

North Birmingham Academy

Friendship Day

North Birmingham Academy hosted its very first 'Friendship Day' for pupils transferring from primary school in September 2010. Pupils from across the City came to make friends with pupils from other primary schools and had their very first experience of North Birmingham Academy.

'Blast' film company were also in attendance recording a documentary to be shown on BBC 2. For the past seven months, 'Blast' have been tracking nine children from across the city who are transferring from primary to secondary school this year.. One of the pupils involved in this documentary has chosen

to come to North Birmingham Academy after they had attended various open events at other secondary schools. Year 6 pupils were treated to three performances by some of our gifted and talented students. The Year 8 boys dance group and the KS4 dance group 'Pressurize' performed to entertain the audience. Heather Arnold, Jasmin Smith and Anna Szklar also performed a beautiful version of the song 'When You Believe'. Pupils then participated in a competition to make friends with **ten** pupils from Primary schools other than their own. To make friends with pupils further afield, everyone was invited to complete a name tag and launch a helium balloon. So far, we have had returns from as far away as Lincolnshire.



Extended Schools Breakfast

North Birmingham Academy recently hosted the Primary Schools Student Council. Pupils from local primary schools firstly enjoyed breakfast at the Academy and then discussed issues relevant to schools and the local community. Pupils were then given a tour of the Academy and observed a motor vehicle maintenance lesson as well as looking into some of the other lessons that were taking place.

Bird and Bat Boxes

North Birmingham Academy Year 7 Technology Students have been making Bird and Bat Boxes to be located around the Witton Lakes as part of an environmental drive. Linda Hines MBE from 'The Friends of Witton Lakes' and 'Duck Watch' came to a presentation at the Academy and was absolutely delighted with the standard and quality of the finished product.

Pictured with Linda are students Paige Fitzgerald, Abigail Lewis, Rashid Mahmood and Brittany Tedstone.





Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first term as North Birmingham Academy we celebrate many successes and achievements, many of which you will read about in this newsletter.

Our students are passing examinations at a great pace, with many Year 10, 9 and even Year 8 students already achieving GCSE passes. Well done to all of those students.

Our first Post 16 students will leave with their A level results in the summer; 75% of them already have offers from University. We aim to ensure that all students reach challenging targets and have high aspirations. We are constantly working to ensure that systems and processes are in place in order to support our students. These include changes to the curriculum and the time and structure of the Academy day.

Our architects have been chosen for the rebuild of the Academy. They are Nicholas Hare Architects LLP and we will keep you informed as the plans progress. This is an exciting time for North Birmingham Academy one which will ensure that we have a studentcentered purpose built campus by 2013.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

Thank you for your support, enjoy the Easter break.

Mrs K L Popratnjak
Principal

Forthcoming Events

Monday 19th April 2010
Spring Term Starts

Thursday 22nd April 2010
Year 7 Mathematics
Examinations

Friday 23rd April 2010 Year 7
English Examinations

Tuesday 29th April 2010
GCSE Examinations begin

Monday 3rd May - May Day

Half Term Friday 28th May -
Monday 7th June 2010

Monday 5th July 2010
Year 6 Induction Evening

Wednesday 7th July 2010
Year 6 Induction Day

A Day In The Life Of...

Mr Seager - Post 16 PAL and Assistant Vice Principal.

As Head of Post 16 Education, that is the Sixth Form, I probably have one of the best jobs in North Birmingham Academy. The day starts for me very early at 6.30am although sometimes that is even earlier with a new baby in the house! I arrive at school before 8.00am then it is non-stop for the rest of the day. My work is quite varied as I not only teach students, including 'A' level PE, but also have many tasks involved with the day-to-day running of the Academy. I am a member of the Leadership Team which involves me in many meetings both during and after the normal day.

I have responsibility for the pastoral care of our growing Sixth Form. This not only involves solving problems but also giving a huge amount of advice and guidance to our students who want to make the most of their opportunities to secure openings to university, training or careers.

Meetings with parents, students, other staff, employers etc also takes a considerable amount of time.

After school I am involved with extra curricular activities, The Friends of NBA and most sporting activities but especially football and West Bromwich Albion. After work I hope to get home to spend some quality time with the family but most weekday evenings I still have marking, planning, assessments and emails to do. I usually fall into bed ready to start the next day all over again!



