

Message from the Principal

At this time of year we have been planning a number of trips and activities to reward students for their progress and hard work. One of the trips is going to Thorpe Park, a theme park full of rides designed with no other purpose than to make you feel ill. I have never been very fond of rollercoasters, I get all the feelings associated with a bout of food poisoning and none of the thrill that so many experience. In responding to the students who have been asking whether I will be joining them at Thorpe Park, I have feigned disappointment at a diary clash.

This has made me think about the reason why people love rollercoasters. For some people, there is never a moment when they feel more alive as they are flung from side to side, turned upside down and contorted by significant G-forces.

This first year of the Academy has been a real life rollercoaster. We have been knocked from time to time, worried by some of the things we have encountered, but we keep coming back for more. There have been many more times when we have felt the absolute thrill of the ride. Students sitting their exams, behaving impeccably, music and dance shows that put a smile on your face and leave a tear of joy in the eye. My soul has been lifted by acts of extreme generosity and kindness, by magical works of art and superb dramatic performances, by nervous students clambering to the top of a climbing wall and overcoming their fears, by the sight of students getting to grips with circus skills in the Big Top.

I love seeing the best in our students within our school community. I love the fact that I am constantly surprised by staff and students in their approach to life. I know that it is the fashion of the times to bemoan our young people, to blame and scapegoat them for all that is wrong within the local community. We know our young people don't always get things right and make mistakes. However, my experience of young people at Lord's Hill is characterised with a smile.

I will leave you with one final story. One student we have worked with this year (we won't name her - but she knows who she is) struggled during the Autumn term after spending most of Year 10 out of school. She stuck with it, supported ably by many members of staff. At many points during her initial months with us I considered asking her to leave. A few months ago at the busy Year 10 Parents' Evening, there she was, handing out drinks, smiling, giving people directions and being a wonderful help. She is an illustration of one of our success stories at the Academy.

It has been a privilege to work with you all at Lord's Hill this year

Have a great summer

Best Wishes, Ian Golding



Mopa Theatre Company visit to the Academy



On Wednesday, 29th April our Year 7s and Year 9s had a theatre experience with a difference when the famous MOPA Theatre Company visited us to perform scenes from Shakespeare! Always a popular visiting Company, the actors not only entertained the students with their lively and hilarious rendering of characters from Romeo and Juliet but made it a 'hands on' experience by casting some of our students to play the main roles! Although it would have been the norm to see boys playing girls' roles in Shakespeare's day, it was a truly refreshing sight to see Dan Wells dressed up as the beautiful Juliet - and what a good and convincing job he made of it! Both the Year 7s and the Year 9s encouraged their peers (as they might have done in the 16th century) by calling out instructions and directions to make their acting realistic and convincing, sitting on the edge of their seats participating vocally.

This was a valuable experience made all the more viable and worthwhile by the highly skilled actors, who commented on their lively audience and their sensible contributions to the performance. It proves that you don't have to go to the theatre if you can get them to come to you!

Ayla Lambert
Communications Learning Zone

Iwan Thomas comes to visit!

On Wednesday 20th May we had Iwan Thomas in school. Iwan Thomas is an Olympic Athlete, who represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Olympic Games in the 400 m, and Wales at the Commonwealth Games. Iwan Thomas is the current UK record holder at 400 m with a time of 44.36 seconds and is a former European and Commonwealth games champion. He is also the current holder of the Commonwealth Games record in the 400 m.

His goal was to find and train 6 students to become a 4 x 100m relay squad from our Year 10's for a Channel 4 documentary on finding hidden sporting talent in Southampton.

Iwan came in with a film crew from Channel 4 and spoke to our Year 10's about aspirations and goals and how he became an Olympic athlete and record holder. After his presentation he allowed the Year 10's to look at his medals before taking a number of them out onto the hard court area to do some testing. 30 of our BTEC students were put through their

paces. The first test was a speed agility test where students had to sprint 30m, sprint over small hurdles over 30m, sprint through ladders for 30m and a final sprint over 30m. For this test Iwan was looking for running technique and speed. The next test was a 2 minute run of 30m to test stamina and see whether the students were prepared to work hard and not give up. The boys were hurting afterwards but there was still a final test; a straight 60m sprint race. The boys were in groups to race against each other. After this, Iwan picked his final squad of six, they were George Chalke, James Wills, Desmond Musa, Ryan Ship, Tom Smith and Nathan Newman. Kieron Kopusto was also picked as team 'waterboy' and Luke Newman an ex student regularly helps out in the PE dept. was also picked as team manager.

The first training session for the chosen six was down at Southampton Sports Centre where the boys were presented with their new Adidas kit. Every Monday and Wednesday the boys will be training with Iwan in preparation for an athletics competition in Birmingham competing



against other schools around the country.

