

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

Congratulations to Ashlee Roberts who had the chance to represent England at the INDIE (Inclusion And Diversity In Education) meeting in Amsterdam.

Ashlee had the chance to work with young people from 11 different

countries across Europe in creating a charter to ensure all young people receive the same experiences and choices within education. Ashlee also worked with a local artist in completing a one-minute video about inclusion and diversity with young people from Italy, Malta and Belgium.



These fantastic videos were showcased at the Stranger Festival in Amsterdam in front of some of Europe's best young film makers. To see these fantastic videos visit the Stranger Festival website at www.strangerfestival.com

FIRST AID TRAINING NOW UP AND RUNNING FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We have just completed our first course for parents/carers in First Aid. This qualification is recognised by OFSTED. The course was run over a period of six weeks and all parents who attended thoroughly enjoyed their experience and deserve their qualification. I will keep parents/carers updated as there will be further courses in the future, including a computer course.

Stewart Higgins
ECM Family Support Worker

MR DAVIES IS SENT TO THE DUNGEON!

Mr Davies was one of ten very brave bosses to be sent to Warwick Castle Dungeons to spend Halloween Night. Here he tells us of his experience.

Heart FM had set up an event called 'Send your boss to the dungeons' to raise money for a childrens' charity called 'Have a Heart'. I was there with ten other bosses from the West Midlands to survive the night in the dungeons of one of the most atmospheric and haunted castles in England. Despite my best efforts to prevent staff from raising £500 for charity, I found myself outside Warwick Castle on Halloween night as midnight approached. To make matters worse it was cold and foggy with lots of people running around the castle dressed as witches and ghosts. I was starting to get very scared.

We said 'goodbye' to family and friends and were taken into the Castle on the stroke of midnight. For the next eight hours we were kept awake by ghostly noises and treated to actors dressed as witches, executioners, ghosts, and characters from the Castle's long and rich history. Often we were taken to remote parts of the castle in the dark and left there, having to find our way back in the dark without bumping into any of the Castle's many gruesome ghosts or ghouls. We also saw pretend executions and plague victims.

The highlight had to be when we were put in an underground dungeon and left there. Being good law abiding bosses we stayed there for about an hour getting colder and more scared, until, we realised they hadn't locked us in and we could go back to bed! When we got back to our camp beds they

started moving and shaking. We soon realised, after we stopped screaming with fright, that one of the actors had hidden underneath and was trying (and succeeding) to give us a scare!



After hours of being terrified we finally managed to get a couple of hours sleep and woke to heavy rain - winter had arrived. It truly was a memorable experience. I spent the whole evening laughing one minute then the next jumping and shaking with shock. It was an absolute privilege to be allowed to sleep in the Castle and go where members of the public normally are not allowed. I quickly forgave the staff for locking me in the dungeons and decided that they meant it in a nice way.

I would recommend a visit to Warwick Castle and particularly the new Dungeons exhibit. I'm sure I'll go again, but next time it'll be during the day. My nerves can't take another night with the ghosts!

(To see a video of my experiences look on the internet for 'Youtube' and search for 'Send your boss to the dungeon'. There is a video lasting six minutes and 40 seconds taken by the Heart FM film crew).



DEAR PARENTS, CARERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Thank you for your support over the last five years. It has been five years on 1st December since I joined The College High Specialist Arts School and in that time we have gained many awards and accolades.

This year we have the best results in the school's history, success in Ofsted, gained Academy Status on 1st January 2010 and are on track to become one of the most improved educational institutions in Birmingham and the UK.

Our future success will continue under North Birmingham Academy. With the support of our sponsors EACT, the success story of The College High Specialist Arts School will continue to be built upon.

We have student representatives at the National Parliament, who opened the Christmas Celebration in Birmingham and are asked regularly to represent Birmingham, the Midlands and the UK in activities and events. This is a credit to the staff, students and stakeholders who consistently offer support and face any challenge that may arise.

2009 has been a fantastic year, I am sure that 2010 will be more successful and will bring many more achievements. Well done to all. The College High Specialist Arts School was a good place to be - North Birmingham Academy will be an exceptional place to be.

Best wishes
Mrs K L Popratnjak, Principal



BIRD AND BAT BOXES

Year 7 students are currently working on designs for some new bird and bat boxes to be made for The Friends of Witton Lakes.

Mr McNair is the teacher leading the project and the first batch of boxes should be ready for early spring 2010. Linda Hines visited the school to talk to the students about the project. We look forward to seeing the progress of the boxes.

FRENCH CLUB

Come along and join the fun of French Club, held every Tuesday lunchtime in E16. See Miss Conner for further details.

