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Birmingham Mail

NEW HEAD AIMS FOR OUTSTANDING YEAR

AIMING for outstanding – that’s Mark Garside’s target over the next year.

The recently appointed head teacher at The International School in Shard End is full of enthusiasm for the work that is going on in his school.

“I believe I have the team to take the school to the next level,” he said. “Our students are ready for it too. They are committed to improving their own education and are achieving academic levels never witnessed before (over 80 per cent five A*-C grades). Attendance, which is a good indicator of a student’s commitment to learning, is above national average.

“We have an Open Morning this Saturday, September 24, between 10am and 1pm and I want to make sure everyone in the local area comes along to see what’s happening at this school, and not to miss out on the outstanding opportunities we have to offer.”

Mr Garside continued: “We have spent a great deal of time redesigning the school to create environments with resources and equipment to support our students’ learning. Building Schools for the Future has given us the opportunity to develop into new ideas and new technology, which we believe will inspire and support our students to achieve bigger and better things.

“The school is having a new sports hall and performing arts and new state of the art ICT. All these improvements in discipline, behaviour, academic results, levels of attendance and our students’ involvement with community projects are resulting in our parents and the community having the confidence in the school’s leadership and staff to make this an outstanding school. Our students deserve it!

“Parents and pupils from local primary schools should come along to our Open Day to see the new facilities for themselves and to witness the achievements of our students.”



Head: Mark Garside.



Awarded apprenticeships: Ex-International School students Dean Jarrett and Claire Lindsay.

Creating work-based curriculum

FRANK Haslam Milan (FHM) is part of the Keepmoat Group and a leader in community regeneration, committed to investing in the industry by developing Apprenticeship schemes and recruiting in innovative ways.

The International School and FHM have worked together to create a work-related curriculum which includes deliverance of practice interviews, advice on CVs, career days and work experience placements to prepare students for

employment. A significant number of students have also attended the FHM annual “Outward Bound” scheme, where students spend a week away in discovery and adventure training to develop team building and leadership skills.

The partnership has resulted in a number of International School students being awarded Apprenticeships. One has completed an Apprenticeship and is working towards site management and others are currently attending college

completing an HNC in Construction whilst learning on-the-job and earning a wage.

Head teacher Mark Garside said: “This partnership has been significant in helping us reduce our NEAT figures and to better prepare students to move on to higher education, training and employment.”

FHM is delighted with the commitment shown by the school and students and hopes to continue its relationship with The International School long into the future.

Pupils’ £300 charity effort

CHASHAM International is a business set up by a group of school students to support the work done by the One Foundation.

The One Foundation creates and sells quality products, and donates 100 per cent of the profits to life-changing projects in developing countries. Every One product funds a like-for-like equivalent, for example, the One Supersofty toilet tissue funds hygiene and sanitation projects in Africa. A group of students from The International School went to a presentation about the One Foundation.

On returning to school, the students developed their ideas and recruited friends to help water projects in Africa. The result is Chasham International, a business based at the school and run by Year 10 students Taonga Sakala, Lewis Moseley, Curtis Cahill, Karine Harber, Kierren Horne, Mubarak Abdi and Siddique Ahmed.

“We are committed to raising £1000,” said Lewis Moseley. “We have organised One Water Days and have so far raised around £300.”

International award victory

The International School in Tile Cross has been awarded the British Council’s prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas.

Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council’s work with schools, so that young people gain cultural understanding and skills.

On look-out for old builders

THE school is looking for any builders from the 1950s involved in building Central Grammar School, Byng Kenrick Girls School and/or Sir Wilfrid Martineau School, to invite them to the opening of a new school.

The former schools are part of The International School, which is being refurbished under Building Schools for the Future.

Please ring 0121 464 9600.



Proud: Bev Hawkesford, Jim Wallace and Sue Dangerfield.

Alcoa invests in community

MULTINATIONAL business Alcoa has invested millions of pounds of resources in local communities.

Its operation in Kitts Green, where it manufactures very high quality aluminium plate and sheet for industries such as aerospace, is no exception. Over recent years the company has provided grants for local football clubs, pensioner facilities and schools.

Staff at the Kitts Green factory have helped to transform many local facilities through their Month of Service programme.

This year the focus will be

in helping to transform Castle Bromwich Gardens, where the local community, led by Alcoa staff, will be replanting Victorian flower beds and improving wheelchair access. Visiting times can be found at www.cbhgt.org.uk

Sue Dangerfield and Bev Hawkesford are the driving force behind these initiatives.

“It is hard work and very pressured, but the whole company gets involved and the results more than compensate,” they said.

“The most rewarding aspect of the work is our local community coming together and

making a difference.” Jim Wallace, plant manager, said he was particularly proud of the work the company was doing with the local secondary school.

“We have worked on a range of initiatives with The International School, focused on improving student attendance. The school has gone from 80 per cent attendance to 94 per cent last year, and they are targeting 96 per cent this year. This is a great success story and is evidence of how business, education partnerships can truly benefit young people.”