

Education at its best.....

Advertisement feature

the HAMMOND
Where performance matters

It's child's play

Keeping children safe is a top priority for both parents and schools. But new research shows many parents feel today's stringent school health and safety rules – which have led to children being banned from playing traditional playground favourites like tag and conkers – are taking safety too far.

A poll of UK primary school children's parents by the British Toy and Hobby Association and Play England found that 74% of parents believe schools are too concerned with health and safety to allow children to enjoy the traditional rough and tumble play that's so important for social and physical development.

Around 85% of parents questioned said that they thought playtime at school can improve children's learning, yet a third felt that their children didn't get enough playtime – the average child having just 37 minutes throughout the school day.

Psychologist and play expert Dr Amanda Gummer points out that play helps children to concentrate at school, with active play meaning they're more refreshed for lessons.

Play also improves children's social skills, and teaches them



READY FOR ACTION: Being involved in active play means children are more refreshed for lessons.

of ice, but you're creating an unhealthy culture at playtime, where kids don't get the exercise, therefore they don't concentrate and they don't learn as well, they don't sleep as well and so on – it's a vicious circle."

She says it's understandable that teachers think 'if in doubt, don't do it' after endless risk assessments at school.

"They don't want a parent or a zealous, ambulance-chasing lawyer saying a child's injury was the school's fault, and suing."

There needs to be an acceptance within the law that accidents happen, she says, and that it's not always somebody's fault.

"Until it becomes not-profitable for these lawyers to encourage parents to go down the litigation route, people will still see it as a way to make a few bucks."

"We can't afford to be lax about children's safety, but there needs to be some common-sense so a sensible balance can be found."

Teachers are in a difficult position with regards to health and safety rules, says George Muirhead, chairman of the National Primary Headteachers' Association.



A limited number of places are still available for September 2011 Drama, Music and Academic Lower School Students and for Sixth Form Drama Students. Please call 01244 305377 for audition and entry details.

The Hammond is an independent secondary school offering academic excellence and creative education through our specialist Dance Drama and Music departments.
Tel: 01244 305350. Email: enquiries@thehammondschool.co.uk
Mannings Lane, Chester CH2 4ES. www.thehammondschool.co.uk

Education at its best.....

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Bringing out the best in everyone

"FANTASTIC results," said Sarah Clark, the new head at The Queen's School, Chester – which has topped the Independent Schools Chart for A and AS-level results for Cheshire and also had superb results for GCSEs.

And the Lower School is top in the North West for prep schools around the UK, according to the *Sunday Times*.

"All are a real achievement for the girls and our marvellous staff," said Sarah.

"Our teacher pupil ratio is outstanding so we can really bring out the best in the girls. Our new 6th form gives the girls much more independence and freedom to study."

Having such a strong and consistently successful academic platform will enable the girls to go on to further studies with great confidence for the future.

Sarah added: "Every girl will find something she excels at here and that's what we want to do, bring out the best in everyone."

The Queen's has more than 70 clubs and societies – from podcasting to debating – adding to sports success nationally.

There are trips abroad, music, etc – always something to challenge, innovate, involve and inspire.



SUCCESS: The Queen's Lower School won seven classes and gained 13 second and third places in various categories at the Chester Festival of Performing Arts.

Fun taster day at The King's



FIRST CLASS: The King's is a busy school, bursting with opportunities.

The King's School is a dynamic, exciting place to learn and offer your child the best opportunity to succeed in later life.

The curriculum has been redesigned for September 2011 to offer more challenging courses which stretch young minds from the minute they start at 11, and offer stimulating and innovative subjects to ensure that they are not limited by the narrow confines of public exams.

King's is increasing the number of international GCSEs offered, which is considered more chal-

lenging than the standard GCSE course.

An ambitious afternoon of 'enrichment' will offer pupils courses such as Italian, electronics, astronomy – all intended to widen pupils' intellectual horizons, increase confidence and develop independent study – qualities which are highly valued by the top universities.

