

The Andover EDGE

Issue 1 September 2015

Welcome to the first edition of The Andover Edge which celebrates the exceptional teaching experienced every day at Primary, Secondary and College level here in Andover. Be inspired by these success stories demonstrating the effective collaboration between our schools which makes Andover the perfect place to send your children



“A first class education here on your doorstep”

You are no doubt seeking a gold standard education for your children - from the first day of Reception to the day they successfully finish college. For each family this definition of a good education will be different – some will blossom within a top flight academic environment, some will need strong pastoral care, but most will need both and you will find this in our family of schools and college.

The culture in each of the schools is very different but the golden thread which runs through all is a commitment to deliver outstanding teaching and learning designed to challenge and inspire students to do the very best they can.

As demonstrated throughout this publication, many children enjoy a fulfilling education here in Andover, going on to

University and rewarding careers. They speak highly of their time at school, the excellent GCSE results they achieved, and how their formative years in Andover helped shape a successful future for them.

Throughout the year each of our schools celebrates numerous achievements and successes from record breaking GCSE results, to education awards and Ofsted accolades. There is a genuine sense and purpose from the primary schools through to the College to make Andover the number one choice for every child in the town.

Andover gets its first Teaching School

As Andover's first Teaching School, Anton Juniors is relishing the opportunity to work in an alliance with schools across the town in order to provide high quality training and development for Andover teachers. The Anton Andover Alliance is a strong consortium of local schools working together to develop and improve the standards of teaching in our classrooms which in turn will improve the attainment and achievement of every child.



Tom Donohoe, Headteacher at Anton Junior School, said: *"This national Government initiative recognises those excellent teachers working in schools right across our town, who have the potential to work alongside other teachers to develop their skills. It is an exciting time for Anton, for the Alliance and for Andover schools; I believe that working together we can improve opportunities for our children and our teachers across our town."*

Through the Alliance trainee teachers will also learn from the best teachers in all schools around the town. In time all staff – classroom assistants through to teachers and senior leaders, will be exposed to excellent practices happening in their own and other schools.

Tim Deery, Headteacher of Portway Junior School, a strategic partner in the Alliance continues: *"As a collective group of leaders we know where the expertise lies, so we can share resource and talent within our schools and equally, can tap into excellence elsewhere to develop staff. This is excellent news for all the children in Andover."*



Andover Primary Schools are amongst the best!

According to Hampshire County Council the Andover primary school system is one of the most improved in Hampshire over the past five years. This dramatically improving landscape can only be excellent news for the children and families in the area.

This accolade is based on the Year 6 tests taken at the end of Key Stage 2. The most recent available data show that Andover pupils outperform

the rest of Hampshire at level 4 (the national average result) at English and maths and at level 5 (considered significantly above average) in English.

Great news therefore for our secondary schools who will be taking these students in at this improved level and where they will no doubt go on to perform exceptionally well.



ANDOVER HOME GROWN TALENT

Laura Bourne

The bright lights of London beckon for freelance Designer Laura Bourne who recently started work for leading start-up tech company, Qubit.

Laura, aged 23, has high praise for her education here in Andover where she attended Balksbury Infants and Juniors and John Hanson achieving very impressive GCSE results.

From Andover Laura spent two years travelling to Winchester to attend Peter Symonds for her A Levels but the Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Art Department at Andover College lured her back for their highly respected Art Foundation

Diploma. This secured Laura a place at the Arts University of Bournemouth where she successfully completed the BA (Hons) Illustration Degree before spending the year working as a Design Intern for Sparsholt College.

Commenting on the benefit of an Andover based education she said: *"The teaching was excellent and I got to grow up and study with all my friends. I was put into a group of excellence while at John Hanson, where I was pushed and supported to succeed and exceed."*

Harrow Way wins National Computing Award



The award reflects the expertise and commitment Harrow Way has to Computing and Computer Science. Staff are active members of CAS and as, the Lead School in CAS's local Network of Excellence, Harrow Way will take a lead for Computing and Computer Studies in the area, cascading good practice and experience.

CAS aims to promote the teaching of Computer Science at school, with the goal of putting the excitement back into Computing at school.

