



Newsletter

BEDFORD ACADEMY

Welcome to our Second Newsletter

We have had a successful start to our first term and I am delighted to announce that we have decided on Wilmott Dixon as the firm that will build our fantastic new facilities for September 2012. We are looking forward to working closely with them over the coming months.

We had a highly successful Opening Ceremony which was attended by Sponsors, local dignitaries, representatives from the Department for Education, local head teachers and some students. Maggie Philbin, who famously presented the Science and Technology television programme 'Tomorrow's World', did us the honour of opening the Academy. Her speech outlined the importance of our Science and Technology specialism in today's world of work.

We have already had some exciting events, many of which you will read about in this issue. All of our students have benefitted from another motivational event run by the HumanUtopia Company and, as a result, a large number of students have signed up for the 'Heroes Journey' and will soon be working with students at Abbey Middle School to pass on their positive message; our year 9 and year 10 football teams have got off to an excellent start to the season winning their first games against Sandy Sports College; we have launched the first phase of our student voice initiative and each tutor group has now got a representative selected to be on the Learning Village Council; the Academy racing car had its last outing of the season a few weekends ago before it entered the redesign phase over the winter; the BTEC Sport students have taken up sailing as a new dimension to their course. For all of these events and more besides, the Bedford Academy students have been superb ambassadors for the school.

I would like to congratulate the students on excellent standards of uniform-please remember that on your way to and from the Academy you have to be just as smart because the reputation of the Academy rests on you! The attendance of students has been good so far with so many of our students here EVERY day so very well done to these individuals. At Bedford Academy the standards expected are high and there is always room for improvement. Please ensure that you are on site and in lessons by 8.30am EVERY morning.

We know that we are at the start and that, in many ways, we have still a journey to take but please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas or if you need more support than we are providing. Together, no goal is beyond us.

Claire Smith
Principal



Open Evening

The academy opened its doors to prospective pupils and their parents on Tuesday 12th October.

We received a wealth of visitors and all were impressed by the innovative lessons and exciting opportunities that the Academy has to offer.

As Bedford Borough's FIRST academy, everyone commended the superior educational offerings as well as the exciting prospects of the new build.

Special thanks go out to all the Student Ambassadors who volunteered to help; their behaviour and maturity were an honour to the academy.

Opening Ceremony-10th September 2010

Opening with a flourish of white and blue balloons and the snip of a blue ribbon by our Guest of Honour, scientist Maggie Philbin, we could not have hoped for a grander affair!

Sponsors, Governors and local dignitaries attended en masse to see the academy open, commending both staff, on their curriculum offerings, and students, on their exemplary conduct and impressive confidence of speech.

All were delighted by the evident vocal talent of our musical performers, three of which have been invited to perform at an Awards Evening next month.

Congratulations go out to Jordan Hill, Rachael Sanyaolu and Terrisha Harrigan-O'Connor (pictured).



Balloon Release

At our formal opening on Friday 10th September, as Maggie Philbin cut the ribbon to officially declare the Academy open, dozens of blue and white balloons were released into the sky. Each of the balloons carried the academy telephone number and the name of a tutor group.

It would seem that the wind was heading in a North Easterly direction that day as we received responses from people heading out towards the North Sea.

In third place, for the furthest travelled, was Mr Barsby's tutor group (Villeneuve, Arts and Sports), which landed in Bourne, Lincolnshire.

In close second, having landed in Coningsby, Lincolnshire was Miss William's tutor group (Franklin, Arts and Sports).

Winning a surprise trip out as a tutor group in the run up to Christmas, however, is Mrs Searle's tutor group (Blumentha, Science and Technology); their balloon made it all the way to Hull in Humberside!



HumanUtopia

HumanUtopia is a people first development company. They are helping our students grow in confidence and, in doing so, they are helping to transform our Academy's culture. The company help individuals - both students and adults - understand the impact their communication has on relationships and how this ultimately allows or restricts growth as individuals and communities.



HumanUtopia is working with us to form a longer term partnership through the highly acclaimed heroes journey. This involves sharing the messages from the sessions with younger students and taking a long hard look at what you can do yourself to improve your future life chances. Bedford Academy has formed a close partnership with Abbey Middle School and our 'would be' heroes are going there every other week to run tutor time activities for year 7 and 8 students.

The heroes journey is not an easy one and we are very proud of the students who have shown such a high level of commitment to the programme.

Enrichment

Our Enrichment programme kicked off to a thriving start, with positive student involvement in our exciting courses that range from Electric Car Racing to Japanese Studies.

Our Enrichment courses not only offer students a range of extra-curricular activities, they also broaden their horizons in cultural, physical and technological fields. Further curriculum support is available too through our coursework and study groups.

Why not encourage your children to widen their future educational and employment options by taking up more than one enrichment course?



The Arts

Creativity abounds in Art

Students have been exploring the theme of Natural Forms throughout the first half term. They have experimented with a variety of media from pencil, water colour, charcoal oil and chalk pastel on a range of surfaces, before enhancing their technical skills capturing dark to light tones in graphite and using crosshatch and stippling effects.

Studying the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, students learnt about the associated meanings behind her oil paintings and how to contextualise and critically appraise her work.

