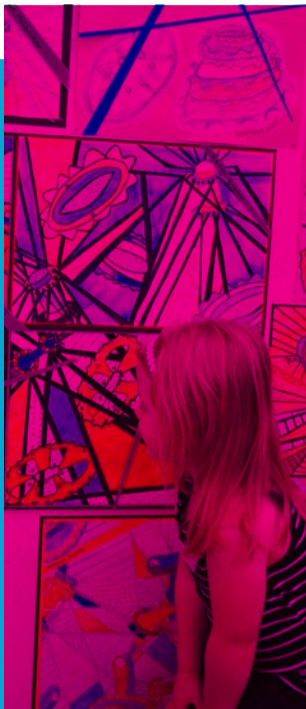




**NORTH
BIRMINGHAM
ACADEMY
ANNUAL REVIEW
CELEBRATING
SUCCESS AND
INNOVATION
SEPTEMBER 2011**



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to our Annual Review, a yearly celebration of the academy community's achievements, progress and successes. In particular, we are

delighted to announce three pieces of good news: very positive feedback from Ofsted following their visit in May and excellent GCSE and A level results, details of which can be found on this page.

Alongside good results, we pride ourselves on the unique opportunities we offer our students to excel in their individual talents and interests. This year not only have our students showcased their artistic talent at our Summer Art Exhibition and Arts Week, they have visited universities and museums, been involved in, and won, the E-ACT Olympics, and taken an increasingly active role both in the academy community and in the wider local community. Students have been very active as part of our Student Voice, as peer mentors and as lesson observers.

With the support of our partnerships with parents, local primary schools, businesses and external agencies, North Birmingham Academy looks forward to another year even more triumphant than the last. We hope you enjoy reading about our many highlights.

Mrs K L Popratnjak
Principal

OFSTED PRAISE

We are delighted to announce that Ofsted inspectors, who visited the academy in May, recognised the excellent progress that has been made since the academy opened in January 2010. We are determined to build on the successes achieved to date and to continue to support our students to excel beyond expectations within a positive, challenging and caring environment.

Here are some of the highlights from the report:

“The curriculum effectively meets the needs of the students, including those in the sixth form, and promotes increasingly high aspirations”

“The academy provides excellent support, guidance and care for students”

“Current attendance is high and this is consistent across all year groups”

“The quality of teaching has improved steadily since the academy opened”

“The longer lessons which the academy has recently introduced are a key element in accelerating progress”

A WARM WELCOME FOR NEW YEAR 7S

Following the success of our annual Friendship Day in the spring term, we welcomed prospective pupils and parents into our vibrant and innovative academy for our Induction Day.

Throughout the day our future students took part in interactive 'taster' sessions including cookery, PE, drama, dance and science and also met their future teachers and made new friends. They also enjoyed a stunning Bhangra dance performance from our current Year 7 students as well as a hearty brunch and lunch in our modern dining hall.

In addition, a group of our staff and students visited several local primary schools to give a presentation about moving from primary to secondary school. This helps to prepare pupils for the change, and means that the new students will recognise familiar faces when they start their educational journey at North Birmingham Academy.

A team of sixth form students have been trained as peer mentors for our younger students. They are playing an important role in helping new Year 7s settle into academy life by offering support, advice and by being available to answer questions.

AMAZING EXAM SUCCESS

GCSE students gained a remarkable 94% A*-C overall, an increase of 25 percentage points in just two years. The number of students achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths has also gone up to 43%, an impressive increase of 14 percentage points since the Academy opened; hitting and exceeding government targets.

Furthermore, the first group of students to complete their A Levels at NBA achieved an overall pass rate of 91% with many gaining As and A*s. Every student who applied to university has been offered a place.

NEWSFLASH: 2011 RESULTS

94% A*-C GCSE passes
91% A Level pass rate
100% of students who applied for university gained a place

OPEN EVENTS FOR YEAR 6 FAMILIES

Prospective families are invited to one of our open events to find out more about the academy and how we can help your child reach his or her full potential.

OPEN EVENING 2011

Thursday 22 September 6.00–8.00pm

OPEN MORNINGS 2011

Monday 26 September and
Wednesday 28 September 9.40–11.00am

OPEN DOOR

Contact the Academy Office to make an appointment.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE



LEARNING DETECTIVES

In July the academy's Learning Detectives, students who have been trained to observe lessons and give teachers confidential feedback, visited Birmingham's Millennium Point to celebrate the end of the first year of the Learning Detective project.

