

# Newsletter

Oasis Academy Coulsdon

End of Year Newsletter July '09

## HEARTS AND MINDS



It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of our first year. Life at Oasis Academy Coulsdon has been a hive of activity and success in these last few weeks. On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July our

Academy faced its fifth and final external inspection. The inspection report says it all!

***“Coulsdon Academy has made very good progress in its first year. Systems and procedures are secure and staff are confident to continue to innovate so that they can offer their students the best possible learning environment. Teachers have won the hearts and minds of the students who are keen to learn and to engage in the running of the Academy”.***

Our students have been partners in the progress of the Academy and have played an integral part in developing and delivering a range of exciting challenges both for our Academy community and our extended community.

### Well what has been happening...

Our Academy has become famous across the world after our Thriller Dance world record attempt. Apart from being on national television, we have been on the front of the Wall Street Journal! It has really shown that we are one big team who can keep in step!

Our Year 10 students have been selected to their new leadership roles. After competitive presentations and interviews, a range of students have been selected to new roles that will enable them to really test themselves as lead learners for next year. It has been a humbling experience to listen to their ideas of the future and how they feel part of the Oasis Family. We are really

blessed with some very special young people and we can't wait to see how they will develop next year, let alone what they will become and achieve in the future.



Year 9 organised the Sports Festival for our own Year 7 and 8 students and 296 local primary school children. It was amazing to see the leadership skills of the students and how at such a young age they can model leadership, teamwork, initiative and resilience in managing such a big challenge.

Our Year 10 students have even been involved in reinacting a range of different multi-cultural weddings to understand religious practices across the world. It has given them a real insight into these very special ceremonies and what is really involved.

Year 11 students and staff enjoyed a fabulous 'Prom' night on a boat sailing along the River Thames. Our students looked stunning in their glamorous evening dresses, suits and dinner jackets. We look forward to celebrating their GCSE results in August and wish them good luck for the future.

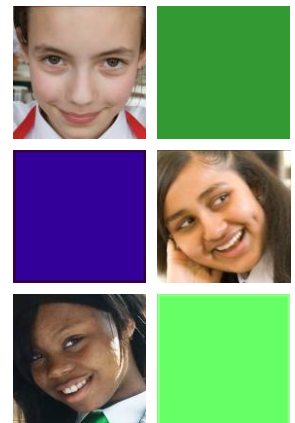
So, as this term comes to an end – we are feeling elated and proud about all the fond memories from this year and very excited about future plans for the years ahead as we strive for excellence together.

We should like to extend our thanks to all the parents and carers who have given their support to the academy in its first year and most importantly to the students and staff in **“Our Partnership for Success”**.

*John Murphy & David Millar*

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## Ecological Centre Trip

A group of year 7 students recently attended a field trip to the Heathfield Ecology Centre in Shirley, Croydon. There they took part in four ecological activities in the grounds. Students went pond dipping using nets to catch water boatmen, frogs, newts, tadpoles and dragonfly nymphs (although some groups spent a lot of time trying to catch a dropped mobile phone!).

Students also enjoyed a lesson looking at birds' nests, wasps' nests, animal skulls and lots of nuts, seeds, fruit and shells which had all been found in the grounds of Heathfield House, suggesting all those different plants and animals were found there. The ecology was very diverse considering we are so close to London.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine and grounds at the centre and we are looking forward to going again next year!



## Forensics

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 10 year 10 students were invited to attend Coulsdon College for a session on biotechnology. When we arrived we discovered that there had been a murder and there were three suspects.

The students had to carry out DNA finger printing on the suspects as well as the sample that had been found at the crime scene. After learning how to use specialist equipment such as micropipettes and how to carry out complex activities such as electrophoresis, they discovered who the murderer was – it was the Professor! They kept their DNA fingerprints and a good day was had by all!



## Natural History Museum

In June thirty year 8 pupils were taken to the Natural History Museum in London. The students taken were chosen for having an excellent attitude to learning in science. At the Museum, students had an opportunity to research minerals, rocks and fossils. Students also enjoyed seeing the dinosaurs and blue whale and experiencing an earthquake!



# Technology

## Design & Technology

This year all students have been generating some very creative ideas using their imagination at every opportunity

Year 7 students have worked very hard on the 'steady hand game' project. They enjoyed working with wood and plastic and getting used to working with hand-held and power tools.

Year 8 students have been developing their skills further through working on a project called the 'long reach grabber'. They have improved their knowledge of materials and they continue to progress their craft skills working with pine and plywood. The project involved bringing together carefully crafted shapes and joining them with a linkage wire.

Year 9s have been fantastic this year, producing the best set of clocks ever! The quality of the final products are worthy of any department store's stamp of approval, with many visitors and parents completely disbelieving that they had been made by students. The imagination and complexity of design has moved standards to a much higher level and has generated great prospects for future GCSE results.

Year 10 has made a steady start in both GCSE courses. In Graphic Products students quickly started to produce work of a very high standard which meant they could start their final assignment much earlier than previous years. In Resistant Materials students have been developing their skills through working on a range of projects that prepare them for their final assignment of the light project.

Year 11 have worked steadily this year in both Resistant materials and Graphics and have produced a very pleasing set of final 3D outcomes. Well done on all the hard work and many hours spent after school in the workshops. We wish them all the best for their Technology results in the summer and future careers.



Lamps designed and created by our Year 11 students for their GCSE in Design and Technology

## Food Technology

This year has seen a large number of events taking place in Food Technology. The Rotary Club Young Chef competition proved very popular with a large number of students from all year groups entering. Ten students were then chosen to cook their menus which were judged by members of the local Rotary Club. Andrew Dillon, in year 10, was chosen as the overall winner and went on to participate in the district finals.

For the first time some Year 10 Food Technology GCSE students cooked and hosted a formal dinner party for the whole of the Coulsdon Manor Rotary Club.



Year 10 students impressed members of the Rotary club with their culinary skills on the night of the Rotary Dinner.

