



YOUNG ARCHER

Apprentice chef with the big time on his plate

By John Lawrence

Anthony Sparks started out trying recipes with his mum at home and now he's mixing with the kitchen team at acclaimed restaurant The Ivy and cooking up dreams of running his own business.

At the age of 15, Anthony developed an adventurous menu of French and Thai dishes that took him to fourth place in the national finals of the Rotary Young Chef competition.

After being noticed there he was offered work experience at Avenue House in East End Road, a work placement at The Ivy and a chance to learn alongside Harrods chocolatier Paul Wayne Gregory.

"I've always been into trying different foods," says Anthony, of Strawberry Vale. "It started with my mum getting me to help in the kitchen at home. I still cook at home but it can be quite controversial! My dad, two sisters and two brothers aren't so adventurous in their tastes, but they always give me feedback on what I make."

His first experience of the catering industry was a week's work experience at a pasta factory in Borehamwood, followed by his success in the Rotary competition. At the Ivy, he got the chance to try all the food stations: colds, meat, fish and more.



Top table: Aspiring young chef Anthony Sparks.

An appetite for stress

"I like the atmosphere in a big kitchen," says Anthony. "It's quite intense and can be hot and stressed but it makes me happy to be putting food on someone's table that they enjoy and that makes their day a little bit better."

Now he's finished his

GCSEs at The Compton School, Anthony is off to Westminster Kingsway College to study for a professional chef's qualification.

And his ultimate goal? "I visualise it most days when I'm working in the kitchen," he says. "I want to have my own restaurant with a couple of Michelin stars."

Laura and Hamza on track

Christ's College Finchley students Laura Aregbe and Hamza Kadir have been selected to represent Middlesex at the 2015 English Schools Athletics Association National Championships.

Laura (Year 12) will be running in the Senior Girls 100m, while

Hamza (Year 10) will be competing in the Intermediate Boys 800m.

Both athletes managed to meet the stringent qualifying times set by Middlesex Athletics, with Laura running 12.17 seconds in the 100m and Hamza clocking 1min 58 seconds in the 800m.

This represents the first time in over 25 years that any CCF pupils have competed at the ESAA National Championships. They will be following in the



Sprinter: Laura Aregbe.



Runner: Hamza Kadir.

footsteps of previous competitors and now Olympic champions Dame Kelly Holmes, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Mo Farah.

Stanley Field handed over to Academy

Another huge milestone was reached by the Archer Academy in late June when the school took formal possession of its new Stanley Road campus.

The £12million development was funded by the Education Funding Agency, which purchased the site on behalf of the school, and supported by a £500,000 donation from the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

The school is keen to ensure that local people of all ages benefit from the investment that has been made, and so will be making the sports facilities available to local people outside school hours.

As well as a suite of classrooms and multi-use spaces for sport and recreation, the new facilities at Stanley Road include: a state-of-the-art all-weather pitch; an indoor climbing wall suitable for all abilities; three cutting edge Science laboratories;

two specialist Art and DT studios and a recording studio.

Big Dig

As reported last month, the school is holding a Big Dig gardening weekend on the Stanley Road campus on 5-6 September between 10am and 4pm, and is inviting members of the community to lend a hand.

You don't need to be a gardening expert or to bring any tools, although extras will be appreciated. All you need is some spare time and a pair of gardening gloves. Families are welcome, refreshments will be provided, and helpers will get a sneak peek at the school grounds. If you can spare a couple of hours, email info@thearcheracademy.org.uk



Jump for joy: Archer Academy students on the Stanley Road all-weather pitch.

THE ARCHER visits The Archer Academy

By Sophie, year 8

Recently we were lucky enough to have a visit from Diana Cormack, a volunteer journalist from THE ARCHER. Not only did Diana tell us all about the background of the newspaper, she also answered our many questions about how newspapers work behind the scenes and gave us tips so that we can develop our journalistic skills.

We found out that THE ARCHER has been run by passionate and dedicated volunteers since 1993. The newspaper really embraces the N2 community and anyone, of any age, can get involved in writing for

the paper. The youngest writer they've had was a five year old!

During the session I raised a question about how THE ARCHER knows whether the news they receive is reliable. The answer is they simply ask people. They work hard to track down sources and witnesses from the community to validate the stories.

During Diana's session I learnt so much about all of the demands of getting a newspaper to press, despite being effortless to read. I have become inspired to write more articles and I am now even considering sending them into newspapers like THE ARCHER!

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

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