

insight

Newsletter • Issue 1 • October 2007

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first issue of "insight", our termly newsletter, which will keep you up to date on Academy projects as well as celebrate our achievements with you all.

Although it has been a very busy time for us all, the Academy has got off to a good start and the students have generally settled in really well. Visitors to the Academy have reported a calm and purposeful environment where students and staff have been very positive about the first few weeks.

I would like to thank you all for your patience with the poor communications during the first weeks. The wrong telephone number was circulated. This was an error by the telephone company, which we were not even aware of for a couple of days. Recent postal strikes have also made it difficult to send out and receive letters. Hopefully, from now on, all should be well and to clarify, the Academy number is 020 8405 5070.

Carolyn English – Principal

NatWest come to Harris



The Business and Enterprise Faculty ran an Enterprise day for Year 7, 8 and 10 students called Face to Face with Finance. A guest speaker from Natwest led the day by introducing a brief to the students. In small groups, students imagined they were a catering company and had been asked to create a tender for a special

dinner. Students had to assign job roles such as Project Manager, Finance Director, Catering Consultant and Marketing Executive and take on the responsibilities for the day. There were a number of budding young managers who showed great flair for taking charge of their groups. The day's finale saw students presenting to each other to compete for prizes. Ms Coates, Coordinator for Business and Enterprise said, "Everyone who took part showed enormous creative flair creating table mats, business cards, PowerPoint presentations and wall displays. I was really proud of them".



Building Bridges

Stress and tension seemed to be the focus for intensive learning in science and technology this half term. Students worked in groups on a design brief to build a bridge and then trial its ability to withstand testing! Of course, the students were helped out a bit with a short introduction to forces and an investigation into the forces acting on different types of bridge. Students then prepared a PowerPoint presentation on famous bridges and bridge builders. Mr Richardson, Coordinator for science, said "the quality of work was outstanding". The finale for students was to design, build a bridge and test it! To make it harder students had to work to a time limit and stick to a budget. Fun was had by all involved, whether the bridge worked or not. Well done to everyone involved.



A Newsroom for a day

team then had to take on a role: sub-editor, features writer and sports editor. To spice it all up a bit, a points system was explained where points would be awarded to each team for meeting deadlines, for behaviour and for the quality of the finished product.

Their next task was to research the stories. Using the websites of the BBC, Skynews, The Guardian and The Sun, students spent an hour researching. They were allowed to copy two pictures from the sites for their papers but otherwise all notes had to be hand-written. Most groups were neck-and-neck at this point; though one had to be penalized for copying and pasting text into their stories! The next hour was dedicated to writing the articles. Two groups began to move steadily ahead by the end of this hour, as they produced their stories ahead of the deadlines. The news teams combined to work

on the layout of each page. Again groups 3 and 4 moved further ahead by meeting their deadlines with time to spare. Suddenly an alarm went off in the class – editors were called to the whiteboard and it was explained that there was a “Breaking News” story to cover. Editors called their team over to watch the interactive white board, where a newsflash was playing. The team then had to rush off and insert the new news story into their paper. Chris Healy, English teacher said “At the end of the day all the papers were well presented. All the teams could feel proud of the way they ‘worked together, co-operated and managed to produce their newspaper on time”.

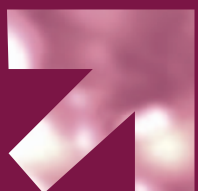
Groups 3 and 4 tied the lead at the end of the day and await their prizes! Well done to Alex F. (editor), Joshua, Khane, Shaquile, Ryan (editor), Sam and Obuli.

Some would find the idea of running a newsroom for the day a bit daunting, but not our year 8s. One Friday this half term they arrived in the ICT suite to the sound of the theme from BBC News 24 and were set their challenge – to create a news team and produce a newspaper by the end of the day!! The first task, elect an editor! The chosen leader of the team had to deliver instructions, assign the work and ensure that the team met all the deadlines. Each member of the

A Mandarin Encounter

We held a Mid-Autumn mini festival for year 9 to launch the introduction of Mandarin in the curriculum. Students began by viewing short video clips that illustrated the meaning of the festival for Chinese people all around the world. After exploring the origin of the festival and the legend of the Nine Suns thoughts turned to food! Students were shown how to make moon cakes, traditionally eaten during the festival and taught how to use chopsticks by our Chinese Teacher Ms Chen.