Principal Awards

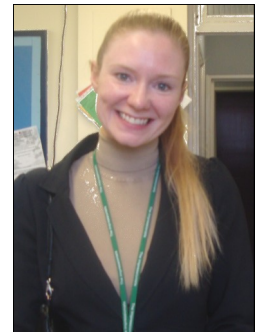
Moses Katoga 11 GPW - Excellent Work in Art
Adrain Sinclair 10 JSO - Improvement in Attitude
Flonitta Ekarda 9 FNH - Excellent Work

Miss Sprigg - 11PAL, Head of Media and Teacher of English.

The morning begins very early at 6.30am when I get up so that I can be at work no later than 7.45am. As Head of Department I have a considerable and varied workload. I start by organising my resources, books and the rooms that I will teach in for that day and I prepare reports for Year 11 students and any notes for staff.

I aim to build a team spirit and a positive attitude in Yr 11 by being in regular contact with all students. By circulating between forms during registration, I am able to talk to students and staff and pick up and build on positives. When necessary, I check that Year 11 students are wearing the correct uniform. I also use this first part of the day to make and return phone calls from parents and deal with any incidents that have occurred.

I teach for most of a normal day but also have to do duty in hall C, attend meetings with Mr Davies or Mr Johnson, often at lunch time, and I have to pick up on any student issues that have arisen during the day. I leave school at about 5 o'clock and, after eating, spend up to two hours on marking, emails and reports. Eventually I might get the chance to watch 'Corrie' and walk the dog before bed!



Arts Status Activities

PSHE Theatre Visit

Loudmouth Theatre Company came in to perform a play on teenage pregnancy to Year 10. They explored issues such as struggling to stay as a couple at a young age, having to support a baby without proper income, and handling the stresses of everyday parenthood.



Tesco Vouchers For Schools

North Birmingham Academy is now collecting Tesco Vouchers for schools. These vouchers can be obtained from all Tesco stores and you will receive one voucher for every £10 spent. Your child can deposit the vouchers in the boxes provided in the library. These vouchers can be used to buy a number of exciting things including Art and sports equipment and even musical instruments. For more information please see Mrs Harvey in the music department or Miss Brown in the PE department.



Drama Festival

Key Stage 3 Drama club are taking part in a festival on the 5th May. North Birmingham Academy is one of only 4 schools that have been chosen to attend the Repertory Theatre. The students will get to tour the theatre, meet professional actors and also perform on the stage.

Post 16

Students attended the Repertory Theatre to watch "If We Go On", a contemporary performance. It was received with mixed reviews.

Singing lessons in Core Curriculum

New Music teacher, Mrs Harvey is giving some Year 7 and 8 students a taste of singing lessons as well as working with the singers for High School Musical.



Valentine's Day Poetry

Some students celebrated Valentine's Day by taking part in a Poetry Reading Event using love as a theme. This took place during lunchtime and the library was decorated to match the theme with pink and red balloons, heart shapes and flowers. It was a great success, with over 40 students and teachers present. Students had the option of either bringing along a poem that they had written themselves, or sharing a poem by another author. A large majority of the poems were self written and were a credit to the writers.

Well done to all of the students that took part and we look forward to the next one!



Year 7 Multi Cultural Day

All year 7 pupils took part in a multi-cultural day. They had the opportunity to learn about Bollywood dance, Australian Aboriginal art, Caribbean music and South-East Asian food. All the students had a good time and Dame Rowbottom was impressed by the students and staff. We now look forward to seeing what Year 8 will do in their multi-cultural day.



Momodou makes a stand

Congratulations to Momodou Taal who become a lead member of the UK Youth Parliament. The students of the Academy had the opportunity to cast their vote in a country wide election. Momodou would like to thank all staff and students for their help and support to allow him to achieve this amazing goal. With the help of the Student Voice members, all student between the ages of 11 and 18 had the chance to vote for an issue that they felt affected their lives as young people of Birmingham. Momodou will play a vital role in ensuring the young people of Birmingham get their voices heard.



Crime spree hits Science Department

Congratulations to 8X1 and 8Y3 students who have successfully completed their SOCO (Scene Of Crime Officer) training this term. The students have had the opportunity to solve a number of crimes that have been puzzling the science department. The students used numerous scientific techniques to prove that Mr Porter murdered Miss Fielding's plant and her mug was last seen disappearing with Mr Southall. Miss Fielding would like to thank 8X1 and 8Y3 for their support in helping to solve these crimes.