FRENCH TRIP TO NORMANDY

The French department will be going on a trip to Normandy, France from the 28 May to the 31 May (3 nights, 4 days) at the cost of £275.00 all inclusive full board (including a group passport and insurance). See Mr Nhanak for further details.

BREATH

During October we hosted an RE showcase enabling students to understand the concepts of different cultures in Britain. An educational and thought-provoking day was had by all.



ANTI BULLYING WEEK

There are currently a great deal of effective resources that address bullying issues with children and young people, however officers from West Midlands Police felt that there currently lacked a specific resource that explored various aspects of bullying.

They spoke to young people about the severity of their bullying actions as well as exploring when bullying actually overstepped the mark and became a crime.

Selected students have taken part in the filming of a DVD which will address the different aspects of bullying and all students were asked to write poems to be included as part of the DVD resource.

The winning poem was written by Azba Malvernkar 7SAJ and is shown here:

Bullying

Bullying is harsh and bad,
It makes people very very sad.
I'm really really scared,
But I'm worried to tell someone who cared.
I try very hard to go to sleep,
But I can't the pain's really deep.
I try to forget about it,

The bad memories flood back every time I sit.

I'm fed up so I decide to tell,
Because right now I'm in hell.
Now I think bullies are a big disgrace,
And a waste of space!

By: Azba Malvernkar 7SJA

Lexia Tomlinson, ambassador of The Young Anti Bullying Alliance Schools, kicked off this year's anti bullying week with a bake and sell event.

Lexia organised a blue cake bake sale aided by the amazing baking skills of a class of students from year 8 and 9. Under the expert supervision of Mr Evers, approximately 200 cups cakes were made and sold, raising £50 for the NSPCC. Special assemblies delivered by Mrs Richards and PC Howell were also held highlighting the issue of cyber bullying. Year 7 students were the first year group to receive a specially produced internet safety and cyber bullying presentation.

CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Despite dreadful weather conditions, the 2009 Celebration of Success Evening saw the school hall full to the brim with happy students and proud staff and parents.

The evening celebrated the successes of the 2008/9 Year 11 students who achieved the best results the school has ever gained as well as rewarding current students for: best report; most improved student in a form group; 100% attendance; and most improved attendance.

The special awards were also presented for success in sport, the community and for many other reasons. Special thanks go to Mark Greytrecks for stepping in at the last minute as guest speaker. It was wonderful to celebrate all the successes of the school on this evening and we look forward to next year as we celebrate for the first time as North Birmingham Academy.



PRACTICE INTERVIEW DAY

In October, all Year 11 students had the opportunity to take part in a practice interview day.

22 employers were invited into school in order to provide every student with a professional interview and show students how to promote themselves to win that job or college place!

In preparation for the event, students took part in workshops designed to challenge their interview techniques and develop skills in writing application forms and CVs. Students were also involved in a 'dress to impress' session, and they certainly dressed to impress for practice interview day!

LEARNING 4 LIFE

At the start of this half-term the first TRIC pizza parties were held. The pizza parties were awarded to those tutor groups in each year who achieved the highest total number of TRICs in the first half-term. The tutor groups that came out on top were: Yr 7- JPO, Yr 8- PP, Yr 9- DJO and Yr 10 - RBR.

Congratulations to these tutor groups, who became the first ever winners of the TRIC rewards. A big thanks also to Mr Evers who provided his room to hold the parties.

TRICs are awarded during the Learning 4 Life tutorials that are held in registration twice a week. Make sure your tutor group is the next to enjoy a pizza party, by earning as many TRICs as possible!

Good luck, Mr Conibere

CAREERS ADVICE DROP IN

There is a careers drop in service every lunchtime in the library. Students must get a pass from Miss Payne in the library and will get priority use of the computers.

Students can research courses or jobs, get help with applications etc and use two software packages to help them pick courses or careers. It is not just for Years 11-13 - anyone can come! Please see Miss Payne in the Library for any more information.

NATURAL HIGH

Year 7 attended a performance entitled Natural High. The performance aimed to educate and encourage students to stay away from drugs. It helped serve as a reminder to students that they can enjoy life and get a 'natural high' without getting into trouble.

MEDIA SNOWBOARD TRIP

Year 12 and 13 attended a snowboarding trip on Friday 20 November 2009 with Mr Kirkham and Miss Sprigg, as a reward for their hard work in media this year.



FOOTBALL UPDATE

Year 7 have maintained their positive start to the season, losing only one game. They beat Turves Green to progress into the last 16 of the Travel West Midland Cup, and are playing Bishop Walsh in the quarter final of the District Cup.

Year 8 remain unbeaten since Year 7, crushing Bishop Walsh in their last game 7-2. They have also progressed into the last 16 of the George Welford Federation Trophy. The boys are also into the semi-finals of the District Cup, and sit top of their league.

