

The Academy Times

Edition One

Spring 2007



North Liverpool Academy
 Priory Road, Liverpool L4 2SL
 Principal: Kay Askew



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Joining forces

Report by Hayley Hill

Last summer, Breckfield and Anfield schools joined forces to become the North Liverpool Academy.

Pupils were sad to leave their previous schools as they had spent some of their best times there. The headteachers retired and Kay Askew became Principal.

Her no-nonsense policy has gripped the school with force! She believes that students should wear the full uniform, which creates a smart new image.

A new aspect of the Academy is the increased size of the Sixth Form. Breckfield didn't have a Sixth Form so this has become a new experience for the students. Anfield did have a Sixth Form but it was very small.

At the Academy we have many new subjects which would not have been possible if the two schools hadn't merged. Students think the lessons are great. A student in Year 9 said: "The lessons are boss. I like them a lot. Some subjects were not available at Breckfield, so coming here was worth it."

We also have a new healthy food regime, which means there is no junk food in the school refectory. This is good as it will help us to have a healthier lifestyle and improve our concentration in lessons. The free enrichment activities are a great opportunity for the students to learn things that they cannot in class, such as African drumming, Rock School and 'Shimmer and Shine'.

Also, the enrichment activities help students to build up their confidence and make new friends with people they may not normally associate with during the typical school day.

There are, of course, some enrichment activities that only the Sixth Formers have. The driving lessons are a good experience for us before we can take the real driving test. The Community Leadership is great as you get to learn what teachers have to study in order to qualify. This enrichment allows us to work with both children and adults.

This is going to be a very exciting time for all of us at the North Liverpool Academy.



Meet the editorial team

These students have produced this first edition of *The Academy Times*.

Back row left to right: Rachael Miller; Sarah Parry; Nikola Jankowska; Lisa Bancroft.
 Front row left to right: Kyle Green; Rebecca Hughes; Hayley Hill.

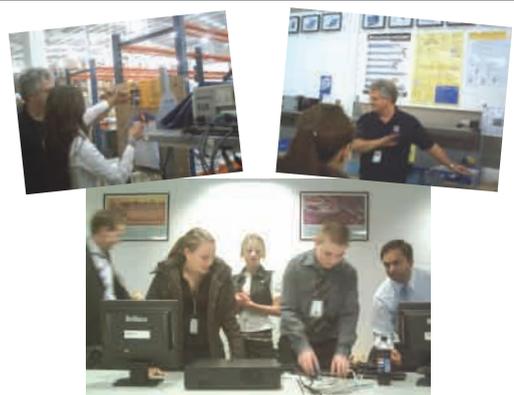


You're hired!

Sir Alan Sugar is one of the UK's most well known entrepreneurs and is worth a staggering £800m.

As the star of BBC 2's *The Apprentice* he is now a TV celebrity, famous for his brusque approach to business. Last term, North Liverpool Academy's budding entrepreneurs, the Enterprise Academy students, visited one of Sir Alan Sugar's IT companies. They were on a mission to find out how a top IT company is run and what secrets they could glean from Sir Alan Sugar's top business executives.

The students took part in some challenges of their own, building PCs and developing an 'Elevator Pitch' for their own business. They were given advice from Sales Director, Richard White and Chief Executive Bordan Tkachuk, on how to become successful entrepreneurs.



Top tips included:
 - Turnover is vanity, profit is sanity
 - Remember your ABC - Always Be Closing

Year 12 student Terry Leslie said: "I thought the trip was really interesting because it gave us an insight into a real life technology business and how it works. Meeting Sir Alan Sugar's executives enabled me to pick up some top tips and it has given me more confidence to be an entrepreneur."

Dear students

I hope you enjoy reading the very first edition of *The Academy Times*! There are many great articles researched and presented by students for students. I wish to thank the team and look forward to the newspaper being a regular part of how we spread the good news about the many and varied activities that you the students undertake, and your successes and achievements.

