

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUR ENDEAVOURS!

Thank you for your support

**By Graham Tyrer**  
Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted that our hard work has been recognised at national level. We have been written to by the Department for Children Schools and Families to congratulate us on being amongst the top performing schools in the country. Our GCSE results over the past three years have improved so much that we made it into the 'Most Improved Schools in the Country' list. We were 14th equal in over three and a half thousand schools in England and Wales. Jim Knight, Minister of State at the DCSF wrote to say we are "amongst the highest performing schools in the country".

On top of that we heard that we were also on the 'Most Improved Schools in the Country' list for our KS3 SAT results. In fact, we are the 6th most improved school in the country

and our improvement is 40 points higher than any other school in Warwickshire.

We have been congratulated by our local MP, Mr Mike O'Brien who paid tribute to our school's progress. The Local Authority have written to express their thanks to the staff and the Chief Executive of the National College for School Leadership has written to tell us how well we have done.

You may have seen the coverage in the local press and we think it is important to celebrate our young people and our staff. Improvement is the result of such hard work, self belief and good teaching. We believe we are building an exciting centre of learning at Ash Green School and Arts College. Our new Community Theatre, our TV studio, our new canteen, library and sports facilities are signs of even greater improvements to come. We believe your children deserve the best education we can provide. It is gratifying that national



Government, the Local Authority and other partners have recognised and pay tribute to the successes we have had over the past three years.

We are not complacent. We have plans to enhance our curriculum, develop and improve the site and make sure our students have the best possible learning experience.

We are a partnership. Together, as parents, carers, staff and governors we can create excellence for our young people.

**ags**

Congratulations Ash Green School & Arts College

one of the

**MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY**

Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families: 2004-2007 GCSE 5 A\*-C results, including English and Maths.

*Above: our recently commissioned banner proudly declares the facts.*



**Jim Knight MP**

Minister of State for Schools and Learners

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Mr Graham Tyrer  
Headteacher  
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14 January 2008

Dear Mr Tyrer

I am delighted to congratulate you and your school on the excellent performance you have demonstrated at Key Stage 4 in the 2007 Achievement and Attainment Tables published on 10 January.

The results for your school show that you are amongst the top performing schools this year based on sustained improvement in 5+ A\*-C GCSEs (and equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs.

Nationally, there has not only been another impressive increase in the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\*-C but we have impressively already met the 2008 target of at least 60 per cent of pupils achieving that level with 60.8 per cent of pupils achieving the indicator. We also continue to see improvements in the numbers of pupils performing well in the basics - the proportion of pupils achieving a good pass in English and mathematics has risen again this year. This continued progress is an excellent achievement and evidence of the effective efforts of all those involved in raising standards in our schools.

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your pupils, staff and governors for their hard work and success, and I send my best wishes for sustained improvement in the year ahead.

I am sending a copy of this letter to your local Member of Parliament.

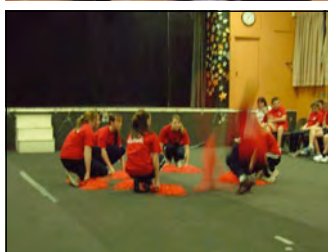
Jim Knight MP

## Dance News

**By Susan Ley**  
Schools Sports Co-ordinator

### Year 9

Yr 9 students from Exhall Grange Science College joined with students at Ash Green School and Arts College in their Dance Club on a Monday after school. Dance Specialist Raelene Butlin has been running the Club at Ash Green School since September and it has been very successful. They produced a dance piece which was performed at Exhall Granges Gym and Dance display on Thursday 30th January. It was a very successful evening. The students involved gained an Ash Green School and Arts College Dance T-shirt for their commitment to the club and their performances. The club continues, developing our links with our local Special School.



talents. They helped out with a Practice-A-Thon dance event which took place on Monday 4th February with all of our Yr 7 students, 142 in total. This showed they have developed some excellent moves and are able to teach these skills to others.

### Year 9 Aerobics/ Fitness

Students from Yr 9 have been involved in an Aerobic/ Fitness Club after school on a Wednesday since September.

### Year 10

Students in Yr 10 have also been working hard in their Dance Club after school on a Wednesday. The girls have performed in assemblies, showing off their

The club, run by expert Nicki Lea, has been very successful. She works alongside the North Warwickshire School Sport Partnership. Students have been very committed to the club, turning up every week regardless. They have also performed in assemblies, showing off their talents in Cheerleading Dance.

### Year 10 Young leaders

13 Yr 10 Young leaders (a qualification gained through the North Warwickshire Schools Sports Partnership) and 1 Yr 8 student helped lead a Practice-A-Thon Dance event at Ash Green School and Arts College on Monday 4th February. The Young leaders lead groups of 10 students at a time, delivering a dance move which the Yr 7's then learned. The event raised money for CLIC Sargent, a charity aimed at helping children and families who have child cancer and leukaemia. The event was very successful and everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. The money raised is currently being collected.

## L.I.P.

**By Moya Wilkins**  
Teaching Assistant

### The Literacy Intervention Programme

*"It has given me confidence to read in front of people"*

*"I have learnt how and when to use paragraphs"*

*"I learnt about subordinate clauses"*

*"We have learnt how to take information from text"*

These are just a few of the comments received from students who have been part of the intervention programme.

This has been created to extend their existing ability to the level we know they are capable of reaching.

Literacy skills were developed within small groups and this has enabled the students take these skills into the classroom.

## People Maths

**By Helen Lawrence**  
Head of Mathematics

Earlier this term, the Arts Specialist Status impacted on some exciting Year 7 maths lessons. In a room cleared of its usual furniture and text books to create an open learning space, students learnt to develop their problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills.

'People Maths' is an exciting range of activities and investigations where students themselves become a part of the problem they are trying to solve. During the maths lessons, the students wore coloured T-shirts with numbers or

mathematical symbols on them to become the moving pieces in their investigations. The Arts funding has enabled the maths department to purchase the shirts, which we can now use in a variety of ways in maths lessons throughout the school in order to introduce a more kinaesthetic approach to our teaching and learning of maths.

The dynamic lessons, organised and delivered by Miss Collymore, were a big success and Miss Collymore is now planning to take 'People Maths' into our feeder primary schools to give them a taste of the new approach to maths at Ash Green School and Arts College!

## Enterprise Day

**By Ken Brown**  
Director of Learning KS4

This is the winning team from the Enterprise Day that was held on 30th January 2008 at the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce. The

team included students from Ash Green School and Arts College, Nicholas Chamberlain and Exhall Grange School.

Well done to James Townsley and Chris Pears, members of the Ash Green Study Plus Group.