Year 9 are still to win a game this year, but are improving with every performance under the guidance of Mr El-Haffar.

Year 10 are still improving and playing some excellent football. In the quarter finals of the District Cup, and unbeaten in the league, the boys will be looking to cement their place in the semi-finals when they take on Saltley in their next game.

Year 11 are still unbeaten in the league, but went out in a thrilling District Cup game to Bishop Walsh, the final score 4-3. The boys face Lyndon in the last 16 of the Birmingham City Cup.

REACH OUT

Reflect on your behaviour
Each and everyone learn a lesson

Achieve your targets and don't come next time

Choose the right behaviour options

Help everyone by not coming next time

Outstandingly impress Mrs Banbury

Understand the consequences
Try not to come in next time

By Omar Azzerghni 7SJA



YEAR 8 POETRY SLAM

The Poetry Slam workshop has been visiting our school for a number of years, promoting poetry through high energy and unique teaching methods. Working exclusively with KS3, students really engage with the sessions and take away a changed, more positive view of poetry.

Dreadlockalien - one of the founders of the Poetry Slam project - has been a fantastic influence on these students. As 2006's Birmingham Poet Laureate and continuing poetry 'slammer', he contributes his enthusiasm and distinctive poetry talent. In October, all Year 8 students were involved with Poetry Slam. The students had the opportunity to work with Dreadlockalien to produce their own poems after learning about poetry through a range of contemporary methods.

The day involved engaging beat box rhythms, hilarious rhymes and astounding performances from previous TCHSAS Poetry Slam champions, students: Junaid Ahmed, Riyad Achaibou and Momodou Taal. A big thank you to everyone who took part!

SALSA CLASSES

Salsa classes for adults will be starting up again on 12th January. So, if you need a bit of post-Christmas exercise and an hour of fun and meeting new people, then come along!

The classes will be starting on Tuesday 12 January at 7.30pm for one hour. The classes will run for five weeks, finishing on Tuesday 9 February. We will re-commence after half-term for another session until Easter. Hope to see you there on the 12 January.

ARTS STATUS ACTIVITIES



T MOBILE DANCE

The Big Dance group performed their T Mobile dance for the second time at the Police Conference in October. They were requested by the organiser who was impressed by their performance at the safety conference last year.

DRAMA WORKSHOPS

On Monday 16th November a number of Year 9 students worked with Round Midnight on a project named 'Making the right decision'. The final piece will be performed in the Year 8 assembly.



SIXTH FORM ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Year 12 and 13 art students had the opportunity to work with textile artist Nicky Dillerstone as part of their A-Level course. During the day students developed their skills in fabric manipulation, including heating, melting and steaming fabrics to create different surfaces to work on. The work done will be a starting point for their next project where students will develop their new skills. Well done Sixth Form.

MUSIC AND BUSINESS PROJECT

Year 8 FAME students have worked with artist Michael Steer to produce work-based on ringtones. All of the students worked well and a fantastic time was had by all.

COLLEGE HIGH'S GOT TALENT



On Wednesday 14th October, The College High Specialist Arts School hosted the 2009 College High's Got Talent competition.

It was a fantastic show with many entertaining and diverse acts which included dancing, singing, beat-boxing, rapping, piano playing and even a stand-up comedian! There were also guest acts from the Gifted and Talented Dance groups and a surprise performance from the teachers who performed two dances to Grease songs.

We had guest judges who included Mrs Popratnjak, Mr Steve Dourass from Macmillan Cancer support, Mr McCook one of our school governors, Mrs Hart from attendance, and our very own Simon Cowell - Mr Seager.

After great performances from everyone the judges had the hard task of choosing a winner. The winners were Aaron Lakha 8 SAH and Connor Stanley 8 GM who performed a dance inspired by Chris Brown and Michael Jackson.

They won vouchers for the IMAX cinema. The ticket sales also managed to raise over £300 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done to everyone who performed an act on the evening and a big thank you to the wonderful host Miss Lexia Tomlinson 11 SBC.

U DANCE

As part of the National Sports Challenge we hosted a dance showcase. Students from a range of primary and secondary schools showed their talents and their hard work.

The whole event was a great success, with the reception class stealing the show. The entry will now be put forward for the U Dance national competition.



EVERY CHILD MATTERS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Students from Year 7, 8 and from our HIRB department have been popping down to the ECM on Wednesday lunchtimes to decorate Christmas baubles and decorations.



The theme was based on Every Child Matters and the students had lots of fun using glitter, glue pens and stickers to produce some fantastic work. The decorations then went on sale at the Christmas Extravaganza.

THE VISIT OF TRACE THEATRE COMPANY

Trace Theatre is an international theatre company that has performed all over Europe.

