

Newsletter

July 2010

Raising aspirations - transforming lives

Principal's Letter

I cannot believe that the end of our second year has come round so quickly, there has been so much going on at the Academy, even as we prepare to move across to our new buildings. Last week saw our first event in our new building and it was just fantastic to see the huge central space full of people as we welcomed our new Year 7 students and their families for the first time. Tonight sees our Primary School Showcase exhibition with work from Year 5 pupils, which is of an exceptional standard and all of this continues with boxes and skips and packing crates as we prepare to move across to our new home! All of this is only possible because we have such a hard working and dedicated team, I would like to thank all of our staff and students for ensuring that our first two years have been a real success.

2010 is a very special moment in our Academy history, but as we look to the future we must remember how important endings can be. I am very aware that this school site has educated generations of young people and has been a central part of this community for over 50 years. To commemorate our place in the community we have included a small selection of photographs from the last 5 decades which I hope you will enjoy.

This newsletter is full of our students achievements, I know that you will enjoy reading about their success. We regularly update our website with news, so please do visit www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org to keep in touch with what is going on at the Academy. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the website please let us know.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement. We are absolutely focused on ensuring that each and every one of our students enjoys an excellent education, achieves their personal best and leaves us equipped to make a real contribution to the world. I hope that you all enjoy a relaxing summer holiday with friends and family and I look forward to welcoming you in our new building in September.

Rebecca Clark

Sports Day

On Wednesday 7th July, the first Oasis Academy Bristol sports day took place. Year 9 & 10 started the day on the track with some fantastic displays by students during both the short and long distance races.

At the same time, Year 7 & 8 were competing on the throwing and jumping events with fantastic support shown by students and spectators, cheering on the participants who were competing to win points for their tutor groups.

After lunch, it was Year 7 & 8's turn to compete on the track, with Year 7 spectators being the loudest and most supportive of the day. Year 9 & 10 moved onto the field events and to end the day, the relay races took place with the whole Academy watching on the side of the track.

All students taking part showed fantastic determination and effort, with everyone displaying excellent teamwork.

The winning tutor group from each year group were announced during the end of year assemblies.

SEGRO Young Artists Project

The exhibition was a fantastic way to end the SEGRO project which took place last term with local artist Julie Roberts. The students had worked with her for one week creating ideas for a final piece for the show. They ended up making 4 panels using felt-making and textile techniques.

The pieces all went into an auction where different businesses bid for the work to go into their head offices. SEGRO bought two pieces for £300 each. The students who took part will decide how to use the money in the Academy.



Saxophone Exam Success

Paige Williams, aged 15 and currently in Year 10, has just passed her Grade 6 Classical Saxophone exam with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and has achieved a merit. This is a fantastic achievement – well done Paige!

Uganda Project

On the 14 June, five Year 10 students and 2 members of staff went to visit an Oasis Global project in Uganda for 8 days. The project, named Beersheba, targets vulnerable girls aged 13 – 16 in the Mbale area. The project is only usually visited by gap year students but has recently been introduced to Year 10 students.



Raising money was the hardest part of the trip, the plan was to raise as much money towards the trip as possible and use any leftover money as a charitable fund for the project. With originally 6 students, the fund raising went well. The first fundraiser was a Valentine's ball for adults back in February. This was a large success and around £1000 was raised, but it did not compare to the £1100 that Nicholas Perrott raised on a sponsored half-marathon which he completed in excellent time.

We planned to fly during the May half term, but the trip was suddenly postponed to 16 June because of British Airways strikes. However, after finally departing on our nine hour journey, we arrived to find a happy, unpolluted and joyous atmosphere. The night flight was very draining and we then had a 5 hour last leg of the journey by minibus to Mbale. We arrived at the Mt Elgon Hotel and collapsed through the doors from tiredness. On the way to the Beersheba project the roads were riddled with pot holes but our driver manoeuvred around them expertly without any apparent problems.



Working with the staff at the project was both challenging and tiring (mentally as well as physically) but always brought a sense of happiness and achievement. Patrick Longman states about the work: "I enjoyed working with the girls because it gave me a sense of pride to help their community". We went to many places other than the project including the immense Lake Victoria where we ate delicious tilapia, the magnificent Sippi

falls where we climbed difficult terrain and then braved the streets of the Kampala and Mbale's markets. Whilst at the Beersheba project we helped provide fun tasks for the girls such as colouring giant bedsheets and playing football.