Learning Detectives – giving students a say in their classroom learning

Through a range of science and technology workshops students explored how the use of ICT supports forensic investigations. They demonstrated their excellent teamwork and leadership skills working together to control Lego robots and programming them to complete a number of challenges.



SIXTH FORM DEVELOPMENTS

Following our excellent A level results, we are delighted to announce that we have added three new courses to our extensive and popular post-16 offer. These are: A Level Business Studies, BTEC Sport and BTEC Business Studies.

In addition to developing our post-16 centre, we are also introducing a fast stream for our gifted and talented students. This will allow those students who are ready to start AS levels in key subjects as early as Year 11.

In the future we anticipate developing and packaging our post-16 courses and linking them to career pathways which are in demand in the working world. We are also nurturing and developing links with local and regional businesses so that students benefit from high quality and relevant work experience alongside their studies and leave NBA with the right skills, experience and knowledge to achieve success in an increasingly competitive and fast-paced world.

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The academy's Student Voice is an important vehicle for the development of teamwork, leadership and presentation skills which are all essential for life and work in the 21st century. In the past year members of the Student Voice have shown particular dedication, determination and resourcefulness and their work is having a big impact on academy life.

Student Voice – giving students opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills

Working on their own initiative, they have successfully negotiated with the dining hall staff to serve healthy homemade hamburgers and wraps at lunchtime. They have also worked with our Every Child Matters Team to launch the 'talk2ateen' initiative, a peer mentoring and anti-bullying service which is provided by trained sixth form students. The Student Voice wrapped up the year with a confident and professional presentation of their work to the academy's governing body, a big achievement and testament to their leadership, presentation and teamwork skills.



A TASTE OF UNIVERSITY LIFE

Year 10 students got an insight into university life when they visited Aston University in Birmingham and Keele University in Staffordshire. They toured the university campuses and facilities, attended lectures and also had the opportunity to speak to university under-graduates to find out more about studying at university. Students who visited Keele also had the privilege of watching a graduation ceremony which really inspired them. The students all commented on how informative and motivational the visits were.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

A group of students recently visited the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool which highlights the international importance of slavery, both in a historic and contemporary context. Located on Liverpool's Albert Dock, it is only yards away from the dry docks where 18th century slave trading ships were repaired and fitted out.

The visit was the high point of a project that saw the students learning about their personal identity and how this has been shaped by society, history and culture. While at the museum the students carried out a research project on the development of slavery and its dramatic influence on the communities it touched. Their final report will count towards their Asdan Award.

The highlight of the day was when the students had their DNA traced. Using special technology at the museum, each participant was given their own DNA map showing where their ancestors came from. The maps demonstrated to the students that in spite of what we may look like, we are all, in fact, truly multi-cultural. The students gained a greater awareness and understanding of the legacy of slavery today.



TEAM ADVENTURE AT ACKERS

A group of students spent an energetic and exciting day at Ackers Adventure Centre. The students bonded and made new friends with peers from Bordesley Green Girls' and Small Heath schools as they took part in team building exercises, canoeing and other adrenalin fuelled outdoor activities. The day is part of a rolling programme that develops our students' negotiation and teamwork skills, builds confidence and introduces them to new friends and a range of interesting activities.

A LEVEL STUDENTS SHINE AT NBA

We are absolutely delighted with the achievements of our sixth formers. All have done exceptionally well and in particular, our stars are:

Monika Kolodynska – One A* and three As. Monika is going to study Criminology at Wolverhampton University.

Danielle Francis – One A*, two As and a B. Danielle is going to study Media and Production at Derby University.

Conor Coley – one A*, two As and a B. Conor is going to study Performing Arts at the University of Wolverhampton.

Natalie Regan – Two As, two Bs and an A* in an extension paper. Natalie is going to study Nursing at Coventry University.

Sanya Schafiq – One A*, two As as well as a C at AS Level. Sanya is going to study Media at the University of Leicester.



