

A lesson to us all

Year 7 pupil is royal borough's youngest Olympic torchbearer



PRIZED PUPIL: Chester has made a major contribution to his school, far left, since joining last September



by Simon Banks

CHESTER Chambers will become London's youngest Olympic torchbearer when he carries the beacon through the Royal Borough of Greenwich next month.

"I am really proud of myself and grateful, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity," said the 12-year-old Thomas Tallis school pupil.

Chester is in Year 7 and is very much a big part of student life at the Kidbrooke school.

In his first year Chester has proven to be a real asset to the school. He was elected to both the year group and school councils, where he has been an ambassador for good behaviour and hard work. "I care about how the school is run and how to make it better," he added.

In representing his 240 peers, appearing in school assemblies

and setting up an anti-bullying campaign, Chester has epitomised many Olympic values and showcased the success that comes from hard work and dedication.

Chester, a big sports fan and a keen cricketer, enjoys sports including basketball and cycling as well as caring for his pet dog.

"I am really excited that the Olympics are coming to London and that I live in a host borough," he said. "I think the Olympics will bring lots of tourism to the borough as well as a lot of support in the community."

Thomas Tallis itself has seen a lot of change over the last year, with the opening of its new building and renovated facilities - some of which are open to the public and local sports clubs as part of the royal borough's Olympic legacy.

Chester has also been at the heart of change at the school, taking part in the interviewing process for the school's new

headteacher Ken Jones.

It was the school's head of Year 7 Ben MacDonald who nominated Chester, who lives in Kidbrooke, to take part in the historical event.

Chester added: "The best-behaved and hardest working students at the school are being entered into a draw to win tickets to the Games. I am excited to be in the draw as well as being a torchbearer."

His parents Robert and Deborah Chambers and elder brother Sebastian in Year 8 at the school, are sure to be looking on with great pride on July 21.

For someone so young it could be seen as a massive achievement, and the unflappable youngster said: "I'm not too sure what I want to do when I'm older but I want to keep working hard and trying my best."

● **Get full details of the torch relay route through the borough at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/torchrelay**

Welcome plans for the torch relay

ROYAL Greenwich residents will be the first Londoners to welcome the Olympic Torch.

The torch relay comes to the royal borough on Saturday, July 21 and will travel through Greenwich, Eltham and Woolwich town centres.

The relay starts its journey at the Prime Meridian Line in Greenwich Park on July 21 2012 at approximately 7.21am.

It will continue through Greenwich town centre, along East Greenwich and up through Eltham, ending in Woolwich's General Gordon Square at 9.45am before continuing its journey to the Olympic Stadium.

The torch will be carried by 35 torchbearers who were nominated in recognition of their achievements. Local residents can share in the

excitement as the torch is carried through the borough, by coming out to their nearest point as the relay travels along their local streets.

After the torch has passed an array of events which will be taking place in Greenwich, Eltham and Woolwich. Costumed performers, flying dancers, giant bouncing kangaroos and musical entertainment are just some of the highlights on offer.

Councillor Chris Roberts, leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, said: "Royal Greenwich is proud to be the first London borough to witness the fantastic spectacle of the Olympic torch relay. It will provide a unique chance for Greenwich residents to share in the excitement of the Olympic spirit as we mark the countdown to the 2012 Games. I would like to encourage as

many people as possible to go along to the events on offer and celebrate this once in a life time opportunity."

● **The streets along the Royal Greenwich 2012 Olympic torch relay can be viewed in full at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/torchrelay, where you can view street-by-street details and proposed start times for when the Olympic Torch will travel through the borough.**

Local residents living in and around Royal Greenwich can find out when it will be travelling past their nearest school, high street, local shop or even their home.

● **Businesses can find out what's happening so they can prepare for the torch at www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/torchrelay**

● **Get all the latest torch relay news on twitter #greenwichtorch**

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