Our News (2013)

"A bit like the Brits..."

Thursday, 19.12.2013

In one of the biggest events of the year, George Salter Academy celebrated the students' achievements of 2013. The students received certificates and awards for a variety of successes.

As in previous years, the event took place at the Bethel Convention Centre:

"A bit like the Brits, but more interesting and with infinitely more talented people.

As always, the students were impeccable, the entertainment first class and the general theme "Aspire to Inspire" certainly struck a chord or two. If only my own experience at Dudley Grammar School all those years ago could have been as inspirational as were last night's proceedings."

Farley Christmas fundraising party raised more than £85 for the RSPCA

Wednesday, 11.12.2013

Year 8 students from Farley (one of our four houses here at George Salter Academy) organized a Christmas party in support of the RSPCA and have raised £85 so far, but the final sum is likely to rise by the end of the week as they will be selling food left from the party.

View more pictures from the event on Facebook

Thank you from Shakespeare Schools Festival

Wednesday, 4.12.2013

George Salter received a big "Thank you" from the CEO and the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

In their letter they wrote: "We wanted to write and thank George Salter Collegiate Academy for participating in this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. As you know, a group of your students performed The Comedy of Errors, directed by Kathryn Green, as part of our UK-wide Festival.

When teachers register for Shakespeare Schools Festival they make two big commitments: to direct a Shakespeare play worthy of a professional stage and to take their students through a challenging process. It is a leap of faith, one that they see through with courage, determination and creativity. Without teachers like those in your school, Shakespeare Schools Festival wouldn't be possible. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who was involved.

Thank you for all of your support this year. We hope to work with your school again next year."
National Schools Netball Tournament – County Champions

Saturday, 23.11.2013

On Saturday 23rd November 2013, 3 of our school netball teams were selected to represent Sandwell in the National Schools Netball Competition at all three age groups; U14’S, U16’S and U19’s. The tournament was held at Oldbury Academy. Other schools competing consisted of

- Ellowes Hall
- Hagley R.C school
- Sandwell Academy
- Aldridge School
- Streetly Academy
- Wolverhampton Grammar
- Wolverhampton Girls High
- King Edwards VI form college
- Windsor high
- Queen Mary’s high

The U14’s started the day off with a great result 12-1 playing our close rivals Sandwell Academy. U16’s also had a great start to the competition as they made beating there opposition look easy. Sixth form was the last of our teams to play their first match, keeping up with traditions they also beat Windsor High School, it couldn’t have started any better!

The U14’s didn’t feel the disappointment of losing throughout the whole day, as we remained unbeaten, with no teams getting within 5 goals and were therefore crowned Under 14’s South Staffordshire County Netball Champions. George Salter Academy & Wolverhampton Girls School (runners-up) now go on to represent South Staffordshire County in the West Midlands Regional Schools Competition. This will be held in Telford in January.

The U16’s and U19’s came up against some tough competition but played well throughout the tournament and finished 6th and 4th respectively.

All three teams put their success down to their amazing coaches; Miss Roberts, Vanessa Lindo and Miss Gregory. Without their coaching, commitment and dedication to GSA netball we wouldn’t have achieved such a great result, so on behalf of all players I’d like to say a big thank-you!

Article written by Ellie

Teams on the day:

**Under 14:** Tumba, Nasara, Daisey, Ellie, Chloe, Grace ©, Rhea, Nikita and Eden

**Under 16:** Corianne, Octavia, Samba ©, Saskia, Danielle, Yvette and Rimenpreet

**Under 19:** Motuke ©, Chloe, Miranda, Amelia, Jaz, Sarah and Tiarni
University of Southampton National Cipher Challenge 2013-14

Wednesday, 20.11.2013

11 students from George Salter Academy won £25 in round three of this year's University of Southampton National Cipher Challenge.

The National Cipher Challenge is an annual cryptographic competition organised by the University of Southampton School of Mathematics

The competition attracted entries from 1,435 teams across the UK in the first round. The organisers were especially impressed by the enthusiasm and energy dedicated to this project by students and teachers.

British Colleges Netball Success

Wednesday, 30.10.2013

The 6th form Netball team has made an amazing start to the new season with 4 wins out of 4 so far. This is our second season in the West Midlands section of the British Colleges Netball League.

