

Inter-Academy Newsletter

Issue 6: February 2009

Oasis
:community learning

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John Williams

The whole Academy Community was shocked by the tragic news of our Principal, John Williams, death on Wednesday 11th February. Steve Chalke visited the Academy to break the news to staff and students, and a room of remembrance was made available for staff and students to pay their respects, and leave messages or tokens of condolence. In the sadness we have gained comfort from our collective commitment to continue to build upon the progress secured under John's exceptional leadership; and as we enter the next phase of our journey as an Academy we are looking forward to celebrating John's life with his family, staff and students at our Groundbreaking ceremony on March 13th.

We have all been overwhelmed and touched by the support we have received from across the Oasis family, and whilst we have been unable to respond to everyone individually, please be assured of our appreciation.

Family Fun Day

The Academy held a free Valentines Family Fun day on Saturday 14th February for members of the local community and at least 150 people of all ages went.

Activities kicked off in the main hall with the first ever performance of Academy pantomime Aladdin. Learning Director of the Drama Department, Chris Morris, and a cast of students have been rehearsing hard for the last couple of months and gave a fantastic matinee performance in front of stunning professional scenery. Families then took part in a range of arts and crafts, sport and circus skills. An exhibition of artwork from the Academies Primary Link work was on display in the Art Gym, where people could buy a range of prints and pottery and have their portrait drawn by a caricaturist.



HMI monitoring visit

Following a two day visit to the Academy, HMI inspectors reported that "the Academy's specialism makes an excellent contribution to the student's development of skills which are essential for their future success in life; the curriculum engages the interests of the students well. They understand its structure and speak highly of the opportunities that it gives them to make progress in their learning, make their own choices, and become independent learners." The overall judgement was that the Academy is making good progress with outstanding capacity for future development.

Grand Opening

Friday 13th February saw students, parents/carers, staff, their families and other distinguished guests gather to celebrate the Grand Opening of Oasis Academy Enfield and its fantastic new facilities. Guests were taken on tours of the Academy by Student Ambassadors and provided with lunch made by the chef, his team and the 3E's cooking club, before enjoying the afternoon ceremony which included a performance by the hip hop band Mr Man and the Illersapiens and confetti canons! The event was a huge success due to the colossal input from students and staff.

Trip in/Trip out

The Year 8 students went to the Science museum where they enjoyed learning in the Launch Pad; a hands on interactive educational space. One student commented "I had great fun, when can we go again?"

Year 7 students had a trip in based around the theme of inclusion and interdependence entitled 'The Oasis Extravaganza'. Students produced a presentation board expressing what is great about Oasis Academy Enfield.



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Library Service for Senior Citizens

The library at the Academy has forged links with the senior citizens at a local sheltered accommodation complex. Staff and students are providing a door-to-door library service for the residents who are unwell and housebound.

Holocaust Memorial Event

A group of Year 10 girls choreographed a dance/drama piece, and a visual Power-Point that was presented at Buile Hill Banqueting Suite. They performed to members of the Jewish community, the Mayor of Salford, members of the local community and other schools. The theme for this year's Holocaust memorial day was 'Stand up to Hatred'.

It went extremely well and the girls received thanks from Children's Services for helping to raise awareness.

Exhibition – Regeneration of Salford

A group of diploma students are involved in a public exhibition at The Lowry Centre regarding the Regeneration of Salford. Examples of students' work – including digital photography, dresses, fashion and textiles – will be on display for the next six weeks.



:lord's hill

Success in Science

On the 12th February a group of Year 7 students competed in a Science Competition taking place at Barton Peveril College. The competition was very stiff with participants from other schools in the area, but one of the Academy teams won the Year 7 group! The students were a credit to the Academy.

Good News

The Public Speaking team participated in the District Final of the National English Speaking Union Competition. All the Academy's competitors were first timers and acquitted themselves amazingly well, coming in at a respectable fourth place.

One of the students was so impressed with the evening that he put himself forward for another Rotary-led competition, this time a cookery competition.



:wintringham

The New Building!

In the week of the 26th January, the Academy moved into their breathtaking brand new building! To mark the transition, the Academy opened its doors on the 4th February for an opening celebration.

Olympic Schools' Committee

Alison Lucas, Wintringham's Director of Learning for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), has been invited to be on the Olympic Schools' Committee to advise on MFL and Sport as a result of outstanding work that she has done to incorporate MFL into our Sport specialism.