A four course meal was produced to a very high standard with the Rotary Club wanting to come every week! As this was such a great success we have decided to make it a regular feature on the Oasis calendar.

A number of local primary schools have been visited this year with cooking, nutrition, packaging, designing and CAD/CAM all being taught. Recently four primary schools each spent a whole day at the Academy where they participated in a Technology Day. They were able to take part in three activities which included producing animations and building robots on the computer, designing and constructing electronic flashing badges, making bread and tasting a variety of different breads from around the world. These days proved very popular with the year 5 students eager to return to the Academy to do other activities.



## A Busy Year

Over the last year we have had tremendous opportunities to take part in both business and social enterprise activities.



Year 7 were introduced to each other through an event called '**Big School.**' This was a series of business activities run by Young Enterprise. Year 11 were then offered the opportunity of joining the **Young Enterprise** Company Programme which entailed setting-up and running a business with other young people in Croydon schools, supported by sponsor companies. Eight of our students completed the course and will be awarded certificates and six of these went on to pass the OCR exam. Calvin Cheung, Solomon Egbo-Egbo and Shweta Varier achieved the highest award of a Distinction in this exam. Congratulations to all of them.

'**Stop-the-Traffik**' has been our main focus for charity fund-raising this year. The plight of these young people has really touched our hearts and we have done all we can to raise money and awareness for the 'Stop-the-Traffik' team at Oasis. We were able to raise nearly £600 from our chocolate fondue parties and have since added to this from various events around the Academy, the latest being from a collection made at the 'Oasis Got Talent' evening.

I had the privilege of taking three students to the book launch of 'Stop-the-Traffik' which was written by Steve Chalke. This book has a chapter by Cherie Blair who has campaigned for women through her work as a lawyer. She spoke to our three students, Rochelle Reid, Anneka Nevin and Sophie Williams, about their thoughts and future plans.

During '**National Enterprise Week**' we raised money for our Bangalore projects. Bangalore is one of our global partners. After a life-changing visit to the slums of Bangalore, Mrs Kavanagh and I were determined to make a difference for the young people that we met. After presenting our story and future plans to the students and staff, we have been inundated with ideas and support from everyone. Our plans include funding ICT projects for young men and women. This will make them more employable and so reduce the risk of trafficking and drug-taking.

We have also started supporting **Jacob's Well**, the training and manufacturing centre just outside Bangalore. We are planning a visit with students in the near future.

We have now opened a 'shop' where people can buy products made from the manufacturing centre that we visited in Bangalore. We launched the shop on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June and so far we have raised just under £200. I'd like to thank Anthony Vasquez and Anu Bankole for the help that they gave during that evening. We still have some beautiful children's clothes for sale.

Recently an **ITV** team visited the Academy and filmed one of the Business Enterprise lessons. The students were working on marketing material for the Jacob's Well and Zimbabwe Day projects. The students are looking forward to seeing themselves on TV!

We held a **Business Breakfast** for local companies. This was attended by Steve Chalke who stressed the need for local businesses to work in partnership with the Academy as our young people will be their potential workforce. We are now members of the **Croydon Chamber of Commerce** and have started networking with local companies to enable our students to experience different business opportunities.

Finally, most of Year 10 students are now on their **Work Experience** placements. They have made their own choices of where to work for the next two weeks. Students were visited by members of staff to see how they were getting on in the 'real world'. . Comments range from 'I'm having a great time' to 'I'm exhausted and it's only Tuesday!' We hope they have a really enjoyable time and know that they will be good ambassadors for the Academy.

*Mrs. Batcher*



Yebo! Hello!

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June nearly one hundred Year 10 students were involved in Zimbabwe day. Zimbabwe day consisted of an afternoon of lessons provided by Mrs Butcher and the World Studies Learning Zone on the political and historical facts of this poverty-stricken country. This would be our first formal introduction to the country with assisted help from Michelle Briers at Oasis Central. Zimbabwe, formerly known as Rhodesia, is our Academy's second international partner and we will be doing work with them over the next few years.



Mrs Butcher's class consisted of individual groups of students coming up with money-making ideas that would have a positive impact on Zimbabwe. Mr McAllen teamed up with Mr Burgess to bring us the historical/geographical side of Zimbabwe, including a shocking factual presentation from Mr McAllen and a map of Zimbabwe quiz from Mr Burgess. Ms John and Ms Dadswell also teamed-up to bring us basic facts on the country's economic, political and social standards, one fact I learned in particular was that Zimbabwean money is no longer worth the paper it is printed on due to the decline. This has resulted in Zimbabweans switching their currency to the US Dollar.

Then finally Michelle Briers gave us a brief introduction into the life and poverty out in Zimbabwe with real pictures and a guest speaker who had volunteered to do benefit work out in Zimbabwe for many months. Although I found it all depressing I was able to grasp an understanding of the day-to-day struggle the people of Zimbabwe face; this has encouraged me to become involved with the Zimbabwe project and more determined to play an active role, because I understand we have a lot of opportunities that young people in Zimbabwe just don't have.

All in all I thought the day turned out to be a magnificent success, and I really learnt a lot – Miss John even said it was "An inspiring event." So on behalf of all Year 10 students who participated I would like to thank, Mrs Butcher, Ms John, Ms Dadswell, Mr McAllen, Mr Burgess and Michelle Briers for making the day such a success.

By *Anthony Vazquez*

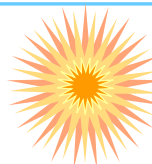
### ITV MERIDIEN

On the Thursday 18th June, members of the ITV crew came to the Academy to film our business studies lesson as part of a documentary they are producing about Academies.

The lesson was about our global projects with Bangalore and Zimbabwe. During the lesson we were given different tasks to carry-out, and my task was to create a mission statement, while others asked to create posters, business cards and adverts.

The camera man who was filming the lesson came around the class to ask some students questions, while at the same time capturing what was on our computer screens. I can't wait to see my work on TV!

