

## NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



### WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter detailing all the recent Academy community's achievements and successes.

The new academic year got off to a great start with news that in our first year both GCSE and A Level results rocketed. At GCSE Level we achieved a 16% improvement in 5+ A\*-C grades with 85% of our students achieving these results.

At A Level we achieved an outstanding 93% overall pass rate, as well as a 100% pass rate in English, Art, Drama, Music, Media, Business Studies, Geography and ICT. As a result, 75% of our sixth form students gained places at university. Fantastic results all round! We are also delighted that 100 students have chosen our sixth form to continue their studies to A Level next year.

We also received the fantastic news that NBA will receive funding for its planned building programme and we can now look forward to moving into state-of-the-art

new facilities in 2012. Combined with our innovative curriculum, the new buildings will support us in achieving our aim of becoming one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham (see below and back page for more details).

Our recent Open Evening for prospective parents was very well attended. If you were there, we hope you enjoyed your visit and that it has encouraged you to consider NBA for your child's education.

We are committed to the ongoing success and development of our students and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that they receive the highest quality education.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our students' achievements since the beginning of term. They really are the heart and soul of our Academy and we are very proud of their successes.

**Mrs K L Popratnjak**  
Principal

### NBA IN TOP 5% NATIONALLY

Data recently released to NBA indicates that the Academy is in the top 5% of schools in the country for Contextual Value Added (CVA), an important measure that gives the best overall indication of a school's effectiveness. It takes into account students' knowledge before they started at secondary school and measures the progress they make by the end of Key Stage 4.

Congratulating the Academy, E-ACT's Director of Education, Gerry Walters said: "As one of the country's leading education sponsors we ensure that our academies focus on helping students excel in their studies, whatever their background or previous experience. Our expectations for every student are high, and NBA's CVA score demonstrates that it is now one of the best in England for supporting its students, providing an excellent all-round opportunity for each one to succeed in school."

### YOU'RE HIRED!

NBA's budding entrepreneurs got the chance to test their skills when they were invited to the Ernst and Young offices in Birmingham for a week of Apprentice style business tasks. Ten of our enterprising students took part in team building exercises and working together, came up with an idea aimed at inspiring other teenagers in the community. The project was called 'Future Cars' and the judges from The Prince's Trust were so impressed that they have given the students involved in the project £1,000 to develop their idea. A fantastic achievement!



Ready to battle it out in the boardroom

### NEW BUILDINGS

Students at NBA started the new academic year on a high with the news that the Government has confirmed the Academy will receive over £23 million in capital funding for brand new buildings which are planned to be open in 2012.

To find out more about the building plans and how you can get involved, please see the back of this newsletter for more information.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

## ENCHANTMENT WEEK

Our first ever Enchantment Week, a full week of Art, Drama, Dance and Music exhibitions and workshops, was a huge success and showcased the talent and creativity of our Academy community and the strength of our Arts specialism. Throughout the week all lessons had a strong 'creativity' focus that encouraged students to develop their artistic and creative flair. Here are some of the highlights.

Drama students worked with Round Midnight Theatre Company on a series of sketches where all the students played fairytale characters.

These were performed throughout an evening show, and showed a lot of traditional fairy tale characters in a different light – we all now know Aladdin is

a kleptomaniac and sleeping beauty has narcolepsy!

Students from the Raw Talent group produced their own Twisted Tale based on a conflict between witches and pixies. It was full of high drama and quick one liners.

Staff also showcased their talent in a performance which saw Mr Hodgson giving it his all in an over-the-top performance based on Roald Dahl's revolting rhymes. There were also some very interesting cameo appearances from some other staff as well.

In Music, a group of students produced a medley of songs from the musical Wicked. Their beautiful rendition of 'Flying High' based on the Glee arrangement wowed audiences. Not to be outdone, the staff choir performed a rendition of Aladdin's 'A Whole New World' with some very talented staff singing their hearts out!