Headteacher Michael Serridge concludes: *"This award from CAS is another important indicator and an endorsement of the high standards we set across the curriculum here at Harrow Way. What is particularly pleasing, though, is the benefit it will bring to other schools in the area and the wider community."*

Children today grow up surrounded by technology – computers at school, at home and ultimately, at work. There's good news for students, and schools of Andover with the announcement that Harrow Way has been designated a Lead School by CAS (Computing at School), a nationally recognised organisation for the management, delivery and support of Computing in the UK.

Top 5 Benefits of Staying Local



1. **Quality education you can walk to**



2. **Less travel time = more study time**



3. **Saves £££££ - school buses going out of own cost between £580 and £700 per child, per year.**



4. **Your child enjoys school and has friendships all in the one area**



5. **Local support system right on the doorstep**



ANDOVER HOME GROWN TALENT

Rachel Carter

A delightful mix of village and town education played their part in the success of 21 year old Rachel who is all set to take on her new role at Barnet General Hospital as a newly qualified midwife.

Clatford C of E School and Winton served Rachel well, where she achieved an impressive 11 top grade GCSEs. Andover remained the town of choice for college, where Rachel once again excelled.

Commenting on the benefit and value of an Andover based education, Rachel said: *"Because I was close to home and didn't have to sit on a bus for hours my days were so much longer. I was able to do a lot of things out of school such as work experience, which all contributed to me getting where I am today."*



Enter The Crystal Maze if you Dare

Although the Year 4 students on the Maths Day at Winton Academy are far too young to remember, their parents and guardians may well recall the 1990's Channel 4 programme, The Crystal Maze, which featured four different 'zones' set in various periods of time and space.

Winton's drama studio was transformed for the day into a Medieval Castle where staff dressed as knights, with the crystal maze split into four countries - India, Egypt, China and Greece. The idea of the game was for the students to visit each country and attempt a physical, a mental and a mystery puzzle in each with crystals awarded for any mathematical challenges successfully completed.



Their time travel journey began in Greece, searching for the missing city by solving the Greek maths trail. Travelling to India they completed the famous Tower of Hanoi challenge and in China oriental maths was order of the day. In Egypt, their final destination, they learned the Egyptian number system, completing the sequence before building pyramids using balloons.

Winton Academy Headteacher Nathan Thomas said: "Overall the day was very successful - the students all had a great day and were able to demonstrate their mathematical and problem solving skills while having a lot of fun."



Year 4 – Able Student Challenge Day

Secondary School came a couple of years early for Andover and villages 'more able' Year 4 students predicted, to excel in their end of Year 6 tests. The talented 8 and 9 year olds enjoyed a challenging day created by leading teachers from the town's secondary schools which showcased the expertise here in Andover.



The answer to the riddle can be found in the **Skull and Crossbones**

Across town at Harrow Way, the second group of able Year 4 students was taking part in a pirate themed literacy and history day. Quickly put into character with the help of pirate hats and a giant treasure map, the students were tasked with collecting clues on notorious pirates such as Bart Roberts, Annie Bonnie and BlackBeard.

The key to being a highly literate pirate in 2015 is to collect as many pieces of 'punctuation treasure' as possible to help write a biography and piece of creative writing. But, like pirates of old haggling and trading their booty, these pirates could move their ships around the huge treasure map answering riddles, trading facts and punctuation.

Deputy Headteacher Graeme Fluellen said: "We wanted the students to be challenged but we specifically designed the day to be highly engaging so, although working at a high level, the students had great fun doing so."

Life is a lot of fun in a Science Lab!

There is nothing quite as spectacular or impressive to 8 and 9 year olds as a dramatic chemical reaction or two which were order of the day at John Hanson for the Year 4 able scientists. The Physics workshop was electric! As charges flowed, students were constructing their own circuit by end of the session and using a microscope is a must-have skill for any reputable scientists at which the students are now all adept, having enjoyed a very magnified look at some cells.

John Hanson helped their visitors feel at ease by deploying Year 7 students to assist teachers on the day. Assistant Headteacher Mike Adams said: "We had a fantastic response from all the students involved. For most, this would be the first time that they tackled 'Science' as three separate subjects and we hope they enjoyed the opportunity of working at this higher level in our excellently equipped science labs."

The Year 4 scientists won't forget their day in a hurry – they were all given a memento of their scientific experience at John Hanson - a mounted photograph of themselves working on an experiment – something to proudly display at home.



Leading experts teach the teachers

Over 400 of Andover's teachers were given the amazing opportunity of being put through their paces by some of the world's top speakers and trainers.

