



Abraham Darby Academy

Haberdashers' Adams' Federation

Members of the Family of Haberdashers' Schools

Principal's News

Week 7

17th October 2008

Principal's Musings – Haberdashers' Deputation

Next Friday will be an important milestone for our new Academy. The Master and Wardens of the Haberdashers' Company are visiting the Academy to meet staff, students and parents and to welcome the Academy into the wider Haberdasher Fraternity and the Family of Haberdashers' Schools.



Serve and Obey is the Academy motto. It's also the motto of the Haberdashers' Company and all its schools. I wonder if you have thought about whether the motto has any relevance to you and to us as an Academy community, or is it simply a relic of a time gone by, with no significance now. It does date back a very long time.

The first surviving records of the Haberdashers' Company date back to 1371. Members of the Company, or Fraternity, were originally haberdashers by trade, selling ribbons, beads, purses, gloves, pins, caps and toys. The Company also had the right to search all haberdashers' shops within three miles of the City, and to destroy goods, which were not up to standard. The present coat of arms with its motto dates from 1503; and Elizabeth I in 1578 granted the current charter by which the Company is governed today.

All institutions have to change in order to survive and to remain relevant, and the Haberdashers have certainly done that. The links to the haberdashery trade disappeared by the mid 17th Century. The charitable funds, hitherto operated by the early fraternity as a 'safety net' for members, multiplied and educational establishments became the Company's main *raison d'être*.

The original foundations and almshouses provided by a number of wealthy, but mostly childless, Haberdashers at that time, continue to the present day, together with numerous other minor charities of which the Company is trustee. Their objectives include such varied causes as relief for poor clergymen; help with school fees and limited support for the eleven parishes of which the Company is patron.

Assistance is given to a wide range of national and local charities including major support for Centre Point Soho (a centre for homeless youngsters), the Royal Hospital and Home at Putney (which provides rehabilitation for those with severe brain injuries) and the Royal Surgical Aid Society.

The schools remain a major part of their interests. From their foundation by four, childless, Puritan Haberdashers, who sought to enlighten future generations, the schools have developed. From their foundation by four, childless, Puritan Haberdashers who sought to enlighten future generations, the schools have developed and, today, over 7,000 pupils in ten schools encompassing the independent sector, 3 Academies, a Voluntary Aided Grammar School and a Voluntary Aided Primary School, are offered the best education available. Soon 2 new Academies will come into the family. The Company takes great interest and pride in all the schools of which it is Trustee ensuring that the revenues accruing are spent wisely and that building projects give good value for money. Most of the Governors and the Heads are appointed by the Company, but not members of staff; nor does it interfere in the daily running of the schools which is the proper concern of the respective Head under the direction of the Board of Governors. All the schools encourage the full development of the individual, and help pupils to get the most out of both work and leisure time. The Schools are also concerned to promote a broad tolerance of different viewpoints and consideration for others, within the context of a Christian heritage.

So going back to my original question what about the motto “Serve and Obey”? – is it a relic of the past or does it have any relevance today? I think it is relevant. Service is an old fashioned term, but it is so important to the maintenance of a healthy society. It means thinking of others; looking after others; helping out those who need our help in the Academy, in the town where we live, in the country and even in the world. I would argue strongly that, if through your life, you place service above yourself, then you will have an all the more fulfilling and enjoyable life, and the world will be a much better place for it.

“Obey” – blindly following orders – no I don't think that's me!! And it's probably not you. But you should be true to yourself. You have strong values; a sense of what is right and wrong. You do need to stand by these (obey them). You also have a dream or dreams of what you want to do in life - what you want to achieve. Stand by these. Don't settle for anything less.

Academy Students' Art on display at Haberdashers' Hall

Each year artwork from students in ten Haberdashers' Schools is chosen to go on display in a gallery at Haberdashers' Hall. I am pleased to say that this year three pieces have been chosen from Abraham Darby students – the Venice Mask, Times Square and the Driftwood Sculpture. It is rather a coup because normally only one piece is chosen from each school.



'Venice Mask'
Alexander Bridgewater



Times Square
Alexander Bridgewater



Driftwood Sculpture
Leanne Sheridan

Princess Diana Awards

Kirsty Colclough (11 MAB), Jordan Ash (11 AMF) and Eleanor Ballinger (11ASM) have been awarded the Princess Diana Award for Services to the Community by the Young People's Forum. A superb achievement.

Photo Caption Competition

The Photo Caption Competition was won by Year 10 student, Mitchell Banks. All the judges agreed his photo was technically an excellent photo that captured the thrill of Moto Cross so well.