By *Anu Bankole*



### House of Jacob *East meets West*

Mumbai meets London

"House of Jacob" is the school's new shop run by Mrs Butcher and her Year 10 BTEC Business enterprise class. The shop sells clothes from graduates of an Oasis project in India – Jacob's Well – and all profits made go back into funding the project. India is one of our international partners, and this is a country which both Mrs Butcher and Mrs Kavanagh have visited and hope to take a selective bunch of students back with them next year. These clothes are hand-stitched to perfection, and are aimed at children of 6 months up to 8 years.

The first opening of the shop was on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and turned out to be a great success. With the help of Anthony Vazquez and Anu Bankole the shop managed to make just over £175. This was the first time the local public got a chance to get their hands on the exclusive range on Jacob's Well clothing.

But it's not all clothing, Jacob's Well also make handbags and jewellery rolls. So keep watch of this space for next term and check out when the store officially opens.

By *Anthony Vazquez*

## Small Academy with Enough Heart to Thrill the World!

When we set the date back in May for our world record attempt of 'Thriller' Dance, little did we realise just how significant 7 July would become!

The death of Michael Jackson made headlines around the world and so did our Thriller Dance, coinciding as it did with his memorial service.

Not only did our attempt make the main news headlines on national ITV News but we also appeared on German TV! Newspapers across the world in Europe, Australia and even The Wall Street Journal have written about our world record attempt. We have also been featured in main London newspapers: The Standard and The Londoner as well as the local Croydon Advertiser, Coulsdon & Purley Advertiser & Croydon Guardian.

In this digital age news travels fast and our Thriller

Dance can be viewed across the globe via YouTube.

We have submitted all the evidence of our attempt to Guinness World Records and await confirmation as to

We are looking into making copies of the Thriller Dance and making them available for students to purchase on DVD for a small charge. However, we first of all need

to await the decision from Guinness World Records, so as not to breach any copyright agreement.

A press photographer who attended on the day has uploaded some wonderful photos which can be viewed and purchased via his website below.

We would like to point out that this website is not connected in any way with the Academy although we can confirm that the photographer did attend the event and is a reputable press and event photographer who has regularly attended Academy events.



whether we will become the official holders of the world record. However, it could take up to four weeks to be processed .

[www.photography365.com](http://www.photography365.com)

'Events in Croydon'

## Creative & Expressive Arts

### Step into Dance & the Scoop

Recently, our Year 10 Dance Students were selected to perform at the 'Step into Dance Live' performance run by the Royal Academy of Dance at the Mermaid theatre in London! The students were fantastic on stage and were a real credit to the Academy! Miss Van der Berg is extremely proud of them.

Not long before this big performance, on the 4th of July, our dance and samba students performed at The Scoop in London. The performance took place at an open air 'scooped out' amphitheatre, and the students had a wonderful time.



Students who performed at the Scoop: pictured with Tower Bridge in the background

### Sad Goodbye

Mr. Gardiner, a previous Drama teacher at the Academy, had to leave teaching for a while when made an offer he simply could not refuse.

Previously a cast member on 'Emmerdale', Mr Gardiner has been offered a role in Michael Frayn's extraordinary comedy *Balmoral* (set in a post revolutionary Britain) and has begun four weeks of rehearsing. Mr. Gardiner will be understudying Rik Mayall, who has acted in *Black Adder* and *Drop Dead Fred*.

We wish Mr. Gardiner all the best for this role and for the future, but he will be sadly missed at the Academy. We hope to have him back teaching when the production is completed.

### Athletics Day

On Friday 26th June, the Academy hosted its first Athletics Day. Students had the opportunity to participate in a range of track and field events up until lunchtime, including: Discus, Shot Putt, Javelin, High Jump, Long Jump and 1500m.

After lunch, the whole Academy moved to the side of the track to watch students run the 100m and 4x100m relays. Congratulations to the large number of enthusiastic students who participated in several events to score points for their Academic Mentoring Group, and to those individuals with outstanding individual performances on the day. Special mention must go to the following:

Year 7 winning AM group - 7CT

- Year 7 Age Champions - Yoshae Williams and Lemar Williams-Dehaney

- Year 8 winning AM group - 8KK

- Year 8 Age Champions - Amber Benham-Dajee And D'Vontre McCalla

- Year 9 winning AM group - 9LRS

- Year 9 Age Champions - Jen Ogbeta and Tobias Majewski

- Year 10 winning AM group - 10PB

- Year 10 Age Champion - Remi Reid and

Aaron Henry



### Sports Fest

On Wednesday the 24th and Thursday the 25th of June, a cacophony of laughter, microphone announcements and background music reverberated from the Academy's fields during the Sports Fest. Both students and staff enjoyed playing a variety of sports in brilliant sunshine over the two days.

Teams of Year 9 students were given responsibility for organising the event and the whole year group had the chance to take on leadership roles over the two days. This is very much in keeping with our ethos of inclusion and providing opportunities for all students.

#### **Year 9 students Toby Majewski, Adam Fry and Ashley Grant report:**

The Sports Festival on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was a huge success because of the leadership by Year 9. Over 290 students from local primary schools attended the event and seemed to enjoy it very much. Even the Year 7's and 8's had a great day on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In the hot sun Years 5, 7 and 8 played for 4 demanding hours to win the sport cup.

There were 10 sports for the day which included Lacrosse, American Football, Baseball, Rugby and Tennis which was a first try for many of the competitors. Many of the coaches saw talent in many young stars who may one day achieve greatness.

During the final of the festival many year 10s appeared on the field to watch the game as spectators. Many of them believed it to be unfair to not be able to take part and want to show their skills in the different sports next year.

Year 5s had a great day and one of them said "I have never had such a great day and can't wait for next year. I also really want to come to this school when I am 11." Also the Year 7s and 8s had a great day and one Year 7 said "Our team had an excellent day but unfortunately didn't win the cup."

