



The Oxford Academy celebrates 1st birthday

The Oxford Academy's first birthday party on Saturday 4 July, was a great success, with hundreds of parents and students joining us on a glorious summer afternoon and over 40 students taking part in a wide variety of display and performances.

Vice Principal Chris Davies said: "Today has been one of the highlights of the year for me in the first year of the Academy's operation. To see so many parents, students and members of the community here celebrating with us is testimony to how far we've come in such a short space of time."

Holding the event in partnership with Sandford-on-Thames' Village Fete is symbolic of how the Academy wants to operate at the heart of the local community, forging new bonds and partnerships and working together for the good of all involved. We are very proud of what today represents and of all the hard work and effort staff and students have put in to make this event such a resounding success."

Rev. Robert Morgan, Vicar of St Andrew's Church, said "We were all extremely impressed by the displays on Saturday, there are very good vibrations around the village about the Academy."

John Howell, MP for Henley added how impressed he was with The Oxford Academy students and their performances. One of the highlights was The Oxford Academy team beating the reigning champions in the Sandford Cup tug-of-war! Everyone at the Academy is looking forward to a similar event next year. Parents who would like to get involved should contact the Academy.

Brookes Youth Summer University (BYSU)

In July over 40 Year 10 students from the Academy attended workshops delivered by Academic Schools from across Oxford Brookes University. Academic staff gave students a chance to develop new skills and experiences through fun, interactive workshops.

Vice Principal, Chris Davies, said: "Raising aspirations amongst our students is one of the Academy's main aims and part of this endeavour includes giving them a taste of university life. In addition to our Aimhigher programme the Academy is engaged in a variety of activities to provide information, advice and guidance to students about how to progress to a top university. Events like the Brookes Youth Summer University help reassure students and make the ambition of going to university one step closer to reality."

During the week Student Ambassadors worked with the younger students, giving them the opportunity to ask questions about student life as well as a campus tour.

The workshops included: Behind the mask (French); Words of Worlds (English); Getting to the top (Sports coaching); Alice's 3D Dimension and Lights - Camera - Action (Technology); Marketing mix (Business); Mind and body (Health & Social Care); Location, Location, Location (Build Environment) and One Small Step (Life Sciences).

The BYSU is part of the University's Widening Participation strategy to encourage students who are less likely to continue on to higher education to consider it as a realistic option and give them a taste of courses at Brookes.

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Open Event

Tuesday 6 October 2009

Open Morning 09:00 – 11:30

Open Evening 18:00 – 20:30



Learning and Leading for the World of Tomorrow
Specialisms: Maths & ICT and Sport

www.theoxfordacademy.org.uk

Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Parent Forum dates

The parent forum is an opportunity for parents and carers to share ideas and views with The Academy. Please see the website for more information.

Wednesday 14 October 2009

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 1

Wednesday 2 December 2009

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 2

Wednesday 10 February 2010

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 3

Wednesday 1 May 2010

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 4

Wednesday 12 May 2010

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 5

Wednesday 14 July 2010

6:00pm - 7:30pm Term 6

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2009 - Term 1

Tuesday 1 September 2009

Start of Term 1 (Staff Training Day)

Wednesday 2 September 2009

Year 7 only to attend

Thursday 3 September 2009

All years to attend

Friday 2 October 2009

Inset Day

Thursday 22 October 2009

End of Term 1

Autumn Term 2009 - Term 2

Monday 2 November 2009

Start of Term 2

Friday 18 December 2009

End of Term 2

Spring Term 2010 - Term 3

Monday 4 January 2010

Start of Term 3 (Staff Training Day)

Friday 12 February 2010

End of Term 3 (Staff Training Day)

Spring Term 2010 - Term 4

Monday 22 February 2010

Start of Term 4

Thursday 1 April 2010

End of Term 4

Summer Term 2010 - Term 5

Monday 19 April 2010

Start of Term 5

Friday 28 May 2010

End of Term 5

Summer Term 2010 - Term 6

Monday 7 June 2010

Start of Term 6

Thursday 22 July 2010

End of Term 6 (Staff Training Day)

Introduction from the Principal



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter and the start of our second academic year. Our recent exam results demonstrate that the Academy is making progress and students have benefited from our first year. Overall, our results are better than many anticipated with 43% of students achieving at least 5 grades A* to C.