To strengthen and add to our squad this year we have had 4 new players; Miranda, Sarah, Tiarni and Milly who have all adapted well to the style of play and competitiveness of the higher level Netball.

Our results so far:

- Georges 29 - Warwickshire College 26
- Georges 38 - Walsall College 10
- Georges 68 - Stafford College 4
- Georges 31 - Hereford College 5

Even with the big wins we have been able to identify weaknesses to improve on and are currently working on numerous tactics to put in to practice in the forthcoming games.

Captain Motuke had this to say about the teams performance so far: "The team are going from strength to strength every week and are always looking for ways to build on the last performance. Improvements are visible in every performance with each player doing their bit for the team."

Our next game is the in the National Cup first round against Bourneville College. We hope to build on such a positive start to the season and finish the season on the top of the table.

6th Form Netball Team: Tiarni, Hannah, Jaz, Chloe (V©), Motuke, Milly, Sarah & Motuke ©

Article by Chloe (Year 13)

Download the 6th form netball results table...
"The Shadow of Ingestre Hall" shown at Smethwick Library

Sunday, 27.10.2013

"The Shadow of Ingestre Hall" is George Salter Academy’s eighth film produced in collaboration with the wonderful Rebecca Hardy, Media and Digital Arts Project Manager for Arts Connect West Midlands.

It was screened on Sunday, the 27th of October 2013 at 1pm at the Smethwick Library Film Club (Room 3).

KS3 girls Badminton team success

Tuesday, 15.10.2013

Congratulations to Amethyst, Chloe, Megan, Rhea and Tumba - the KS3 girls Badminton team won the u14 Sandwell tournament last Thursday and have qualified to represent the Black Country in the next round.

September Back to Netball Festival a great success

Tuesday, 24.09.2013

"The latest edition of the Regional Back to Netball festival was held on Sunday 22nd September with over 70 players in attendance from across the region. Of the 8 teams in attendance we had a some closely fought matches which were played in fantastic spirits.

We'd like to thank George Salter for providing the venue as well as our umpires and fantastic volunteers for helping out on the day. Without your contributions these events wouldn't be possible.” Netball West Midlands

View the picture gallery...
Record Results at KS4 and KS5

Thursday, 22.08.2013

George Salter Academy has achieved its best ever results for A-Level and GCSE this year. Congratulations to all students and staff!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-Level</th>
<th>GCSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74% A* - C</td>
<td>60% 5+ A* - C incl. English &amp; Maths</td>
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<tr>
<td>98% A* - E</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>APS per student 851</td>
<td>98% 5+ A* - C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS per entry 208</td>
<td>24% EBBAC</td>
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Table of GCSE and A-Level results 2013

U13 Girls Rounders Team take Sandwell by storm!

Thursday, 18.07.2013

Last week our U13 Rounders Team beat Q3 Academy in the last game of the summer league to win the Sandwell Rounders League. The league consisted of 6 matches over the summer period and the U13 girls won every game.

The U16 girls came 3rd out of 6 teams and only lost 2 games throughout the summer. A very successful summer of Rounders by all the girls at George Salter Academy. Congratulations to both teams!

GSA Mathematicians triumph at Sandwell Olympiad 2013

Wednesday, 17.07.2013

A group of 8 talented mathematicians from GSA were amongst 70 students representing 9 different schools and academies within Sandwell at the 2013 Olympiad. At an event where pupils compete in individual and team challenges on complex mathematical investigations, our pupils brought back several successes. Tyler of Year 9 achieved third place in the individual year group competition, whilst Mohammed (Year 9), Ria (Year 8), and Sayed (Year 7) also came in the top ten of their respective year group competitions.

In the team competition, GSA came a close second place after a count back of the final scores—joint first on total points score however winning fewer rounds overall than the first place victors at Oldbury Academy. With it being the closest battle for first and second place in the five years that the competition has been running, our students not only proved themselves to be gifted young mathematicians but excellent ambassadors for George Salter Academy.
National Youth Market Winners Receive Certificates

Thursday, 11.07.2013

National Youth Market Winners Kavita Kaur and Erika Grinkeviciute received their certificates on Wednesday, 10th July 2012 from Eva Fryc, Development Manager, Live UnLtd.