THE LANGUAGE OF LEARNING

A trip to Birmingham's oldest cinema brought French and Spanish language students' learning to life. The students watched "The Choir" in French and "Valentin" in Spanish in the luxuriously restored 1930s Art Deco Electric Cinema. The films gave the students an opportunity to put their foreign language skills into practice whilst also giving them an insight into French and Spanish cultures. Film buff and cinema manager, Sam Bishop, gave them a tour about the history of the Electric Cinema and also showed them how the film projection equipment works.

CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Our second community open morning was a huge success. Parents from local primary schools and those whose children will be joining the academy this term joined us for coffee and an informal chat with staff, students and external agencies that we work closely with. It was a constructive morning with parents networking with each other and with academy staff. They found out more about how we work in partnership with parents to nurture and develop the individual gifts, talents and interests of each and every NBA student.

The academy hosts lots of workshops and activities for parents including a sign language workshop every Friday, from 2 to 3pm during term time. Look out for more information on upcoming courses, events and more in future newsletters and on the academy website www.nbacademy.org.uk.

SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

Students, parents and the local community flocked to the academy's art exhibition – an annual showcase of inspirational and creative art. From Year 7's handmade shoes to Year 9's cactus printmaking and Year 11's under the sea themed artwork, the well attended exhibition showcased the talent of our students and is sure to become a feature of the local arts circuit in years to come.

The exhibition was also a unique opportunity for students thinking about pursuing art at GCSE, BTEC or university level as it gave them a real insight into the kind of challenging and creative projects they might work on. Art department staff and students were also on hand to give advice and information about studying art.



The well attended exhibition showcased the talent of our students



COMMUNITY INSPIRED ART

During the summer term, Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in Arts Week, an annual showcase and celebration of the strengths and successes of the arts at North Birmingham Academy. This year the theme of the week was 'Community Matters' and all lessons focused on elements of community or folk based art, drama and performance.

Students enjoyed workshops in contemporary dance, Indian Dhol drumming, spray paint art and they also devised a piece of drama in collaboration with pupils from Hawthorn Primary School and the Round Midnight Theatre Company.

There were also performances from a guitar group, NBA choir and several staff performances including an amazing rock and roll number, a Grease sing-a-long, and a few small sketches from the drama staff.



A superbly produced evening performance was the culmination of the week long project. Our dancers were sensational and impressed the audience with their contemporary pieces and the Dhol drummers made an impact with their vibrant and rhythmic performance and got everyone's feet tapping. The spray painted backdrop for the stage wowed onlookers and gave a thought provoking and different perspective to graffiti as a form of art.

A massive thank you and congratulations to pupils of Hawthorn Primary School who delivered a fantastic drama piece in collaboration with Round Midnight Theatre Company.

Miss Dawson, Director of Arts, said: "The whole week and evening performance were a fantastic success, and the whole Arts team worked together to produce a brilliant show".

An annual showcase and celebration of the strengths and successes of the arts at North Birmingham Academy

NBA IN THE COMMUNITY...

NBA is committed to playing a strong role in our local community. Our growing relationships with local primary schools, businesses and other education organisations are an essential part of our future success. Here are some highlights of just a few of the community based activities our students have been involved in.



GLASTONPERRY 2011

Academy students played leading roles at 'GlastonPerry', a festival run by Perry Common Junior and Infant School. Our students manned an information stall about the academy and wowed audiences with their music and dancing talents. Stunning guitar and singing performances, a selection of songs from our popular production of the musical 'Hairspray' and an impressive routine from our dance act Pressurized showcased the talent of our students.

KINGSFEST 2011

As part of Kingsfest, we held our very own Family Fun Day in July. A broad range of fun activities for children, parents and the whole community included face-painting, a donkey derby, battles in sumo suits and knightly jousting.

PRIMARY PREMIERESHIP

In July, the academy hosted a football tournament for pupils from Hawthorn, Kingthorne, Kings Rise and Twickenham primary schools. All matches were keenly contested with academy students on hand to ensure the tournament ran smoothly.

ON DISPLAY

Five Year 12 students were honoured to have their artwork displayed in Perry Common Community Hall. Each talented student designed and produced a stunning, large scale piece of bunting based on the theme 'community' for Witton Lodge Community Centre during the Kings Fest celebrations.

BUDDING SCIENTISTS

As part of our commitment to sharing our expertise and facilities with local primary schools, Year 5 pupils from Perry Common, Hawthorn and Twickenham primary schools took part in a day of science lessons and experiments at the academy. The pupils had a fantastic time learning how to use the equipment in our science labs and took part in lots of exciting experiments.

