

Bawdsey Parish Council SCC News Update – September 2015

Suffolk GCSE results rise

More of Suffolk's 16 year olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment this year, it emerged last month. Provisional results collated in Suffolk suggest around a 4% rise in the number of students getting five or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths. It means that 56% of Suffolk's year 11s got the expected level of attainment. The validated figure for 2014 was 52%. Some schools have made significant gains on last year: For example: Kesgrave High School – 71% of students achieved five or more A*-C grades (including English and Maths), up 16% on last year; Copleston High School – 63% of students achieved five or more A*-C grades (including English and Maths), up 10% on last year; Stradbroke High School– 72% of students achieved five or more A*-C grades (including English and Maths). This is up from 54% last year, an increase of 18%. The results also saw a significant improvement for disadvantaged pupils – these are children looked after and pupils eligible for free school meals. The early results reported to SCC indicate 72% of schools have seen a rise in the attainment of pupils who are disadvantaged. Some schools that have made significant improvements in the attainment of disadvantaged pupils on last year: Thomas Mills High School - Up 20% on last year to 62%; Kesgrave High School – Up 18% on last year to 46%; County Upper School - Up 27% on last year to 54%; Sir John Leman High School – Up 10% on last year to 50%. *(NB: These figures are based on self-reported data from schools and academies to Suffolk County Council. The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education in the New Year).*

Key Stage 2 results show significant improvements for Suffolk Schools

The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths in primary schools in Suffolk is continuing to rise. Data released by the Department for Education today show 77% of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – up from 73% in 2014. The Suffolk figure of 77% closes the gap to the national average of 80%. These results mean that Suffolk has improved on its ranking against all authorities, moving up 22 places to 118th and is now 118 out of 150. Another positive figure emerging for Suffolk is the progress in writing between Key Stages 1 and 2. The percentage of pupils making the expected progress went up from 89% in 2014 to 91% this year. The percentage of children making expected progress from key stage 1 to 2 in Reading and Maths also increased. Both areas seeing a one percentage point rise. *(NB: Results at this stage are provisional. Validated figures to be published in October.)*

Suffolk's Broadband Programme gets new cash injection

Around £3.9 million is being made available to extend further the reach of high-speed fibre broadband across Suffolk, as part of the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme. This additional amount is funding that BT is making available to extend Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) projects as a result of the success of the projects in achieving higher than expected take-up levels so far. The money is for SCC to re-invest in further superfast broadband coverage to more homes and businesses, earlier than originally planned. As Colin Noble, SCC's leader, said: "This cash injection into the roll-out programme is great news as we pass the 20% take-up rate. It will help us to maintain our current momentum in getting communities across Suffolk switched on. We are on course to hit our target of reaching 100,000 properties by the end of this year and entering our second agreed contract with BT to deliver even more coverage in 2016 and beyond. We are committed to reaching 100% of properties by 2020. It is important for all residents and businesses to understand that where

high speed broadband service is available, they must contact their service provider to make the switch. It is not an automatic process.”

Suffolk Skills Show 2015: The chance to showcase your business

The Suffolk Skills Show will take place at Trinity Park on 21st of October 2015 between 9am and 6pm. It will provide a great opportunity for businesses to showcase their work, the people they employ and what they are looking for in future employees. The young people attending will be looking for career inspiration, information and a wide range of hands-on experiences to help inspire them to explore skills, further education and apprenticeships, there will also be education providers and careers guidance helping them to gain advice on how to take the next step into the world of work. The inaugural event in 2014 attracted over 44 schools and recorded over 3,500 people through the gates. 2,760 of those being a key age group for choices over subject options, further education or apprenticeship routes. In total, 91 organisations exhibited on over 100 stands, split into zones to reflect the economic diversity and growth sectors of Suffolk. The show will see a range of training providers and employers discuss apprenticeships, training, college, university courses and employment opportunities. Numerous “Have a Go” activities, tasters and demonstrations will also offer hands-on experience of new skills, from a range of different sectors. For more information, visit the Suffolk Skills Show website at: <https://www.suffolkskillsshow.com>

Scams go up in flames thanks to Suffolk Scamnesty

Over 400 pieces of scam mail and other fraudulent printed documentation have been binned and taken out of circulation as part of Suffolk Trading Standard’s successful Scamnesty campaign that ran throughout July, in partnership with BBC Radio Suffolk’s Mark Murphy show. The campaign came to an official end with a spectacular bonfire containing all the scam materials collected over the past month. The bonfire also included over 8,000 pieces of scam mail that has been sent to SCC’s Trading Standard’s team since January 2015. The post is being logged and the information sent to the National Trading Standards Scams Team for them to utilise in their enforcement and in their training work with other agencies, such as Royal Mail. Every year, more than three million people in the UK fall victim to scams, losing thousands of pounds to fraudsters. Scamnesty was a month-long initiative managed by the Trading Standards team, encouraging people to report potential scams and help prevent others from falling victim.

New vaccination programme launched to protect against meningitis

This month, SCC’s Public Health team are welcoming the start of the new MenACWY vaccination programme that will offer teenagers protection against meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) caused by four meningococcal strains including MenW. GPs will be inviting all teenagers aged 17 and 18 (born between 01 September 1996 and 31 August 1997) for the vaccine. It’s important that anyone who plans to go to university this year gets vaccinated before they leave. This group is at increased risk of getting meningococcal disease, as many will be mixing closely with lots of new people at university, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria. As well as MenW, the vaccination also protects against other forms of the disease – meningococcal disease types A, C and Y – which can also be fatal or cause long term complications for those affected. This vaccine programme is being introduced in response to a growing increase in cases of a highly aggressive strain of meningococcal disease, group W. Cases of MenW have been increasing year-on-year in the U.K., from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014. It is currently responsible for around a quarter of all laboratory-confirmed meningococcal cases in England.

Andrew Reid
County Councillor – Wilford Division
Tel: 07545 423 799
Email: andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk

