

# NURTURING AND DEVELOPING TALENT



## ENTERPRISING ENGINEERS

Year 10 engineering students at North Birmingham Academy had the opportunity to discuss the finer points of sheet metal production and their career paths as engineers with Mr Keith Chadwick, Managing Director of Radshape Sheetmetal Ltd, which produces precision fabrications for companies such as Pro-Drive, Morgan Motors, Bentley, and even Aston Martin!

Through a fruitful question and answer session with the budding engineers, Mr Chadwick explained how he progressed from apprentice at Rolls Royce to his current high-powered position at Radshape. Students also got a chance to ask him about the technical aspects of his company, what apprentices can expect to learn from working at Radshape and how the students themselves can develop from studying engineering to applying it.

## PICTURE PERFECT

Two Academy students have won a regional photography competition and have since progressed to the national competition. Sophie Fisher and Nilima Uddin entered the Ward-Hendry Photography competition; open to all students who attend Academies around the country. They had the task of taking photos around the theme of "Our Academy: Success for All". Sophie won the regional competition and received a digital camera and the chance to work with professional photographers to create a story board of photos showing life at the Academy. The images they produced together were entered into the national competition, which Sophie duly won as well! A fantastic achievement.



A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

## AN OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

Nine Year 7 Academy students had the rare opportunity to be coached by Olympic Gold Medallist, Denise Lewis and Paralympic Gold Medallist, Ade Adepitan when they attended the Birmingham National Schools Sports Week in July.

The students travelled to Moseley Rugby Club for a themed Olympic and Paralympic event designed to encourage children who do not normally participate in after-school sports and activities and to show them the huge range of opportunities that are available to them.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

North Birmingham Academy Year 11s have achieved staggering success across a wide range of sporting, academic and community activities.

Not only has the football team won the League Cup, beating stiff competition such as Arthur Terry, Plantsbrook and Bishop Walsh, but Year 11 student Adil Nabi has captained the West Bromwich Albion U16 football team and appeared for England U17's, scoring two goals on his debut. This is a fine example of the dedication, hard work and sheer talent that our Academy students' possess.

Academy swimmers were presented with gold, silver and bronze medals for both relay and individual races. Congratulations to all Year 11 students for a wonderful year and may the success continue.

## NOW THE SKY REALLY IS THE LIMIT

Twenty five companies and organisations attended a hugely successful Aspirations Day in January including, Westpoint Printers, Marks and Spencer, Pinsent & Mason, Ernst & Young and the Royal Air Force. The event was a great opportunity for Year 9 students to find out about the various career options available to Academy students.

## FRIENDSHIP DAY A BLAST

Over 100 primary school pupils from across Birmingham attended North Birmingham Academy's first ever Friendship Day in March. They came to experience Academy life first-hand, as well as meet new friends and teachers. The event, which is part of an extensive transition programme, included superb performances by Academy students, interactive activities and a balloon release which was symbolic of the Academy's strapline – 'The Sky's The Limit'. 'Pressurize', a Year 8 dance group, performed alongside Heather Arnold, Jasmin Smith and Anna Szklar, who sang a beautiful version of "When you Believe".



The day was really well attended



Pressurize performed for guests

## ACADEMY DAY

Monday to Thursday:  
8.45am – 3.30pm

Friday: 8.45am – 3.35pm

Friday Clubs: 1:45pm – 3.15pm

Please see the Academy website for more details.

# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

## NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY ANNUAL REVIEW



## WHAT'S INSIDE NBA'S GOT TALENT ENTERPRISING ENGINEERS NBA STUDENTS GO INTERNATIONAL AN OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

### WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



2010 has been a truly remarkable year for North Birmingham Academy and we hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights and achievements.

From opening as an Academy in January to our first major theatrical production and a raft of workshops and events involving local primary schools and the community, it has been a historic year full of notable accomplishments. We have witnessed how our students are flourishing in their new environment and how staff, parents, local primary schools, businesses and the community are working with us to make North Birmingham Academy a success story and a true hub for this community.

Our students have also excelled in their GCSEs and A Levels (see article below). This has been a fantastic year, but it doesn't stop here – we are dedicated to the ongoing success and development of our students.

To support this, we are committed to providing the best possible facilities for our students and the local community. We are absolutely delighted that the Government has approved the capital funding for our new build. Combined with our innovative curriculum, the new facilities will support us in achieving our aim of becoming one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham. The sky really is the limit for our students!

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and successes of the last year and I look forward to working with you all during the coming year.