Teachers were inspired by Richard Gerver, world renowned, award-winning teacher and school principal, whose ground breaking work in education was celebrated by the British National Teaching awards. Richard shared his unique insights into change, leadership and education.

One delegate commented: *"The morning spent with Richard was simply inspiring! I*

came back to school with so many ideas about what I could do in the classroom to make a difference to our pupils."

Creative thinking and active learning are now on Andover's teaching menu following Jane Simister's session. Jane is a leading thinking and learning skills expert who has worked with many schools countrywide and her programme is acknowledged as making an outstanding contribution to students' general education.

Tim Deery, Headteacher at Portway Juniors explains how the schools were able to secure such top quality trainers



for the day. *"We are very fortunate here in Andover – there are not many towns where the schools would work so collaboratively in order to deliver such a high quality training day, with an incredible line up of speakers. It was a very positive experience where we shared ideas and best practice which will ultimately benefit the children back in the classroom."*



ANDOVER HOME GROWN TALENT

Euan Manson

Former Portway and Harrow Way student, now the latter's Head of Drama, Euan Manson, strongly believes that being educated in Andover has been a huge benefit to his life saying: "Harrow Way gave me the opportunity to get a great education but it also opened my eyes to all the different career paths I could take. The breadth of the curriculum means that there really is something to inspire everyone.

"The Drama department gave me the skills I needed to become a professional actor. The Maths department helped one of my best friends from school become a fund manager in the City. The Art department gave my sister the passion for art which means she is now the Director of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation in London, providing hundreds of thousands of pounds of funding to the art world each year.

My sister's partner, also educated in Andover, now curates all of the Science Museum in London's contemporary exhibitions. An Andover education has prepared all of us to leave the town but it has also always been here to support us in our adult lives."

We couldn't say it better ourselves.

24ct Gold Maths at John Hanson

Each year approximately 600,000 students nationally take part in the UK Maths Challenge, a national competition organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). Of that 600,000, only 7% win Gold, 13% Silver and a further 20% will win Bronze. John Hanson were naturally celebrating this year when their students achieved five of the coveted Gold certificates, seven Silver and ten Bronze. For the first time ever five students have qualified for the next round of

the challenge, called the 'kangaroo' round. Only 5,500 students get through nationally and this next stage of the competition will be fought internationally with students from 30 countries taking part. The Maths team at John Hanson are all set to provide additional coaching to prepare the students for the next stage of the competition, but we will have to wait until Easter 2016 to hear the results.

Mr Thain, Head of Mathematics, said *"For five students to qualify for the next round of the Maths Challenge in one year is an outstanding achievement and one that we are incredibly proud of. We are also delighted with the number of year 9 and 10 students who achieved certificates which bodes well for a similar level of success in future years."*

Apple Innovation at Winton Academy

From September Winton students will no longer be bringing in an apple for the teacher as all Year 7s will be getting an Apple iPad Mini of their own! The aim of the new initiative is for students to have the device which supports them in their learning from day one. Writing will, of course, remain central to learning, with the iPads providing a myriad of opportunities to extend the students and support them with their individual needs.

David Morley-Davies, Winton Academy Vice Principal, who has driven this project said, *"21st century learners need 21st century technology to support them."*

Through our extensive pilots and work in the classroom we are certain this new learning initiative will allow the students to become independent and innovative thinkers, preparing them for the world they will enter when leaving school."

"21st century learners need 21st century technology to support them."

During this academic year the school has used iPads extensively to improve

teaching and learning, developing its own resources and apps which specifically meet the needs of the students.

Principal Nathan Thomas concludes: *"I am so proud to be running a school of such talented and committed students; creativity and innovation are at the heart of what we do."*



Pictured far left.

Jamie Kershaw left Andover College five years ago with outstanding A-Level results. After leaving the University of Southampton with a Pure Maths degree Jamie has climbed the ranks at the cafe and restaurant chain Boswells where he is now the Training Manager.

