

Education

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More students make The Manor first choice

A CAMBRIDGE secondary school has seen a 30 per cent rise in the number of students applying to study there as their first choice from September 2011.

More than 80 students have made The Manor, in Arbury Road, Cambridge, their first choice compared with 56 two years ago (2009).

The turnaround, considering the school had been deemed to be 'failing' and put into special measures in 2004, has been welcomed.

Ben Slade, principal, said: "It is really pleasing to see us becoming first choice for considerably more students.

"Our open evenings were also extremely successful and we

showed more than 50 additional parents around the school - a first for many years."

The good news comes hot on the heels of the foundation school's good Ofsted inspection report and record-breaking GCSE results for the third year in a row.

Mr Slade said: "Our Ofsted success and great GCSE results means

that we are seeing increasing confidence from both students and parents in making The Manor their school of choice.

"I have received a huge amount of positive feedback from the local community and beyond. We are fiercely proud of our school and looking forward to the next stage in our growth."

School meals are the hot choice

THE number of Cambridgeshire school pupils eating a hot school dinner has increased by more than eight per cent in the last three years.

And a new survey, undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council, helps to explain why the number taking up the offer has risen from 31.5 per cent three years ago to 40 per cent last year - an extra 600,000 meals a year.

Parents of primary pupils who choose a school lunch told researchers not only did they value the importance of a hot, nutritionally balanced meal at lunchtime, but their children enjoy the meals and are given the opportunity to try new and different food while at school.

Other reasons given by parents included convenience for families with busy lifestyles, the value of a school lunch for teaching important social skills, and the value for money they represented.

The survey was carried out by Cambridgeshire Catering Services (CCS) - which is part of the county council.

The price of a school meal has remained at £2 for the last two

years. CCS has also introduced a pre-ordering system in some schools to ensure the most popular meals do not run out - and is looking to extend this in 2011.

CCS already provides meals to over 200 schools across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Essex and Rutland, and has recently started providing meals to about 70 schools in Northamptonshire. A total of 17,000 children in Cambridgeshire now have a school meal every day.

One of the schools that boasts 'varied and tasty' school meals is Waterbeach Primary School.

Its catering teams have been making huge efforts to entice children to try their meals.

Joanne Swift, school caterer, said: "We try and make the menus as varied and tasty as possible. And we encourage the children to eat as much salad as they would like by allowing them to help themselves from a salad bar.

"They do seem to really enjoy the meals, and we make sure they are nutritiously balanced too. Another important thing we do is to make sure we offer the children the chance to try new foods too."



DINNER: Joanne Swift, school caterer

Auschwitz visit

CAMBRIDGESHIRE students will be among 200 from across East Anglia who will visit Auschwitz next month with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Students from Long Road Sixth Form College and St Mary's School, both in Cambridge, and Impington Village College will visit with teachers and MPs on Thursday, February 10 as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project.

The project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing' and to signal what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

Ruskin open day

HUNDREDS of prospective students are expected to descend on Anglia Ruskin University this weekend as they aim to beat the rise in tuition fees and secure a place for 2011.

The Cambridge campus will be staging its next undergraduate open day on Saturday (February 5) to encourage those interested to visit for a day of activities and discussions.

Anyone interested in attending the open day can pre-register online by visiting www.anglia.ac.uk/penday or calling 0845 271 3333.

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