

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

April 2011

BOOK WEEK – 7TH MARCH 2011

Monday 7th March 2011 saw Book Week arrive at the Ockendon Academy. As well as a series of activities during their English lessons, students were invited to dress up as a character from a book they had read. Every student who dressed up (and a number who didn't) donated £1 to NSPCC and were able to parade their costumes around during the day. There were some very interesting outfits, ranging from a ringmaster to our very own Time Lords. Even the staff got involved, dressing as Robin Hood and his Maid Marian, as well as Little Red Riding Hood.

Many of the students took advantage of the good natured approach to the

day, arriving as The Smurfs and even The Tweenies, a very amusing sight first thing in the morning!

It was an extremely enjoyable day and one we hope to repeat again, so start thinking about your costume for next



Special Events

- Maths Week
- Book Week
- Czech visit
- Rewards Afternoon
- Jack Petchey Awards
- Royal Opera House Project

CZECH STUDENT VISIT

On Friday 25th March a group of Czech students visited the Academy. One of the accompanying teachers, Mr Wayne Smith, was a former student of the school. The group came from the Gymnazium Jana Nerudy in Prague. The visit was extremely successful. The Czech students were

partnered with Ockendon Students and they then spent an afternoon working on a joint project looking at the differences and similarities in the UK and the Czech Republic. We hope to host a similar visit next year.



REWARDS AND CELEBRATIONS

29 students received 150 credits over the last term and as a result of this excellent achievement were rewarded with a trip to Grangewater.

We all had a fantastic afternoon with groups doing the zip wire, rock climbing, abseiling and team work activities. All students were a credit to The Ockendon Academy again well done to all.

Mr Aitken

96 students who gained 130 credits were rewarded with an afternoon tea with Mrs King. Groups of 12 students enjoyed high tea in her office so that she could congratulate them personally. Each student then had a photograph taken at Mrs King's desk to mark the occasion!

Celebration assemblies have taken place in the last two weeks of term. We are delighted that so many students gained awards and particularly pleased that so many parents attended.



THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Thirty students recently took part in the Royal Opera House funded project. The aim of the project was to highlight mental health through Art and Maths. This was an excellent opportunity for students to create pieces of art work which were inspired by their research into different mental health issues. Students took part in a number of sessions which opened their minds to different points of view on mental health and ultimately led them to the conclusion that people

with mental health issues were no different from them. Students were guided through the project by Hans Meijer and installation light artist, Emily Tracy who helped students create individual character profiles which later developed into shadow puppets.

The project came to an exciting finale on March 28th with exhibitions of photographs of students' shadow puppets along with talks and demonstrations. Parents were given the

opportunity to try out drawing ink experiments as well as taking part in carefully selected food tasting session developed by Mr Wilson. The food tasting was also to highlight foods good to maintain mental health. Parents and students were also able to speak to health practitioners who attended the event.

Many thanks to all the students who took part in the project as well as the staff.



PALMERS COLLEGE A/S MATHEMATICS INDUCTION PROGRAMME

In January the Ockendon Academy was delighted with Year 11 students' GCSE Mathematics results. They were the best we have ever had.

As a specialist Mathematics College, we are also delighted that 22 of our top mathematics students have chosen to study Mathematics A/S and A level or are taking maths related subjects such as accountancy.

Working with the Mathematics Department at Palmers College we have prepared an enrichment programme for students to make an early induction to AS level studies. On Monday 7th March students visited Palmers to begin AS work. The photograph shows students working on Binominal Theorem!



OFSTED'S INTERIM ASSESSMENT - EXCELLENT NEWS!

The Ofsted Interim assessment was carried out to verify the judgment of 'outstanding' in 2007. Inspectors looked at various sources of information relating to the students' academic performance and attendance. The data indicated that performance has been sustained and Ofsted will therefore not be inspecting the school unless concerns are raised about performance. This is excellent news that all our hard work in the last four years has been recognized.

JACK PETCHHEY AWARD CEREMONY - 30TH MARCH 2011

The award winners of the Jack Petchey award for academic year 2009 - 10 attended the regional award ceremony in the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford on 30th March 2011.

The winners are pictured with Danny Crates who awarded the commemorative medals.

Winners were: Megan Venables, Lauren Kennedy, Elise Kitchenham, Olivia Thomas, Sarah Robson, Sam Yeates and Mustafa Yorgandhi . Shannon Whipps and Carl Williams also won the award but were unable to attend the ceremony.



E-SAFETY ALERT

Parents please be aware that a number of bogus Facebook accounts have been set up in the name of students in the Academy. We are advising parents to monitor their childrens' accounts carefully. Any issues of concern should be reported to Facebook and the police. Children under 13 should not have a Facebook account.

FUNDRAISING FOR NSPCC

This year we are raising money to train two adults to become online advisers for the NSPCC. We need to raise £3,000. Already we have raised £1,530 Through the Academy Launch day, Book Day and the Year 8 fundraising activities. Years 7,8,10 and 11 have events planned so please be generous with your donations!