Jamie says he enjoyed a happy education at Portway and Winton Academy, proudly leaving with excellent GCSE results. Commenting on the benefit of an Andover based education he said: *"Why move to another town or city to learn when you could take advantage of the high, yet ever increasing standards, available on your doorstep? Andover has certainly enhanced its reputation in recent years when it comes to the quality of education on offer, and its institutes have worked hard to do this - making commuting elsewhere needless."*

Headteacher Q&A

Our three secondary Headteachers, Ian Coombs (John Hanson), Michael Serridge (Harrow Way) and Nathan Thomas (Winton Academy), take questions:



Ian Coombs (John Hanson)

1. What is the advantage of an Andover secondary education?

Nathan Thomas: There are numerous advantages to educating children in Andover. Most importantly the quality of teaching in all three schools is good, as is the leadership. All three secondary schools have had new headteachers in the last three years, who are passionate about education and creating an outstanding education system for Andover children. If you look at the progress students make from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 it is equal to, or better than, other areas of Hampshire.

2. As a team of Headteachers you are reasonably new to the schools in Andover – how do you see your school performing in 5 year’s time?

Ian Coombs: Andover primary schools have transformed their performance over the last 5 years. They are now better than both the county and national averages for Key Stage 2 outcomes.

This gives the Andover secondary schools both an opportunity and a challenge. The high attainment of Year 6 coming into our schools gives us a strong attainment base to build upon. Within five years Andover schools should be seeing results on a par with the best schools in other local cities.

“Students living in Andover can get a first class education here on their doorstep”

3. What are the priorities for improving your school’s performance?

Michael Serridge: Outstanding teaching and learning - striving for the highest quality in Teaching and Learning is the bedrock of all good secondary schools.

As Headteachers we believe all students can achieve - outstanding progress is achievable and all students deserve an education that will challenge, inspire, and prepare them for a better future.

High standards in all that we do - the culture that has been established is about a relentless focus on high standards in all aspects of school life: learning, behaviour, attitude, uniform, attendance and punctuality.

4. How are you going to ensure you can deliver this?

Nathan Thomas: The commitment of the staff and students within all the schools is outstanding. We have a strong vision which we are all committed to achieving. We will each achieve our vision for outstanding education through having high expectation of every student and member of staff in our school. We will work together as a team of Heads in support of educating Andover’s young people.

5. What message would you give to parents looking to choose their child’s secondary school?

Michael Serridge: Students living in Andover can get a first class education here on their doorstep. There is no need for children to spend hours on a bus each day and I would strongly urge those thinking of an out-of-town education to consider Andover Schools. We’ve done very well this year but there is more to come and we are all committed to seeing the schools’ performance improve year on year.

6. How would you advise to ensure that the best choice is made?

Ian Coombs: All schools are different – and that is true of the three Andover secondary schools. Take opportunities to visit each of them. Look at their curriculum, pastoral care, extracurricular opportunities and ethos to see which will best suit your child’s needs.



Nathan Thomas (Winton Academy)

7. Traditionally a number of students have chosen to seek their secondary education out of the town – do you think this is still a viable choice for children and parents?

Ian Coombs: Parental choice is important in education. The thought that a school has an automatic ‘right’ to educate the local community is no longer valid. As Heads of local schools we have the duty to ensure our schools are as strong and effective as they can be. However, I hope that parents come and visit and see what secondary education in Andover is really like – please don’t decide simply on the basis of what others tell you.

8. How are you working with primary schools in the area to ensure students make a successful transition?

Michael Serridge: Each secondary has developed outstanding links with their family of primary schools. There is an extensive programme of events, both academic and social, beginning in Year 5, to introduce pupils to the



school and develop a positive and enduring relationship to ensure high standards are maintained. Extremely experienced staff manage the transition phase effectively to ensure a trouble-free move to secondary school. The priority is to provide your child with the best start so we receive as much information as possible, including peer friendships and advice from Primary teachers, as well as information requests from students and parents, to help make decisions about appropriate placement in both a tutor group and class.

9. How do local schools work with Andover College?

Nathan Thomas: We have an excellent relationship with the College. We have a number of joint days to ensure the students are aware of all of the options available to them beyond 16. It is really important that students are aware of the opportunities and aim high when thinking about their future steps.

Working with our village schools

Andover’s secondary schools are packed full with subject-specialist teachers and first class resources from sports halls and sports pitches, to drama theatres and auditoriums.

A full and rich calendar of music, sporting, academic and performing arts activities enable students from the

village schools to tap into these facilities and enjoy a number of tournaments and festivals throughout the year.

Sporting events are always hugely popular, such as the Gym Festival and Football Tournament held at John Hanson, and Harrow Way’s annual Tag Rugby Festival and Indoor Athletics Competition. These occasions also provide an ideal opportunity for the host school’s students to assist teachers with

the organisation, running and refereeing on the day.

