

Welcome...

Welcome to the first inter-Academy newsletter of this academic year – we hope you enjoyed the summer break! We would like to extend a special welcome to Oasis Academies Hadley and Shirley Park who have most recently joined the Oasis family; we hope you enjoy reading about what's going on across all the Oasis Academies.

:hadley



Oasis Academy Hadley Opening

The Academy was buzzing with excitement as it celebrated its official opening. The Academy community celebrated with Steve Chalke and the wider Oasis team, as well as local MP Joan Ryan and members of the Local Authority and neighbouring Academies and schools. Student guides took visitors on a tour of the Academy to see learning in action and were treated to a formal assembly with some outstanding entertainment provided by the students. The opening was marked with the release of balloons and reflected the uplifting atmosphere of the day.



Human Utopia

As part of Hadley's student induction programme, Human Utopia hosted a fun fuelled day of activities bringing staff and students together in a vibrant and supportive atmosphere. Human Utopia focused on breaking down prejudices and negative attitudes so that the Academy's community were able to identify how they can learn and live in harmony. Tracey Mayi from Year 9 said "The day showed me that the actions that you do may not affect you, but they can affect other people".



:shirley park

New Academy has student's approval

The Academy has had some great press coverage in the first weeks of term and has made a strong impression on students. They reported to the Croydon Advertiser that they approve of the 'longer lessons' and the culture of 'respect'. Deputy Head Boy, Hood Bukenya, said that teachers and students are getting on much better than before: "It's Just how I always wanted school to be like, with students respecting teachers and the other way round."

Academy's £85,000 gift for parents/carers

This article in the Advertiser praised the provision of free uniform for every student. Other changes mentioned included the longer school days and the increase of extra-curricular activities on offer. John Murphy, Executive Principal, said "There will be clubs from boxing to Latin for children who want to learn new skills...Children will be spending longer in the classroom... There will be homework clubs and we're going to be looking at their skills and seeing how we can support them."



:lord's hill



BTEC Animal Care - Sheep, Snakes and Students!

The Academy have launched a 2 year BTEC course in Animal Care – offered to students in Year 10 who plan to pursue careers in the animal industry or those who simply love animals! Students have already made fantastic use of the range of animals on the Academy's very own farm. They have already learnt how to feed and hold the animals and how their accommodation should be constructed and maintained. Future work will include grooming the animals, nursing sick animals, planning breeding programmes and of course cleaning them out!





£1,000 Fundraiser

Students raised a massive £1,000 to help sick children at Southampton General Hospital. They raised the money by selling charity wristbands and keyrings, and through a hospital-themed fancy dress day. They were inspired to raise the money after a group of students visited the Piam Brown Ward to see the work the staff do to help the children. Jane Buchanan, the Ward's chief fundraiser, visited the Academy to accept the cheque.

:MediaCityUK

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form opened on 7th September, offering a range of courses. Expectations were exceeded when 38 students enrolled and several late applications are still being processed. A two day residential team building course in the Lake District during the second week of term was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Environmental Trip

Last Friday saw an intrepid group of Year 10 BTEC students and two overly enthusiastic science teachers venture into the hills of the Peak District! Accompanied by Karina Thornton from Longdendale Environmental Studies Centre and Fleur – an environmental volunteer from Manchester University – students undertook a range of practical environmental tests, including biodiversity kick sampling and water quality analysis.

:mayfield

Getting the Message Across

Jill Rowe, Oasis Ethos Development and Resourcing Director, has just delivered a 'Hub Week' at the Academy, delivering lessons, workshops and assemblies for students and staff. It was a great week and gave everyone a real awareness of the bigger Oasis family which they are a part of.

Jill said, "It has been an amazing week. The students are a credit to the Academy and have shown a real willingness to learn, and the staff have been incredibly welcoming and kind. I look forward to coming back and being able to work with them all again."