One of my favourite parts of the visit was the birthday party we organised. The party was for all 30 of the girls. I was surprised that none of them knew their birthday date or how old they were because they didn't have their births registered. The look on the girl's faces was stunning, it was one of the most difficult things to take in that I have ever experienced; I was truly shocked. It made me feel so ungrateful and so unappreciative because what they had was nothing to us, but meant so much to them. The Beersheba girls didn't stop smiling, they were so thankful for what they had and yet they don't have much compared to us and to see it for yourself was so much to take in.

Watching the party made me feel a mixture of emotions like sorrow, sadness and anger. I felt sorrow for the girls because they have such hard lives compared to us, I felt sadness because they did not receive much and they deserve better and I felt anger because it makes me think that I never knew just how lucky I really was.

Overall, it was an absolutely fantastic opportunity and we all learned a lot about ourselves, each other and the world around us. We would like to thank Mr Roberts, Ms Woodman, all of the people who sponsored us or helped with the trip in any way but most importantly we would like to thank all of the amazing people involved in the project – it makes such a difference!

By Nathan Rickard & Patrick Longman

Year 6 Pupils Meet Mentors

On 13 July, over 300 parents, children and family members were welcomed by staff of the Academy into the new building. The evening was organised for primary school pupils and parents so that they could meet the members of staff who will be their mentors in September.

The evening began in the new theatre with a presentation by Miss Clark and Mr Todd, Head of Year 7. Parents and students then met with their mentors and toured the fantastic new building. The students returned to the Academy on 14 and 15 July to take part in a two day transition programme focussing on team building, inter dependence and diversity.



Work Experience

During June, five students attended the Big Work Experience Week at The Bristol Old Vic. Four of them became members of the acting company and the other worked as a sound and lighting technician.

They worked alongside theatre professionals and other young people developing their acting and technical skills, which then became the improvised play seen by family and friends just two days later. The process they followed was identical to that of the professionals with whom they worked.



The show was a great success and we look forward to creating closer links for our students working in partnership with The Bristol Old Vic.

Dark Angels Performance

We are delighted that the Angels Dance Academy will be based at Oasis John Williams! From September students will be able to take full advantage of the fantastic dance studio and theatre in the state of the art new building.

On Wednesday 16 June, The Angels Dance Academy visited and put on an entrancing and engaging performance for the students in Year 10.

The group performed hip hop dances (for which they are adult world champions) but also they did an amazing Bollywood dance routine as well as a number of contemporary routines. The Bollywood performance gave bursts of energy to the crowd and many were jiggling along to the unusual music. All the contemporary dances created a relaxed and calm atmosphere amongst the audience. The final dance (two people dancing, involving comedy) was the general favourite because there was lots of laughter throughout the performance and at the end the crowd made sure they showed their appreciation and positive opinions.

The general reaction to the groups was astonishment and excitement. As the students bustled out of the hall doors there was a general buzz amongst everyone, comments could be heard such as 'That was awesome', 'They are seriously talented!', 'They are pretty amazing aren't they?'. These are some of the feelings that were discussed the next day as people were still excited from the remarkable performance.

To sum up, I believe, The Angels Dance Academy are a fantastic group of young people who spend their time doing what they love, which gives amazing entertainment to so many others.

We are looking forward to becoming home to the Dance Academy and welcoming their talented choreographers, Charlie Bedford and Michelle Sergeant, to teach dance to the students at the Academy. This will mean the Angels will have a home that matches up to their standards of excellence. When the Angels compete across the Globe in various competitions, Oasis Academy John Williams will be supporting them all the way.

By Chloe Fry

Race For Life

On a sunny Sunday morning in June a number of Academy staff took part in the race for life.

Some women ran the distance, others walked all dressed in pink and running in the Race for Life for someone they know who has had the battle with cancer. Between them, they raised over £500 for the charity Cancer UK.

Well done to the ladies from Oasis Academy Bristol.

Marianne Saunders pictured raised over £220.00!



Performing Arts First Award

The Oasis Academy Bristol Glee Club which was formed just 5 weeks ago were awarded the **"Most Innovative Project Award 2010"**. The award was given by Ashton Park School Partnership at a champagne reception. The group received a framed certificate and engraved trophy.

The Glee club, is an after school club is for Year 7 and Year 10 students. There are 31 students in the street dance section and 27 in the cheer leading section.

Mrs Bedford the teacher of the class said "this is a fantastic award and recognition of the hard work and dedication of the students. I am sure this will be the first of many awards!"

