

North Birmingham Academy



Opening Celebration of North Birmingham Academy

Friday 5th February was a very exciting and historic day as we

celebrated the official opening of North Birmingham Academy.

The theme of "The Sky's The Limit" was adopted for all lessons throughout the day, emphasising the extensive opportunities for student achievement within the new Academy.

To mark this special occasion a commemorative plaque was unveiled by Mr Vernon Coaker MP Minister of state (For Schools and Learners). Mrs Popratnjak and new Chair of Governors Mr Peter Fair

welcomed over fifty teachers, Academy staff and community representatives. In Mrs Popratnjak's address, she highlighted the continued improvements within the Academy including the best ever academic performance by our students last year, and the rapid improvements confirmed by Ofsted in November 2009. She also spoke passionately about her wish that North Birmingham Academy should become the school of choice for local families and young people and her belief that young talent should be retained and developed within our community. Guests were then treated to an Arts presentation of the highest calibre in the main hall. The singing and contemporary dance, choreographed by Academy

staff and students, was quite simply superb. Following lunch, guests were taken on a guided tour of the Academy, including our state of the art media teaching facilities and the new catering areas. A number of lessons were observed following the theme of the "Sky's the limit". This was a great day for North Birmingham Academy.



Year 9's Raising Aspirations Day was again a huge success with over twenty five different companies and organisations attending, including Westpoint

Printers, Marks & Spencer, Pinsent & Mason, Ernst & Young, Jaguar/Land Rover Apprentice, WM Fire Service and Royal Air Force. Year 9 students had to pose three questions to our guests during the session. 1) What do you enjoy most about your job? 2) What did you have to do to get to your stage in your career? Did you have to go to college, university or did you choose another route? & 3) What GCSE

Raising Aspirations Day

grades or equivalent would I need to do your job? The completed questionnaire and evaluations sheets will be entered into a prize draw to win an i-pod.

The following quote is from Rebecca Glover Senior Associate Pinsent Masons LLP.

"Laura, Mark and Demi were all glad that they attended the event. It made them think about the opportunities that some children get, and others don't, in life. They were really impressed with the enthusiasm and all the effort put in by the Academy, both in encouraging and motivating the students and the organisation of the day. They were pleasantly surprised by how much the students wanted to know and Demi said that she wished her school had had similar events,

she was sure that some of her contemporaries would have thought differently about their future if they had." Thank you to all of our guests for giving up their valuable time to be with us on this most rewarding day, we look forward to seeing them at this event again next year.





Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

The first half term as the new North Birmingham Academy has been a very busy but exciting time. Despite the terrible weather, battling the snow, we managed to successfully distribute to all of the students their smart new uniforms. I would like to thank you all for the support given in ensuring that children were in school despite the weather and that we had 100% attendance for the January examinations.

On 5th February 2010 we had our official ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Academy. Mr Vernon Coaker MP Minister of state (For Schools and Learners) along with many visitors from the local community and representatives from EACT, honoured us with their presence. This was a fantastic occasion for the Academy and students were highly praised by the Minister. It was a very proud moment for us all.

Many of our year 11 students have already taken external examinations including English and Mathematics. The success already achieved will help us reach the challenging target we have set ourselves for this summer, when it is hoped that we will improve on last year's all time record! Our students have high aspirations and we must all support them over the coming months in preparation for the examinations.

North Birmingham Academy is a good place to be!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K L Popratnjak
Principal

The students are taking back the Academy

A magazine is being created by the students for the students which will cover all North Birmingham Academy events from the students point of view. This will include interviews with everyone from High School musical actors to our sports stars. For further information please see Mr Davis in the Media department.

Global Issues, Local Values

In our Creative Curriculum class, Mr. Richards our Year 7 Creative Curriculum teacher, has told us that our next project is on how to reduce the amount of litter around our school. I will now explain what we are doing, going to do and why you should stop littering.

Why you should stop littering!