Ms Fryc said "I was thrilled that Erica and Kavita's hard work was recognised at the first ever National Youth Market in Manchester. They beat 45 young people to take the crown of 'Young Traders of the Year 2013'. I'm sure we'll see more great things from them in the future."

Live UnLtd worked with The National Market Traders Federation and Manchester Markets to give young people the opportunity to run their own market stall in the middle of busy Manchester for a day.

The market’s best young trader accolade was awarded to Erica and Kavita who sold cosmetics and beauty essentials. "We love cosmetics and beauty products that make people feel better about themselves, we are now planning to turn our passion in to a business with the support from UnLtd and the National Market Traders Association."

More information about Live UnLtd can be found at [http://liveunltd.com/](http://liveunltd.com/)

CSE Fine Art meet with artist Nikki Anand

Thursday, 11.07.2013

Arch of Excellence Award winning Nikki Anand from India pictorial language is basically symbolic which has spontaneity and purity. Be it figures, abstract or landscapes impression of the creations of the Universe; they seem to be Magical, Spiritual yet powerful. She has developed a unique way of merging colours which even when diffused read as a mass of detail. The flow of lines is intuitive and rhythmic as she allows her brush with the universe to manifest on canvas.

A group of Year 11 GCSE Fine Artist met up with Indian Artist Nikki Anand on Wednesday, 10th July 2013, at the Sant Nirankari Mission, Wednesbury to discuss and talk about her work, influences and the path she took to become a practicing artist.
Our students represent Sandwell in a visit to France

Thursday, 11.07.2013

20 Students across years 8 to 12 were given the fantastic opportunity to visit the town of Blanc Mesnil, just outside Paris, France.

During their time in France students visited local attractions such as Parc Asterix, Stade de France, The Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, as well as taking part in performing arts workshops. The mayor spent time with the students and held a party for the whole group.

The highlight of the week was a concert where both French students and George’s students showcased their joint performances. Sandwell is twinned with Blanc Mesnil and are currently developing their relationship. Last year young people from Blanc Mesnil visited Sandwell and this was a return visit for our students to experience their way of life.

Both French and George’s students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and have made many friendships as well as developing their own understanding of a different culture. Both Sandwell and Blanc Mesnil hope to continue with similar visits and activities in the years to come.

Watch the video...

Recognition of outstanding student progress

Friday, 07.07.2013

We have recently received a certificate to acknowledge our achievement in being in the top 20% of schools and academies nationally based on our Key Stage 4 "Value Added Score".

The "Value Added Score" is essentially the term used to measure a students achievement from when they start in Year 7 to the when they leave at the end of Year 11. It is therefore an excellent indicator of how good the Academy is at getting students to achieve success, regardless of their starting point.

The certificate was issued by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT), a not-for-profit membership organization which aims to raise achievement in schools in England and internationally. It has a membership of more than 5,000 schools in England and around the world through its iNet international network.

"We are extremely proud of all the students and staff at the Academy who have worked so hard to produce the outstanding result. Yet again, this accolade shows that together, both staff and students really do go the extra mile to make George Salter the very best."
George’s at England Women’s International Game

Tuesday, 25.06.2013

Pupils from George’s attended the England vs Japan women’s international game today at Burtons Pirelli Stadium after enjoying a football day at St George park the national football development centre.

Students enjoyed the game and got to meet senior England women’s international players as well as showcasing their skills.

Teachers Creative Development Day

Tuesday, 25.06.2013

During June 2013 The Public and George Salter School worked in collaboration to create a bespoke learning programme for KS3 learners.

The source and inspiration for the learning programme was artist Hew Locke whose work is showcased in The Public’s major new exhibition ‘Ordinary/Extra/Ordinary’. The show, created by David Thorp looks at the eccentric, flamboyant and yet familiar artistic processes that at heart, celebrate creativity and fun.

Our teachers were invited The Public to explore this artwork and discuss how viewing, participating and critically reflecting on artist practice can support curriculum based learning at school.