Even the teachers participated in the Sports and many teachers including Ms John who suffered a leg injury while trying to recapture her youth and take on the Year 8s in a running race. Miss John stated "Even now I suffer from my injury and I can still be seen limping around the corridors."

The day came alive with motivational music provided by the DJ's who were Mr Turner with the help of James Burtenshaw, James Juggaroo, and Connor Norris on the 24<sup>th</sup> and on the 25<sup>th</sup> there was Mr Moisan with the help of James Burtenshaw, Nadine McDougall, Tulsi Patel and Nadia Ingram. All of who played a selection of music from "We Will Rock You" to "Eye of the Tiger", also Mr McCullagh who gave the commentary for the two days.

The days also couldn't have been accomplished without Ms Leary who was leader of the scoring and was able to determine the eight finalists. We give thanks to all the teachers, students, the Year 9 organisers and especially Mr Raynes, Peter Thomond and Alex Velkov from Sport Inspired (Community Sports Festival Organisation).



*Hugely appreciated Rotarian support! From left to right: Mr. Millar (Associate Principal); Mr. Adrian Nash; Mr. Mike Ungar ; and Mr. Raynes (organiser of the Sports Fest)*



*The triumphant team of year 7 & 8 students.*



*Fighting a losing battle: Teachers and staff members were no match for the Year 9 students in the lunch time tug-of-war.*

## Creative & Expressive Arts

### Making Dreams Real

Fourteen of our students from Years 7 and 10 entered the Rotary Club's Young Photographers' Competition which required entrants to submit a photo in line with the theme "Make Dreams Real". Our students used Photoshop techniques and attended an afterschool photography club to complete their work.

The work submitted by Kemo Stewart (Year 10) and Youshae Williams (Year 7) made it to the regional finals. Both students were interviewed by the Croydon Advertiser on Tuesday the 14th of July, the article for which is likely to be printed in the newspaper next week. Well done to the students, and a big thank-you to Mrs. Vიცig for all her hard work and effort that went into helping the students in this competition.



The Year 7 entrants were awarded their certificates last week by the Rotarians, Mr. Adrian Nash and Mr. John Power



Kemo Stewart's Photo which got him through to the Regional Finals.

### Oasis Has Got Talent

As part of our Citizenship coursework in year 10, Anna Noel, Jasmine Waller, Michelle Howarth and I, Dzifa Amedume, organised an event for our Academy – Oasis' Got Talent - which took place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 6pm in the main hall. The auditions were in G24 after school, which were opened to all students and staff, followed by a final performance where the audience casted a vote to decide the winner.

It was a fund-raising event for 'Stop the Traffik' to discover unseen and untapped potential within Oasis Academy Coulsdon.

We organised this event in three weeks as we were capable and determined to make it a real success. The four of us relied on a range of different skills to ensure this was a professional and successful performance.

The judges of the talent show were tutors Mr Williams, Mrs Buckingham and Mr McKenzie who gave comments to help boost the finalists' confidence. The runners-up were both two solo artists, Andrew Dillon and Jasmin Winifred, the winners of Oasis' Got Talent 2009, TNT were awarded a £100 cash prize!



TNT practicing before the big event

The winners were a dance group of five year 10 students: Tendai Muntongerwa; Jessen Gopaul; David Omony; Ike Mgbenwelu; and Jimmy Juggaroo. They really deserved this position as they made the most of this opportunity

by practising to the best of their abilities.

Not only did it give students and staff the opportunity to prove that Oasis really has talent, but it also help towards our Citizenship GCSE coursework, as well us our work in the future. This event brought a positive message to our community as we demonstrated our circle of inclusion, proving that "we all have potential" and "we can all achieve".

In addition we raised in excess of £300 which we have placed in safe keeping towards our year 10 prom.

Once again, congratulations TNT!

Dzifa Amedume

NEW STUDENT LEADERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



Andrew Dillon



Anisha Kasozi



Anish Jalabhay

PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS



Amelia Gullett



Aiden O'Halloran



Dzifa Amedume



Alister Ross

Global Marketing  
Principal Directors

Business Communications  
Principal Directors



Pauline Dennis



David Omonya



Rebecca Markland



Rochelle Reid

Student Voice & Responsibility  
Principal Directors

Teaching & Learning  
Principal Directors



Chantelle Lindsay



Chloe D'Costa

Oasis Family Groups  
Principal Directors

\*\*Unavailable picture of  
Jessica Vaughan who  
was chosen to be  
Environmental Director



Tarshini Varatharajan  
Recruitment Director  
KS4



Heather Kelvin



Adam Lakdhari

Publicity Directors



Boatemaa  
Appiah-Mankah



Stephanie Nye

Recruitment Directors KS3



Anthony Vazquez  
Website & Internet  
Director



Sian Bishop



Gary Harrington

Academy Liaison Directors



Amelita Sach



Maria Christodoulides

Festival Organisation Directors



Jayden Johnson  
Vision for the Future  
Director



Chloe McManus



Brian Samoto

Business Liaison Directors



Omar Banharally



Billy Taylor

Sponsorship Directors



Ashleigh Prentice  
Finance Officer  
Director



Joe Scarborough



Vivek Noruthun

Work-related Learning Directors



Jonathan Elliot



Tendai Mutongerwa

Enrichment Directors



Anu Bankole



Remi Reid

Mentoring Directors



Shaheena Peerbux



Yinka Adegoke

Learning Zone Directors



Melissa Gullett



Karina Patel

Motivation Directors

2009 - 2010

## History Update

The History department has taken part in a number of exciting activities. Earlier in the year the department was involved in the events surrounding diversity week and highlighting the roles played by all people in the making of Britain. History was also involved in the very successful Zimbabwe day for Year 10 students, where students were introduced to the work of Oasis in that country, informing students of the historical background to Zimbabwe and the current political situation.

Two groups of Year 7 students visited the site of the Battle of Hastings and were given a tour round the site and the attached Battle Abbey. Both trips were very successful and gave students the opportunity to visit the site of one of the key turning points in British history.