I would like to congratulate every one of these students but especially Kirsty James who achieved five grade As or A* in her thirteen GCSEs, Charlotte Stone who achieved six A grades in her results and Ellie Lamb who achieved four grade As in her 11 GCSEs. The headline results can mask the achievements of students who overcome tremendous obstacles to progress beyond expectation. They have inspired many around them and we also pass on our best wishes to them for the future.

Our first year has also seen us make significant progress in communicating our vision and values to all our stakeholders. We are proud to have been awarded the Gold Award for Parental Engagement Quality Standard by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT). This award recognises our commitment to communicating with parents, carers and our wider community. Importantly, our efforts have been rewarded by the increase in parents/carers wanting their children to attend the Academy. We welcome all prospective parents and students to the Academy and hope you will attend our Autumn open events, details of which are shown at the back of this newsletter.

There has been a noticeable change as students become more engaged and excited about their learning

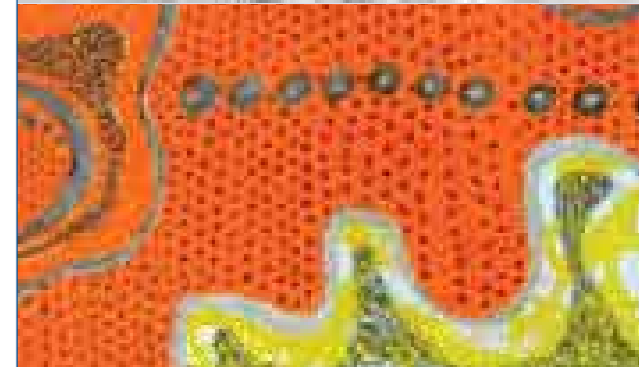
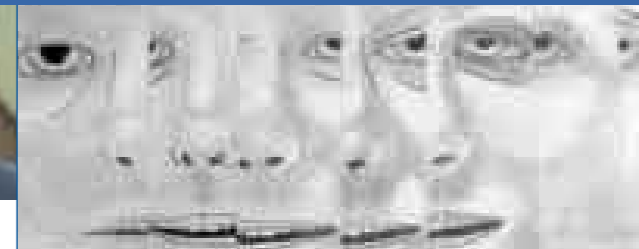
I am pleased to report our new Academy building is on target, with final contracts signed in July. We are delighted that work has now started as it underpins the work we are already doing to deliver an outstanding, vibrant and exciting educational environment for students and the wider community now and in the future.

As I mentioned in our Spring newsletter this is, however, period of transition. We will move to the new buildings during 2010-2011 year. With the old buildings demolished and the landscaping complete. We are working very closely with the contractors to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

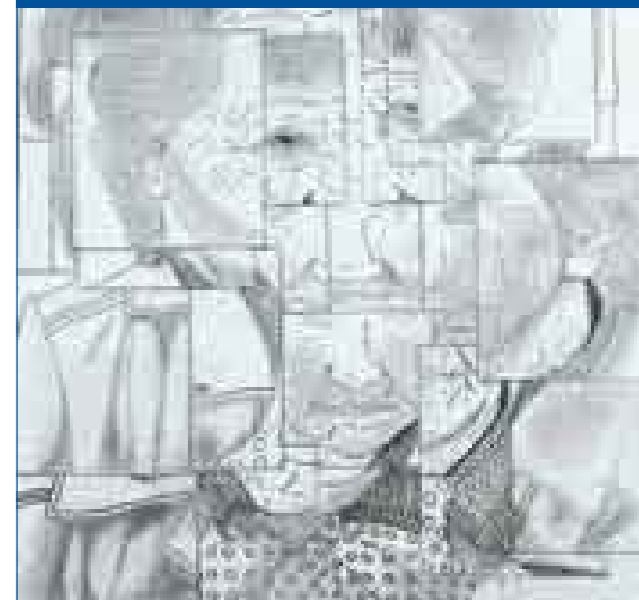
You will see in the following pages that there have been many events and celebrations outside of the curriculum. Our first birthday event was a great success and I would like to thank all the staff, students, parents and members of the community who worked so hard to make it such a memorable afternoon. We will continue to develop our extra-curricular activities and trips throughout the coming year and would encourage all students to participate in these enriching experiences.