The ‘heat’ themed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) day held at Winton Academy for Year 5 students included sausage making, bread making, wax melting art, hot air balloon building, Survival Science and ‘hot’ Maths. All great fun and all with an important underlying lesson on how heat is used across these key subject areas.

This close working relationship between our secondary and village schools provides all manner of new experiences for students. Some you will be very familiar with, such as Country Dancing and others, like Tri Golf and New Age Kurling, may be new to you but no longer new to your children.





ANDOVER HOME GROWN TALENT

Archie McKellar

Archie McKellar may only have left school last year but this 17 year old knows exactly where he is heading. From Clatford C of E School Archie went to John Hanson where he proudly achieved nine GCSEs .

Rather than go to college Archie secured himself an Apprenticeship with Stannah Stairlifts in their Engineering Department.

Once he has completed the Level 2 programme Archie will progress to the Level 3 (equivalent to three A-Levels) and then onto the HNC (Higher National Certificate). His learning won't necessarily end there, as there is the opportunity to study towards an Engineering degree which his employer Stannah may sponsor.

Commenting on the benefit of an Andover based education Archie said: *"It was nice to go to a local community school, not far from where I live."*

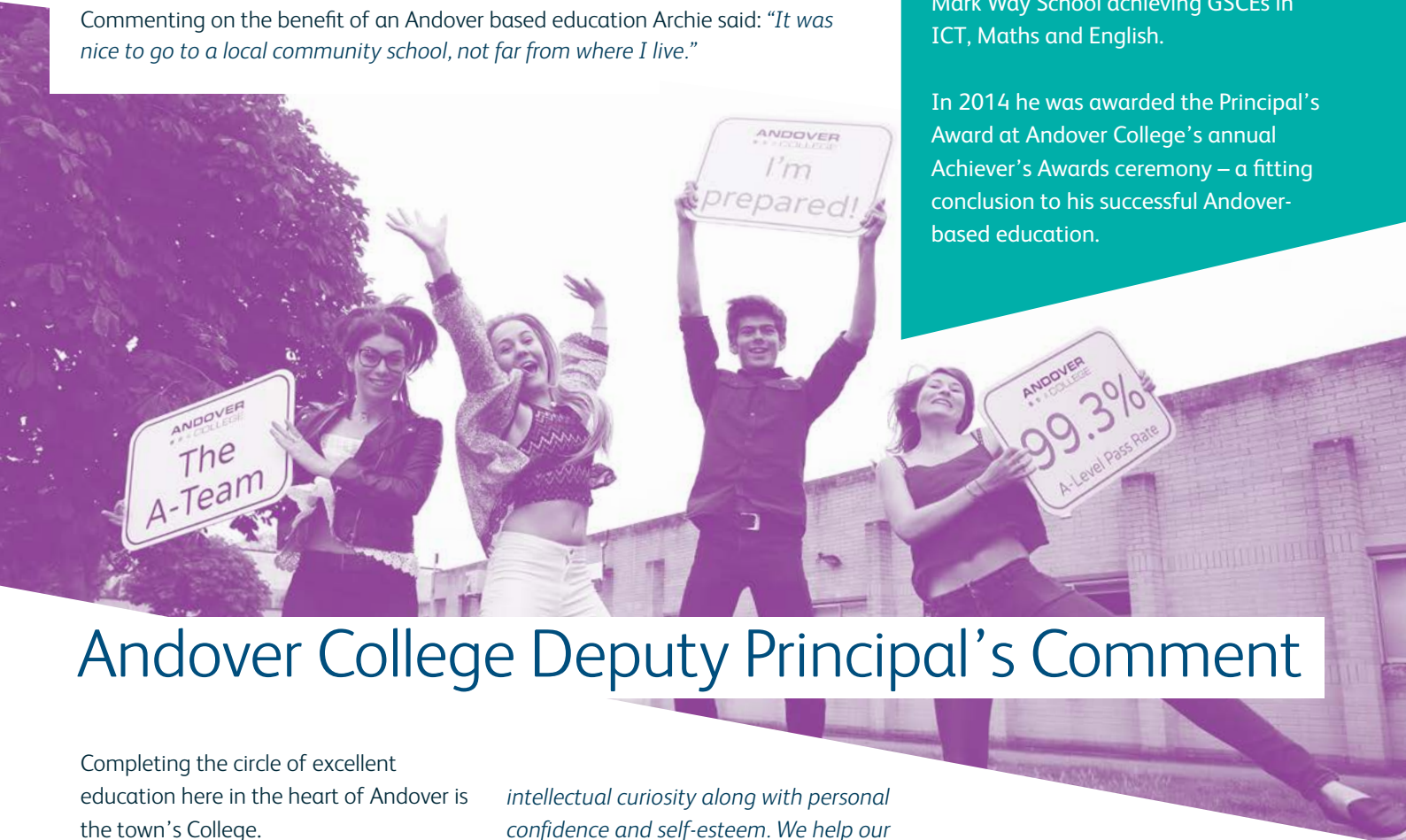
From Special Provision to University -

Johnathan Bell

At Norman Gate Jonathan Bell developed into a happy chatterbox following progress made with speech and communication. This September he starts his second year at Portsmouth University where he is studying Computer Forensics.

Norman Gate Headteacher, Mrs Chris Gayler, recalls that Jonathan always had a particular interest in the more scientific aspects of the curriculum which he went on to develop at the Mark Way School achieving GCSEs in ICT, Maths and English.

In 2014 he was awarded the Principal's Award at Andover College's annual Achiever's Awards ceremony – a fitting conclusion to his successful Andover-based education.



Andover College Deputy Principal's Comment

Completing the circle of excellent education here in the heart of Andover is the town's College.

Deputy Principal Martin Simmons said: *"We offer a dynamic destination to school leavers whether choosing any one of our 40+ A-Levels or huge range of vocational courses. We do achieve excellent results, but we're not just focussed on passing exams. Our strength is developing independent learning and*

intellectual curiosity along with personal confidence and self-esteem. We help our students to develop a thirst for learning that makes achievement a natural part of the process."

The College prides itself on 'preparing students for life', be that progression to a higher level course, Apprenticeship, University or into the world of work. Applied learning engages and aids

students in their studies, enhancing employability and further study. Martin Simmons concludes: *"Quite simply, people thrive at Andover College - we offer exceptional individual support. We're small enough to know every student personally but big enough to provide choice and fantastic facilities."*