*The battle of Hastings took place on the 4th of October, 1066.*



*Our Year 8 students enjoyed their trip to the Maritime Museum*

Some of the year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and took part in a number of activities relating to the transatlantic slave trade. This was an interesting experience for all involved and gave students the chance to handle replica items from the era of slavery and to look at genuine documents from this period of history.

In school we are looking forward to the GCSE results and would like to take this opportunity to wish all Year 11 history students the best of luck. Year 10 students have worked hard to ensure that coursework does not hold them up next year. Some of the marks have been very encouraging indeed and bode well for a successful 2009-10 for them.

The department would like to thank all students and members of staff who have helped out or involved themselves this year; their participation has been vital in making this another successful year for History.

*Mr. McAllen*

## Geography Update

The Year 7 students have impressed in Geography this year. Earlier this year, the students learnt about the Geography of specific European countries through creative pizza-making lessons. In these lessons, Mr. Burgess encouraged students to create and cook pizzas in the shape of Italy, using extra cheese for mountainous terrains and moulding the pizza bases into the correct country shape. In addition to this, the students have been studying farming in the last half term which they have been really enjoying. I would like to commend the Year 7s for their sustained effort.

Drawing towards the end of 2008, the Year 8 students had fun learning about volcano formation and had an opportunity in Mr. Burgess's class to make



exploding volcanoes. These students have finished this year by studying 'Weather & Climate' and have keenly been carrying out microclimate surveys around the Academy as part of their studies. The majority of the current Year 8 students will study 'Population & Development' when they return after their summer break – some will even begin a Humanities GCSE course!

The Year 9s who are taking the new GCSE classes have made a superb start to their Geography course, exhibiting a marvellous attitude towards their studies. The first topic under study was 'Natural Hazards'. The visual aids used in the lessons have proven particularly popular, especially those showing earthquakes and volcanoes.

Students in 10B1, 10B2 and 10C1 have submitted their projects on Croydon, worth 20% of their Geography GCSE. The majority of students have gained a pleasing mark in this coursework element which should take-off some of the pressure in Year 11. Well done to the Year 10 class for this.

*Mr. McCullagh*

## Travel & Tourism

This Edexcel BTEC course in Travel & Tourism was introduced to the Academy this term. So far, the students have been studying travel and tourism as a concept. As an introduction to this concept, the students have started with investigating the motivational factors behind people's travelling, and this investigation involved carrying-out research in the local Caterham area.

In addition to this, they have been learning about developments in the travel and tourism industry, and how these recent developments have shaped the structure of the industry. They have most recently been working on the roles of the different components of the travel and tourism sector discovering how they interrelate.

The outlook for this practical vocational course is promising, as students learn by completing projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.



### Stamford Bridge Trip

On the 8th of July, six students from the Academy attended the *Human Utopia Specialist Schools Academies Trust* Conference at Stamford Bridge. Several Academies across Great Britain attended the conference; it was a really good opportunity for us to see how other Academies are run and to interact with people whom we had not met before.

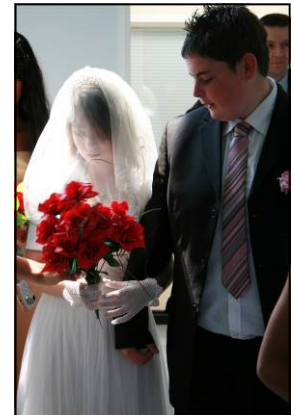
The aim of the conference was to learn how to become great young leaders. The programme director, Mr. Graham Moore, was a total inspiration to us, and he convinced us that we were *extraordinary* people, capable of accomplishing anything we set our minds on.

On top of it all we got to look around the Chelsea FC Stadium, despite none of us being fans!

By *Chiago Tabansi*

## Three Weddings

In the Main Hall on Thursday the 2nd of July, students and staff watched in awe as the Year 10 students enacted three different wedding ceremonies. Ms. John intended to educate the students on the diversities of a sacred union across three different religions: Christianity; Hinduism; and Judaism.



*Aiden O'Halloran led his 'daughter', Chloe McManus, down the aisle.*

The enactments came as close to the real thing as possible, with all ceremonies consisting of brides, grooms,



*'A happy 'Jewish' couple': Rebecca Hodgkiss & Anish Jalabhay*

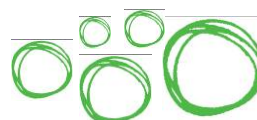
best men and women—although numbers of the traditional witnesses varied across the different religions. All brides made their entrances to music, vows were exchanged, and the different symbolic gestures were carried-out, including the circling of the Agni for the Hindu ceremony and the breaking of the wine glass for the Jewish wedding.

Apart from acting out the ceremonies, students got involved in all aspects of the event. Catering, public relations, wedding stationery, costumes, decorations and media support were all the enterprising aspects for which the students were responsible.

Students and staff all came away with new knowledge of the contrasting religious facets of a wedding ceremony. Many thanks to Ms. John for organising the entire event, to the other staff involved, and to the Year 10 students.



*Remi Reid, our Hindu bride, gathers herself before making her big entrance.*



## ENGLISH

### Year 7

Students have studied a play version of Shelley's Frankenstein and have written and acted out their own scenes from the famous gothic horror novel. They will be studying 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells in September, a hard-hitting contemporary novel that explores the issue of homelessness in London in the 1980s.

### Year 8

Recently, students in Year 8 have enjoyed studying The Simpsons as part of their media studies. They have been learning about the conventions of different genres, focusing on sitcoms. They have created their own Simpsons character and have written their very own episode. They will be studying Shakespeare's 'Richard III' in the Autumn term.

### Year 9

Year 9 students have been busy this term, finishing their first English GCSE coursework assignment. The standard of work submitted has been very high and the English teachers have been impressed by the students' hard work and commitment to achieving their targets. Students will be studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' in the autumn term, and it is recommended that they buy their own copy of the play to use in English lessons.