In Dance, our artist in residence Hayley Wenlock produced a range of hip-hop pieces based on Disney songs. Students particularly appreciated seeing a hip-hop version of the Sugar Plum Fairy!

Finally, a group of staff did their own rendition of a medley of Disney songs including a tap solo from Miss Dawson and Mrs Burr-Bick who performed a broom dance to 'Chim-Chimney' from Mary Poppins.



An Art workshop



One of the drama performances

## HAIRSPRAY AUDITIONS

Budding stars recently took part in the first round of auditions for this year's Academy production, the highly successful and popular musical 'Hairspray'. Judging by the students' audition performances, the production is sure to be an impressive mix of singing, acting and dancing that builds on the success of last year's production, 'High School Musical'.

There was a fantastic turnout with students of all ages eager to show their talents and take part. All the students learnt a song and dance routine and performed it to a panel of judges. The judges picked out the students who could fill the principal roles and the full cast list will be announced soon.

## BALLET COMES TO NBA

Seventy five students from NBA benefitted from the expertise of professional ballet dancers when members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet visited the Academy.

As part of the Academy's innovative new Dance curriculum, well known dance artist Colin Sangster, who has choreographed shows all over the world, and musician Richard Syner wowed students with their inspirational workshops. Year 9s then participated in a dance workshop based on the ballet dancers' forthcoming production of Romeo and Juliet at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Sarah Hickman, Academy Dance & Drama Teacher said: "We are delighted to have had the Birmingham Royal Ballet coming to work with us and inspire our

students. Workshops like this and input from world-class professionals are an integral part of our approach to teaching and learning which is innovative and encourages students to develop their wide ranging talents and skills."

One of the students who took part in the workshops said "I really liked the class and now I feel I can perform better. I didn't know boys could dance as well as that!"



Students were keen to show their talents



The workshop was really informative



The production is shaping up to be our best yet

# NBA IN THE COMMUNITY



Everyone enjoyed the cakes

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On 24 September, NBA opened its doors to the community when it took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. This is Macmillan Cancer Support's largest fundraising event and last year, 43,000 people took part across the country, raising £7.9 million for people who are living with cancer in the UK.

The Academy regularly fundraises for Macmillan and other charities, and this year raised over £400 at the coffee morning. In addition to serving endless cups of coffee, Academy staff and students put on cake stalls and fun activities to make the morning memorable, ensuring that the event put a smile on everyone's mug!

Academy Principal, Kim Popratnjak said: "Macmillan Cancer Support is one of the charities that we regularly fundraise for. Staff and students put a lot of effort into the coffee morning and we are all very pleased with its success."

## NBA'S GOT TALENT

Sixteen acts performed in the finals of this year's NBA's Got Talent, wowing audiences and judges with their array of stunning singing and dancing acts produced without any help from teachers.

This year's joint winners are Hadassah Nelson with a fantastic rendition of 'If I Aint Got You' by Alicia Keys and Tiara McCoy with Amy Winehouse's 'Valerie'. Both ladies gave powerful performances. Second place went to Mandy Nana Tchounga who stunned staff with a powerful and very mature performance of her own rap.

## KINGSTANDING EXTENDED PARTNERSHIP

Kingstanding Extended Services Partnership – a joint partnership between local primary schools and NBA – held a breakfast meeting for parents, headteachers and staff from Hawthorn, Warren Farm and Twickenham primary schools at the Academy in October. The group had fruitful discussions and began planning a creative Christmas event that will involve local primary schools and will be held at NBA in December. We are looking forward to the project and pleased that our relationship with the local primary schools and the community continues to develop.

## MOTOR VEHICLE SPONSORSHIP

The Motor Vehicle Maintenance Department were kindly supplied with two cars to work on by Taroni's, a local firm based in Birmingham. These are the first vehicles that have been donated by the firm and we hope that the partnership will lead to more vehicles being supplied in the future.