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Britain's Got Talent

As part of their BTEC National Certificate in Music Production, Sixth Form Students organised an 'Oasis Has Talent' competition in the style of 'Britain's Got Talent'. Over 50 acts auditioned and 10 were chosen to compete in the final. The winning performers were the dance act 'Junior Signature' with an excellent dance routine. Vocalist Emily Turner and dance act Ooh La La were also highly commended by the judges. Over 200 people attended on a very snowy night and a good time was had by all!

Open Day

The Academy held an open day on the 11th February and they had nearly 1,000 visitors turn up to look around despite the snow! Various activities were taking place for people to see, such as Art displays, Music and Drama entertainment, cooking, construction (building a wall and a fort) and Science activities.



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Sticks and Stones

Year 7, 8 and 9 students engaged with a drama production entitled Sticks and Stones, performed by the Saltmine Theatre Company. The event formed part of an anti-bullying roadshow presented by Southampton YMCA. The presentation strongly supported the Academy policy on bullying and heightened the profile of the issues to the students, helping them to deal with any problems they may encounter.

Geography Presentations

On 12th February the Year 9 Geography students invited members of the community to examine and judge their proposals for international development projects around the world. Students spent three weeks researching and presenting their projects before displaying them in the main entrance to the lower school site. Local councillors, parents/carers, teachers and fellow students questioned the teams about their work and helped to award marks as part of the Year 9 assessments. The project helped students to put the Academy's specialisation of Global Communication at the centre of their work.



Staff 'Going that Extra Mile for Students'

Oasis Academy Coulsdon received its third monitoring visit conducted by two HMI and Ofsted Inspectors and the report on their findings praises staff, many of whom 'are going that extra mile' and 'galvanising' Year 11 students in their GCSE preparations. In their lesson observations Inspectors praised the genuine enthusiasm of teachers which was transmitted to students; teachers set clear objectives and posed challenging questions; lesson tasks were well related to exam specifications.

The Inspectors commented on the very positive ethos

in the Academy and they met with local residents and studied feedback received in the form of letters and emails and praised the excellent progress in raising the Academy profile locally.

Elements of Motion Dance Show

Over 100 students took part in a stunning two night production called Elements of Motion. The Academy invited local neighbours and Years 5 & 6 from their local Primary Schools to a special matinee performance.

:coulsdon

The atmosphere was set by the skill of the stage and lighting crew whose effects were equal to any professional production.

The dance music was chosen by students and Mr Moisan and was a magical mix of styles: hip-hop, pop, R&B, rap and classical. The Academy samba drummers gave a tremendous performance, beating out the rhythms in show-stopping style, and the dancers routines were full of energy, elegance and poise.



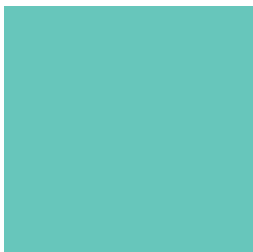
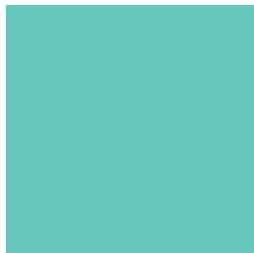
One local resident commented: "I didn't want it to stop, the show had everything. I can't wait to be invited to the next one." Students would like to thank Miss Van der Berg for her dedication and vision in creating what was one of the best productions ever performed by students.



:brightstowe

Making Theatre Child's Play

Year 7 students were put through their paces when they took part in a series of drama workshops to prepare them for a trip to the egg theatre, part of the Theatre Royal in Bath. In the lively workshops, students were encouraged to represent objects that would normally have been supplied by the props department, using just their bodies and voices.



Collapsed Curriculum Day

On Thursday 12th February, the Academy held a 'collapsed curriculum day' which focussed on PSHE activities designed to build students confidence and foster in them an understanding on society.

Year 7 took part in an Oasis Ethos Extravaganza where they learnt about the wider Oasis family and inclusion. Year 8 got involved in a series of workshops called 'Play Your Part' where they learnt about the dangers of knife crime, gang awareness and personal safety, working with representatives from Ashfield Prison and Avon & Somerset Police.

Year 9 spent the day building trebuchets (medieval catapults) out of resistant materials. They then took part in an inter-house tournament which was enjoyed enormously by all. Year 10 learnt how to lead a healthy life by taking part in a range of activities including cookery skills, yoga, aerobics and advice about sexual health and emotional wellbeing.

Year 11 travelled to Colston Hall to attend the GCSE Poetry Live! event, where the 100 GCSE students gained first-hand experience of live poetry readings from the poets that feature in their AQA syllabus. To end the day, students were given advice by two seasoned AQA examiners, who gave them an idea of what skills they should display in the GCSE English examinations.