**Mrs K L Popratnjak**  
Principal

### EXAM RESULTS 2010

**85% A\*-C GCSE passes**  
**93% A Level pass rate**  
**75% of A Level students have university places**

## EXAM SUCCESS

We are delighted to report that in the first year of the Academy opening both GCSE and A Level results have rocketed.

At GCSE Level we achieved a 16% improvement in 5+ A\*-C grades with 85% of our students achieving these results. Furthermore, 5+ A\*-C grades with English and Maths also rose by 3% to 30%.

Our A Level students also excelled and achieved a 100% pass rate in English,

Art, Drama, Music, Media, Business Studies, Geography and ICT. Furthermore, the majority of our A Level students have secured university places.

We are very pleased with the improvements shown this year and congratulate all our students and staff on their hard work to achieve these results, which are a clear indicator that standards and achievement are improving rapidly across the Academy.

## OPENING CELEBRATION

To mark the official opening of North Birmingham Academy, a historic and prestigious ceremony was held on 5 February when Minister for Schools and Learners, Rt Hon. Vernon Coaker MP joined our school community to unveil a commemorative plaque. Mrs Popratnjak, the Principal, addressed newly appointed Chair of Governors, Peter Fair, over 50 teachers, Academy staff and community representatives, outlining her vision for the new Academy as a school at the heart of the local community and highlighting the successes of the predecessor school that the Academy would build on. Guests were taken on a guided tour of the facilities, including the new canteen area and the state-of-the-art media suites. They were also treated to a contemporary dance performance by students. The successful day was a great foundation for the Academy to start developing its own history of achievement.



Rt. Hon Vernon Coaker MP officially opens the Academy



Students performed a dance routine for the guests



How the Academy might look

## NEW BUILDINGS

Following confirmation that the Academy will receive the anticipated funding for the new buildings, we are very pleased to confirm that in September 2012 the Academy will move into brand new buildings which will provide exceptional teaching facilities for the young people of North Birmingham and will be a source of local pride.

Key features of the new buildings will include industry standard drama and dance studios and a theatre as well as state-of-the-art ICT, media and technology facilities. There will also be a dedicated sixth form area, extensive sports facilities and community facilities for meetings, sports and leisure, adult and family learning, events and much more.

## OPEN EVENTS

We warmly invite prospective families who would like to learn more about the Academy to come and meet us.

**OPEN EVENING**  
Thursday 23 September  
6.00–8.00pm

**OPEN DAY/TOURS**  
Monday 27 September and  
Wednesday 29 September  
9.40–11.00am

If you are unable to make either of these events, then please contact the Academy Office to make an appointment for a time that suits you.