The programme will be televised on the 26th July and will run for 6 - 12 weeks looking at the progress our students make throughout their training and also looking at other very talented students from schools around the country.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and I hope they do themselves and us proud.

Den Elleston – Curriculum Leader for PE

Oasis DVD Project



In September 2008 I was tasked to create a DVD for Oasis with Annie Sanger Davies and Film Maker John McCormack, documenting the first year of Oasis Academy Lord's Hill. Over the months that followed, students and I have been filming various events through the academy for inclusion in the DVD.

On the 2nd and 3rd June 2009 the students were brought together again to write some short pieces of poetry and then film and edit short films to accompany the poems. The students involved were, Chelsea Smith, Simon Cozier, Jim Chadbone, Dylan

Keenan, Chelby Mitchell, Sophie Pinkney and Kelly Dando. Both Annie and John commented on how inspiring the students were, and what a great bunch they were to work with. They were indeed a credit to the academy!

The final edits to the whole DVD are due to be completed by 12th June and a screening of their work and that of a DVD produced by Oasis Academy Mayfield, will then take place at some stage in the near future.

Danny Sturrock – Drama Technician

Farm News



On Sunday 17 May The Friends of Down to Earth held its Spring Open Day. We had a wonderful day with many local families visiting the farm. Visitors could feed the cow, sheep and goats with our home-

grown greens and Oasis students sold corn to feed to the poultry. Throughout the day we ran pond-dipping and bug hunting sessions, as well as giving people the opportunity to hold some of our guinea pigs; chicks; fancy rats; stick insects and even a corn snake. Plants that had been grown at the farm with the assistance of some Oasis students were on sale to the public and helped to raise much needed funds for the farm.

On Saturday 6 June the farm brought 3 Tamworth weaners, these are a breed of ginger haired pig so have been named, Ron, George and Fred after the Weasley brothers in Harry Potter. They will stay at the farm until the end of the summer when

they will join the food chain. We continue to educate students and visitors about food production as well as good animal care.



A big WELL DONE to Year 7 and 8 girl's rounders squad, who played against Sholing Technology College at home on the 28th April. We lost by one rounder to a team who has been training for weeks, when we had only one hour before the game to practice and get a team!!!! Fantastic effort by everyone and well done to those members of the squad who did not play but trained.

Oasis goes to Beaulieu...



On Friday, 24th April I accompanied ten Year 10 GCSE students on a team building day to Beaulieu Activity Centre in the New Forest. This trip was a reward for those students who have shown excellent attitude

and behaviour throughout the year in their GCSE P.E.

The students embarked on various team building activities deep within the New Forest and had a fantastic day. The weather was excellent and the instructors constantly commented on how well the group members worked together.

After completing a low ropes course with various challenges the group members then had to manoeuvre their way around a course blindfolded. After a few struggles and bruises all the team members survived and came through with flying colours. After a quick stop for lunch the students were

presented with their largest challenge. They had to climb up a large tree and stand on a small platform and then they had to jump off and be rescued by the team and slowly lowered to the ground.

The whole experience was very rewarding both for the students and for the staff involved. The students had a great time and all learnt a lot of very useful skills and team management techniques. As the pictures show the students were all actively involved in the tasks set and gained skills and knowledge that they can use throughout the rest of their school lives.

Jon Cook - P.E Teacher & SSCO

Dance For Life!

On Saturday 13th June I took 7 students to perform in Dance for Life at Thornden School in Chandlers Ford. These students were: Mumbe Miyanza, Cassie Watson, Zoe Corkindale, Emma Hodder, Himoonga Muloongo, Becky Wiltshire and Sophie Wheavil. Dance for Life is an annual competition run by the British Red Cross and the students had to raise sponsor money for taking part to support this charity.

I am pleased to report that the group won the awards for entertainment and also got 2nd place for their use of music! The students performed alongside other schools and dance groups and were judged by professionals in order to get their awards. It was the first time that Oasis Lord's Hill had taken part and I think that the students did a fantastic job to get receive such positive feedback and recognition.

The students involved had been rehearsing all term with me after school on Fridays as part of a Gifted and Talented project. Together we organised the theme of the dance, which was Young Soldiers and from this we shared ideas and choreographed sections using different types of music, including Thriller - this section was taught by Becky Wiltshire who led this brilliantly.



I look forward to more performances like this taking place and I think these students are a credit to Oasis Lord's Hill Academy, it is excellent to see. Well done!

