



School report

It's an exciting time for schools in Lewisham.

Exam results are improving every year, and all secondary schools in the borough are being rebuilt or refurbished. There's also the new Lewisham Leadership College, which will be nurturing the school leaders of the future.

Key Stage 1 results for seven-year-olds were excellent this year, with Lewisham moving up the national rankings. (Key Stage 1 measures a child's achievement in the basics of reading, writing, maths and science.) Lewisham has the highest improvement in the country for maths at the expected level for seven-year-olds.

GCSE results were even better than last year's, with 60 per cent of students in Lewisham achieving five or more A*–C grades in their GCSEs – a jump of 5.1 per cent from last year.

It was a similar story with A-level results – Lewisham's overall pass rate was 98 per cent, which beat the national average of 97.2 per cent for the fifth consecutive year.

One of the biggest GCSE success stories this year was Addey and Stanhope School in New Cross, which saw its A*–C results jump by a massive 21.5 per cent to 65.4 per cent.

Headteacher, Ann Potter, said: 'I am absolutely delighted with this year's outstanding exam results, which are the best the school has ever achieved. It reflects the ambition and determination of our students and the true professionalism of the staff.'

Sedgemoor School also saw a big improvement in GCSE results, which rose 7.8 per cent to 62 per cent.



'I CAME HERE UNABLE TO SPEAK ENGLISH'

Thanh Nguyen, who lives in Bellingham and attends Sedgehill, gained 2A*s, 5As and 2Bs in his GCSEs.

'My parents are from Vietnam, and we lived in China until I was six. When I came to this country, I couldn't speak or write any English. Now I've just got nine GCSEs! It's unbelievable. I'm so happy. I've had a good time at Sedgehill and the teaching is really good. I wanted to work hard for my parents. When I got my results we had a big family celebration. I'm doing A levels in English, maths, further maths, economics and PE and I hope to go to Oxford or Cambridge to study actuarial science.'

State-of-the-art buildings

Lewisham Council is spending £320m on rebuilding or refurbishing all of its secondary schools, four primary schools and six Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools. In addition, a brand new all-age school is being built at Loampit Vale.

The aim is to give all Lewisham children and young people the very best start in life by providing state-of-the-art learning environments. It also gives school staff access to modern teaching facilities and provides high quality resources for the whole community. Students at Prendergast-Ladywell Fields College, Forest Hill School, Greenvale Special School, Watergate Special School and Childeric

Primary School have already moved into their new buildings and are benefiting from world-class learning environments. Pupils at Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy and St Matthew Academy are both well established in their impressive new buildings.

Another two primary schools, Ashmead and Rushey Green, are due to open very shortly. A new Tidemill school will open in 2011 as part of the Griffin Street re-development. By Easter 2009, pupils will be in their fantastic new buildings at Catford High and Sedgehill, and work will be well advanced at Northbrook School. Work on Deptford Green, Bonus Pastor, Addey and Stanhope, Prendergast-Hilly Fields,

'HISTORY IS MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT'

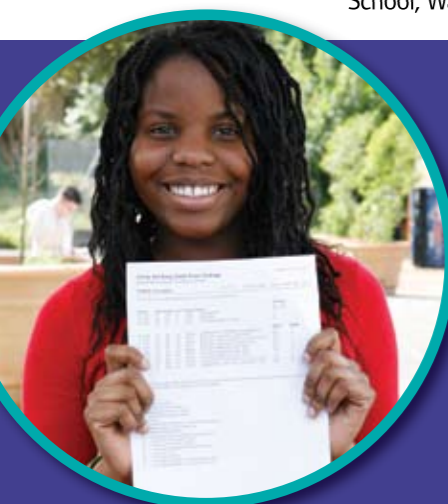
Naomi Aylwyn, 16, from Brockley, is studying for her A levels at Prendergast-Hilly Fields College. She gained 10 A*s in her GCSEs and an A in her English AS level, which she took a year early.