Core objectives within the development session were to think of well resourced, diverse and engaging learning activities that critically reflect the contextualization of Hew Locke’s ‘Black Queen’ in order encourage learners to participate in new traditional and digital art making methods.

Realising the value of critical reflection in KS3 learning was paramount to the research and development of potential activities. As a result of this dialogue a strong mixture of practical and journalistic research approaches to learning was identified.

Through discussion and resource analysis our teachers had the opportunity to access learning software that supports team based learning and is appropriate to diverse needs and abilities of each learner.
Former Student visits Academy

Friday, 14.06.2013

On Friday, 14th June 2013 we were privileged to receive a visit from former student Harold Jones and his son Peter. Harold was a student at George Salter from 1934 to 1937, just two years after the school opened in 1932. In fact, Harold’s older brother, Stanley, was a student in 1932.

Following an article in the Express And Star in February 2013 of another former student, Joe Davis, Harold’s son Peter got in touch with the Academy to see if we could arrange for his father to visit the Academy.

Harold visited a Year 7 History class and gave them an insight into daily life at George Salter in the 1930s. This was followed by a tour of the Academy and a meeting with the principal Mr. Green.

We were delighted Harold was able to visit and wish him well in the future.

Netball Girls get County Call Up.

Wednesday, 12.06.2013

Over the past two weekends South Staffordshire County Netball Association have hosted trials for both their U13 and U14 County Squads. In total GSA put forward 11 Year 7 & 8 girls to the trials which were hosted at Manor Netball Centre. The competition was very tough and only 20 girls were selected at each age group.

A huge congratulations to the 7 girls who were selected; Tumba, Rhea, Amethyst, Ellie, Daisey, Grace and Nasara. Two more pupils, Samba and Octavia are attending the U16 trials next Saturday.

Athletics success at West Midlands Schools Championships

Saturday, 08.06.2013

Four pupils from George Salter earned the opportunity to represent Sandwell at the West Midlands Schools Athletics Championships on Saturday 8th June at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. Richie Wintle (Triple Jump), Alvin Russell (Javelin), Samba Katanda (Javelin) and Josh Richards (1500m) all qualified through their success at the Sandwell Championships during May.

All pupils performed exceedingly well and put in excellent performances against what proved to be a very high standard of competition. Well done to all involved and good luck to Richie, Alvin and Samba who will be competing again in the Sandwell Schools Minibus league over the next couple of weeks.
Gym Team through to Final

Monday, 10.06. 2013

Yesterday's gymnastics competition at Wood Green was to select the best three gymnastics teams to represent Sandwell at the Black Country Youth Games. Each pupil had to perform a vault and a floor sequence. All pupils performed excellently.

One GSA team (Katie, Danielle, Aron, Caitlin, Yvette, Emma, Saskia) came third and will be representing Sandwell on Thursday 20th June at Wolverhampton University, Walsall campus.

Art Department Exhibition @ The Public

Thursday, 06.06.2013

End of Year Art Exhibition (Monday 10th June - Wednesday 3rd July 2013)

This exhibition brings together and celebrates the best artwork produced by George Salter Academy students this year. Already having toured at Central Library in West Bromwich, the exhibition has proved a success with the local community and has been described as a "must see".

All are welcome. See The Public website for opening times

National Premier League 4 Sport Champions

Thursday, 23.05.2013

GSA U12s and u14s were crowned national champion of schools netball in the premier league for sport competition yesterday in London.

On Thursday 23rd May a group of 20 George Salter Students competed in a National Netball Competition on behalf of West Bromwich Albion FC. The tournament took place in London and consisted of 7 other Premier League teams, hosts Arsenal and other clubs from around the country.

The Under 12 team captained by Tumba Katanda were undefeated throughout the competition beating the likes of Hull City FC and Liverpool FC with only a few goals scored against them. England Player Sasha Corbin watched their final and commented on their "mature style of play and incredible talent at such a young age".

The Under 14 team were up against some stiff competition and had closely contested matches throughout the tournament. They showed there passion and determination by beating Sunderland 3 – 2 in the Final to whom they drew with in the group stages.
Finally the Under 16 team, who had a mix of Under 14 and Under 16 players again had some very close matches and showed some excellent team work within a team who hadn't played together often before. They reached the final against Sunderland and narrowly missed out on the victory finishing Runners-Up.

