

September 2015 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

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 from 52% to 56% in the number of students getting five or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths. 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),; Stradbroke High School– 72% of students achieved five or more A*-C grades (including English and Maths) 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%. *(NB: These figures are based on self-reported data to SCC. The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education in the New Year).* These results are extremely encouraging. The overall rise in students meeting our expected attainment levels is testament to the hard work and commitment of heads, governors, teachers, parents and, most importantly, students. We will continue to work with, and challenge, schools to drive up educational attainment. Ofsted has recognised that our Raising the Bar vision and strategy is moving us in the right direction, and we are implementing our action plan to increase the speed of improvement".

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 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. Cases of MenW have been increasing year-on-year in the U.K., from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014.

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. 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. People across our county should be able to live their lives without being subject to scams and fraudsters. It has been hugely encouraging to see the response to the Scamnesty project.

Suffolk Skills Show 2015: Are you showcasing your business?

The Suffolk Skills Show will take place at Trinity Park on 21st October 2015 and 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. The inaugural event in 2014 attracted over 44 schools and recorded over 3,500 people through the gates. 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. The Suffolk Skills show is a fantastic opportunity for both local businesses and young people in our area. It is an ideal chance for employers to speak with the next generation of workers, giving them a clear picture of the skill set required to obtain the work they want. For younger people, it will help them as they consider which area of work interests them and what practical steps they can put in place now to get on the pathway to employment. More Information is available at www.suffolkskillsshow.com

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