

Principal's Update

I am delighted that the new era of our Academy has got off to a fantastic start! We opened our doors on 6 September with a new name and new building but with the same values. We are now well installed in our state-of-the-art building and are enjoying the wonderful spaces, facilities and resources.

I am proud of the continued positive progress we have made since we opened as an Academy in September 2008. Our examination results improve year on year. This year there were improvements across every student outcome and we continue to go from strength to strength.

This term has been very exciting and challenging in many areas; students have enjoyed a number of experiences such as educational trips and playing sport against other Bristol schools. We have also had some very successful parent/carer events. It was great to see so many parents at the Learning Mentor evenings and the Year 11 study skills sessions, all of which were a huge success and of enormous value to students, parents and staff. I hope you will enjoy reading about just a few of the activities which have taken place in the Academy over recent months.

As we close the doors of the Academy at the end of the Autumn term, I would like to thank staff, students and parents for their efforts and support which has made this term so successful. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 5 January 2011.

Rebecca Clark

Grand Opening Event



The highlight of the first term must be our official opening which took place on Wednesday 20 October 2010; this day will forever be etched in all of our minds as a very special day for the Academy and a milestone in our history.

The day started by the arrival of a number of guests, who included the Lord Mayor of Bristol, the team of Architects who designed the building and representatives from Skanska and Oasis Community Learning. The guests enjoyed a guided tour of the fantastic facilities led by our Student Executive Leaders. The tour of

the Academy included Year 9 drama performances, Year 9, 10 and 11 music recitals, Year 11 and 12 dance performances as well as displays in many areas.

After lunch in the library, all students, staff and guests gathered in our amazing theatre. The ceremony was opened by Vicky Dymond and Connor Kingdon, our Student Executive Leaders, who welcomed everyone and spoke of their pride in being students in the Academy.

Representative students from Year 8 then gave some wonderful and thought provoking descriptions of inspirational words, in front of an audience of some 700 people. They had obviously given a lot of thought to their part in this ceremony.

Steve Chalke, Founder and CEO of Oasis Community Learning, addressed the

audience and said "This day will be a memorable one for this community. This fantastic building is definitely fit for purpose and all that the students, staff and local residents deserve".

Mr Chalke's address was then followed by a stunning performance by the Dark Angels, world champion dance team. The afternoon concluded with a short speech from Karen Williams, widow of Oasis Academy Bristol's first Principal, John. She gave an emotional but proud address and spoke about how important it is to the family to still be part of this Academy in different ways. Karen encouraged students to never give up, and to keep striving to be the best they possibly could.

It was a great day, organised and run by some fantastic staff with masses of help from some outstanding students!

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Website

Please check our website for information on the following:

Year 11 Revision Guides

Year 7-11 Homework Timetable

After school enrichment programme

Lunchtime enrichment Programme

News articles

Cross Curricular Lessons

On Monday 29 November, Miss Stanley's Year 7 English class went to the food technology classroom to make 'Mouse Noses on Toast'. This is related to the book they are reading in lessons with the same title.

Year 7 were asked to make their own version of 'Mouse Noses on Toast' using bread, cheese, chocolate buttons and writing icing, all enjoyed the lesson with the support of Miss Stanley, Miss Pearce-Lyons and Miss Mavji.

Year 7 were impressed with what they made and enjoyed eating their creations! They would recommend this lesson to other students who may study the book as it has helped them understand why the book is named 'Mouse Noses on Toast'.

Rhys Powell and Frazer Griffin ate the most and didn't complain of feeling sick. The girls, on the other hand, didn't eat theirs but offered their toast to the boys.



Year 11 Creativity Day

Year 11 students visited three residential homes in Bristol to give Christmas gifts and perform music and dance acts. The elderly people were left with smiling faces after the students presented a full package of food, fun and frolics.

As part of the Academy system, every student will access five unique enrichment opportunities known as the Bristol 5. These are, creativity, performance, exploration, independence and global awareness.

To read the full story and view photos please visit our website www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org

Winter Showcase 2010



Our Winter Showcase of dance, drama and music took place on 2 December. The event was the first show to take place in our new theatre which was packed with 340 friends, parents, staff, students and neighbours.

Months of hard work and preparation had gone into the event which involved 115 students. The evening started with a drama performance of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol, by students from Years 7 to 10. There then followed a further 18 performances of exciting dance and music acts. The audience was spellbound throughout as they enjoyed the superb event. The evening ended with a finale when the audience took to their feet to clap and show their appreciation.



The success of the evening was due to the dedication and hard work of students and staff, both on stage and behind the scenes. Their names are too many to mention, however, special thanks must go to Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Bedford, Mr Tansey, Mr Bedford, Ms Sergeant and Mr Howell.

A Stop The Traffik collection after the Winter Showcase raised £92. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.



Academy Hosts BBC Radio Debate

We were delighted to host a live radio debate on the proposed new football stadium at Ashton Vale, one of the biggest issues in the city for years. We were very pleased to be able to offer our fantastic theatre to the local community for this event.

The debate was jointly organised by the Bristol Evening Post and BBC Radio Bristol. Our auditorium was full with 230 people from all over Bristol, selected at random from the 600 who had applied for tickets. The event was broadcast live and there was also a live web link and live links to television news. It was exciting to see the Academy featured on the local media.

Five of our Year 11 students, Nicola Rodreguez, Nicola Taylor, Conqueror Tshabalala, Cizia Lewis and Eddie Evans carried out a very efficient job of meeting people at the door and guiding them to their seats.