We were joined for the day by three Chinese students from Goldsmith's College who came especially to participate in this very unique event. This was the favourite part of the session for many students! A competition was organised and prizes handed out to the most skilful chopstick users! We're thinking of adding them to the cutlery tray in the canteen.



Looking at the View

English and media students in year 10 took part in an intensive learning day immersing themselves in Arthur Miller's play '*A View from the Bridge*'. A series of workshops were delivered across a single day, each focusing on a different aspect of the play. One group were particularly engaged in the themes of Law and Justice. Students in this group viewed the opening sequence of Francis Ford Coppola's classic '*The Godfather*' – the sequence when Don Colone is approached to exert justice the 'Sicilian' way. There was a lively discussion about the importance of justice to the Italian community and the moral questions arising about how it is exercised.

The students decided that there are two types of law that exist in society and that this idea is reflected in both the film and the play – the law of the neighbourhood and the constitutional law, upheld by the courts / police. One student said "Sometimes it can be a challenge ... clearly everyone understands which law they should abide by however within some communities social codes count for more."

The teachers involved in the day were delighted that students had got so actively involved in all the workshops. Ms Goulds, Coordinator for English, said "the intensive learning days allow our students the chance to really focus on deepening their knowledge and understanding of their subject and have fun at the same time". We look forward to reading all the coursework that will be written by the students later this term.



Master Classes in Visual and Performing Arts

What happens if you ask students what they would like to specialise in? Year 9 have been given the choice of joining either a Drama, Art or Music master class for their intensive learning days in Creative Arts. Ms Heathcote, Co-ordinator for Visual and Performing Arts said, "Students created some excellent and inspiring work and offering choice has actually given students a chance to shine". Art groups created a sculpture inspired by the Artists Anthony Gormley and Barry Flanigan who both use wire to create life like forms – all of the completed pieces have been photographed and will be displayed around the school.

Students in music created their own versions of the song, 'Lean on me', this was an enterprising task and they enjoyed the element of teamwork. They ended their day with performances and some quite strict judging.

The Drama groups explored the consequences of 'Dares' through their own devised work and their final sharing showed thought and skill. The year nine students worked hard in all of the sessions and their evaluations were all positive and really interesting to read, one student answered the question 'could anything about the activities be improved?' – "No, it was perfect"!

Parents' Calendar 2007 – 2008

AUTUMN TERM 2007

September

Wednesday 26th: Year 6 Open Evening

October

Thursday 18th: Break up for Half Term

Friday 19th: INSET Academy closed to students

Monday 29th: Academy opens

November

Thursday 1st: Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening

Monday 12th: Post 16 Open Evening

Wednesday 14th: Careers Fair

Friday 16th: Academic Target setting day

December

Friday 7th: Testing Day for Year 6
Academy closed to students

Thursday 13th: Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Wednesday 19th: Federated Sports Day

Thursday 20th: Break up for Christmas Holidays

Friday 21st: INSET Academy closed to students

SPRING TERM 2008

January

Monday 7th: Start of term,
Year 11 mock exams

Thursday 17th: Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 25th: Year 11 mock results day

Monday 28th: Post 16 Consultation Evening

February

Thursday 7th: Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening,
Post 16 Enterprise Day

Thursday 14th: Break up for Half Term

Friday 15th: INSET Academy closed to students

Monday 25th: Academy opens

March

Monday 3rd: Post 16 Higher Education evening

Wednesday 12th: Post 16 R & P day

Wednesday 19th: Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 21st: Good Friday

Monday 24th: Easter Monday

Friday 28th: Academic Target setting day

April

Thursday 3rd: Federated Sports Day

Friday 4th: Break up for Easter Holidays



SUMMER TERM 2008

April

Monday 21st: Start of term

May

Monday 5th: May Day Holiday

Tuesday 6th: Year 9 SATS

Wednesday 7th: Year 9 SATS

Thursday 8th: Year 9 SATS

Friday 9th: Post 16 COA

Thursday 22nd: Year 11 COA

Friday 23rd: Break up for Half Term

June

Friday 6th: INSET Academy closed to students

Thursday 19th: Year 10 COA

July

Thursday 3rd: Year 8 COA

Monday 7th: Year 10 work experience

Thursday 9th: Year 9 COA

Friday 11th: Federated Sports Day: INSET

Thursday 17th: Year 7 COA

Friday 18th: Work experience debrief

Wednesday 23rd: Last Day of Term,

COA = Certificate of Achievement Evening