Oasis Academy Pre-School



Our Pre-School at the Upper School site, Fairisle Road, is thriving. We are able to offer children aged from 2yrs 9mths to 5yrs the opportunity to learn through play

in a safe environment in line with The Early Years Foundation Stage. Our Ofsted inspection in March 2007 gained good in all areas.

We are open every day from 9.00am to 12.00 noon in term time. Government funding is available for children from the term after they are 3 years of age, we also offer concessions for low income families.

Children enjoy their learning with our friendly qualified staff, and make the most of our impressive selection of play

and learning equipment. This year has seen the development of our new 'safe garden' area and we also encourage the children's learning by inviting guests to the Pre School such as story tellers, the local police, dentists, fire-fighters.

We have a few places left for September 2009. If you would like further information, or would like to visit us please call the community office on (023) 8073 9797 and ask for Mrs Julie Barnett.



Sadly, on Wednesday 1st July 2009, Kathy Craven, a member of our non teaching staff, passed away after a short illness. Kathy had worked at the school since 2001, first as a teaching assistant at Oaklands, moving over to the Personalised Learning Department when we became Oasis Academy Lord's Hill. Kathy was a kind and caring person who the students related well to. Kathy was also an extremely well liked member of staff who was "always up for a laugh".

Kathy will be missed by all students and staff – God Bless Kathy.

SOTOWN Records

Good news – some of the students at Oasis Academy Lord's Hill own record label - Sotown Records is releasing its first album - "The View from Here". It will be available on iTunes, Amazon and in all good stores.

It is a compilation, showcasing the huge talent across a number of diverse musical genres and with all songs written and performed by young people in Southampton. The songs can be heard on the website: www.sotownrecords.com.

Year 7 SWAC Trip



On Friday, 1st May ten Year 7 students went to Southampton Water Activities Centre. They were picked because they work hard, usually have kit and are pleasant to teach. I could have picked quite a few so next time there may be some different students that get to go.

On arrival at SWAC they found out that their task was to navigate their way to the Isle of Wight and back in the big power boats.....yes they were doing the driving!

The girls had the job of navigating to the Isle of Wight by plotting bearings on the charts (maps of the sea). The boys did the same for the journey back. Over the 12 miles there and back they missed only one bearing that luckily didn't get them too lost. A good day was had by all and Glyn, our instructor for the day, was very pleased with them all.

Den Elleston, PE Teacher

Oasis Youth Theatre

Two of our members have been accepted as members of the National Youth Theatre. Gemma Aked Priestley as a performer and Amy Barnett as a lighting technician. Both were recently part of the award winning production Sticks and Stones and Mobile Phones. There will be a benefit performance of this play with all the proceeds going to support these two OYT members on Thursday July 2nd.

OYT are also presenting two evenings (14th & 15th July) of extracts from Mark Wheeler's (OYT Director) popular plays (such as Too Much Punch for Judy) which will be filmed and released on DVD for other schools to use.

Mark Wheeler has nearly completed a new script telling the story of the founding of STOP THE TRAFFIK. OYT will premiere this play next March.

Drama Department.

One of the groups who performed a new Wheelerplay (now published by Longmans for the new GCSE spec) GRANNY AND THE WOLF for their GCSE production this summer are taking their performance to the Brightstowe Academy. Johnny Carrington and Danny Sturrock will be running a workshop on their play "BANG OUT OF ORDER!" which will bring the Year 10s of the two academies together.

International Writing Project 2009

The English Department has been working with Southampton University students which involved a selected number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students in writing creatively about other cultures and sometimes serious issues concerning people at different times in history. We have chosen just one piece to present to you in this Newsletter as an example of thoughtful and mature work produced by Lauren Flynn, Bradley Haines and Joe Marks-Reilly.

As a culmination of the many weeks of work, our students were invited to the University to participate in a lively day sharing their

work with other students from the area including students from Taunton's College. It was an enjoyable experience, meeting other young creative writers and also being introduced to the idea of pursuing a higher education via the University. Our students represented us excellently by participating maturely and with enthusiasm and in fact their behaviour was commended by the graduates and lecturers. We will be displaying all the work produced by our students in the school entrance in the next few weeks. It's certainly well worth a look!

Ayla Lambert - KS3 English Co-ordinator

WAR by Lauren, Bradley & Joe

Going over the trenches to face my fears,
My eyes are blurred with many tears.

You can hear the gunfire,
You can smell the gas,
You can see the fallen bodies laid out on the grass.

Killing, but trying to survive,
Whilst many thoughts run through my mind.
I shoot a bullet from my gun,
It hits my enemy like a thousand tons.

Shooting, running, rolling around
And with a slap of a bullet,
I fall to the ground.

My brain rattles in my head,
I can't hear a sound
And I realise,
I'm DEAD!

Lauren, Bradley, Joe
Year 8