We have made significant progress in our first year, but there is still much to do and much to achieve. I look forward to your continued support and hope to see you at our open events.

Mike Reading, Principal



Well done to all our art students who developed some exceptional artwork for their final GCSE submissions



Contacting us

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Year 11 celebrate their prom in style

Over 100 people attended the Year 11 Prom at the Four Pillars Hotel in Sandford-on-Thames on Friday 3 July. It was a wonderful evening, in a beautiful setting; all the students behaved impeccably, looked fantastic and were a credit to themselves and the Academy.

Proud parents took photographs as the students arrived in stretch limos and sports cars for the evening drinks reception, which was followed by a buffet dinner, speeches and dancing. Academy staff also attended the event to wish the students well and join in the celebrations.



Mr Reading, Principal of The Oxford Academy, said: "This evening of celebration marks the end of the examinations, the end of Year 11 and the start of the next phase of life for these students. They have a great deal to feel proud of in terms of the progress they have made this year and the results they are likely to achieve.

We are exceptionally proud of them as an Academy and look forward to welcoming many of them back to Year 12 in September. For those who are leaving us and are going on to further education, training or work – we wish them every success."

Year 7 quotes

"I feel very safe and happy here. I'm glad that I chose this school" Kady Maloney 7ELD

"I like The Oxford Academy, it's wicked!" Katie Gilbride 7COV

"I think The Oxford Academy is a great school and give you lots of opportunities to learn" Ryan Ferguson 7OHL



Karim Khan takes third place in Achievement Awards

Oxford Academy student Karim Khan, Deputy Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Oxford, collected yet another accolade for his work in raising the profile of young people's rights at The Oxfordshire Youth Awards. The prestigious ceremony, attended by a variety of local dignitaries, took place in the distinguished surroundings of the Town Hall in the centre of Oxford. In all there were six wards presented to young people from all over the County. The event, organised by the Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP) and supported by Oxfordshire County Council, is part of an ongoing drive to challenge the perception that young people are problematic and the root of antisocial behaviour. Fundamentally, the OAYP's aim is to recognise the many positive and inspiring contributions young people make in the county.

Karim's nomination for the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award was thanks to his various contributions to the UK Youth Parliament and his work in raising the profile of young people's rights. Karim's passion for this endeavour inspired him to compose and direct a film 'Turn it Up'. Karim's nomination for the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award is, in part, in recognition of the work he undertook in creating this film. More details about the premiere of his film can be found by contacting zoe.elford@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Karim came third in his nominated category, much to the delight of his family in the audience. As always, Karim accepted his award with humility and grace – embodying all of the qualities he believes young people are capable of. Karim said:

"I know how important it is for children and young people to be aware of their rights, so that's why I decided to make a film. There is so much negative press which seems to demonise young people, but I hope that this film will go some way to changing that as it shows young people having a positive impact on decision making. We want to make this film noticeable and accessible to schools, young people and decision makers."

Go to www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com for more information about the BigVoice initiative.



Bike Club

The Bike Club is aimed at students in Years 7 and 8 who are interested in riding and maintaining bikes.

The club has a 2-week rotation - one week spent cycling over Shotover Hill where the club undertakes trail riding, jumps and tracks. The second is spent at the Academy on the playing fields, which we use for long and short distance cycling, as well as jumps and tracks.

There is currently a waiting list of students to join the bike club, but we hope very much that everyone will get their chance to join.