### Year 10

Well done to Year 10 for submitting all English coursework. Students will be preparing for their exams when they return to school, and some students will have the opportunity to take their English GCSE exams early.

### Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 - it has been confirmed that 85% of students have attained Grades A\*-C in their coursework, an outstanding achievement that breaks all previous records held by the school. We await their exam results in August with anticipation, confident that they will achieve the same level of success.

### Aim Higher

Year 8 students attended an 'Aim-higher' course for the purpose of finding-out the benefits of higher education. Dheeren Somarchand commented:

*"I really enjoyed it because it gave me a rough idea of what to make of my life, whether or not I got to university. It was a great opportunity for all of us in 8AB1 to know what university is all about. It also gave us a clear indication of what to do career-wise. A huge thank-you to Mrs. Smith."*

## LATIN

Wow! Before I started the GCSE Latin course I never knew the complexity and amusement of Roman life. Latin, for the duration of the course, has been an enjoyable and interesting experience. Although we receive quite a bit of homework from the subject, the buzz from learning a new language definitely makes it worthwhile. Latin is a challenging language to both learn and comprehend, but the Latin students and I have extended our English grammar and vocabulary in doing so, as the majority of words and phrases from the English language derived from the Latin dialect. Overall, the first year of Latin has been a pleasing and fascinating one and we all look forward to continuing our language journeys after the summer break!

By *Anish Jalabhay*

### Guten Tag!

German Language expresses the rich and diverse culture of the great unified Germany. The learning of the German language brings different nations together through mutual understanding, co-operation and cultural exchange.

The German language courses offered at the Academy were highly appreciated by the Year 10 students. GCSE German has not only been a fun lesson but it has been very interesting and all students have enjoyed it greatly.

The German teacher, Mrs Rivaldi is very helpful, making the class very interesting and always giving extra help to students with their coursework. The German language can be tough, yet the students are finding it to be highly fulfilling and enjoyable.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Will be celebrated on Friday the  
25th of September

See how languages are fun!

**Year 10 Peer Mentors**

Last summer a number of Year 10 students volunteered for training in peer mentoring. The training would be used to mentor the incoming year 7 students who were joining Oasis Academy Coulsdon in September 2008.

All the students in mentoring training met-up weekly in the current 'TOTAL' area. The training included developing our social skills through various activities such as quizzes and discussions to acknowledge students' fears when joining the Academy. We also used role play to act out possible scenarios that may occur with the new students, showing what we would and should do when they happen.

After the training sessions, September began and we were all given a 'Peer Mentor' badge to keep. We were assigned two mentees each which we had to keep an eye on and ensure they were settled well in the Academy, using the skills we learnt during the training sessions.

Mentoring the year 7 students consisted of developing their confidence within the Academy, in order to make them feel more welcomed into the circle of inclusion.

***“This experience of Year 10 mentoring has turned out to be a magnificent success.”***

This experience of Year 10 mentoring has turned-out to be a magnificent success, which has led onto other Year 10 students becoming 'Elite Peer Mentors'. This has also resulted in an extension of the mentee group to include years 8 and 9 along with the new year 7 group.

Overall, this has been a great and interesting experience for both of us. We have learnt many new things about children and we feel we have made a difference to our Academy life. Now that our duties are over, we must move onto Year 11, remembering the skills we have learnt and the people we have helped.

On behalf of all the current Year 10 mentors, thank you to Mr. Evans and Mr. Keane for giving us the opportunity to do something new.

*By Dzifa Amedume and Anthony Vazquez*

**ICT**

The ICT Department have had a really successful year with **over 86%** of the Year 11 students attaining A\*-C equivalent in their OCR National First Award. Two students went on to attain a further award at Distinction level, thus again two GCSE equivalent at grade A\*. And just to round up **35 Year 10** students have also been awarded equivalent grade A\*-B GCSE, (**Yes I do mean A\*-B**) in the OCR National First Award. These students have started their double award and hopefully all should attain two GCSE equivalence. And finally another **35** Year 10 students have already received at least a pass grade for their compulsory unit of coursework. A big well done to all the students and hopefully a more successful outcome next year.

**MATHS**

Congratulations to Anish Jalabhay, Adam Fry, Joseph Padega and Paul Allen for gaining the award for best performance in Mathematics and to the following students who were recognised as making excellent improvement in Mathematics: Matthew Clayton for attempting extension work, William Baker and Thomas Lockwood for Level progression.

After weeks of revision sessions and intervention the Year 11's completed their Maths GCSE and we now eagerly await the results. We also wait for the results from 17 Year 10 students who have sat their GCSE exam a year early - fingers crossed !

The rest of the year groups have worked extremely hard and their end of year assessments reflected the huge effort that they have put in over the year. Year 7 results: 38% level 5+, Year 8 results: 44% level 5+ Year 9 results: 68% level 5+.

Ms Leary would like to thank the Maths department for all their hard work and effort over the last year and would also like to welcome Mr Van der Hoeven who will be joining the department in September.

**Inclusion Reward Trip**

I was invited to a school trip to City Limits bowling alley along with 20 or so other students as a reward for doing so well in our literacy and numeracy groups.

We all met after lunch to catch the school minibus to City Limits. When we arrived we had to sort ourselves into teams of 5 and then the fun began! I was in a team competing against Rosaline Bello, who had never bowled before! The atmosphere was electric as we were neck and neck all through the first two games. I won the first game by 3 points and she won the second game by 2 points. It was so close everyone had a really good time. It was great to know it was a reward for all our hard work over the last term and a great way to spend the last afternoon of term.

*by Toni Carpenter*

### Old Coulsdon Village Fair

On Saturday the 4th of July, Old Coulsdon's 12th annual Village Fair was held in Grange Park. Our students participated in some aspects of the Fair's organisation and proved to be fantastic Academy ambassadors, of whom our staff are immensely proud.