Last term was very hectic and fast. There have been many new experiences and ventures: new teachers and new students; new systems and new ways of working; and, hopefully, new friends. This term we look forward to the theme of achieving economic well-being, our Careers Week and, as the weather brightens again, more inter-house sporting activities.

I wish you and your families a very happy 2007.
 Kay Askew



Granada Learning

Our House system

Report by Carly McDonald

When students started at the North Liverpool Academy they were placed in four Houses: Redmond, Russell, McGough and Patten.

The House system in a secondary school is quite unusual but it promotes healthy and friendly rivalry between pupils and also between teachers! So far we have had House competitions which have proved successful and now the Houses have started to develop their own unique identities. Each has its own ties - Redmond's is red, Russell's is purple, Patten's is silver and McGough's is blue.

Mr McNerney is Head of Redmond House, Miss Perischine is House Manager and its patron is Phil Redmond.

Miss Vernon is Head of McGough House, Mr Forman is House Manager and its patron is Roger McGough.

Mr Bates is Head of Russell House (winner of the House Cup!), Mr Baines is House Manager and its patron is Willy Russell.

Mr Duffy is Head of Patten House, Ms Tomlinson is House Manager and its patron is Brian Patten.



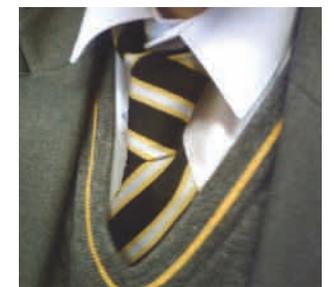
McGough



Redmond



Russell



Patten

Natalia's story

My name is Natalia and I am from Poland.

I came to England at the end of 2005 with my family. I started at Breckfield and I had a lot of help from everyone, because I had a problem with my language.

My Polish school is different because children do not have to wear uniform and sometimes lessons finish at 11.00, 12.00 or 1.00pm. English schools have uniforms and lessons finish 3.00pm. After four months I changed schools with the other students to the North Liverpool Academy. Everyone said the new school is very good.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays I have 7 lessons. I have also been working on the Academy newspaper and playing maths games. For the newspaper I have done work about my life. On Thursdays I play in Games, but it is very hard.

I know my English is not perfect and sometimes I have done wrong work, but I try to really do good work. After school I like watching TV and listening to music. My friends like Polish music but I like English music. When there is a film on television I try to understand what happens. In April I go to Poland, but only to visit.



Natalia's home town of Elblag



Reporter Angela Murphy interviews our Principal, Mrs Kay Askew.

Ask Askew

How long have you been a teacher and what subject(s) do you teach? Why did you want to be Principal?

I have been a teacher for 31 years and the subjects I teach are Music and English. I want to give the students all the subjects they need including sport and musical opportunities.

What other parts of the country have you taught in?
I have taught in the Midlands.

How did you become Principal at the Academy?

I became Principal of the Academy through an interviewing board, who decided that I would be the most effective Principal.

Where are you originally from?
I'm from Aberdeen, in Scotland.

Can you tell us when the new Academy will be built?
It should be built by September 2008.

So far, do you think the Academy has been a success?
Yes, I think it has been a great success.

Did you know?

1. Mrs Askew's hobbies include gardening and she would also like to run a children's band.
2. Mrs Askew's favourite sport is hockey, but she also enjoys watching football.
3. Her favourite restaurant is called Hibiscus, and her favourite food is anything cooked by someone else!
4. Mrs Askew was brought up in an ordinary family, living on an estate.

Puppetry in Motion



Year 7 students show off their fabulous puppets made in Technology.

McGough House poem

We are the House of Blue,
We show others what to do.
Miss Vernon teaches Math,
Making sure that it is a laugh.
Roger McGough is our leader,
He ensures that we are readers.
The poet is from Liverpool,
Now he is part of our school.
Our House is the best,
Better than all the rest.
McGough are so bright,
You may think we are a light.
We are so stunning,
The others are running.
We play so good as a team,
It's like living in a dream.
We are the House of blue,
We show others what to do.