The uptake for enrichment has been wonderful and students use this time to further their classroom studies, enter a variety of competitions or explore their own creative ideas.



Overall, this has been a highly productive first half term in the Art Department at Bedford Academy and is clearly illustrated by the exciting range of final outcomes produced so far (some of which are pictured below).



Music proudly presents 'XYZing'

Within days of the Academy opening its doors, the brand new Music Department began rehearsals for the Opening Ceremony. The members of XYZing were not only committed but also worked intensively on their rehearsals, refining their raw talent to produce a perfectly polished performance; all within a week!

Singing in front of the Mayor and Academy sponsors was a daunting prospect for such a young group; however, regardless of the pressure, these talented individuals rose to the challenge and clearly enjoyed performing to a delighted audience. XYZing are a proud testament of the talent and potential that Bedford Academy students possess!

Science and Technology

World Space Week

Students from the Science and Technology Learning Village presented an assembly to the rest of the school in honour of World Space Week.

Students explained the relevance of the annual observance dates, 4th to 10th October, which commemorate the launch of Sputnik 1 (the first human-made Earth satellite) on October 4th 1957 and the signing of the 'Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space' on October 10th 1967.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly as an international celebration of Science and Technology, students enlightened the assembly to the week's additional celebration of Science and Technology's contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

Maths and Business

Maths- as easy as 1,2,3!

This term, 9x1 were busy preparing their Jet Setters Projects for Mr (Alan Sugar) Lewis to judge on 15th October. Projects aside, the set have enjoyed outstanding Maths results.

Extra congratulations go out to Sean Whiting and Jake Huckle who are on route to gaining good GCSE results. Well done to you both!



Sporting Achievement

Sports Leaders run Lower School festival

Year 10 Sports Leaders performed superbly at a festival, which took place at Bedford International Athletics Stadium on 27th September, designed to give 120 local lower school KS1 pupils an insight into different sports.

Leading five-minute long coaching sessions on designated games and activities, the Sports Leaders then monitored the lower school children's progress and scores. It is no easy task leading a group of five and six year old children, but our students managed the task with ease!



Congratulations go out to Gurraj Galsin, Rahan Ahmed, Jason Cherry, Tariq Farrell, Joseph Kennedy, Ben Beattie, Scott Murray, Ryan Moulding, Amendeep Kaur, Koron Cooper, Brenden Harris, Abbie Ford and Aarron Forbes (pictured).

Sports Leaders is run as an Enrichment activity on Mondays to give Academy students the skills and confidence to lead others in sporting activity. Students do not need to be 'sporty' to get involved.

Sandy Upper School | Bedford Academy Inter 10

Mr. Barsby and Mr. Cox were pleased to find in the first Academy week that they had a very talented year nine group. In fact, trials revealed so much talent that they had to put together two year nine football teams, Inter and Barcelona!

Inter travelled to Sandy Upper School, a specialist Sports college, to play a friendly match prior to the County Cup fixtures. Despite starting with a strong wind in their face, the boys worked hard. Excellent hold up play by Jack Foskett led to a brilliant finish by midfielder Jordan Noel. More goals followed, by Raiqwan Joseph and Justin Nwogu.

Threats to the Academy goal were expertly defended by centre backs Jonti Neal and Darko Dorotic, whilst good goalkeeping by Michael Kanth kept the clean sheet intact. Sandy's only shot occurred when the wind helped a speculative shot from 30 yards sail over Michael's head. Halftime score: Sandy Upper I, Bedford Academy 4.

Mr. Cox made several substitutions at half time, with Justin Nwogu completing his hatrick and going on to add two more. Meanwhile, Hayden Shipp not only scored a nice finish but also nearly scored the goal of the match! Wayne Instrell showed his finishing ability with an excellent low strike before Raiqwan topped off the game. Overall, an excellent performance by Michael Kanth, Adam McClean, Darko Dorotic, Jonti Neal, Nathan McClean, Hayden Shipp, Tavon Carter, Mustak Alom, Raiqwan Joseph, Jack Foskett, Justin Nwogu, Karolis Simkevicius, Liam Reekie, Leon Moden and Wayne Instrell.

Young Ambassadors Conference, Brit Oval



Year 13 student Errol Cornwell, a Platinum Sports ambassador representing Bedford and Kempston School Sports partnership, travelled to the Brit Oval for the Young Ambassadors Conference.

Following London's successful Olympic bid, Lord Coe promised the UK would use the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire millions of young people to become involved in sport. The result was the 2006 Young Ambassador movement, which holds conferences to bring together

the UK's ambassadors to work with Olympic and Paralympic athletes, as well as new sponsor Addidas, on how to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and on increasing participation in sport.

At the last conference, Errol worked closely with many athletes, including former Hammer thrower Shirley Webb and Sky One's Gladiator 'Battle Axe' (pictured with Errol). Errol will use ideas from the conference to work with Bedford Academy Adistar Ambassadors, Suzanne Darby and Vitale Taverna, as well as the local community to promote Olympic and Paralympic values.



Contact us: Bedford Academy Mile Road, Bedford MK42 9TR Telephone: 01234 301500 www.bedfordacademy.co.uk