Our students helped the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Margaret Mead, to show-off her notable golfing skills by running the golf game stall at the Fair. In addition to this, our students helped with the fun coconut shy games.

If this was not enough, three of our students, namely Leyla Resuli, Rosie Long and George Francis, helped Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Millard to create a beautiful flower arrangement for the St. John's Church Anniversary Flower Festival which took place on the same weekend.



*Two of our helpful Year 7 students pictured with the Mayor of Croydon: Hannah Fifoot and Lisa Hunt.*

Our students and staff chose the 'Tin' Anniversary theme and master-minded an enchanting composition of lilliantus, stocks, leylandii and ivy, fixed in a large tin pot. Adorning St. John's Church. We are certain that the arrangement provoked much admiration from the local Fair-goers.



*The three talented student flower arrangers are pictured here..*

### Zimbabwe Day



Zimbabwe Day was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Zimbabwe is our other global partner and we took the opportunity to raise awareness of the issues being faced by people living in this country. The World Studies Zone and Business Enterprise teachers presented information to Year 10 students. We explained the history, geography, culture and politics of the country. Students then had the opportunity of working in groups to plan enterprising ideas to raise money to support projects being run by Oasis Zimbabwe. Michelle Briers, the Oasis Global Projects Leader, gave a presentation of the work being carried out by the various teams in Zimbabwe.

Adam, one of the support workers explained what it was like to live and work in the country. He had just returned from Zimbabwe after a 9 month stay.

Ideas such as sponsored bike rides, clothes and food sales, make-overs, football matches, fairs and bring-and-buy sales, were suggested for raising funds.

We also had suggestions of using our Tesco school vouchers to buy computers for the children and teachers in Zimbabwe and to send teachers from this Academy to assist the teachers in the Zimbabwe schools. Many wanted to raise money for transport for children and teachers and also to buy seeds, goats and chickens for the villages. One group suggested that we simulated a typical day in a Zimbabwe village and several students liked the idea of penpals.

These are all ideas that students will look at next term and will decide which ones to pursue. Here are some of the quotes from the students' evaluations about the event:-

*'After learning about the struggles the people face, it made me realise how lucky we are and how valuable the things we take for granted are.'*

*'It made me more aware of how I could make a difference.'*

*'It was really helpful to talk to someone who had lived in Zimbabwe and seen Oasis' work first hand. It made the situation more real.'*

*'I think it's really good that our links support developing countries and that it inspires us to help others. It really opened my eyes and I thoroughly enjoyed the day.'*



## Progress Leader Reports

### Years 11 & 6

The Oasis family has come full circle with the Leavers' Morning for Year 11 and the warm welcome to year 6 parents, carers and children.



#### Exams

A very big thank-you to all our parents, carers and staff who supported and guided year 11 students throughout these rather 'stressful' times prior to and during the final examinations. The sigh of relief when the last examination was taken echoed throughout the corridors. Now we await with bated breath the results on the 27th of August 2009. **The results can be collected from the Academy from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Uncollected results will be posted.**

#### Prom

What a spectacular sight to see nearly 100 students looking so sophisticated, gorgeous, handsome, stunning and beautiful! The weather was perfect, the cruise down the Thames was exciting and the sights were breath-taking. The music, dancing and buffet left the students convinced that the evening was 'one in a million' and 'totally unforgettable'. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

#### Leavers' Morning

As most of the year 11 students gathered for their final assembly, the Main Hall was silent. Members from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 gave them a memorable 'send-off', expressed through song and dance. There was a distinct aura of sadness and excitement as students signed each other's shirts as a symbol of lasting memories and friendship. They took with them the best wishes of all the staff.

#### Welcome to Year 6

It was exciting to welcome approximately 160 year 6 students to the Academy on Friday the 3rd of July 2009. They will be the first year group that goes from year 7 to year 13. Their packed day involved an Academic Mentoring session followed by Technology, Art and Sport sessions. They were excited, positive and full of anticipation for a September start.

**To years 11 and the prospective year 7 students:  
a fond farewell and a warm welcome!**

### Year 10

***What an amazing bunch of students!***



Year 10 have had a fantastic year—most of them are currently completing two weeks of work experience, and big inroads have been made to make sure as much coursework as possible was finished by the end of their year.

55 students prepared presentations on 'why they should become a Student Leader' - and the competition was fierce as the quality of the students' presentations was extremely high! The Student Leadership Team has now been appointed (please refer to pages 8 and 9 for an overview).

The presentations are just a drop in the ocean of all the events that the Year 10 students participated in. These events include:

- A silver service dinner for the Rotary Club
- Organising the Year 6 Induction Days
- Taking part in an ITV filming for a documentary on Academies
- Providing tours for guests and visitors to the Academy
- Sitting on selection panels for the recruitment of new staff
- Stop-the-Traffic fund-raising
- Organising the Oasis' Got Talent competition
- Fulfilling temporary prefect duties
- Peer mentoring
- Working with students from Oasis Academy Shirley Park to organise and present assemblies about Oasis to an audience of primary and junior school pupils

Excellence has been demonstrated across the board. The only hiccup was when the Year 10 football team lost, again, to staff 6-2. Unlucky guys!

*Mr. Cheshire*

## Year 9

The final term of the year has been a very busy one which saw the Year 9 students embarking on their GCSE careers.



The students have been working hard and have made really good progress towards getting that minimum target of 5 A\* –C grades including Maths and English.

It has not all been study though with the Year 9 students organising and running a Two day sports festival for the Years 7 & 8 students and students from local primary schools. The two days saw students given the opportunity to take part in a diverse variety of sports such as rugby, American Football, lacrosse and tennis. The festival was a great success, even the sun was shining and the Year 9s were pleased to receive thank you letters from many primary school students.

Once again Year 9 have been successful in the sporting arena, going from strength to strength in football and the boys continue to grow in confidence on the cricket field. Thirty one Year 9 students went to the Army show at Aldershot where in blazing sun they experienced jumping from an 80 foot parachute tower completing various tasks and watching an exciting display.