On Thursday 31 March, the Year 8 Year Council members and other volunteers managed to raise over £300 for the NSPCC, the Academy's chosen charity for 2011, with an Easter Egg Raffle. Sam Nightingale provided and help run a 'Guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition to raise more money, as did many other members of Year 8 through sponsored events in and out of school during the week. This was a fantastic achievement and took a lot of effort, time and dedication. A big thank you to all involved.

YEAR 9 FUNDRAISER

On Thursday 28th April Year 9 students will be organising a Charity Basketball Tournament after school for all year groups to enter (Maximum of seven players and £5 to enter).

As part of the fundraiser Year 9 students will also be organising a tug of war tournament after school for all year groups (£5 Per team).

Throughout the day three students from each Year 9 class will be doing a sponsored silence, please support your school, year group and class to raise money for the NSPCC.

Thank you for your support

Mr L Aitken



MATHS WEEK

During week beginning 24th February 2011 we celebrated Maths Week. All students in the Academy took part in special maths activities in tutor time. Maths was also the theme for our Thoughts for the Week.

'Mathletics', an exciting new maths program was launched in the same week.

This is a powerful learning resource where students can study maths and compete against each other in games and competitions with students all over the world.



A major part of the week was the outreach programme which was launched with the students and staff of Benyon School. Students from Benyon spent a morning on various activities exploring maths and secondary school teaching and learning resources with Mr Brough and Mr Bamigbola. In the afternoon students spent time on an extended challenge and enrichment activities with Mr Palm.

Year 6 students were enthusiastic and really enjoyed all the activities they took part in. One student described the afternoon lesson as 'awesome!'

Our special thanks go to Mrs Carroll who helped to organize the and staff of Benyon for making this such a great success.

Other activities during the week included a mathematics based "Weakest Link" game held in Year 9 Assembly – starring Mr Brough as Ann Robinson. Commiserations to Mr Aitken who was condemned to the "Walk of Shame" by his students after round one!

Mr Palm

SPORTS NEWS

Rugby

After regularly attending after school rugby training and representing The Ockendon Academy U16 1st VX Rugby team, Danny O'Shea, Reece Clarke, and Liam Randall have gone on to pursue their interest and passion for the sport by joining Upminster RFC. We wish them all the success at their new club and that they go on to have lots of success, but more importantly friendship and enjoyment.

Anyone who is interested in joining a local Rugby club, please contact the PE Department.

GS	Rutendo Rusiki
GA	Rhiannon Goulden
WA	Georgia Cotier
C	Hollie Jones/Carmen Magnus
WD	Chloe Brown
GD	Kirsty Alleyne
GK	Rivimbo Rusiki

Boys' Basketball

The commitment that the senior boys basketball team have shown to training has paid off as they are grand slam champions. Winning every game they played they hold the title of district champions 1010/11. This is a fantastic achievement well done to the full team Ayo Seki, Gabriel Odili, Godwin Oyinah, Peter Oluwarotomi, Adam Mahdy, Lesley Essel, Femi Badimus, Brian Oliver, Rasaki Shittu. The team has now been entered into the county league where we wish them the best of luck. We will keep you updated with how they get on.

Well done to the Year7 basketball team who came a close second in the league.

Fitness suite

The fitness suite is now open, with a full range of cardiovascular and resistance machines, and free weight area. We have also recently installed a plasma screen, DVD player, and a sound system to increase motivation and enthusiasm. We would like to thank Mr Harrison for his hard work in helping to put together this area for us to use.

Year 7 netball team

The Year 7 netball team has been really successful this academic year having won most of their games, drawing one and only losing one so far. With the majority of games having been played they are looking good for being very near the top in the league. The team has been captained for most of the year by Hollie Jones, unfortunately after a broken arm she has been ruled out of the more recent games and Rhiannon Goulden has taken over the role of captain. For most of the year the team has been as follows with Chloe Mortimer stepping for the last few games to cover injuries/illnesses.



Congratulations girls and hopefully your hard work will pay off when the league has finished and the results are in! On Tuesday 29th was the Year 7 Rally which the team WON, bringing home medals and the trophy for The Ockendon Academy. You played really well and we are proud of you.

Year 7/8 Girls Football

After a slow start getting a team together, we ended up with a great team made up of Year 7 and 8 students. This has been captained by Kelsey Kiely. Although only a few games were played, there was great team work and a lot of potential if all players continue to play next year. Hopefully we will be able to set up more games this academic year for the girls to show off their new kit, which was bought through the Jack Petchey award received by Kelsey Kiely. Well done girls!



Year 9 Girls Basketball

As with the girls' football team, unfortunately we didn't get to play many games, but in those we did play, the girls showed excellent maturity and fantastic team work, and had a mixture of wins, losses and draws.

Mrs Loader