Littering is disgusting. So why do people litter? It's probably because they can't be bothered to put litter in the bin, you might be thinking it's just a crisp packet or a carton on the ground, but it's more than that. For example if you were playing football on the field it wouldn't be nice to be treading on, someone else's rubbish.

What we are going to do to reduce litter!

We are going to present assemblies to other year groups to encourage you to stop littering. We might do some acting, we are going to have an anti litter day and we are going to put posters up. We will find out the ratio of litter at the end of the campaign to see if we have had an impact and to see which group are the winners. I hope that you will join us in our campaign to stop this dreadful practice.

What we are doing to reduce litter!

Before we started on our litter project, we had to do a lot of planning. After the planning stage we took pictures of the litter and we measured how much litter was in different area. We then split the class, into four different groups: The Young Economic and Recyclist people, The Five Folks, The Litter Bugs and The Environmental Agency. The groups will revisit the areas where the litter was again and measure to see if we have been successful.



Forthcoming Events

Mon 22 February -
Academy Re-opens

Tues 23 & Wed 24 February -
Citizenship Day

Tues 2 March -
Morning - Year 10 Mathematics Examination
Afternoon - Year 11 Mathematics Examination

Mon 8 March -
Progress to Parents Week &

Mon 15 March -
Year 10 Exams begin
Year 9 English Examination

Wed 17 & Thurs 18 March -
G&T Girls Multi Media Project

Thurs 1 April -
Academy Closes - End of Spring Term

Year 9 Guided Choices Evening

Year 9 had the opportunity to attend a Guided Choices Evening to help them to decide what subjects they would like to study in Years 10 and 11. Many teachers and students who are currently studying the subjects were on hand to help and answer any questions. It was a very informative evening enjoyed by all.



Year 7 Writers

Year 7 are currently writing stories about their favourite holidays. These stories will be published in a book and will be available to buy soon.

Times Tables Club

Abigail Lewis and Julia Guido Sebatiao have had fantastic achievements in Mrs Smith's times tables club at lunch time. Well done girls! If you think you can beat the girls go along to the club every lunch time in B3 and have a go!

Arts Status Activities

Panto Trip

Students from across the Academy have taken part in a theatre visit to see Sleeping Beauty starring Joe Pisquale and Ray Quinn. All of the children were very well behaved and took part in the audience participation "It's behind you!". There was a 3D screen with spiders and other ghouls flying out at the audience. The dame was FAABUULOUUSS!



Science and Art Project

The project aimed to improve Key Stage 3 & 4 students' presentation and display skills. Students were encouraged to work with a variety of paper and font styles to create layers which could then be used to put on information about vertebrates. The students involved learned a lot of new skills that they could apply to their science work.



Year 10 Photography Workshops

The theme of the project focussed on Anti - Campaigns with the students choosing their own topics to explore. The students chose very important topics including drug abuse and smoking. They worked on Apple Macs using 'i-movie' and adobe photoshop to create work for their GCSE coursework.



English Artist in residence

During February, Helen McCartney an author, visited the Academy to work with a group of twenty gifted and talented Year 9 students. Over the two days, students explored the nature of story writing and the different elements and components within a story. Planning and structuring a narrative were considered, as well as using description to develop interesting and imaginative characters. Eventually students planned and produced their own stories which displayed their unique and original ideas, creating inspiring and thoughtful tales. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and productive two days.



Artist in Residence

Year 10 students have had the opportunity to work with artist John Denaro on large scale chalk studies of flowers and other natural forms. This will contribute towards GCSE and BTEC coursework.



Bruce Jones Mural

Over the last half term a small group of Year 11 students have been working with mural artist Bruce Jones to design a mural for our Academy. They have been looking at mechanical objects and movement and produced design ideas that the Artist could use to create the mural. Bruce came into the Academy for 2 days to paint our mural. You can see the process



Kick and Cook

A group of year 7, 8 and 9 students are taking part in a fantastic project with Aston Villa - 'Kick and Cook'. Students will learn to cook tasty and nutritious recipes created by Premier League football players. The students have so far learnt about eating a balanced diet and the nutritional needs of professional footballers, whilst also being treated to a stadium tour. Over the next few weeks they will be cooking with the Aston Villa chefs in professional kitchens. They will then cook a meal for their families, and complete the course with a presentation evening at Villa Park. Thank You to everyone at Aston Villa for this wonderful opportunity.



