merger

As parents/carers may recall from our letter in May “*The Future of the Federation*” we also asked that KCC and the DfE consider a formal merger of the two schools in the future, to develop as one co-ed institution which retains a core of single-sex

teaching. If we receive permission to proceed, the resulting school reorganisation process would involve a full & extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including parents & the wider community, taking at least a year and would be subject to final approval (or otherwise) by the Secretary of State. The process would not be started until after the question of Academy status has been resolved, one way or the other and thus no formal merger could happen before September 2012. In the meantime federal collaboration and convergence will continue to develop so that we can offer our students “the best of both worlds”. The joint Sixth Form, CCVI, officially starts from this September, and is already proving a very popular choice for incoming Year 12 students joining us from Chatham & Clarendon and from other schools in East Kent. To give students subject choices which would otherwise not be available to them, there will also be a limited number of mixed GCSE option groups, starting for some Year 10 students in September. Students and staff will increasingly share the learning environment and facilities of both partner schools. There will be more joint extra-curricular enrichment activities, including an expansion of the Gifted & Talented programme. Structures and systems will be aligned so there is a common approach to behaviour & rewards, and we will develop a shared pastoral system. All this convergence activity stops short of formal legal merger but it is deliberately focussed on developing a united, cohesive approach which brings tangible benefits for the boys and the girls.

In conclusion a final reminder of some key dates

** From 11.00 am Exam Results released:-

A Levels: Thursday 19th August

GCSEs: Tuesday 24th August

** The new academic year resumes with a ‘staggered start’:-

Wednesday September 1st ~ Year 7 in school from 8.30 for Day One Induction, Year 13 return from 10.15 am for confirmation of course choices

Thursday September 2nd ~ A normal day of lessons for Years 7 to 11, but no Sixth Form in school

Friday September 3rd ~ Normal day of lessons for Years 7 to 11, and Y13 lessons begin.

Monday September 6th ~ All year groups: Y7 to 11 and all Sixth Form: Y12 & Y13, back into the normal routine of timetabled lessons.

With very best wishes for a restful summer break

David Smart,
Executive Headteacher