ANDOVER HOME GROWN TALENT

Lyndsey Walker

Harrow Way's Head of Year 9 and Curriculum Leader for Dance, Lyndsey Walker, was once herself a Harrow Way student. Lyndsey speaks highly of her Andover based education which started at Portway and successfully concluded at Andover College.

After achieving a First-Class honours degree in Dance at Northampton University and a Postgraduate in Dance, Lyndsey spent four years performing and touring with a contemporary dance company while teaching part time at Harrow Way and delivering freelance projects such as youth dance clubs.

Commenting on the benefit and value of an Andover based education, she said: *The reason I decided to stay in Andover for the first 18 years of my education was the creativity demonstrated in the classrooms at Harrow Way. From the very start there was a sense that the teachers were committed to the students' learning. Andover College had a great reputation for Performing Arts which require intense days and long hours of rehearsal so it was important to be close to home"*

From Special Provision to University - *Matthew Kirby*

Fine Art Graduate Matthew Kirby went to both Norman Gate Primary and The Mark Way Secondary schools here in Andover.

For Matthew and his family memories of Norman Gate are extremely happy, positive and supportive – he particularly enjoyed Art and English and received support with his language development. Headteacher, Mrs Chris Gayler, remembers Matthew using Art in many situations and is delighted that he is an outstanding example of how children with special needs can achieve.

Matthew carried his talents on into secondary school and University. In 2013 he completed a degree in Fine Art at The Winchester School of Art and has since been commissioned to do various pieces including Christmas cards for the Mayor.

In 2014 Matthew achieved a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

From Winton Student to Winton Governor

A former pupil of Winton Community Academy has returned after eight years to join the school governing body. 24 year old Rebecca Stockwell, who studied at Winton from 2001 to 2006, hopes that through her experiences she can help raise students' aspirations and educational attainment.

"I decided to apply to join the governing body at Winton as I have a long-standing interest in education, particularly around the issue of social mobility," said Rebecca. "Having been to Winton myself and knowing how difficult it can be to compete against your more privileged counterparts in higher education and work, I feel a responsibility to try and help the current students navigate their way through this. This starts with improving their school. There is a strong team of people at the school, both staff and governors, and I am confident that

we can change Winton for the better. It is equally important that we raise the aspirations of the students so that they have the motivation and the determination to achieve as well as they can. I believe they are capable of achieving great things and I want them to believe that too."