Religious Education

In RE lessons **Year 8** have been studying religious and moral leaders varying from Nelson Mandela to Mother Teresa. Students have had the opportunity to discuss what sacrifices these people have made for the greater good. Students were asked to reflect on their own lives to determine what sacrifices could be made and what constitutes a selfless act.

Question time at North Birmingham Academy

Our students had the opportunity to influence decision making in the local community during February by hosting a question time session which involved three local councillors. As part of the 'Councillor Shadowing Programme' students had the opportunity to ask the Councillors burning questions.

It was an interesting event and highlighted the possibility of future MP's coming from our Academy community. Cllr Peter Kane, Cllr Karen Hamilton and Cllr Robert Aldern were impressed by the penetrating questions put forward by our students. The excitement of the event

was increased by the Chairs' quick witted responses, our very own MP Momodou Taal.

Students had the opportunity to learn about the role of a local councillor and questioned the panel about changes to bus routes, university tuition fees and the role of the police in our local community. Councillor Hamilton was so impressed with our students, she has been in contact with the Academy to offer her support and solutions to the issues raised.



Year 10 Citizenship Day

Year 10 students have taken part in sessions relating to different aspects of the Citizenship and Enterprise curriculum. These sessions concentrated on ethics, moral values and understanding and living with people from different cultures. They were also involved in activities which taught students how to manage their own finances, research the actual value of money in everyday life, and how best to prepare themselves for the world of work. The Year group were a credit to the Academy.

Year 9 have been studying evil and suffering in the world. Students have had lengthy class debates about moral questions that we face in today's society, such as "is it ever right to go to war?"

INDIE aware

Congratulation to six of our Year 10 students who successfully completed their Young Leaders training. Jamal Anderson, Keisha Beaupierre, Yolanda Njunga, Tonika De Souza, Ashlee Roberts and Shad-Marc Aaron attended the celebration event and received their certificates and badges from Nargis Rashid who runs this programme. As part of their training the students have developed the INDIE (Inclusion and Diversity in Education) charter to ensure that all young people in Europe have the chance to be included and achieve their best.



Year 7 & 8 Rugby

The North Birmingham Academy and Stockland Green School combined rugby team, also known as the Barbarians, played their very first competitive game of rugby recently, against Plantsbrook School. The game was very competitive with both sides having their fair share of attacking periods. But, the Barbarians were too strong for the opposition and pulled away to win 13-8. Rugby club is held every Wednesday after school at Aston Old Edwardians. All Key Stage 3 boys are welcome. Please see Mr Hetherington for further details.



Sport Relief

During the week 15th-19th March events took place during P.E. lessons to support Sport Relief. All money raised from Sport Relief is spent by Comic Relief to help transform the lives of poor and vulnerable people both at home and across the world's poorest countries. Throughout all Key Stage 3 lessons, students participated in a mile run around the Academy field. Key Stage 4 students undertook various activities in aid of Sport Relief including: the mile run, a mile swim,

football events and also basketball activities.

A total of £190 was raised from this event. Thank You to all who supported the cause.

NBA Sports Round Up

Year 10 Football

The year 10 football team bounced back from a disappointing defeat at Saltley School to convincingly beat Park View 6-2. They are now looking forward to a busy week with a league game at Heartlands Academy and the semi final of the district cup away at John Willmott.

Swimming Club

Girls swimming club is on a Monday – 3.10pm-4.00pm.
Boys swimming club is on a Wednesday – 3.10pm-4.00pm.
All students are welcome.

Swimming Gala

Throughout the Spring term we were involved in the Sports Partnership Swimming Gala heats that took place here with the finals at Beeches Pool. Each Key Stage participated in two rounds of heats which resulted in every student qualifying for the final. For the first time, **North Birmingham Academy was placed first overall out of six schools.** The Key Stage 3 team finished second and the Key Stage 4 team finished first. In total 66 medals were won by our students.

Key Stage 3 Basketball

The Key Stage 3 Basketball team recently qualified for the first time in the schools history to play in the finals of the Birmingham Schools' competition held at Birmingham University. The team played well but were narrowly beaten in their games against very good opposition.