By Evie Crockett, Kayleigh Houghton,
Thomas Lunt, Luke O'Keefe and
Steven Georgeson.

Russell House poem

Russell House is the best,
So much better than the rest!
Here at North Liverpool Academy
We're so proud of Russell community.
The best education all around
Near the famous football grounds.
Willy Russell what can we say,
'Blood Brothers' and 'Educating
Rita' plays.
He got 1 'O' level in his school tests,
Now so much better than all the rest.
Purple is the colour of our tie
 Don't get Mr Bates cross or he'll
make you cry!
Mr Bates is Russell House boss
Don't chew gum, it makes him cross!
Bold, bright and purple is our tie
We are so proud and that's not a lie.
Russell House rule the day
Seeing the proud purple ties through
NLA
The students in Russell House
are always so clean
That when sitting in assembly we
sparkle and gleam!
Russell House is a part of
the true Scouser's heart
Students receive fantastic education
Writing poetry using alliteration
Russell, Russell it makes a sound,
In Russell there's always a friend
around. Russell House is the place
to be, When you need a friend like me.

By Year 8 Russell

Patten House poem

We are the pride of Merseyside,
We chose Patten as our guide.
We'll pass any test,
Simply because we're the best.
Patten have a lion heart,
We always take part.
Patten work as a team,
Because we all share a dream.
In our work we reach for the stars,
Past the moon and aiming for Mars.
We love our House like a sister or brother,
But nothing can compare to our school,
the Mother.
Our leader is Brian Patten,
We would follow him to Saturn.
There is no doubt, Patten is the best,
We're better than all the rest.
You may be jealous, you may be weeping,
But all the trophies we will be keeping.
We are never ashamed,
Our talents are framed.
We have enterprising spirit,
Failure isn't in it.

By Jason Lawson, Lewis Judic,
Jack Turner

Redmond House poem

Redmond is for determination
They have no hesitation
Redmond pupils have desire
They always inspire
Russell, Patten and McGough too
Can't keep up to the school
standards as we do
Stand up tall as you can say
"Our House will win in every way"
The teachers get a big reaction
When the children bring satisfaction
Redmond is a huge smile
We always go the extra mile
Our Heads of House make us cheer
I bet our teachers have nothing to fear
Redmond are full of inspiration
We will not lose our concentration
Redmond is a House of pride
There is no need to decide
Redmond are the best
Better than the rest!

By Year 8 Redmond



I'm a Technologist - get me out of here!

Report by Kyle Green

During our first Enrichment Week, the Technology department organised an outdoor activity for Year 9.

Competing for the STAR trophy, Year 9 students were placed in teams within each of their Houses. One member, elected by the students, was the team leader and the House gaining the most points overall won the trophy.

There were 5 activities/trials: Tent Construction; Jungle Survival; Super Soup; Super Soup Packaging; Bush Tucker Trials. Each team was involved in up to 2 of the 5 activities.

The project objectives were: to work as a team; to improve communication skills; to develop leadership skills; to learn problem solving techniques.

The eventual winner of the STAR trophy was Patten!



Enrichment sessions

Report by Daniel Williams and Chloe Hobson

As well as having a normal school day consisting of 6 lessons, we also have an extra 2 Enrichment Sessions which run from Monday to Thursday. The students choose which activity they would like to attend. There are many different activities such as:

Shimmer and Shine

Shimmer and Shine is a beauty lesson which teaches you how to use make-up and nail polish correctly. You can also learn how to look after yourself and keep your body fit and healthy.

Rock School

Rock School is a place where students who can play instruments can go along and create their own band with their friends. The teacher who takes this class is a very talented drummer who toured the United States as a member of a band.



Performing Arts Group (Grease)

Performing Arts Group is for people who want to star in plays. Last term the students from the group put on a performance of *Grease*. This after school activity lets students practise singing, dancing and acting parts for plays.



