

October 2011

NEWS FLASH

Secretary of State decides! Following the review of the clawback decision by Thurrock council, The Academy has been allowed to keep in excess of £1.5 million from our surplus balance. We are therefore delighted that the plans for the 8 classroom

block will go ahead. We are hoping the work will start before Christmas with completion by early summer. For more details please see the letter from our chair of Governors Reverend Duckworth

NSPCC - FUNDRAISING

On 20th September, 2011 Mrs King, presented a cheque for £3,200 to Nasima Patel, Director of Services for Children and Families of the NSPCC.

Mrs King said, 'I am delighted to be able to hand over the cheque to the NSPCC. Their work is so vital to support vulnerable young people and we are proud to have raised so much for this good cause.'

Nasima Patel, said: "On behalf of ChildLine and the NSPCC I would like to say a big thank

you to The Ockendon Academy for their fantastic support. The money that they have raised will pay for two people to be trained as ChildLine counsellors. The academy is the first in the country to have done this. We rely on local support like this to enable us to continue providing vital services for local children".

The cheque raised was the result of fundraising last year.

BLOOD BROTHERS

On Friday 30th September, 18 GCSE Drama Students accompanied by Ms Rydings, Ms Copping, Mrs Sears and Mr Jose went to see a production of Blood Brothers at the Phoenix Theatre in London.

The students saw this production as part of their GCSE course and have been participating in workshops to gain a better understanding of

the play.

The production was an absolutely amazing experience that inspired the students and gave them a fantastic insight into the text.

Reading the text is one thing, but to see it come to life on the stage is a completely different and inspiring event. This is the tenth time I have seen this production with a variety of

different casts, but every time I see it I am still captivated by the whole experience. By the end of the production there was not a dry eye in the house (including Ms Copping and Ms Rydings). The behaviour of our Students was exemplary and a credit to the Academy, as always.

Mr I. Jose

Special points of interest:

- NSPCC
- Theatre trips
- Fundraising
- Language Week
- Book Week
- Christmas Production



Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

A recording of the assembly is on the 'Your Thurrock' website.

NETBALL SUCCESS

The Netball season has got off to a flying start. All of the girls have returned from the summer break refreshed and motivated to train.



This has been reflected in the high numbers at training on Tuesdays. The girls are keen to develop and build upon the skills that they learnt last year and have the opportunity to compete against other schools. It has also been very pleasing to welcome new faces across all year groups who would like to represent the school and develop their netballing skills. All year groups have a busy time ahead as numerous fixtures have been arranged as part of the Borough League, Borough Rallies and Essex Cup Competition. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful season.



Some action photographs from the U16 Essex Cup fixture against Gable Hall in which Ockendon were unlucky to lose.

PE Department

STRATFORD TRIP

What a weekend! The Year 10 Performing Arts class has just returned from a busy but brilliant weekend away in Stratford-Upon-Avon. The home of William Shakespeare is a beautiful Tudor town with lots to see and do. We started the weekend by climbing a tower which overlooks the town and watched a play called *The City Madam* by Massinger. On Saturday we had the opportunity to have an amazing backstage tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatres, which was really useful for a BTEC module, and gave us a unique insight into the jobs that need to take place to make a production run effectively, from stage managing to make-up and lighting. We were hoping to catch a glimpse of Sir Patrick Stewart who was apparently there, but unfortunately there was no sighting of him! We then visited Shakespeare's birthplace,

as well as Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Mary Arden's Farm. The girls of the group were not very impressed to learn about how girls were treated in Tudor times, sleeping in the coldest rooms of the house and on shelves! We had some free time to explore Stratford's shops and

various tea rooms before getting ready for the evening performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We all had a fantastic time, and all students were a credit to us.

Mr I. Jose



BAG PACKING FUNDRAISING

On Saturday 24th September, the PE Department arranged for 45 students to 'bag pack' at their local TESCO. This was to raise money for their first Watersports Trip to Spain in 2012..

This was an opportunity for the students to help out their local community, learn and practise life skills and help to raise money towards their trip. The students were encouraged to explain to the customers of Tesco why they were there and offer to help pack their shopping. They worked hard throughout the day and enjoyed the positive feedback they received in the form of donations and comments of encouragement from the customers and staff. The students were rewarded at the end of the day as they raised an amazing £650.

The students will be heading off to Spain in July 2012, which will be a first for The Academy and

the PE Department. The trip will give the students the chance to experience a number of watersports activities, experience the culture of another country, visit Barcelona, the Nou Camp Football Stadium

and enjoy the company of their peers.

Anyone who wishes to support or donate should contact Mrs Maudsley or Mr Harrison at The Ockendon Academy.



LANGUAGES WEEK

The Theme for this year's Languages Week was the diversity of our school community. A special menu was on offer in the school dining room with dishes from Hungary, Italy, France, Turkey and Greece.

Assemblies focused on looking at the diversity of the students and staff in the academy. It is wonderful that we have so many languages represented—42 in all!

In the Languages Department during that week, bi-lingual

students helped to teach students how to say a few words in their language as a way to increase student knowledge of world languages and gain an insight into the different cultures of their peers.



BOOK WEEK

Monday 3rd October saw the start of 'Book Week'. During their assemblies, each year group was given the statement 'Books are dead' to consider. After speaking about their favourite books (and sharing some of the staff's favourite books with them), the focus quickly turned to books versus

the technology of the 21st Century.

The students were shown a video about books against computers before a series of facts about books were revealed; facts such as **5 million kindles were sold in 2012 compared to 1 billion books**. The aim of the

assemblies was to introduce students once again to the benefits and the joys of reading and to encourage them to read anything and everything they can, no matter what their ability. It was also to remind them that, actually, reading is FUN!

FOOTBALL PROGRESS

Year 7

Year 7 have the makings of a very good team and got off to flying starts in their first two games, only to wilt in the second half and lose both 4 – 2. The most impressive players have been Aidan McCart, Harry Haysom and Kane Pudney, although it must be said that all are already playing well as a team. This was shown in their latest game with our local Sports College William Edwards, where they dominated the game against a very good team for

long periods, hitting the crossbar three times in the first half alone. As a result Kane Pudney scored again only for the opposition to equalise with a goal late on.

Year 8

Year 8 continued to improve earning creditable results against Gable Hall, Gateway and William Edwards. New players such as Jordan McFeeters are settling in



well and they are starting to score more goals. Greater fitness is the next step to becoming a regular winning team.

Year 9

Year 9 has dominated their league so far beating Gable Hall, Gateway and William Edwards in their opening games. determination, technique and the willingness to be the best in

all aspects of their game are the factors behind this. Some of their football has been fantastic to watch but they also have a huge desire to win, and battle hard for that win. This is to be commended. Well done year 9. The best team in the school at the moment!

PE Department

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

Every year at Christmas you can guarantee that the TV will be packed with every version ever made of the classic Dickens tale "A Christmas Carol". Well I can guarantee that you have never seen a version of this classic tale done like this!

"Totally Scrooged" is a modern day, inspiring and sensational adaptation that looks at the story

from the eyes of Ebony Scrooge who is visited by three ghosts that try to show her that school is the most important part of any young person's life.

The production is due to take place on 7-9th of December at 7:15pm in the New Hall.

For more information please contact the Drama Department.