One Year 7 student felt inspired to write this story following one of Jill's lessons:



Making Plans for the Future

The Open Evening for future Academy students and their families took place on Wednesday 23rd September and was a huge success. Students from Years 7 to 11 worked alongside their teachers to demonstrate a range of learning activities, including science experiments, competency lessons and drama and music workshops.

New Year 7 students were supported by representatives from Year 10 to lead tours around the Academy and Principal, John Toland, presented to parents/carers the vision, curriculum and plans for the new building. Visitors noted that the atmosphere was warm and welcoming and that Academy staff and students spoke very proudly about life and learning at Oasis Academy Mayfield.

Once upon a time there lived a boy called John, who is 8 years old. He lives with his Mum and his brother called Callum in Zimbabwe. He lives in a slum on the outskirts of town. He didn't have a proper education before Oasis came along.

Now he's having the time of his life! Oasis has taught him everything he now knows. He has come a long way since he was only days old. His Foster Mum who he calls Mum found John in a skip on the side of the road. "He was crying out for a home" Belinda told us. Now he's grown up a bit more he only spends time with his family, not friends. He doesn't want to mix with others because he is afraid he will get dumped again!

Now he is 10, he trusts everyone. He has friends of his own age and doesn't hide away all the time. He's always out playing with his friends and others. Oasis has taught John to trust others, that's why Oasis is world wide. Oasis works in 9 other countries.

:coulson



Top Grades – Since opening last September, standards of academic achievement have risen dramatically. The number of students achieving the top A*/A grades has increased by 50% since 2008 and the rate at which student performance has improved from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 means that the Academy is now in the top 25% of schools in the country.



David Millar, Associate Principal, said: "We have amazing students and it's wonderful to be able to celebrate so many individual successes. I'm so proud of them all and of the staff whose hard work over the year means that our students have secured their college places and can take the next step on their chosen career path."

It's official – Guinness World Record Holders!

Staff and students celebrated last week as they received official confirmation from Guinness World Records that they succeeded in their attempt to break the world record for the 'Largest Michael Jackson's Thriller Dance'. Reports of the Academy's attempt appeared in newspapers in Belgium, Australia and even the Wall Street Journal! The dance also featured on national ITV news on the day. Principal David Millar said: "When we set the date for the world record attempt we had no idea of how significant an event it would be. It was a very poignant experience for many students and the media interest was quite phenomenal".



:brightstowe

Students on track for success

The Post 16 Centre at Redland Green School has commented on the high standard of GCSE students it has received from Oasis Academy Brightstowe this academic year, praising them for their good grades and outstanding abilities. Siobhan White graduated this summer and is currently being coached for Oxbridge having passed all 12 GCSEs, with nine A*s, two As and one B – by far the most A*s in the school's history. She hopes to go on to do a degree in law at either of the prestigious universities.



Students Run Holiday Harmony Camp

A group of Academy students ran a Harmony Camp in the summer holidays with the help of Human Utopia. The camp was aimed at children from local primary schools and saw Academy students running a 3-day programme of activities, including martial arts, dance and cooking workshops. Together with Human Utopia, the Academy has set up a programme through which students become 'Heroes' and deliver mentoring sessions for other students. 15 year-old Jess Griffiths – 'Head Hero' last year – was nominated as Camp Director. She said: "At first being in charge of everything was quite scary but by the third day I'd got the hang of it. It's given me loads of confidence and I want to go on to do more work with young people."

:wintringham



Sporting Success

Barry Miller, a Year 11 student, won 2 gold medals in Judo at the Special Olympics 2009 held in Leicester during the summer. He won his own individual event and the team gold event. He is now hoping to go to the Para Olympics in 2012. Paige Cooper, also in Year 11, has been selected as a Sports Ambassador for NE Lincs by the SSAT. She has attended a North of England conference and will have a very high profile locally in promoting sport amongst young people.