Climbing Club

Climbing Club gives students an opportunity to learn about and to practise different climbing skills.

Cooking For Fun

In Cooking for Fun you learn to cook different meals from different places around the world. You also make fun desserts such as shortbread, chocolate flapjacks and fruit pies.

Jewellery Club

Jewellery Club gives students a chance to make jewellery using a variety of different materials. You can also learn about lots of different processes. You can also make designs for rings, pendants, brooches, badges and other little trinkets.

German, French and Spanish Clubs

German, French and Spanish Clubs give the students the chance to learn other languages. It teaches useful phrases like how to ask where the nearest toilet is or how to order a drink. You can also sample some of the favourite foods eaten by people who live in these countries.

Chocolate Crispy Cake Challenge

Yum! Yum! Miss Thatcher in Technology has held a House Chocolate Crispy Cake Challenge!

Representatives from each House had to work as a team to make and decorate a large batch of chocolate crispy cakes.

They also had to be the most efficient team in clearing away, in order to win the prestigious Chocolate Crispy Cake Challenge Cup (try saying that with a mouthful of cake!).

Patten was the overall winner with McGough running a close second. Well done everybody!



Sixth Form Open Evening

Report by Hayley Hill

North Liverpool Academy has held a Sixth Form Open Evening.

Year 11s at the Academy and other local schools got the chance to find out what courses they could choose. From each department there were many members of staff to give help and advice to the students. It was a successful evening and further details about our Sixth Form are shown in the advertisement.



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The Academy Times' team reports on the House matches during Enrichment Week.

Sports reports



Becca Chapple reports on the match between Russell and Patten.

Netball victory!

Both teams met on the school yard and Sian Jones brought the match to life by scoring the first goal for Russell House. Then Lilly Lawson almost scored another goal for Russell but unfortunately missed.

Sian Jones kept getting chances to score against Patten but she just couldn't. Paige Campbell came out from nowhere with her shot but sadly missed the net. Sian came out with a clear shot and got the ball into the net. There was a cheer from the entire crowd!

Suddenly, Sian scored another winning goal and Russell House had beaten Patten in the match. The score was 6-3.



Adam Pickford and Jonathan Morris report on the football final

Russell Rhinos rampage

Russell 6 McGough 1

The gods cleared the grey skies just to watch this tango of football titans. McGough kicked off. An early chance for McGough almost thrust them into an early lead but the actual goal came from the amazing Phillip Williams taking Russell into a 1-0 lead.

A brutal foul almost put Michael Swindell on a stretcher and a penalty was awarded to Russell. Tom Hinks steps up. He shoots...GOAL!

He just placed the ball majestically into the bottom left corner with sheer grace and execution. The game became physical from the mad adrenaline rush and it resulted in a couple of minor injuries.

The McGough team changed their strategy in a last ditch attempt to grab a vital foothold on the match before half-time. McGough's hopes were shot down brutally when Russell's star player, William Dickenson, headed in a third for Russell.

McGough's strategy change proved useful as the pressure got to Russell goalkeeper Ryan Parry as he spilled the ball into the path of a McGough striker. Luckily for Ryan, he was able to reclaim the ball in time. In an unexpected break, McGough somehow were rewarded a precious free kick. Sean Boyle examined the angle of the free kick and with a slow run up, placed the ball inside the Russell net. During the second half, the match had gone into a coma of boredom resulting in a restless crowd. Suddenly...GOAL!

Phillip Williams scrambled the ball in from close range. Russell were on fire at this time and Thomas Hinks made yet another majestic run into the box, this time resulting in a well placed goal in the bottom left corner to make it 5-1.

In an endless battle in the midfield the ball came to Michael Swindell who laid it off perfectly to Phillip Williams who scored with precise execution.

Connor tackles South Africa

Report by Kyle Green

Did you know that our PE teacher, Miss J Connor, is an England women's open team rugby player?