In November we were lucky enough to have them perform for all of our key stage 4 and 5 students. The performance was like nothing our students have seen before, with four actors portraying a contemporary story on stage. On the second day of the company's stay, the theatre company used Year 12 and 13 and directed them in their own performance style. The final outcomes were outstanding, with over 60 students watching the performances. An excellent two days enjoyed by all, we will hopefully be seeing Trace Theatre in the New Year.

YEAR 7 DANCE SUCCESS

Conrad Dobie 7 ALG recently competed in a dance competition in Great Yarmouth.

He entered in a number of sections including Under 12's starter section for freestyle solos. He was marked by the five judges who included the World Champion Streetdancer, Mark Spencer. Conrad did exceptionally well winning the trophies shown in the photo. Well done Conrad!



YR 7 OLYMPIC PEDOMETER CHALLENGE

Between Monday 12th and Friday 16th October all of Year 7 took part in the Olympic Pedometer Challenge.

They were grouped into teams of five and were given a pedometer to wear for the week. The challenge was to take as many steps as possible, both in and out of school, each day of the week walking to as many Olympic cities as possible. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams. The recommended step count for a day is 10,000 steps and many participants achieved this.

The winners were:

1st - Winning a £20 voucher for each team member Jade Morton-Trowers, Tiamoy Jones, Rojghar Sami, Aliea Frost and Robson Kyle from 7SJA. The team took a total of 207,694 steps for the week making it to Melbourne and were well on their way to Mexico City.

2nd - Winning a £10 voucher for each team member Omar Azzerghni, Ousmane Cama, Hassan Arshad, Hamas Hussain and Zaqr Morsa from 7SJA. The team took a total of 199,400 steps for the week also making it to Melbourne chasing the winners.

3rd - Winning a £5 voucher for each team member Conrad Dobie, Shakeal Blackwood, Yusuf Malik, Donoshane and Paul Jones from 7ALG. The team took a total of 177,685 steps for the week and also made it to Melbourne.

A number of staff took part in the challenge. The top three step takers for the week were:

1st - Mr Castle: 78,324 steps walking all the way to Munich,
2nd - Mr Conibere: 60,170 steps walking all the way to Helsinki and
3rd - Mr Prime: 51,762 steps walking all the way to Stockholm.

Well done to all that took part!

STUDENT VOICE

Got a question, issue or fantastic idea? We're here to help!



Senior Year Rep
Muhammed Islam



Senior Year Rep
Carmon Dos Santos



Assistant Year Rep
Momodou Taal



Assistant Year Rep
Antonia Dobie



Senior Year Rep
Keshha Beaupierre



Assistant Year Rep
Hadassah Nelson



Senior Year Rep
Aaron Lakha



Assistant Year Rep
Lauren Felkin



Senior Year Rep
Ousmame Camara



Senior Year Rep
Nicole Glasgow

Momodou Taal
Chairperson

Carmen Dos Santos
Vice-chairperson

Keshha Beaupierre
Secretary

Antonia Dobie
Vice secretary

If you have any suggestions, questions or issues for the student voice please email: suggestions@nbacademy.org.uk

HAWTHORN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Hawthorn Christmas lights were switched on on Wednesday 18th November.

It was a fantastic event made even more special by the guest appearance of Father Christmas. Dawn from Tesco was also there to provide drinks and mince pies. The pupils from Hawthorn Primary School judged Miles Pet Supplies to have the best Christmas window display and Cllr Keith Linecor presented the winning trophy. Chris Miles then had the honour of switching on the lights.

Nina's Perfect Hair was the proud winner of the Most Enthusiastic Trader prize. I would like to thank the Elim Church, Cllr Linecor, Nina, Heather, Ruby, Dawn and Ken. Also a big thank you to everyone who made the event possible. Jeanette Hart.

BIRMINGHAM HALF MARATHON

The Birmingham Music Service Theatre Choir sang at Centenary Square as part of the Birmingham Half Marathon event on Sunday 11th October 2009.

Heather Arnold 9 SCA and Samantha Cole (from last year's year 11) represented the College High Specialist Arts School.

FOREST SCHOOL

On Friday mornings, Mrs Peatfield has been taking two groups of Year 7 and Year 8 students to the Forest School situated in the wood site adjacent to Witton Lakes.



The students have been fortunate enough to work with Nick Wale, Forest School leader, on a mini project participating in many new and exciting activities including shelter building, tree felling and campfire celebration. All the students have benefitted from the opportunity to learn new skills in the outdoor environment.

FREE BOOKS FOR YEAR 7

Every Year 7 student has received a free book from Booked Up! Booked Up is run by Booktrust, an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books.

Booked Up gives every child in England their choice of a free book from a list of specially selected titles. We hope that every Year 7 student enjoys their Booked Up book and that it encourages them to continue reading. Please visit www.bookedup.org.uk for more information.