King's is well known for its Music School, with 25 music groups and more than 50% of pupils involved in music in some way.

Sport is a real strength of the school with pupils competing at a national level for rowing and cricket, regional level for hockey

and district level for a good few of the many sports on offer.

There are 120 clubs and activities offering an interest for everyone from poetry to Russian.

In June, King's will open its 300-seat, fully-equipped theatre to further grow its reputation for excellence in drama.

King's is a busy school, bursting with opportunities for your child.

● To find out more, organise a visit or register your child for a fun taster day, contact the admissions office or visit the website: www.kingschester.co.uk/welcome.

ACTIVITIES DAY
We welcome Year 5 girls on Wednesday 6 July 2011

Try out a range of FREE fun activities

THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL
Independent Day School for Girls (4 - 18) Chester

To book a FREE place contact: Mrs Jane Taylor
Telephone: 01244 312078
email: jtaylor@queens.cheshire.sch.uk www.queens.cheshire.sch.uk

ABBAY GATE COLLEGE
Where our Children come first

Looking to the future in more ways than one

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- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Outstanding Music Department
- New Sixth Form Centre
- New facilities in Art, Science, Design and Technology
- First rate Junior and Infant Department at Aldford
- Idyllic village locations and stunning grounds

"The pupils achieve their personal and academic potential"
(ISI Inspection March 2010)

Independent • Co-educational • 4-18

For further details please contact Admissions: 01244 332077 or email su.boyd@abbeygatecollege.co.uk for a prospectus.

Saighton Grange, Saighton, Chester CH3 6EN
www.abbeygatecollege.co.uk

Learning creatively

THE Hammond in Chester is a leading provider for performing arts education in the North West – recognised and funded as a centre of excellence by the Department for Education (DfE) under the Music and Dance Scheme (MDS), and also receiving support through the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) Scheme.

The Hammond caters for students from 11 to 20 years-plus, providing post-16 vocational training leading to the National Diplomas in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre.

The sixth form drama course combines a BTEC Diploma Level 3 in Performing Arts (acting) with the study of two A-levels.

Hammond lower school (11-16) offers full-time educational courses in dance, drama and music, alongside GCSE-level academic provision in a broad range of subjects.

● For further information, visit the website www.thehammondschool.co.uk.

All for the love of learning

WELL ESTABLISHED: Abbey Gate College.

ABBAY Gate College is a well-established, co-educational school on the outskirts of Chester, which caters for pupils aged four to 18.

The college emphasises the importance of building self-esteem and a love of learning in a friendly and caring environment.

Music, drama, sport and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme are thriving and outdoor adventures and leadership courses help children to build confidence and teamwork.

Every child is valued, whatever their age or ability; the potential in every pupil is nurtured and encouraged.

Education is far greater than simply achieving super examination results; at Abbey Gate College the journey itself is of equal importance, providing a stimulating experience, widening opportunities and providing an edu-

cation for life; when they go out into the community staff are confident that they are sensible and mature young people.

Abbey Gate College is a successful and happy school, committed to maintaining traditional standards and high educational ideals and in the most recent inspection report ISI inspectors commended the high standards of teaching, learning and especially behaviour in the college.

"The college fully meets its aim to encourage students to achieve their personal ambitions in an atmosphere that is caring but challenging.

"Students' personal qualities are outstanding and fully supported within the college by the positive family-type ambience.

"The community awareness is outstanding; relationships between staff and students themselves are outstanding and conducive to excellent behaviour." (ISI March 2010)

Fun-filled Taster Days at King's. 23rd and 24th June

THE KING'S SCHOOL CHESTER

Join us at a Taster Day for Year 5 children.

Colour their lives forever..

Explore our facilities and the vibrant, academic environment that's The King's School, Chester.

To arrange your Taster Day, call 01244 689553
email: admissions@kingschester.co.uk www.kingschester.co.uk/welcome

Seniors
For boys & girls 11-16