She is the NLA's self-managed and self-funded player in rugby league and touch rugby. Miss Connor also plays for Hillside Hawks and has been playing rugby for 9 years. This year she has been on tour to South Africa where they played other teams, trained, and even raced ostriches! Miss Connor likes rugby: "Also I enjoy the exercise and it keeps me fit. Also, I enjoy the contact aspect and I'm a good team player."

Since she has joined the England team, they have become the European Champions and she has won many medals and trophies. Miss Connor is a woman of many sporting talents.

She used to be the keeper for Lancashire women's hockey team and she also used to swim for her local team.

She informed us: "The support from the North Liverpool Academy has been fantastic and Mrs Askew couldn't have been more helpful."



Miss Connor is on the back row, 3rd player from the right!

Visiting the Heart of Europe

Law students from North Liverpool Academy had a glimpse of Europe's most powerful institutions on a trip to Brussels.

The visit to the European Parliament and the European Commission was to help the students to understand their subject.

Law lecturer and organiser Peter Hockenhill said: "The concept of the trip was a unique objective which I had worked on for the past eight months, for the further enhancement of our law course."

"The trip, which was the only one in the North of England, became possible when I successfully achieved a formal invitation from the European Parliament, together with financial sponsorship."

"The Parliament building, which contains the main debating chamber, left a lasting impression. The visit has prompted great interest by the students who are now very eager to take part in our next visits to The Old Bailey and House of Commons/Lords."

"To witness students, who have never studied law before, challenge learned colleagues working for the European Parliament and European Commission, was a very moving and worthwhile experience."

"Whether or not my students decide to pursue a career in Europe was not really the issue. The main achievement from this visit was the team building it achieved."

Theatre trip

As part of our Drama Enrichment class on Wednesday evenings, students, staff and parents had the opportunity to go and see an exciting production of the famous show, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

The students had been working with Miss McNicholl and Laura, from the Empire Theatre, on their own improvisations based on the story and characters. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope there will be more opportunities for such events in the future. Our thanks to all who were involved in organising the trip.

Carly Paterson reports: "The show was fabulous and my favourite characters were the children. I loved the way the Chitty car flew! I like going to the theatre because you can see everything that is going on and it's really happening in front of you."

Lily Lawson reports: "During our drama lessons a girl came in to work with us, and to tell us what goes on at the Empire Theatre. After we had been to see *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, we improvised our own scenes for our own version of the show! It was fantastic when we went to see the play. A dog came running on stage and the car began to fly at the end of the performance!"

Our Sponsors

What is a Sponsor?

A sponsor is an external person or organisation that donates time, money or resources to events, organisations and charitable causes. Our sponsors have chosen to work with the North Liverpool Academy to help provide our students with the best possible education, as well as new opportunities throughout their time at school.

So who are the North Liverpool Academy's sponsors?

Granada Learning

As an educational publisher, Granada Learning develops educational resources ranging from books to software and online learning platforms. Nigel Ward, the Managing Director of Granada Learning and Chair of the North Liverpool Academy Trust Board, explains: "We have been closely involved in the Academy's development over the last three years and strongly believe the Academy will revolutionise learning in North Liverpool. The Academy is all about providing its students with the skills, vision, commitment and energy needed to help them achieve their potential, and we are extremely proud to play a part in this."

Stanley Fink of the Man Group plc

Stanley Fink of the Man Group plc has also pledged his support and will continue to contribute to the development of the new Academy building.

University of Liverpool

The University of Liverpool has decided to support the Academy as a direct way of helping students to progress to university. The University will: provide a number of bursaries to North Liverpool Academy students to help with their tuition fees; offer summer schools for students and professional development for staff.

As Professor Drummond Bone, the University's Vice Chancellor, explains: "The University is committed to the educational attainment of local children and the Academy will provide routes for an increasing number of students from this area of Liverpool to progress to higher education."