Friends of North Birmingham Academy - FONBA

Friends of North Birmingham Academy is a registered charity. F.O.N.B.A. has two main aims : a) to promote social contacts and events for people who have the common bond of an interest in the Academy and b) to raise funds to finance grants to the Academy and thereby help and reward students. The Friends have paid for students' prizes awarded at our Celebration of Success Evening. Any parent, adult member in a student's family, carer or guardian, teacher or adult who cares about North Birmingham Academy can be a "Friend" and support social events and activities. F.O.N.B.A. is administered by a Committee and meetings are held in the early evening and are informal social events. Would you like to join the Committee ? If so, please contact Mr. A. Seager or Mr. D. Higgins at the Academy.

Curry and Quiz Night - Who knows the answer?

The first official event, a Curry and Quiz night organised by the Friends of North Birmingham Academy, took place on Friday 26th February. The supreme organisation of Mr Seager, Chairman of the Friends, and Vice Chairman Mr Higgins, ensured that the evening ran like clockwork! From the moment we arrived at 'The Humraj Restaurant' we were greeted with a beaming smile and cries of 'Give me two pounds for the raffle'. Teams were seated and the quiz began with an eclectic round of bizarre and unusual questions. The witty repartee and banter was constant throughout the night with teams supporting one another in their misery at a complete inability to answer questions. After every round, the opportunity to be fed, watered and entertained was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone and the efficient food and bar service made for a relaxed and enjoyable evening. The proceeds from the night went to the well deserving MacMillan Cancer Support in a bid to support the beneficial work and care they provide to people throughout the country as well as contributing to supporting the students who attend North Birmingham Academy.



Tree Planting

A group of Year 7 students took part in a 'tree planting' day at the Witton Lakes site, helping the local community. North Birmingham Academy students took part, along with students from Wilson Stuart School and everyone did really well, especially as it snowed while we were planting! The local community and both schools will watch the growth of the trees with interest.



Get Growing At Home!

Students are being offered FREE seeds, plants and potatoes to grow from home with weekly step by step instructions and guidance. If your child would like further information or is interested in taking part please contact Mr Higgins in the ECM department.

The 'Get Growing at Home' project is funded by the Kingstanding Extended Services Partnership working with Forest Schools Birmingham.

Food Parcels

Lyric Gough and Yaneica Phillips, two girls from Year 8 helped out with the organisation of 'food parcels' for chosen people in the local community. The project is run by the Elim Church in Kingstanding and the girls had to



make up food parcels for families with enough to last for 3 days. It

was surprising how much food is needed for this period of time. We look forward to continued links with the church on future projects.

Times Tables Club

This club is held in the LSC (B3) daily at lunchtime and is open to all students, in all year groups. Please see Mrs Smith I B3 for more details.

Friendship

Well done to Brittany Tedstone, Rumi Khanom, Samantha Kerr and Betelehem Hailemeskel who have showed great kindness and have welcomed new student Samarwit Bereket and are helping to teach her English.

Hearing Impaired Resource Base News

It's that time of year again when the HIRB students and staff are let loose in Forest School. For some of our students this is their first experience of such a project. So far, the weather has been on our side and we have made a start by tidying up the forest and highlighting any hazards. We have also had a competition between staff and students to make the best shelter from the natural materials found in the forest. After much consideration, we declared it a draw. Future plans will be to use craft skills. This was a fun way to learn for everyone.



Year 10 attendance

Well done to Year 10 who have improved their attendance this term by a massive 75%. Well done!

Sports Clubs - All Clubs Are Held After School

- Monday** - All Years & Staff Badminton (Gym D) & Year 7 Boys Football (Gym G)
- Tuesday** - Years 8, 9 & 10 Boys Basketball (Gym D) & B-Tec Catch-Up (E5)
- Wednesday** - Years 9, 10 & 11 Boys Basketball (Gym D), Key Stage 3 & 4 Boys Swimming & GCSE Coursework Catch-Up (A15)
- Thursday** - Year 8 Football (Gym D)

Friends of North Birmingham Academy - FONBA

RACE NIGHT - Friday 23 April 2010

Boldmere St. Michaels Football Club 7:00pm

Tickets include Fish and Chip Supper £3:00 per adult. (Pay on the night)

This event is for Adults only

Name.....Contact number.....

I would like to order tickets for the Race Night (Pay on the night)

First horse race is at 7:30pm - 50p per bet Race Sponsorship £10:00 - Tele. 0121 373 1647

Please return to Academy Main Office

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