Transition Project

The project was filmed by the SSAT over the summer and appears as a case study in the latest addition of 'Springboard' – a magazine produced by the Youth Sport Trust. It includes a CD which is extremely professional and paints a very impressive picture of the Academy with interviews of staff and students.



:bristol



PE news

A hugely encouraging number of students have signed up for sporting activities already this term. The Netball and Rugby teams training sessions are very well attended, which will help ensure they are well prepared for the forthcoming match season. In addition, extra-curricular activities such as trampolining, fitness and girls football have proved very popular. The Year 11 Sports Organisers Council is off to a great start, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. The Council will shortly be joined by Year 10 volunteers in order to help expand.

Threesixty Volunteers

The Academy are very lucky to have Emily Banks and Vicky Green – two threesixty gap year volunteers. To prepare them for their year at the Academy, they have been through a 5 day intensive training residential where they took part in activities to test initiative, communication and teamwork skills which will be invaluable throughout the year. There were also talks on areas from the Oasis Ethos to Conflict Management, Informal Education to Eschatology. The week has created a firm base for them to build upon throughout the year.

:enfield

Junior Citizens Week

The Academy are currently hosting the Junior Citizens Week where all the local Enfield primary school pupils in Year 6 get the opportunity to go to the Academy and take part in a number of activities hosted by the police and fire service, to name but a few.

Positive Start

Enfield have had an amazing start to the new academic year with Years 8 and 9 returning motivated and wanting to learn, and the new Year 7s already making a positive impact on the Academy.

3Es

The award-winning 3Es programme is well underway with some amazing new activities, such as Steel Pans and Dance Fusion, coming online due to popular demand.

:immingham

Open Evening Extravaganza

The evening was a wonderful example of the strong links that are being forged between the Academy and the local community. Students from the 4 local primaries and beyond attended in droves and enthusiastic students from Year 7 upwards, proudly showed off all the Academy has to offer. Prospective students wandered between the brilliant engineering facility where they took part in bricklaying and motor vehicle maintenance, and the Hair and Beauty salons where students in Years 12 and 13 practised on 'real' clients! Students were invited to food tasting sessions in the canteen, made their own cakes and biscuits in the food technology suite and were wowed by the equipment in fitness training suite.

Executive Principal, Tony Rawdin, was particularly appreciative of the efforts of all the staff whose pride in their Academy was plain to see. The evening was a clear indication that the Academy, which has recently had the best GCSE exam results it has ever seen, simply goes from strength to strength.

Awards

At the Humber Education Business Partnership (EBP) Awards Paul Fairlie Assistant Principal for Specialism at the Oasis Academy Immingham, who organised a school placement day won the 'Contribution to Continuing Professional Development Award'

The whole staff at the Academy attended the day off site, which focused on engineering. They were able to talk to local business, visit local manufacturing sites and work together to establish engineering links into the curriculum



Stop the Traffik - Start Freedom

Your Academy has the opportunity to lead other local schools in their response to the latest STOP THE TRAFFIK campaign, **Start Freedom**. You just need to say 'yes' and let the Central Press team know. They will then produce a news release for your local press calling all local students to get behind the campaign.

Start Freedom launches with a press conference from the UN building on 14th October. It is taking place at 9am UK time with as a web broadcast. The conference will be streamed live and be targeted at students across the world who are being encouraged to produce a creative response to the campaign, which will be highlighted in a follow up high-profile event in March. Some of our Academies already have plans for theatre productions and photographic exhibitions. New resources including lesson plans have been produced by STOP THE TRAFFIK to help (further details at: <http://www.stophettraffik.org/startfreedom>).



STOP THE TRAFFIK



Education Update

This term the Education Team is supporting the development of two key areas in the Oasis Academies: Literacy and Curriculum (14-19). To support the Academies in this important work we have secured the services of:

- Jan English – an experienced literacy consultant
- Paul Williams – an expert in 14-19 curriculum and senior management

Jan and Paul will be visiting the Oasis Academies this term to meet with staff and create a mutually supportive plan for progress and development.