Year 8 students Jessica Richards, Lucy Douglas and Jodie Williams were highly commended for the photos they took of themselves dressing up in shops in the Town Centre, making good use of their mobile phone cameras to make stylish black and white prints.

Look out for the next Gifted and Talented competition coming soon!!



New!! Homework Club in the Library.

The Library open hours have now been extended to 4.00pm in the afternoon to allow greater access for students after school to access computers and books, to research, to do extended pieces of work and to complete their homework or coursework

Trinity College Music Exams.

Can we give a final reminder to all musicians and their parents – if students wish to be entered for the Trinity College Music exam grades, please get the entries in by next Monday 20th October. They must have a letter signed by their parents & music tutor. See Miss Morton for more details.

New!! Photography Club every Tuesday at 4.00pm in B11.

British Junior Champion.

Kelcey Evans – is the first British Junior Champion at U18 in kick boxing. She has risen from a white belt and achieved 14 assorted colours before attaining the Black Belt first DAN. Kelcey trains at the Lee Matthews Club in Telford up to 3 times a week for 45 minutes at a time, in full kit which includes a head guard, gum shield, hand pads and feet pads. Her eventual aim is to become an instructor.



Academy Open Evening.

The Academy Open Evening last Thursday was a huge success with over 1,000 prospective parents and students attending and over 400 prospectuses given out. Thanks to the efforts of the whole Academy community – teachers, students, current parents, support staff, technicians, kitchen staff and cleaners, our visitors were enthused by what they saw and heard about the Academy. One prospective parent wrote:

“I felt I had to E-Mail to congratulate you on a wonderful Open Evening last night. As a former pupil myself I was delighted to see such a wonderful change in the whole ethos of Abraham Darby. The students were an absolute credit to you all and the young Prefect who spent the whole evening showing myself and my neighbours around was an absolute delight to listen to. I was so impressed with the Dance Studio and Drama Theatre, facilities I know my daughter will thrive on when she joins you in a few years. My son was very impressed with the Music Department and spoke to the teachers there of his love of the drums. He is excited at the prospect of joining the band. Although Abraham Darby has endured bad press over the last few years, I feel that away from the politics there has always been a fabulous school there just waiting for the right person to take over ‘at the helm’. I truly believe they have found that in you and left feeling inspired. My son will definitely be attending the Academy in September and I feel confident that he will do really well in such a positive environment.”

If you, or anyone you know, missed the Open Evening, please remember that you can visit the Academy in any week of the year by appointment with Mrs Doster.

There is an ancient Chinese proverb which says:

“The person who says it can’t be done should not interrupt the person doing it”

Service in the Community

We have received a lovely letter from Councillor Angela McClements commending Daniel Barlow for his unstinting efforts to help at the Arleston Autumn Fayre. Congratulations Daniel.



Arthog Art Weekend

14 year 10 and 11's had a busy and enjoyable weekend on a residential trip to Wales involving a printing workshop, producing a large-scale sculpture, and sketching and drawing using a variety of media.

'Artwork of the Week'

This week's "Artwork of the Week" has been awarded to Hari Braim 8CPS. She completed this drawing of a maple leaf at home following an art lesson on shading techniques. She has used a black biro instead of the traditional pencil to create the tones and detail of the leaf. The drawing has both impact and style. Well done Hari.



Year 8 Netball tournament

On Thursday 9th October two year 8 netball teams competed in the Telford Schools Netball Tournament held at Madeley Academy. Both teams showed skill, determination and good sportsmanship. Congratulations to all girls who took part!

Next Week's Sports fixtures – week beginning 20th October.

Monday Boxing Club
Tuesday Year 7 '7 a side Football Tournament' at Idsall School
 Rugby Club
 Inter House Netball Years 9, 10 & 11
Wednesday Cross Country at Longford Hall, Adams' Grammar School.
Thursday Inter House Football Years 9, 10 & 11
 Year 9 Football at home vs Charlton School.
 Netball Year 7

Please remember, supporters are always welcome.

Parent E mail addresses.

Parents were requested to return their "Data Checking Sheets" to the Academy by last Friday. Once these are inputted into our systems we should be able to send the Newsletter home by E mail rather than the "at times slightly less reliable Student Post." The newsletters are also being placed on the Academy website. If we have your E mail address it will also allow us over time to begin to supply you with a lot more information about what's going on in the Academy and your children's progress in and outside the classroom.

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With my very best wishes

Steve Hawke
 Principal