The HIRB Visit The NIA

Hearing Impaired Recourse Base students along with a friend attended a multi skills sporting event at the NIA where our new gym kit greatly admired. A number of other schools in the region also attended and took part in various exercises which tested ability, agility, team work and stamina! North Birmingham Academy students were in teams of two and points were collected throughout the activities. All of our students entered into the spirit of the moment and came away with a medal. Chaneice Morris 8 SAH writes: " I enjoyed meeting and signing to people from different schools and making new friends. I would like to thank the HIRB and Chloe Ford 8MJH for inviting me. I have had a fantastic time."

Basketball Success

Congratulations to the KS4 "A" team who won the Kingsbury partnership tournament at Great Barr School. They topped the table after winning all four of their matches. All four games were extremely competitive, however North Birmingham Academy produced some excellent match play, and in the end this was enough to secure the championship and take home the trophy.

Swimming Gala

We are now well into the heats of the area swimming gala with Key Stage 4 currently standing in first position. Every student who competed, is now in the final. A big well done to Elle Ashmore, Kimberly Bailey, Bethany Morris, Mikaela Shaw, Anna Stepka, Jordan Cupples, David Kucharski, Brian Littleford, Perry Newcombe and Josh Warren. Key Stage 3 heats will begin shortly, good luck to all of the competitors.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues to be a huge success, with free tea and toast available to every student, every morning in Hall C from 8.00am. A special mention must be given to Jay Griffiths, Tommy Keatly and Sheldon Miller who keep Breakfast Club tidy everyday. The number of students attending is continuously increasing and many staff have commented on the positive impact the club has had on students general behaviour and punctuality.

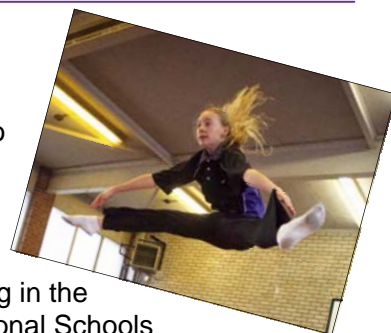
Key Stage 3 Rugby Club

From this term, the rugby club will now take place at Aston Old Edwardians RFC. This is a great opportunity for the students to attend free coaching sessions with a view to set up competitive teams. The Academy has created a link with the junior section at Aston Old Edwardians, so that students can further their participation in competitive games at the weekends. Sessions run on Wednesday evenings from 3.10pm – 4.30pm. Any student in Year 7, 8, or 9 interested in playing rugby should speak to Mr. Hetherington or Mr. Brown.

PE Extra Curricular Activities

Monday	Girls Basketball (Gym D)	Key Stage 3 & 4 Girls Swimming	Year 7 Boys Indoor Football (Gym G)
Tuesday	Year 8, 9, 10 Boys Basketball (Gym D)	B-TEC Catch Up (E5)	
Wednesday	Year 9, 10, 11 Boys Basketball (Gym D)	Key Stage 3 Rugby at Aston Old Edwardians	Key Stage 3 & 4 Boys Swimming
Thursday	Key Stage 3 & 4 Swimming	Year 8 & 9 Indoor Football (Gym D)	
Friday	Staff Football - Indoor		

Well done to Heather Arnold who represented the school Trampolining in the British Regional Schools Trampoline competition. She came 10th in the Under 15s.



Well done to Adil Nabi 11JKT who has secured a two year contract with West Bromwich Albion under 18's Football Club. A very talented young man, he has also represented England on two occasions, we look forward to seeing him progress in the sport.