INSPIRATION AND SUCCESS



Scan the code with your phone to be directed to our website

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCH ENTERPRISING INITIATIVE

Three entrepreneurial students from North Birmingham Academy have received a £1,000 award from youth charity, The Prince's Trust, to benefit our local community. The Community Cash Award is being used to fund an innovative project called 'Future Cars' which the students have launched to provide local young people with essential skills in motor mechanics over the summer holidays.

The students developed the concept of 'Future Cars' during a Dragon's Den style project, which was run by Ernst and Young. Tasked with coming up with an idea and a business plan for a project that would engage and benefit their local community, the students presented their idea of 'Future Cars' to a panel of judges who were so impressed with the students' plans that they decided to fund the project.

The team has subsequently implemented their business plan, negotiated with suppliers on prices and planned the organisation and delivery of the workshops.

Ten students who recently took part in the initial workshops came away with a number of fundamental skills including how to change a tyre, how to check oil and water and the difference between petrol and diesel engines. The students had a brilliant time and gained key skills from their experience.

The young entrepreneurs are very keen to continue to develop this fantastic project and are planning to extend the programme in 2012 to offer a wider range of courses in the field of motor mechanics and to open it up to the local community so that more people can benefit.



Young entrepreneurs Mariam Ali, Omar Buchanan and Tashara Cowell

“Future Cars is a fantastic project that we hope will benefit the local community of North Birmingham Academy for many years to come.”

Christine Sutcliffe, Programme Executive for The Prince's Trust

RECYCOOL

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our recycling programme since it started in December 2010. The project diverts products from landfill and raises funds for the academy, so please carry on sending your old CDs, mobile phones and toner cartridges to Mr Gifford.



ATHLETIC PROWESS

In the summer term, students participated in the academy's annual Sports Day at Alexander Stadium. Each form had to select their best athletes to compete in numerous track and field events. The competition for all events was to a high standard with many records being broken. With the competition so fierce, the overall form winners are rightly proud of their achievements. We were extremely privileged to have UK U20 athlete Adam Cotton present the medals and trophies.

The competition for all events was to a high standard with many records being broken



OLYMPIC TRIUMPH

North Birmingham Academy triumphed over more than 1700 students from 11 E-ACT academies in winning the 'E-ACT Olympics' at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. Olympic swimming champion Chris Cook and Olympic veteran David Moorcroft attended the event to cheer on student competitors from across England in a day of track and field events.

E-ACT Director General, Sir Bruce Liddington said: "This is the strength of our chain of academies in action. Students from our academies have come together to enjoy a world-class sporting event ahead of the 2012 Olympics. They mingled with real Olympians and enjoyed a truly memorable and inspirational experience."

NBA triumphed over more than 1700 students from 11 E-ACT academies to win the 'E-ACT Olympics'

Students from Leeds, Oldham, Cheshire, London, Birmingham, Lincolnshire and Sheffield took part in the athletics meeting. The opening event in Birmingham is one of five 'E-ACT Olympic' events taking place in the next twelve months. The next event is a rowing competition in October.

The students had a brilliant day out and we are immensely proud of their sporting success. We look forward to seeing some of our young stars in the 2016 Olympics.



Artist's impressions of the new building

NEW BUILD UPDATE

During the summer construction of the academy's state-of-the-art new buildings began and we are on track to move into the brand new facilities in February 2013. The new buildings will support us further in achieving our aim of becoming one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham, based at the heart of our community, offering high quality, rigorous education for all.

Autumn Term 2011

1 SEPTEMBER – 15 DECEMBER

STAFF TRAINING: 01 – 02 SEPTEMBER and 21 OCTOBER

HALF TERM: 24 – 28 OCTOBER

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: 16 DECEMBER – 03 JANUARY

Spring Term 2012

4 JANUARY – 30 MARCH

STAFF TRAINING: 10 FEBRUARY and 30 MARCH

HALF TERM: 13 – 17 FEBRUARY

EASTER HOLIDAY: 02 – 13 APRIL

Summer Term 2012

16 APRIL – 20 JULY

BANK HOLIDAY: 07 MAY

HALF TERM: 04 – 08 JUNE