'My time at Prendergast has been really good. I worked hard for my exams, but I have fun, too – I've done kayaking and I play flute and piano. I'm doing A levels in English, French, maths, history and textiles. I'm planning to go to university and I'll probably study something to do with history as that's my favourite subject.'

'MY MENTOR HAS HELPED ME'

Clinton Edwards, 15, from Lewisham, is a pupil at Northbrook School. He's been on the Black Pupils' Achievement Programme (BPAP) since Year 9 and is on target to gain good grades at GCSE.

'I didn't enjoy school when I started in Year 7. I had problems with other students and it affected my school work. I now have a mentor as part of the BPAP programme and he's helped me see what I'd throw away if I don't do my school work.'



'I HAD AN EXCELLENT TIME AT CHRIST THE KING'

Oluwatobi Coker, gained three As in chemistry, biology and maths at Christ the King Sixth Form College. She's now studying medicine at St George's, University of London.

'I had an excellent time at Christ the King. It was hard work but fun and I made lots of friends. The teachers were very encouraging and were always available to help.

I've wanted to study medicine since I was at primary school. My mum was in hospital once and I was impressed and inspired by the doctors and nurses. It was hard work – during my exams, my social life stopped and I had a few sleepless nights! Now I'm really excited about studying at St George's.'

Sydenham, Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College and Crossways Academy is soon to begin. In addition, Brent Knoll will be refurbished, and a new school for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder will be built.

Sedgehill will have brand new facilities such as dance and theatre studios to support the school's specialism in Performing Arts. There will also be a large, central space for outside performances.

Headteacher Karen Bastick-Styles said: 'It's important to us that our young people are educated in the very best learning environment we can provide. This new building will do just that and we cannot wait to move in.'



Artist's impression of the new Sedgehill School



'MY TEACHER REALLY INSPIRED ME'

Firanol Girma, 16, from Brockley, attended Prendergast-Ladywell Fields College. He was among the top ten performers in the country in the citizenship studies GCSE.

'I came to this country from Ethiopia when I was 12 and started attending Prendergast-Ladywell Fields College (formerly Crofton School). I didn't know much English and it took me a year or so to learn. The teachers were

really helpful. My citizenship studies teacher, Mr Montgomery, really inspired me. He believed in me and gave me confidence. I got eight A*s, two As and two Bs in my GCSEs. I'm now at Prendergast-Hilly Fields College doing A levels in biology, chemistry, physics and maths.

'In the village I come from, 800 people died of malaria in one week because there was a shortage of doctors, so I want to go on to study medicine at university.'

School federations

Many Lewisham schools work in federations. A federation is a group of schools that comes together to raise standards and develop teaching and learning excellence. A hard federation is a formal arrangement between a group of schools. Other federations have more informal agreements to collaborate.

Federated schools have been very successful – almost every secondary school involved has been judged outstanding or good in the latest Ofsted inspections.

- ✓ The Leathersellers' Federation is a hard federation. It is made up of Prendergast-Hilly Fields in Adelaide Avenue SE4 and Prendergast-Ladywell Fields in Manwood Road SE4.
- ✓ The Haberdashers' Federation is a hard federation consisting of Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College in New Cross and Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy in Downham.
- ✓ The Hillside Federation is a collaboration involving Forest Hill Boys, Sedgemoor and Sydenham.
- ✓ Crossways Federation is a collaboration involving Crossways Academy, Addey and Stanhope, Catford High and Deptford Green.



Lewisham Leadership College

The Council has recently established a new virtual college to support and develop people in the borough who work with children, both in schools and in other children's services. The Lewisham Leadership and Development College (LLDC), based in Kilmorie Road, SE23, will initially run training courses, workshops and mentoring schemes for teachers, headteachers, teaching assistants and anyone else who works in schools. By developing their talents, Lewisham's educational workforce will be even better equipped to meet the ever-changing needs of children and young people. Once the college is up and running, it will bring together everyone who works with children.