



From the CEO, Fiona Hamilton-Fairley

Welcome to The Kids' Cookery School's Autumn Newsletter 2008. This year, we decided to move to a newsletter format rather than an annual brochure so that we can share our news more frequently, especially when things are changing quickly. This also fits in with our pledge to make our practices more environmentally sound whenever possible.

Once again, the past year has thrown up many challenges and opportunities: our services are constantly in demand and John Fernandez (Head Chef) and Alexander Volev (Deputy Chef) and I are delivering cookery sessions to an ever wider range of students and groups and in many different venues. This increase and change in activity has led us to revise our future plans for the charity's expansion and we are launching an exciting new project, KCS on Wheels, this September. We are more passionate than ever about teaching children and young people real cooking skills and believe that this project will help us to reach more students. On behalf of all of us at KCS, thank you for your interest and support.

Our activities 2007-8

In the year July 2007-June 2008 we taught 1352 students at the school, of which 78% attended on a free or subsidised basis, 26% had special needs (physical, learning or behavioural difficulties) and 50% were from Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee groups.

We have taught students from Acton High School, Berrymede Junior School, Chiswick High School, Crofters Club and the Log Cabin (respite centres for children with special needs), Croydon Women's Aid, Drayton Manor School, Ealing Young Offending Service, Ealing Youth Inclusion Support Service, East Acton Primary School, The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls, Featherstone High School, Friary Park and Oaktree Community Centres (clubs for young people living on housing estates), Gingerbread (support organisation for single-parent families), Hackney Quest, Insights (pupil referral centre), Miles Coverdale Primary School, Northolt High School, St. Vincent's Primary School, The American School in London, The American Summer Camp, The International School of London, The National Autistic Society (Harrow, Bexley and Enfield branches), Twyford High School, Wandsworth Youth

Inclusion Service, groups of young carers (from Barnet, Brent, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth and Westminster) and adults from the South Acton Skills and Arts Collaborative and West London YMCA.

And our chefs also taught students off-site at Acton Vale Children's Centre, Broomwood Hall School, Castlebar Special School, Derwentwater Primary School, Featherstone Primary School, Limetrees Children's Centre, Norwood Hall Community Education Centre, Springhallow Special School, St. Ann's Special School, Twyford High School, West Twyford Primary, Wix Primary School and Bentalls shopping centre.



Above: Patron Alex Mackay helps a student get to grips with a pasta machine.

THANK YOU

Once again we have been fortunate to have the support of a number of volunteers who have given their time and skills to help us in the kitchens, the office and at events. Our warmest thanks to you all.

Volunteers: Angela Abalos, Lesley Aylward, Alice Bamford, Maxine Bilet, Elliot Christie, Vivienne Croosen, Metin Fehmi, Rebecca Grant, Gurdeep Grewal, Clare Hayward, Suzanne Klein, Jeremy Pang, Kelly Reynolds, Emma Thomas, Shermain Wahab and Melissa Walker

Interns from the Foundation for International Education: Jacquelyn De-Grendele, Alexandra Fitch, Lauren Haisley and Courtney Poulson.

We would like to extend our warm gratitude to one of our patrons, Alex Mackay, who has taught a number of workshops at KCS over the last year. With his infectious enthusiasm for cooking and good food he never fails to inspire our students.

What's cooking next? New project for KCS UK Foundation (Registered Charity No. 1110079).

Given the increase in demand for our services off site, we would like to expand our reach by making our services more mobile: we plan to acquire a vehicle that will transport our chefs and all the equipment needed to deliver a cookery lesson, including mobile ovens and hobs. We are officially launching KCS on Wheels in September 2008. If you would like to read the project plan or to get involved please contact Hilary Byrne, Fundraising and Development Coordinator: hilary@thekidscookeryschool.co.uk or 020 8992 8882.



Other news and events

- The KCS team took part in a number of food events last year including: the BBC Good Food Show London, the London Food Festival and the Children's Food Festival and you may even have heard us on BBC Radio 4's 'You and Yours'.
- Fiona also has presented at a number of events and conferences, including the National Nutrition and Health Conference in London and the National Children's Nutrition Conference in Cardiff.
- The female team members and friends ran and raised money for KCS in the Hydro Active Women's 5K run in Hyde Park. This year they are raising the bar and running 10K at the Yellow Umbrella Day in Chiswick on Sunday 21st September 2008, which is supporting KCS. For more details visit www.yellowumbrelladay.com.
- You may have noticed that our website has changed! The new-look site was re-launched in December 2007 and contains general information about the charity, information about classes and activities for parents and teachers, information for supporters and 'Kids' Kitchen', which contains recipes, tips and fun facts just for kids. The website also features a short film about KCS, which was made for us this year by Lisa Thomson, a volunteer from the Media Trust. Watch it online or contact us to request a DVD copy.
- Jo Rudsdale, Operations and Marketing Coordinator left us for another marketing role in May 2008. She made a huge contribution to KCS over her two years with us and we wish her all the best for the future. We have now welcomed Nadia Essa into the team.
- Dawn Primarolo, Minister of State for Public Health and our local MP, Andrew Slaughter, visited The Kids' Cookery School in December 2007.



Supporters

We would like to thank the directors and employees at Holroyd Howe, a leading catering company, for their support during 2007. Holroyd Howe chose to support us during 2007 and staff at all levels organised and took part in events to raise funds for KCS. The year culminated in a Bugsy Malone themed gala dinner hosted by the company at The Guildhall School of Music, London EC2. Holroyd Howe donated £53,000 in December 2007. A huge thank you to all.



Nick Howe, Managing Director of Holroyd Howe, arrives at the Bugsy Malone Gala Dinner in style.

Other generous supporters over the year include: Academy of Culinary Excellence, Amelia Chadwick Charitable Trust, BAA Communities Trust, The Bellinger Donnay Charitable Trust, The Butchers' Trust, The Camelot Foundation, Capital 98.5's Help a London Child, Electrolux, Garfield Weston Foundation, Goldsmiths' Company Charity, The Hale Trust, The Haremead Trust, H J Heinz Charitable Trust, John Lewis, John Lyon's Charity, Lambert Charitable Trust, The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund, Leonard Chadwick Charitable Trust, London Borough of Ealing, The Paragon Trust, The Rivers Trust, Sodexo Foundation, Synchronicity Foundation Trust, T5 Charity and The Tudor Trust.

If you would like a full copy of our audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2007, please contact Hilary at the school.

- KCS has a new book on sale, 'Little Cooks' (pictured left), written by the KCS team with help from our students. The book has been published by New Holland. Proceeds from all book sales go back into the charity but more money is made on books sold directly by KCS. It retails at £12.99 in shops or for £10.00 at KCS.

To keep up to date with all the news from KCS, visit our website:
www.thekidscookeryschool.co.uk