



## CATERHAM SCHOOL

### **Caterham School Wins Independent School Award for Education Initiative of the Year**

Caterham School has won the Independent Schools Award for the Education Initiative of the Year. The award is for the *Student Lead Learner Programme* in which Sixth Form students volunteer to be trained in coaching and mentoring skills, and are then paired with younger students to assist in academic work.

The students meet formally once every week for 20 minutes to discuss everything from how to memorise vocabulary to managing long term projects, from making choices for GCSE subjects to adopting study skills that match their preferred styles of learning. Most study buddies also meet informally over lunch or in the Library to develop their bond yet further.

Kim Wells, Director of Learning & Teaching, introduced the Student Lead Learner programme in 2009 (affectionately known as "Study Buddy") with 28 Sixth Form students. The following year numbers grew to 58 pairings, and in 2011 the scheme involves over 300 students participating on an entirely voluntary basis. The scheme covers every year group and the full ability range, from those who need stretch and challenge to those who need more academic support.

To underline the positive impact of the scheme and Caterham's thriving community spirit, all 34 of the Fifth Year (Year 11) students who had been "buddied" in their GCSE year of 2010 volunteered to become buddies themselves on entering our Sixth Form.

Headmaster Julian Thomas said: 'I am delighted that Kim's initiative has been recognised by the judges. His energy and leadership has helped this programme become an important part of Caterham School life. I particularly pleased because the students who participate in this project are demonstrating a very strong sense of community, supporting and encouraging each other to achieve their very best.'



Kim Wells, Director of Learning & Teaching.