

THE SAMWORTH ACADEMIES

THE STORY SO FAR



The family of Samworth Academies has reached an important milestone in their journey

By Caroline Whitty, Former Samworth Academies Manager



Caroline Whitty

After seven years of hard work, the Samworth family's ambition to establish three East Midlands based academy schools has finally been realised. Last autumn term marked the milestone when all three Samworth Academies were up and running in their state-of-the-art new buildings.

The Samworth family has supported many community projects over the years, but the Academies are by far the most ambitious. Sir David, who was knighted in 2009 for charitable services, wanted to get involved for two reasons: his own experience has shown him the common link between an excellent education and success in later life, and he wanted to give something back to the communities in which his businesses have thrived.

Sir David teamed up with three like minded co-sponsors to found the Samworth Academies, and I had the privilege to work closely with all of them to create three wonderful new schools.

First, in 2007, came The Samworth Enterprise Academy in Leicester, co-sponsored by the Bishop of Leicester and the Leicester Diocese of the Church of England. Second, in 2008, came The Samworth Church Academy in Mansfield, co-sponsored by The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. Finally, in 2010, came NUSA (The Nottingham University Samworth Academy) in Bilborough in Nottingham, co-sponsored by The University of Nottingham.

Last summer term saw the first jointly run Samworth Academies' Events: an International



Pupils from all three Academies come together at International Day

themed day hosted by the Enterprise Academy and an Athletics Challenge organised by the Church Academy. Attended by Sir David, both events were a great success, and hopefully a blueprint for future collaboration.

The three academies are now benefitting 3,250 pupils and their families. This publication looks back over the journey to reach this milestone and celebrates the strong foundations we have built for our journey to come.

New faces to represent the Samworth family



Clare Price

Caroline Samworth

Clare Price and Caroline Samworth will play an increasing role in representing the Samworth family at public engagements as Sir David takes a step back



Sir David Samworth CBE

'My family and I are proud to have been able to sponsor these three new schools with their inspirational new buildings bearing our name. Although we have much work still to do, I am delighted with the excellent start that all three academies have made. Thanks to the hard work from all concerned, we are already beginning to see wonderful examples of the positive impact that they are making in their communities in helping to improve children's life chances, which is exactly what the Academies' Programme set out to achieve. I have no doubt that they will continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to my family's continuing close association with our Academies.'



The combined Academies' Athletics event



Pat Dubas
Principal



Richard Brucciani
Chair of Governors

Key facts:

Date of opening: Sept 2007
Age range: 3-16
Capacity: 1046
Specialism:
Business & Enterprise,
with a curriculum focus on food
Co-Sponsor:
The Church of England
Diocese of Leicester



The Samworth Enterprise Academy has been open for three years and during this time, as a 'growing school', has been building up the year groups. In 2007, the Academy had pupils from age 3 up to Year 7 and this academic year now has pupils up to Year 10, with the final year group joining in September 2011.

Appropriate to the sponsor, the Academy's specialism of Enterprise has a particular focus on food. In response to this, a wide range of learning opportunities are provided in relation to food and this includes a strong focus on healthy eating. The restaurant is placed at the heart of the Academy and is used by pupils, parents, staff, visitors and the community. The Academy has also established strong partnership links with Samworth Brothers' company, Bradgate Bakery, which has worked with the Academy to deliver a number of enterprising activities including Dragon's Den and our bi-annual 'S Challenge' event, which involves two kitchen and restaurant teams competing for first prize. The Academy also has links with the Food Trust and has held regional 'Chef of the Year' events for the Rotary Club. The full range of learning opportunities are offered for pupils of all ages, parents and members of the local community and these opportunities are provided during the core day, evenings, weekends and holidays – the Academy is open 51 weeks a year with opportunities provided from 8am to 9pm on many days.



Students supporting each other to keep afloat



England hero Martin Johnson with pupils from Phase One

The Academy is a Church of England School and its ethos is based around providing a positive and welcoming environment for the children, their families and the local community. The local parish church – St Christopher's Church – is co-located with the Academy and there are also strong links with the Police and Fire Service with both organisations spending regular time at the Academy on a weekly basis. The partnership work and involvement of parents has been recognised by many visitors to the Academy, including David Bell (Permanent Secretary for Education), and staff and governors from many other schools and academies.

The Samworth Enterprise Academy, which was opened by Martin Johnson in April 2008, has much to celebrate, including a successful OFSTED Inspection in September 2009, identifying 9 areas of the Academy's performance as outstanding, including how the Academy had placed itself at the centre of the local community in order

to support its re-generation. In line with it being an 'all-age' school the Academy has been able to offer fast track learning opportunities for pupils. In response to this is over 80% of pupils in Year 9 are already celebrating the fact that they have achieved one high grade GCSE and some have even more to celebrate.

'Our pupils and staff team have achieved an incredible amount since the Academy opened, and I am extremely pleased with the progress made in a relatively short time. One area I am particularly proud of is how the school has been embraced by the local community, truly making it a community hub, as was acknowledged by one of the nine outstanding judgements awarded by Ofsted. We must remember, however, that we are on a journey and still have much work to do before the Academy fulfils its full potential for the further benefit of the children and families of Saffron and Eyres Monsell'. Pat Dubas, Principal



Mike Griffiths
Principal



Nick Linney
Chair of Governors

Key facts:

Date of opening: Sept 2008
New building completed July 2010
Age range: 11-19
Capacity: 1150
Specialism: Business & Enterprise,
with a focus on outdoor education
Co-Sponsor:
The Church of England Diocese
of Southwell and Nottingham



The Samworth Church Academy opened its doors on 1st September 2008 with an exciting vision and ethos. The vision was a dedication to putting people first, raising aspirations and possibilities for its students, ensuring that everyone reaches their full potential, being 'the best that they can be'.