**Athletics Cup**

*Wednesday, 15.05.2013*

George Salter sports teams performed really well at athletics yesterday! The GSA team finished 4th overall out of 10 and we were only a few points behind Sandwell who finished 3rd.

- Samba - 1st Javelin 19m
- Soleil - 2nd T Jump
- Posha - 1st 100m (in heat)
- Ziggy - 1st Shot 11m
- Richie - 1st T Jump
- Josh - 1st 1500m (in heat)

Other members of the team also finished 1st and 2nd in their heats.

We also finished 7th with the year 10's which was still a fab result considering we only had a squad of 6 with both and girls combined!

In addition, Richie Wintle won a trophy for best field performance in KS3!

Our recent extra athletics training is paying off, especially for the girls as their performance improved greatly.

**Inaugural National Youth Market Winners**

*Saturday, 11.05.2013*

Kavita Kaur and Erika Grinkeviciute from George Salter Academy won the inaugural National Youth Market held in Manchester 11 May, where young people from all over the UK were pitching up in Albert Square to trade on the country's first ever National Youth Market.

From 11am to 4pm, over 80 young people aged 11 to 21 stood 44 stalls, punting their wares and "flashing up their gear" for Manchester's shopping public.

Joe Harrison, chief executive of the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF), said:

"This is the first time young people from all over the country have gathered together to trade on one market. I hope by trading on the market they will gain skills for life, boost their self-confidence and consider enterprise as a career option. It is widely recognised within the industry that new blood is needed on our nation's markets. New traders add to the diversity and the appeal of markets and attract new customers. Simply, if you've got the hunger, a market stall is the ideal way to turn your passion into a profit."

Download the "Market Times" article [pdf, 789 KB]
Art Department Exhibition at West Bromwich Library

Monday, 13.05.2013

The Art Department are pleased to be holding an exhibition at West Bromwich Library from 14th May - 3rd June.

We will be showcasing the finest artwork produced this year.

All are welcome!

See the library website for opening times

Visit to St George Park

Monday, 08.04.2013

On Monday 8th April 13 student coaches and leader who have been volunteering their time with Sports at George Salter were rewarded. They were rewarded with a trip to the home of the FA at St George Park in Burton.

Students took part in a CPD session of how to engage more 11-14 year olds in a bid to increase more year 7/8/9 into sports.

The group have all recently gained or undertaking National Governing body awards in coaching.

It is hoped now that as apart of Salter Sports the coaches inspire and engage more young people into action over the summer.

BBC School Report 2013 - the first videos have been published!

Thursday, 21.03.2013

Take a look at the videos!
Art Exhibition at Wednesbury Art Gallery

Saturday, 30.03.2013

George Salter Academy photography students Abdul Awal and Abedha Thanzin prepare for their first exhibition at Wednesbury Art Gallery.

George Salter Academy Art and Photography students work will be on display in the gallery from Saturday 30 March to Saturday 13 April.

Art Gallery manager Stuart Lane said: "This is a great opportunity for students to show their work. It is the first time we have exhibited work from George Salter Academy, the exhibition is well worth a visit."

Abdul Awal said: "I am so proud that my still life photographs with negative space are being exhibited in a gallery."

And Abedha Thanzin adds: "My photographs are a study of the hand, based on the work by John Coplans. I would like to thank the gallery on behalf of all students for the opportunity to exhibit our work."

Photo - Stuart Lane (Left ), Abedha Thanzin ( Centre ), Abdul Awal ( Right )

George Salter Basketball success

Thursday, 21.03.2013

At George Salter Basketball has really taken off over the Winter with this week’s successes highlighting excellence.

The U14’s Girls team finished runners up at the West Midlands tournament on Wednesday 20th March held at Perry Barr. This had the representative winners from Birmingham, Warwickshire, Telford and Wrekin, Staffordshire and Worcestershire in attendance. The girls last week won the Black Country School Games Level 3 competition to be able to represent the Black Country at this event.