## TERM DATES

### Autumn Term 2010

Wednesday 01 September to Friday 22 October  
Inset Day: Wednesday 01 September

### Half Term Holiday:

Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October

Monday 01 November to Friday 17 December

Inset Day: Monday 01 November

### Christmas Holiday 2010:

Monday 20 December to Monday 03 January

### Spring Term 2011

Tuesday 04 January to Friday 18 February  
Inset Day: Tuesday 04 January

### Half Term Holiday:

Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February

Monday 28 February to Friday 08 April

### Easter Holiday 2011:

Monday 11 April to Monday 25 April

### Summer Term 2011

Tuesday 26 April to Friday 27 May  
Inset Day: Tuesday 26 April

### Half Term Holiday:

Monday 30 May to Friday 03 June

Monday 06 June to Friday 22 July

Inset Day: Friday 24 June

### Summer Holiday 2011:

Monday 25 July to Wednesday 31 August

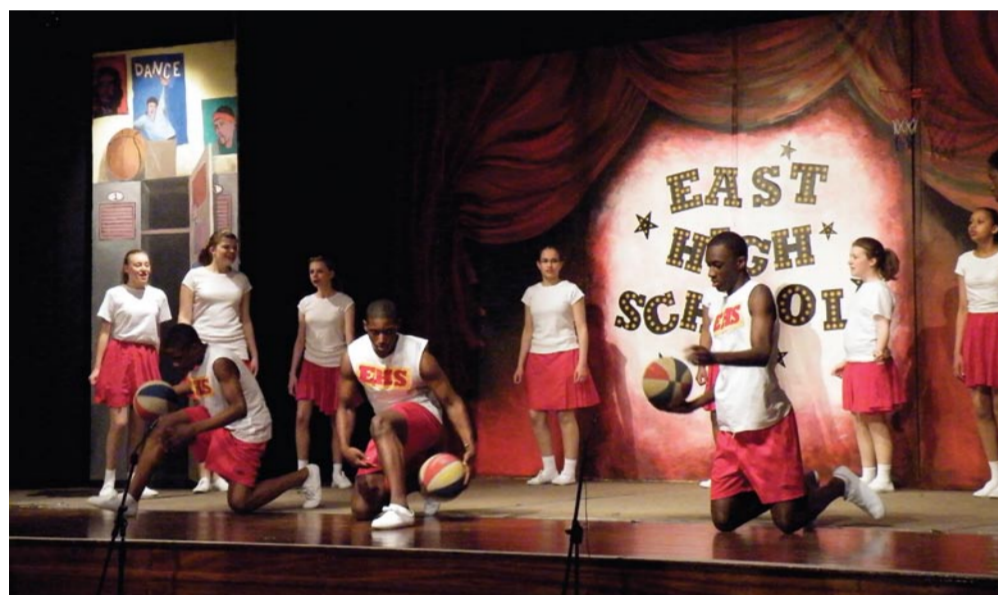
# ACADEMY SPECIALISMS

## NBA'S GOT TALENT

In June, the first large scale theatrical production by North Birmingham Academy (NBA) students wowed audiences as the Academy became East High School for the production of High School Musical. A cast of 50 students sang and danced superbly to a packed hall.

The stars of the show were Momodou Taal as Troy Bolton, Kimberley Bailey as Gabriella Montez, Amy-Louise Wright as Sharpay Evans and Luke Smith as her brother, Ryan. They were backed up by an impressive supporting cast and backstage crew, who all worked extremely hard and gave their time and dedication to ensure that the production was a success.

Director of Arts, Miss Dawson said, "I am so impressed by our students and their exceptional performances. The cast worked together in such a highly professional manner that it is hard to believe that this is only a school production".



NBA students wowed audiences with their dance routines

## WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

During July, North Birmingham Academy launched a fantastic new initiative called Enchantment Week. During this Arts week all lessons across the Academy had a Fairy Tale theme and a strong creative focus that encouraged students to develop their artistic and creative flair. As part of this ingenious initiative, groups of students worked with artists in residence as well as with an Art-textiles specialist.

In drama lessons students created their own fairy tales and sketches based on various fairy tale characters. Meanwhile, in music lessons, students worked with a musical theatre artist producing songs from fairy tale musicals. Students used their time in dance lessons to choreograph a dance with a fairy tale theme and a street / hip-hop bias.

The imaginative project demonstrated the benefits of North Birmingham Academy's specialist status in the Arts which encourages students to think more creatively and develops their confidence.



Students' Art Exhibition



Drama students created sketches

## RESPECT AT THE REP

In May, a group of Year 8 and 9 students both performed and watched a performance at the Repertory Theatre in Birmingham. The stimulus for their performance was Lutz Hubner's hard hitting play 'RESPECT'. They were the youngest students involved in the project but held their own when performing and showed great maturity.

The Academy students received extremely positive feedback from the Rep's Arts Team. They thought the students created "a very sophisticated performance and should be very proud of it". The piece was "really good to watch" and one of the critiquing panel was "almost drawn to tears". Well done to our young actors!

## POETRY SLAM

The Poetry Slam workshop was a hugely successful day of creative poetry writing and high energy teaching. The workshop was run by Dreadlockalien, Birmingham's Poet Laureate 2006, whose enthusiasm for poetry really motivated our students. Students had the opportunity to produce a range of contemporary poetry from beat box rhythms to hilarious rhymes. Participating Key Stage 3 students really enjoyed the day and left the workshop with a positive view of poetry.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

A student magazine, written and edited by students, covering all aspects of life at North Birmingham Academy, is to be produced this year. The magazine will include features, interviews and news on events and activities from around the Academy.

## ARTS AT WORK WEEK

In June, Year 7 students had the opportunity to work with the Round Midnight Theatre Company in four workshops: drama, art, music and dance. Each workshop looked at a skill required in the world of work, such as group work, speaking in public and working to deadlines. The drama workshop looked at developing presentations for selling a product while music was used to create ringtones. In the art session, students developed a comic book and in dance they worked on a hip-hop dance routine. At the end of the week, students watched a DVD that showcased the work they had produced during the project. Thank you to the Round Midnight Theatre Company and their artists.