6th Form to Open in September 2010

With brand new facilities, a wide range of courses to choose from and more opportunities for students of all abilities and interests, these are exciting times for the first students joining our Post-16 centre, opening in September 2010.

The centre will offer a range of subjects in the first year which link to our Visual and Performing Arts Specialism. The main goal of the Post-16 provision is to provide a tailored education to each and every student and ensure that students are well prepared for the adult world when they leave the Academy.

A specialist team of staff will be available to support student decision making. These decisions will have important consequences on students' future study and career options and we will give support and guidance in this important transition.

This year the 3 options available are:-

BTEC National Dance

BTEC National Sport

BTEC National Health & Social Care

Alongside this, students will either be taking an Interactive Media Course focusing on photo editing, website design and video editing. We aim to increase available options each year and will be offering a series of A Level courses, as well as extending our BTEC provision next year.

Please see over for open event details.

Dates For Your Diary

Academy Calendar Term 1

Wednesday 1 September	- Staff Moving Day
Thursday 2 September	- Staff Moving Day
Friday 3 September	- Inset Day
Monday 6 September	- All Students Return
Friday 22 October	- End of Term 1

The first day of term for students in September will be **Monday 6 September**.

On **Friday 3 September** all students will be expected to come into the Academy to meet with their Learning Mentor, be familiarised with the new building, receive locker keys and collect their blazers.

We will write to you with details over the summer and post the information on our website.

New Academy Day



Period 1	09.10 - 10.10
Period 2	10.10 - 11.10
Break	11.10 - 11.30
Period 3	11.30 - 12.30
Period 4	12.30 - 13.30
Lunch	13.30 - 14.10
Learning Mentor/Assembly	14.10 - 14.30
Period 5	14.30 - 15.30

Term Dates 2010/2011

Term 1	Monday 6 September to Friday 22 October 2010 Decant Days Wed 1 & Thurs 2 September Inset Day Fri 3 September, Fri 8 October
Term 2	Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2010 Inset Day Fri 3 December
Term 3	Tuesday 4 January to Friday 18 February 2011 Inset Day Tues 4 January
Term 4	Monday 28 February to Friday 8 April 2011 Inset Day Fri 8 April
Term 5	Tuesday 26 April to Friday 27 May 2011
Term 6	Monday 6 June to Friday 22 July 2011



Uniform Sale Dates

Venue: New Building Reception Area
Please see price list enclosed

Day	Date	Time
Wednesday	25 Aug	09.00 - 16.00
Thursday	26 Aug	09.00 - 16.00
Friday	27 Aug	09.00 - 15.00
Wednesday	1 Sept	09.00 - 15.00
Thursday	2 Sept	09.00 - 15.00
Friday	3 Sept	09.00 - 15.00

OPEN EVENTS



Oasis academy
:john williams

Day	Date	Time
Thursday	16 Sept	16.00 - 19.30
Saturday	25 Sept	09.00 - 11.00
Monday	27 Sept	09.00 - 10.30
Tuesday	28 Sept	09.00 - 10.30
Wednesday	29 Sept	09.00 - 10.30
Wednesday	29 Sept	17.00 - 21.00
Thursday	30 Sept	09.00 - 10.30
Friday	1 Oct	09.00 - 10.30

Connexions Post 16 Evening

Tuesday	19 Oct	17.00 - 20.00
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Post 16 Event

Tuesday	9 Nov	16.00 - 19.00
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Year 11 Results Day

Tuesday 24 August
10.00 - 13.00

We are looking forward to some fantastic exam results when we welcome back Year 11.

Please collect your results from the main reception area of the new Academy.

Staff Leaving and Joining the Academy

The following staff are leaving on retirement or are moving to pastures new. We extend our thanks for their contribution to the Academy and wish them all the very best for the future.

Ms Emily Banks, Mr Joey Bowers, Ms Tina Cooper, Mr Felix Ellis, Miss Vicky Green, Mrs Sylvia Harry, Ms Sarah Higgins, Mrs Anna Hudson, Mr Des Lane, Mr Charlie Lock, Mrs Sylvia McQuaid, Mrs Barbara Parker-Weekes, Ms Gemma Saunders.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following staff who will be joining the Academy in September

Mr Charlie Bedford, Teacher of BTEC Dance
Mr Gareth Box, Teacher of Technology
Mr Peter Coyle, Learning Director of Science
Mrs Rachel Latham, Teacher of Maths,
Ms Michelle Sergeant, Teacher of BTEC Dance
Ms Claire Stanley, Teacher of English
Mr Ben Tansey, Music Specialist Supply Teacher