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John Henry Newman Sailing Club

Sarah Babu and JJ Pudwell (both Year 10 students at The Oxford Academy) have been members of the John Henry Newman Sailing Club since leaving the JHN primary school, and now help younger children learn to sail. Sarah and JJ have both completed a 2 day Paediatric First Aid Course as well as a Powerboat Level 2 course. JJ has been with the club since the beginning and achieved the silver NSSA (National Schools Sailing Award) level. However, due to his asthma he has had to give up sailing, but he continues to support the club as a powerboat operator. Sarah started sailing in 2004, and last year achieved her Assistant Instructor Level at sailing.

In August, Sarah attempted the 3 Peak Challenge along with Learning Mentor and JHN Sailing Club Group Leader Debbie Pudwell, and 2 other adults. They climbed Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon consecutively and JJ was part of the support crew. This is a sponsored event to raise some much-needed funds for the JHN club. Both students have been an invaluable help to the club, and an inspiration to others.

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Year 10 Science Trail at Oxford University

In July Miss Weaver and Ms Vlachakis took 20 Year 10 triple science students to the first ever Science Trail in Oxford. The event was hosted by Oxford University and started with Magic Maths in the Physics Department. The students then went to the Physiology Department where they learned about blood pressure and the brain.

Later the students went to the Dyson Perrin laboratories where they were introduced to forensic science and used MMR spectroscopy to determine compounds found at a crime scene.

Lunch at St Anne's College was followed by a dynamic Physics Lecture that explained the workings of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) particle accelerator at the CERN laboratory near Geneva.

Year 7 Mentoring Group

Corinne Middleton, the Year 7 Learning Mentor, has started a mentoring group consisting of eight students. She will be holding weekly one-on-one sessions with them, working on boosting confidence, discussing attendance and enabling them to reach their full potential. The students were put forward by their class tutors and were all very keen to get started!

Students mentored by Oxford Brookes

In a new project, Oxford Brookes students have mentored Oxford Academy students in the run up to their exams. Now there are plans to roll out the scheme in more Oxfordshire schools.

Kenny Kong, a 23-year-old Mechanical Engineering student at Oxford Brookes is one of eight Brookes' students involved in a new mentoring scheme at The Oxford Academy.

Over eight weeks, he worked with Year 11 student Georgie Lacey in the run up to her GCSEs focusing on Maths and English in particular. "It was really useful," said Georgie. "The students were really friendly and helped us with areas that we could improve on and coursework.

The Brookes' students spent three hours a week supporting a group of ten pupils and earned some extra cash along the way. Kenny says it's been a good opportunity for him too. "I hadn't experienced working with young people before and it's been good to give something back. It's been enjoyable and you get an understanding of how teenagers think about education. We've been looking at the work they've been doing and what they want to do in the future." "I think it's important for younger students to talk to us because we're still in the loop and we've been in their shoes not that long ago – probably 5 or 6 years. They can see how we've managed to get to where we are now and that in time you can get to university and could be coming out with a degree. The mentoring has been a great way to share those experiences."

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A joint venture between Brookes and the Academy, the scheme aimed to give students with lots of potential some additional help ahead of their exams.

As co-sponsor of The Oxford Academy, Brookes decided to trial the scheme as part of its commitment to inspire and enthuse students to reach their full potential. Next year, there are plans to widen its reach to include students from Years 10-13. With funding from Aimhigher it is also hoped to roll out the project in more Oxfordshire schools. The photo shows Brookes student mentor Kenny Kong with Oxford Academy student and mentee 16-year-old Georgie Lacey.



Congratulations Meadowbrook students

Eight of our Year 11 students attended a graduation and award ceremony at Meadowbrook College in Marsden. All students achieved high standards during the course and have been a credit to themselves and the Academy. Hannah Spiers, Danni Massingham, Finlay O'Callaghan and Emma Green all studied BTEC Hair and Beauty.

Declan Nash, Jay Trinder, Josh Finney and Jake Trotter gained qualifications in BTEC Construction. These boys particularly produced work of a very high standard and it is hoped they will go on to further education. Many thanks to Meadowbrook College.

