

Individual Learning for Individual Success

THE ACADEMY

Newsletter June 2008

Registering Grades 4-11



The Academy aims to prepare the students for the Grade Six Achievement Test in grade 6, and the Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate and the Certificate of Secondary Competence examinations in grades 9 - 11. We also facilitate integration into the mainstream educational system at the tertiary level, thereby providing a manageable transition into the world in which they will function in adult life. Tertiary education includes trade schools, sixth forms, community colleges and universities and colleges.



Summer 2007

Last school year ended with a Valedictory Service for our school leavers held on Tuesday June 26, 2008 at the Hope United Church. The Guest Speaker was Mrs Pauline Bryan, Vice President at Blue Cross.

A quick move on August 8, to our interim location, proved providential as our previous location was badly damaged in

Hurricane Dean just eleven days later. We set about the task readying 5 new classrooms by September 3.

Of course the start of the school year was delayed by the General Election and we opened on September 6.

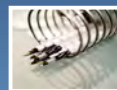
Personal Development

Several motivational and career talks have been held for the students through the course of the year. Speakers included Major Neil Lewis and son Noel in a special session held for the boys, financial genius Dan Theok, a team from Rise Life Management Services and businessman George Anderson. A special girls' emphasis will be held on June 20.

PHILOSOPHY



The Academy philosophy of education is all students can learn with a flexible, individualized educational programme. Our mission is to bring quality education to students with varied needs including the:



- Gifted
- Gifted underachievers
- Learning disabled, including Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder and Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Slow learners
- Students who are demotivated or otherwise not achieving within the conventional school setting

Sports and Games

In the Christmas Term the emphasis was on Football and Basketball. We played friendly matches versus AISK, Hillel and Shortwood Junior High.

In the Easter Term our attention switched to tennis. Our under 16 girls team were Zone 1 champions of the Cable and Wireless Tennis Competition. Unfortunately the knock-out stage was suspended by the organizers and our girls never got the opportunity to take the double.

One student will represent the parish St Andrew at the Special Olympics swimming competition on June 13.

Cultural Programmes

The students were exposed to Visual Arts, Music and Drama. Both staff and students gave exceptional performances at the Christmas Concert on December 7. Another presentation is being prepared for our family funday and school leavers ceremony to be held on Saturday June 28 at the Knolford Polo and Tennis Ranch.



Registration and Accreditation

We received our non-profit licence from the Ministry of Commerce on September 25, 2007. This has helped raise interest in our institution from corporate sponsors and we have received sponsorship for two students so far.

After visits from both the Independent Schools Unit and the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education our provisional registration was converted to full and final registration on May 14, 2008. Our staff and students are all to be congratulated in their contribution to this effort.

Our Academic Successes

After three years it has become possible to quantify how well our students have improved in their studies. We have never promised to make every child an A-student, but everyone who applies themselves will do better. The four case studies below give a glimpse.

CASE 1

A female with severe ADHD, attending a traditional girls' school, who entered Grade 8 and spent just 6 months.

SUBJECT	BEFORE	AFTER
Language	65	64
Literature	79	80
Math	35	55
History	63	74
Geography	63	76
Science	66	74
Spanish	50	80
RE	47	79
Arts	59	60
AVERAGE	59	71

CASE 2

A demotivated male, attending a traditional boys' school, who entered Grade 10 and made major improvements within 10 months.

SUBJECT	BEFORE	AFTER
Language	50	59
Literature	45	70
Math	49	57
Social Studies	39	92
History	44	79
Science	27	62
AVERAGE	42	70

CASE 3

An above average female, attending a traditional co-ed school, who was not thriving in the large class setting. Now a high achiever after two years.

SUBJECT	BEFORE	AFTER
Language	62	76
Literature	50	80
Math	33	67
History	38	93
Science	45	67
Spanish	31	69
Social Studies	56	80
AVERAGE	45	86

CASE 4

A gifted male on the autistic spectrum and dyslexic, with us for three years.

SUBJECT	BEFORE	AFTER
Language	51	76
Literature	65	71
Math	33	83
Social Studies	56	80
Science	56	89
Spanish	65	42
IT	65	60
RE	40	85
AVERAGE	54	73



Looking Forward

The search for our permanent home continues and we have the assistance of the government in this endeavour. We hope to be finally situated very soon.

With the continued support of a top class staff and enthusiastic parents we will continue to achieve our goal: *Individual Learning for Individual Success.*

Lavinia McClure
Principal
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