Although the Academy opened in an inherited building, work soon began on a new state of the art facility which, after 18 months, has now become a reality for students, staff and the community. Much thought and planning went into the design of the new Academy building in order to foster the best environment, providing facilities that support the broader aims of the ambitious culture. Various landmark events have taken place at different stages of the project which have led to visits from high profile guests such as Kevin Brennan MP, Digby Lord Jones of Birmingham, World Champion Side Car racers Ben and Tom Birchall and inspirational speaker Richard McGann.

In the two years since the Academy opened it has made great strides in improving both examination results and wider curriculum activities. This has been greatly helped by its links with Gordonstoun School. The two schools embrace each others values and will share expertise.



iMedia room in the new building



Student and staff visit to The Mango Tree Project, Tanzania

Last year we saw our results rise from 49% to 82% of our students gaining 5 good passes at GCSE level, as well as a 100% pass rate for all individual A Level subjects.

Students have become more involved in the local community, presenting their elderly neighbours with Easter eggs and valentine gifts. Many students have led fundraising events for various charities leading to adventures in Tanzania and Morocco. The visit to The Mango Tree Project, Tanzania (July 2010) by 20 students and 7 staff was a life changing event. The school has made a commitment to raise money to help and



Pupils deliver Valentine gifts to local residents

support the education of Tanzanian AIDS orphans. This charity is also supported by the Samworth family.

The students and staff really appreciate and enjoy the benefits of their new Academy. Continued hard work and dedication will ensure that the ambitious plans for the Academy to become a World Class organisation will succeed. With strong leadership and dedicated staff, the Academy is preparing its students to live rewarding lives and to fully participate in society in a positive way.

'We are delighted with the progress the Academy has made on many fronts, in particular the way the culture and ethos has been transformed and continues to improve. We will move forward in the years ahead from the sound base that we have built so far. The key to success is having faith and confidence in what all our staff and pupils are capable of achieving.'
Mike Griffiths, Principal

The Nottingham University Samworth Academy

Bilborough, Nottingham www.nusa.org.uk



David Harris
Principal



Michael Rowen
Chair of Governors

Key facts:

Date of opening: Sept 2009

New building completed
September 2010

Age range: 11-19

Capacity: 950

Specialism:
Health and Science

Co-Sponsor:
The University of Nottingham



The Nottingham University Samworth Academy (NUSA) opened in its predecessor school buildings in September 2009. Straight away some changes were visible: the buildings of the old school, William Sharp, had a spring clean and a lick of paint, there was a new uniform and some new rules. A House system was introduced, with Mentor Groups to develop a “family” approach to pastoral care. Staff and students eat together – a very important element of the school day, and NUSA is building a reputation for high quality school dinners.

Taking the culture within the Samworth Brothers businesses as an example, the Academy decided that the clarity of having a single message about the NUSA way of doing things at the heart of daily life was invaluable. The Academy settled on the qualities of courage, courtesy and aspiration as its watchwords.

With a cultural change and a beautiful new building rising in the background, the key activity of transforming students’ lives began. Motivational speakers Jim Roberson and Dave Keeling made a series of visits to work with Years 10 and 11. Flexible Days allowed staff and students to explore new ways of working. A series of House-based Health Days, reflecting one aspect of the Academy’s Health and Science specialism, saw colleagues from the University of



Pupils on the bridge in the iconic Street area of the Academy

Nottingham working alongside NUSA staff and students to change attitudes towards health, reinforcing the Academy’s message about the importance of healthy lifestyles.

Science is the other component of NUSA’s specialism and workshops and talks have been given by a number of scientists.

The Academy’s first set of GCSE results is encouraging, with 47% of students achieving five or more higher grades. A significant number of students met or surpassed their targets but there remains much to do. The staff recognise this and are gently relentless in pursuit of excellence, student-by-student, mark-by-mark.

The Academy is working with the neighbouring Billborough College, the University of Nottingham and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust to develop transition pathways to Higher Education. The Academy continues to host a number of research projects. NUSA has set out to be a test-bed and catalyst for university engagement with schools.

The first week of the autumn term saw the new NUSA building officially opened by Dame Kelly Holmes. As part of the opening celebrations, the building was opened up for locals to come and look round and a community play about the Bilborough area

and its new academy, starring local people, was also hosted by the school, which finished with a spectacular firework display. All the elements of the opening were extremely well supported and were the perfect start to NUSA’s life in its wonderful new building.



Dame Kelly Holmes opens the new NUSA building

‘Now that we are established in our wonderful new building, I look back with amazement at our first year of existence. Amongst some of the most difficult working conditions imaginable the staff and pupils were sensational. The positive atmosphere is noticed by guests as they walk through the door. Now we have the surroundings to match this attitude – watch out world, NUSA is here!’
David Harris, Principal



Students enjoying the new fitness suite