The year has been a great success for Year 9, with students embracing the new Academy which they are proud to belong to. So as the year ends it is farewell to Year 9 and time to look forward to the challenges and opportunities of Year 10 and beyond.

I wish all Year 9s and their families a happy and relaxing holiday.

*Mr. Martin*

## Year 8

This year has been transformational for Year 8. It has been success after success and I cannot believe that it was back in



January when we celebrated the heroic acts of two Year 8 students, Jack and James, who supported a local resident when she thought she had been burgled.

Academic successes have been many and every term I have been delighted with the progress of students. Teachers frequently report good progress and attitude to learning and I have been very pleased to see Year 8 developing a mature approach to their learning with a hunger to be the best.

Throughout the year students have been fantastic ambassadors for the Academy volunteering at every opportunity. I was particularly impressed with the students who helped at the Emergency Services day during the half term. Students braved the elements serving tea, coffee and biscuits to the many organisations and guests attending.

Even when they were soaked to the skin they carried big smiles - well done and thank you.



Being the best has been the way Year 8 have measured all activities this year, and to celebrate this the students with consistent attendance and behaviour earned themselves the reward of having an afternoon event on the field. It was lovely to see the inclusiveness of the year groups as they joined in with an afternoon of fun and games. I am sure that this has set the tone for the other students to achieve such high standards at the start of next year.

*Mr. Calvo*

## Year 7

Both Mr McKenzie and I cannot believe how quickly the first year has gone for the Year 7s.



Over the past year there have been a number of activities which the Year 7s have been involved in. This includes a residential trip to Blacklands Farm, Enterprise Day, Road Safety morning, Year 7 disco, Oasis Extravaganza and various outside visitors have been present at assemblies.

Recently there have been a number of subject-related trips which included a visit to Neasden Mosque in London, the Science Museum, Battle of Hastings and Heathfield Ecology Centre. A recent local visit was to Chaldon Church where students learnt all about the Doomsday church and about the history of the Downs.

Many Year 7s have participated in the wide range of extra curricular activities offered at the Academy, including boxing, judo, trampolining, football, rugby, basketball and netball. As well as getting fit, all the students earn extra vivos for taking part in these events. Even as we write this, many year 7 students have put their names down for the swimming gala and are keen to involve themselves in a range of swimming events.

This year has seen real friendships and bonds formed between the Year 7s. We are both very proud of the progress and success that they have achieved and how they have settled into their first year of Academy life.

*Mrs. Buckingham*

## Friends of Oasis

We have in recent weeks agreed and made the following donations to the Academy:

- Sport equipment including tug-of-war rope, team 'bibs', cones and marker discs.
- Digital cameras for each Progress Leader so that they can record Academy life.
- Part sponsorship of the Year 11 Year Book.

We have also assisted with the recent Sports Festival, providing refreshment to the participating students and attended the Old Coulsdon Village Fair to run our football tombola stall.

Our next committee meeting will be at the Academy on 10th of September at 7.00 p.m. New and existing parents are welcome.

A Car Boot Sale is planned for 26th of September. Support from parents and friends would again be welcome at this event.

If you would like to contact the Friends of Oasis, please e-mail foac@oasiscoulsdon.org.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award



We were very pleased indeed to welcome Mrs Christine McCutcheon to the Academy and show her the tents and cooking utensils purchased with her generous donation made in memory of her late husband, Mr Alan McCutcheon, former Governor of Coulsdon High School and member of the Rotary Club of Old Coulsdon.

Mrs McCutcheon told students of her experiences of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and what it meant to her. We are looking forward to keeping in touch with her and keep her up to date with our DofE achievements.

## Enrichment

Below are the top five attendees for enrichment activities during the year

### Year 7

Rhiannon Speering	26
Isaac Dow	16
Callum Persaud	14
Shannon Holiday	14
Hannah Fifoot	13

### Year 8

Jason Hayes	20
Youvraz Sookhras	19
Jack Hibbert	15
Karl Jeffry	12
Laurencia Adu-Kusi	11

### Year 9

James Jughoo	60
Lucy Koser	37
Sophie Finley	31
Aneeque Safdan	20
Toby Stubberfield	20

### Year 10

Michael Sketchley	54
Jimmy Jughoo	53
Anu Bankole	43
Ling	43
Tendai Mutongwera	41

### Year 11

Elliot Gerlach	54
Muneeb Safdar	43
Damon Sutton	33
Vikkie Taylor	31
William Kebbell	30

There were many popular activities this year with boxing, trampolining and badminton being the activities with the highest attendance. There were other special trips out to places like Mile End wall centre and black lands farm. A brand new enrichment program will be starting in September. More information to come at the start of the autumn.



## 2009—2010

### AUTUMN TERM 2009:

- Staff Training on 3rd & 4th September (Academy closed to students)
- Start of Term for Students on Monday 7th of September:

8:30am for Years 7 & 11

10:10 for Years 8, 9 & 10

- Staff training on 23rd October (Academy closed to students)
- Half Term: 26th October—30th October
- End of Term: 18 December 2009

### SPRING TERM 2010:

- Staff training on 4<sup>th</sup> January (Academy closed to students)
- 5<sup>th</sup> January Academy open to students
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010: last day of term
- Half Term: 15th February—19th February
- End of Term: 1 April 2010

### SUMMER TERM 2010:

- Staff training on 19th April (Academy closed to students)
- 20<sup>th</sup> April Academy open to students
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010: last day of term
- Bank Holiday: 3rd and 31st May 2010
- Half Term: 31 May—4 June
- End of Term: 23 July 2010

*1 more staff training day to be arranged.*

## HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We do wish you all a restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 7th September.

We expect all students to arrive in full Academy uniform with all the necessary equipment ready to start the new academic year.



### OASIS FAMILY NAMES

**Brunel** **Luther King**  
*Curie*  
**Nightingale** **Da Vinci**