One of the innovative dance workshops



Creating comic books



Students really enjoyed the week

# OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

## THE PRIMARY PREMIERSHIP

In July, eight teams from local primary schools travelled to North Birmingham Academy for the Kingstanding Extended Services Partnership Football Tournament. All the matches were keenly contested with North Birmingham Academy students on hand to ensure the tournament ran smoothly. Year 7, 8 and 9 assisted referees as ball boys and girls, while post-16 students acted as ambassadors for parents. Against a backdrop of sunny skies and the flags of the World Cup, the primary school children showed off their talents in some high quality matches with the team from Sundridge Primary coming out as eventual winners.



Teams from all over Birmingham attended



They were all smart in their school kits...



...and very enthusiastic



The team from Hawthorn Primary

## CREATING A CULTURE OF CURIOSITY

During May, North Birmingham Academy collaborated with Greenholm Primary School in a range of initiatives that culminated in a technology morning. Academy students worked closely with Year 4 and 5 pupils who assembled wooden planters (Geoff Hamilton Design), spent time in the Motor Vehicle Department completing simple servicing techniques and also in the Graphic Design Department using Computer Aided Software to download programmes onto the Laser Cutter Machine to produce plastic motor cycles and coasters.

Pupils had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the workshops which have most definitely produced some budding technology experts – possibly with green fingers! Further plans are in the making for future exciting projects where brains and resources can be shared.



The primary pupils really enjoyed the day



The pupils were able to use new equipment

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

Last September we held our first Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning, the world's biggest coffee morning. Our students helped out selling coffee, tea and cakes and it was a great way of bringing the community together. The Academy raised £200 and we hope to beat that figure at this year's event, which is taking place on the 24 September at 8-10am. Come along and bring a smile!

## £500 BAGGED FOR CHARITY

North Birmingham Academy Year 11 students raised an amazing £480 when they sampled a taste of working life packing customers' shopping at Marks & Spencer in Princess Park, New Oscott on Saturday 24 April.

The purpose of the project was to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and Air Ambulance, two of the Academy's charities, as well as to raise additional funds for the Year 11 Prom and to raise the profile of the Academy. The immaculate presentation and polite behaviour of the students along with numerous members of staff coming in to support, meant the day was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dawn Handy, Store Manager said "Marks & Spencer were honoured to support the event. We received fantastic comments from our customers regarding North Birmingham Academy students' appearance, their positive attitude and behaviour."

## EXPLORING CREATIVITY AND CULTURE THROUGH TEXTILES

As part of the Academy's commitment to sharing its expertise and facilities with the community, Year 4 pupils from Deykin Avenue Junior School took part in an innovative and creative World Cup themed textiles project at the Academy.

Through the study and application of African patterns and designs, the innovative project gave pupils a thorough introduction to textile design which will give them a valuable head-start in the field once they progress to secondary school.

The creative textiles project is just the start of a numbers of innovative projects that the Academy is organising as it shares its expertise and facilities with the community and sparks the imaginations of young people.

# NBA STUDENTS...

## SPEAK OUT

In June, representatives from North Birmingham Academy's Student Voice participated in the "Preventing Violent Extremism Conference". The day began with a play entitled "Tapestry", which got rave reviews from all who attended. The play highlighted the struggles of three main characters as they dealt with rising tensions in a city.

All the students involved were fantastic ambassadors for the Academy and dealt with this delicate issue with maturity and understanding. The organisers now hope to work with the Academy so that NBA can take a lead role in raising awareness of these issues across Birmingham.

## MAKE A STAND

Momodou Taal was recently elected to the UK Youth Parliament after a nationwide poll among students. He will work to ensure that young people across Birmingham have their voices heard. With the help of Student Voice members, all students aged 11 to 18 were able to vote for an issue that they felt affected their lives as young people living in Birmingham. Momodou would like to thank all the staff and students for their help and support to allow him to achieve this amazing goal.

## GO INTERNATIONAL

Kesha Beupierre was chosen as one of only five students to represent England at the INDIE (Inclusion and Diversity Event in Education) celebration in Brussels in May; a remarkable achievement for a 15 year old.

She was given the outstanding opportunity to present a series of questions to EU policy makers and politicians in a debate workshop entitled "Are Countries in Europe doing enough to help schools deal with inclusion and diversity?" Kesha put forward very intelligent and thought provoking questions on how young people are going to be educated to understand Inclusion and Diversity and how this can be promoted in the future.

## GO ECO

Year 7 Technology students recently worked with Linda Hines MBE as part of "The Friends of Witton Lakes" programme. The students were heavily involved in the production of some new habitats for the birds and bats that live by the lakes and they were installed during Spring this year. Let's hope that the wildlife like their new homes.