The evening was opened by Becky Whitewood and James Worgan, two of our Sixth Form students, who gave an outstanding performance of a contemporary dance piece, which received a huge round of applause from the audience.



Mr Dean from the BBC commented in a letter following the event *“Special thanks to your two outstanding dancers for their show stopping performance and to all your students who helped with audience control. They all conducted themselves impeccably as truly impressive ambassadors for the Academy”*.



This was a wonderful opportunity for us to be involved in such a successful event. We look forward to hosting many more such occasions in the future.

Raising Money for Stop The Traffik

By Shannon Skinner, Year 12

Year 12 Health and Social Care students have been organising events to raise money for the organisation Stop The Traffik. We were given this idea when Jill Rowe came to our lesson and told us about the horrific things that young women and children go through in countries who suffer poverty. After listening to those things we all felt really upset, scared and disgusted. After this we all felt that we could help by raising money for the organisation. We discussed ways to raise money and have slowly been making the events happen.

On Thursday 21 October the Academy had arranged a parents evening and we took this opportunity to begin our fundraising. Our group had baked cakes to

sell in the Atrium, whilst we had made hot drinks for parents. The day was a huge success as we raised £50.

The next event is a non-uniform day on 17 December when students pay £1 not to wear uniform that day. Some of the money raised will go to Stop The Traffik. We are also asking students to collect pennies so that we can make a penny inclusion circle. The circle will represent Oasis Academy John Williams and it will show that we are a caring and committed group of people.

We have many more ideas and would like everyone to take part in our fundraising and make a difference to all those unfortunate people who suffer from trafficking.

Anti-Bullying Week

Every November, the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) and its 70 member organisations send a clear and positive message that bullying is not acceptable. The theme of this year's campaign was **Taking action together**. This involves the Academy and its surrounding community working together to tackle bullying incidents.

Students and staff at Oasis Academy John Williams marked this week by wearing Blue Ribbons. The Blue Ribbons are part of Bristol City Council's campaign to make Bristol a bully free zone. Students completed questionnaires and took part in lessons to understand bullying and how people may feel in a bullying situation.

The day concluded with a dance piece from the Sixth Form entitled 'Stop Bullying'.

Sixth Form Students

Oasis Academy John Williams opened the first ever Sixth Form to 40 students in September 2010.

On Friday 10 December, the first Showcase of the work carried out for the National Diploma in Dance took place in our theatre. 19 students performed 29 various acts, showing their work in choreography, urban and world dance.

An audience of over 300 people were spellbound during the fantastic performances.

Charlie Bedford, Dance Teacher, said 'I am so impressed with the standard achieved by the students in such a short period of time. We are excited that we can put on this show for the local community, friends and families'.

Accelerated Reader Programme **Karting Championships** One Million Words Read

This term has seen the launch of our Accelerated Reader Programme. This scheme has been introduced to help raise literacy levels and is mainly aimed at Years 7, 8 and 9.



In September each student was tested and given a Book Reading Level. During English lessons students visit the Learning Resource Centre to choose and read a book from the Accelerated Reader titles. Once read, they then complete an online quiz. Students must obtain a score of 85% correct to receive reward points and move onto a higher level of book.

At the end of each term, those students from each year group who have been the most successful, receive a certificate and prize.

Within the first few weeks of its launch, students managed to achieve the goal of reading **One Million Words**. Our top achiever: Adam Csernik (Year 7) read 424,482 words by himself. Well done Adam!

The British Schools Karting Championships takes place every January, starting with the regional rounds and then moving onto the National round.

A group of six Year 10 boys, Harry Wells, Ryan Thomas, Colston Lloyd, Ashley Haycox, Hayden Corbiere and Eddie Evans have been working hard over the past term in order to prepare for these Championships. The students had no previous knowledge of karting and have been learning about how these machines function, by working closely with The Wheels Project. They have dismantled and built new karts, learnt about health and safety and technical driving skills. The boys have been practicing their driving and improving on their performance by knocking seconds off their lap times, this will give them the best chance of success in the Championships.

This is the first year Oasis Academy John Williams has entered these championships, the boys are determined to make it to the 2nd round, with ambitions of going to the finals, we wish them all the very best.

Students Collect Academy Christmas Trees

We were kindly offered Christmas trees for the Academy by Miss Hirst and her father, all we had to do was to collect them!

Three students, Scott Floyd, Clinton Jackson and Daniel Gilbert travelled in the Academy Minibus to "Worms Ash Farm" in Bromsgrove along with Mr Hill and Mr Cox to spend the day choosing trees for the Academy reception and atrium. There was a huge choice of trees and it was difficult to make a selection from the fantastic assortment of shapes and sizes available. Three trees were chosen and cut down for the journey back to Bristol.

Once back at the Academy, the trees were installed and decorated by staff and students just in time for the Winter Showcase event. They certainly add a festive air to the Academy! More pictures of the day in Bromsgrove are in the gallery section of the website.



A huge thank you to Mr Hirst and Miss Hirst for their kind donation which is being enjoyed by everyone.

Demolition of Old building

The old building is in the process of being demolished, you will see that it has virtually disappeared now. Noah Williams, John's eldest son, started the demolition of the 50-year-old building.

Noah said he remembered the old building from helping out in summer time activities. He said: "Its not every day that someone of my age gets to start a demolition. I feel very privileged to be part of the process."

The old building will be flattened and turned into recreational space including a multi-use games area which will be ready by Easter next year. We look forward to seeing the new playing fields and facilities as they develop.