After Rebecca left Winton she went on to study at Andover College and then did a BA in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in central London. She graduated two years ago with a 2:1.



Record breaking Javelin Thrower training at John Hanson

Andover could have the next Steve Backley, Javelin Olympian, in its midst in John Hanson, Year 9 student Tom Hewson.

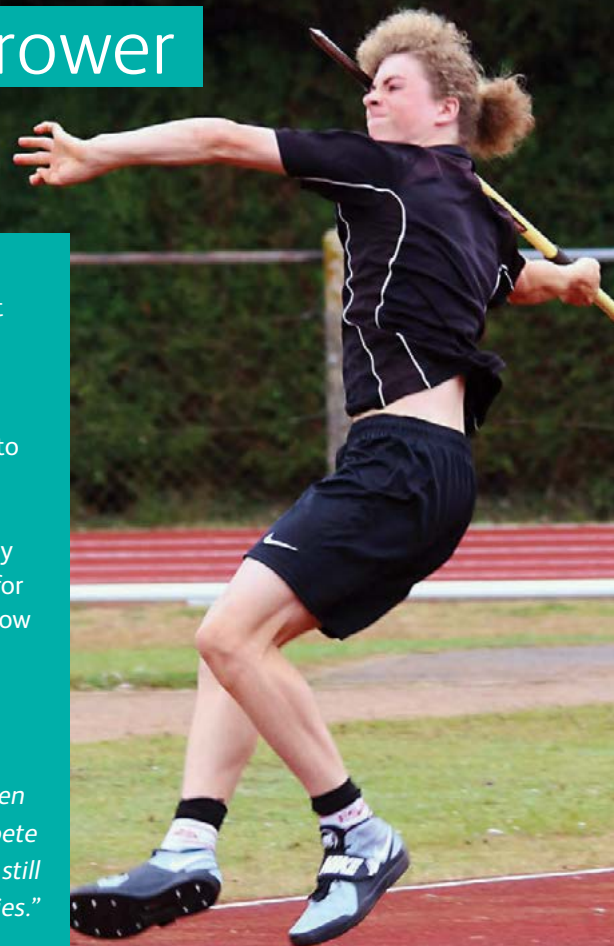
Tom's javelin throwing accolades in 2015 include winning the Andover Schools' Javelin competition, breaking the district record for an impressive third consecutive year and winning the County competition. He was selected to represent Hampshire in the South East inter-counties competition which he also went on to win.

Clearly making his mark, and now impressing the national selectors, Tom was invited to attend an international

javelin school in Finland. During the week he enjoyed high level specialist training and competition, before returning to the UK for the English Schools' Championships in July at Gateshead where he threw 48.07m to earn a silver medal.

Tom capped his incredible year off by recently breaking the school record for the third consecutive year with a throw of 50.50m.

Commenting on the training and support the team at John Hanson provide, Tom said: *"This year has given me the opportunity not just to compete but also coach other students, while still concentrating on my academic studies."*



Harrow Way wins Hampshire Netball Teacher of the Year and South Region Teacher of the Year 2015

Harrow Way Community School's Elaine Escritt is Hampshire's Netball Teacher of the Year 2015 and winner of the South Region Teacher of the Year Award 2015.

Elaine will now represent the South at the prestigious England Netball National Golden Globe Awards which will be held in September.

The Golden Globes recognise the outstanding contribution volunteers make to the sport of netball. The celebration begins at County level, moves onto Regional level and culminates in a national awards evening. Elaine will join nominees hoping to take home the netball honours for the 11 categories, which include the Grassroots Coach Award, Outstanding Netball Club Award and the all-important Teacher Award.

Elaine was nominated by her colleague Jane Tunney who has supported Elaine

with the running of the school's Netball Club and netballing activities.

Jane has seen, first hand, the commitment and time Elaine dedicates to the sport and supporting her students. Jane comments: *"Elaine has been a champion of netball for three decades and is an inspiration to her students which sees many, with her encouragement, also play at club level. There is an entire squad of students from Harrow Way playing in the Andover and District League and there are many former students still either playing or just retired who were also taught and inspired by Elaine."*