Similarly the Boys U16’s team won the Sandwell league against Sandwell Academy and then in the Black County Games semi final beat Ellows hall who were Dudley representatives. The boys then narrowly lost out in a thrilling game to Pool Hayes to become Black Country champions 66-70 on Tuesday.

Basketball really is flourishing at George Salter and following the footsteps of other Salter Sports successes with County Netball success and former student Callam Jones call up to the WBA first team in recent months.
Well done today for our 2 teams that represented SalterSports at the Birmingham @ Futsal Arena!

Saturday, 16.03.2013

Team Salter were unbeaten and missed out on the finals by Goal difference.

Sponsored by StreetGames/Football Pools George Salter entered 2 teams through Salter Sports into this national Football 5s event. The event had around 50 teams from all regions enter a team.

The events ambassador was former England Defender Gareth Southgate who championed small sided football as a way to grow participation with 14+ age group rather than conventional 11 aside.

Sandwell Book Quiz Winners

Monday, 11.03.2013

Speed Readers, that was the name of our year 7 winning team and they certainly lived up to their name reading eight books to win the Sandwell Book Quiz final for the second year running. Preparation for the quiz started in the autumn term with three teams within school battling it out to choose the one which would go against other schools in Sandwell.

Eight Secondary schools took part but no one could catch or match us. In both the semi-final and the final our team lead from the first round never slipping back beating Holly Lodge & Wodensborough by seven & half points in the final. This is our third win in five years.

After the semi-final they had just six weeks to read four different books for the final but they rose to the challenge. The all-girl team of four plus one reserve worked really hard to gain this award spending lunchtimes revising the books and being fired with questions.

The eight books they had to read were:

- Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan
- Point Blanc by Anthony Horowitz
- Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Dear Olly by Michael Morpurgo
- London Eye Mystery by Siobhan
- Foul Play by Tom Palmer
- Kiss of Death by Malcolm Rose
- Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy
Sandwell Basketball u16s winners

Friday, 1 March 2013

Congratulations to the team - they beat Sandwell Academy 26 - 20 in the final after the whole season unbeaten in 7 games.

The team will now go to the "Black Country Youth Games" to represent Sandwell.

The Black Country Challenge Enterprise Final Winners

Wednesday, 30.01.2013

Every day in George Salter Academy our students talk about making a change in their life and how they can make an impact. On Wednesday, 30th January, eight of our students did just that, when they took part in The Black Country Challenge final.

This event was a culmination of winning the Regional Sandwell Heat where they beat eight other schools. It involved them battling head to head with the other schools in a high intensity enterprise challenge. In this event they had to produce and develop a business strategy that encompasses the redevelopment of West Bromwich’s Market place. They had to prepare and present their ideas to a panel of "Dragons". After a brief and frantic effort by our students they were ready to deliver their idea. Out of the panel of five dragons they received a unanimous winning verdict beating Sandwell Academy amongst other schools.

In the final the students were put under the same intense pressure and similar project guidelines. The project was to produce, cost and market a Pop-up-Shop that would make money and provide a service to the local community. The range of ideas was vast; from a mobile store to supplying a service giving young people an opportunity to visit areas and events they would otherwise not been able to do. Our students worked very hard displaying all the right characteristics of an entrepreneurial team (Teamwork, Risk taking, Financial and Market Awareness, etc). culminating in them presenting their idea to a panel of judges who graded them on originality, financial acumen, market ability and overall profit. Our students (Simran, Haytham, Kyle, Joshua, Luke, Anisa (at the back), Aneeqah and Darren) once again did not disappoint with winning the whole Black Country Competition, beating 15 other schools from Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Their idea was to produce a Pop-up-Shop for Valentine’s Day with a view to reinvesting profits back into it in order to supply discounted trips and visits to under-privileged young people in the West Bromwich Region.

After the event, the students all agreed that it was an amazing experience!

The students showed a determined effort in their preparation and commitment throughout the event and were a credit to the George Salter Academy.

League Table success

Thursday, 24 January 2013

As reported in the 2011/12 League table on Thursday 24th January 2013, George Salter Academy was the 3rd highest performing school in Sandwell, and the 2nd highest was Bristnall Hall Technology College, which is our partner in The Post 16 Consortium! These are fantastic results which show we have a track record of producing outstanding results year on year.