Special thanks also go to PC Bolwell for supplying the department with two Mini Motos for this year.



Students are grateful for the new vehicles

## DOWN ON THE FARM

In September, twelve NBA students travelled to Ash End Farm to experience life and work in an agricultural environment.

The visit was underpinned by the Academy's Arts specialism and students also put their artistic skills to good use by taking photos of the animals and making sketches of them. Their work will be used to create a sculpture which will be displayed on the farm. Everyone enjoyed helping to feed the chickens, sheep and goats and the artwork the students produced was of a very high standard.



NBA's team of farmers



More please!

## FOREST SCHOOL

Pupils and teachers from Hawthorn Nursery School visited the Academy's Forest School in early October. The pupils from the nursery took a walk to examine the different shapes and colours of the leaves as we move into autumn. They collected a broad range of leaves to take back to their school and use to make autumn collages. Whilst the pupils were in the forest they were told a story about going on a bear hunt. The teachers and pupils all said that they had had a great time and would love to come back again soon.

# RISING STARS

## FOOTBALL MATCH REPORT

### NBA 3 – 3 Heartlands Academy

The Year 8's played their first game of the season against a well structured Heartlands Academy. Despite dominating large periods of the game, NBA found it hard to beat the opposition goalkeeper who made several great saves. After taking the lead twice during the first half, NBA found themselves 3-2 down early in the second half and were chasing the game. Constant pressure throughout the final half eventually paid off with an injury time goal when a corner kick was met by Libaan Ismael who scored a well placed header to earn a draw for the Academy. The two other goals came from Donoshane Peterson and Ousmane Camara. A long season lies ahead for all our teams, but this sort of performance will ensure there are many positive results to come.



Jade with her trophy

## HAIL OUR CHAMPION

Year 7 student, Jade Hailing has won a national competition for ballroom dancing. Jade travelled to Bournemouth to take part in the Juvenile Beginners Ballroom competition, held at the town's famous Pavilion. She took 1st prize for her Waltz and Quickstep.



Adil representing England U17's

## NBA TO WBA

Former NBA student Adil Nabi is closing in on his dream of playing in the Premier League. He has captained West Bromwich Albion's Academy U17 team and is currently appearing in the reserves team, recently coming off the bench to score against Everton's Reserves. Adil has represented England at U16 and U17 level and was part of the squad that took part in the Nordic Cup in August, scoring two goals against Finland in one of the group matches. We are very proud of Adil's achievements and wish him every success for the future.

## WHIZZ KID

Norton Massamba is NBA's answer to Usain Bolt. At 13, he has already won a gold medal at the National Young Athletics Championships in the U15 category. He is part of the prestigious Birchfield Harriers Athletics Club and has also won events at 60m running against athletes two years his senior.

We are really excited about the future for Norton and we will do everything to help him progress into one of the country's top sprinters.

## YEAR 11 PROM

Villa Park was the venue for our Year 11 Prom, a celebration for all our students who had completed their GCSEs. Over 80 students attended the event, all wearing fantastic gowns and dinner jackets. Many of these students have also decided to continue their studies at NBA and joined our vibrant and successful sixth form. The event also marked the crowning of NBA's Prom King and Queen – Adil Nabi and Saima Akhram.



## PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION ON PLANNED ACADEMY NEW BUILD COME AND FIND OUT MORE...

In November 2010 a planning application will be submitted to redevelop the Academy. In advance of this, a Public Information session is being held to explain the plans for the new building and how you can get involved. Representatives from the Local Education Partnership (LEP), who are managing all aspects of the delivery of the programme, as well as West Midlands Planning Aid Service, an independent charity, will be available at the event to answer your questions.

**When: Tuesday 2 November 2010, 4-7pm**

**Where: North Birmingham Academy**

**For more information, please visit [www.birminghamlep.com](http://www.birminghamlep.com)**