

# Newsletter

October  
2009



## OASIS HELPING TO MAKE STREETS SAFER

A group of our students have been part of a pilot study working with the Metropolitan Police Serious Crime Squad. Students have provided advice and feedback on a DVD the police are about to launch on the dangers of knife crime.

The police were so impressed by the quality of responses given by our students they asked if they would mind being filmed by BBC1 Panorama Programme who are featuring the launch.

The Programme will be broadcast in November and we will of course let you know the date once it has been confirmed.

## Dear Parents and Carers

It has been such an exciting start to the year.

We were delighted to welcome prospective parents and Year 6 students to our open evenings and days. Literally hundreds of visitors have been through our doors and each and everyone of them have commented positively on the learning ethos within the classrooms and good behaviour of students. Our students are of course our greatest ambassadors and I would like to thank each and everyone of them who have supported staff and given such a positive impression of our Academy.

The new year is of course, dominated by making sure that our new students settle in quickly to their new surroundings. This September, all of us had a new system to get used to—our Family Groups - and we are absolutely delighted to see what a positive effect this new, vertical, structure has had on student relationships.

With our sister Academy opening in Shirley Park in September, there are many plans afoot for collaboration and sharing of resources amongst staff which of course will benefit both Coulsdon and Shirley Park students.

We do hope you have an enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 2nd November.

*David Millar, Principal*

### Inside this issue

Learning Zone Reports,  
Family Leader Reports,  
Black History Month  
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First Impressions:  
what do Year 7 think of the  
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International Partners

### Thanks to

Adam Lakdhari,  
Heather Kelvin  
Students and staff  
for their contributions

## MODEL CELLS

The year has started very well in the science department. We have welcomed two new teachers to the department, Ms Williams and Ms Nye and Year 7 students have settled in well.

Year 7s have recently had the chance to make model cells which they made from jelly, digestive biscuits, grapes and peas!

In August some of our current year 10s received excellent results in their first

science exam modules including Adam Fry who received two A grades. Year 10s have their next module exams on the 19<sup>th</sup> November – one in Biology and one in Chemistry. Revision sessions have begun and are on Tuesday after school.

BTEC students in year 11 are making excellent progress in their new course with a number of students working at distinction level (worth the equivalent of 2 A grades at GCSE).

Congratulations to the students who successfully completed they Core GCSE course last year and who are now moving on to Additional Science GCSE. Their next modules are on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Revision is on a Monday evening for both additional students and triple science students. We wish them the best of luck.



*Year 7 students made model cells from jelly, digestive biscuits, grapes and peas!*

## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD



Educating young people is not just about providing students with the academic qualifications to succeed in the workplace. They need social skills to enable them to interact and communicate with a cross-section of society; people from different ethnic and economic backgrounds and different age ranges. I cannot think of one work-place situation where our students will work solely with people who are all the same age as themselves. As an Academy, it is our responsibility to prepare our students for the real world of Business and that is why our new, vertical Family Group structure will benefit them so much. Already, new friendships are being formed without the more traditional 'age-barriers' found in schools, 11 year old students are discovering that they have shared interests with 14 & 15 year olds. 15 and 16 year old students realise that they

have so much knowledge to share with younger students that can help them succeed. Our Academy reflects real life and just like real families, we will never give up on our students, we will nurture them and watch them grow into responsible, caring citizens.

*John Murphy*

**Our Textiles Department would really appreciate donations of remnants of cloth, buttons, ribbons, sequins, —in fact anything which can be used in their textile design classes.**

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 7s have really settled well into Food Technology and have learnt a wide range of cooking skills producing some great dishes. Even their washing up skills are improving!

With the introduction last year of starting the GCSE options in year 9 the two year 10 classes have been able to start on their actual GCSE folder work much earlier than normal. Students in both classes are very keen and are producing some fantastic work. After half term they will start producing their own dishes, linked in with their design briefs, which I am looking forward to seeing and tasting. As in every year they will still be designing and producing their own Christmas cakes which usually prove very popular and very competitive especially over who can produce the best design.

Year 11s are now nearing the end to completing their coursework. I have been amazed at the standard and quality of dishes that they have produced all of which had to be tasted by myself and Mrs Butcher!

## ROTARY YOUNG CHEF

I am glad to announce that we will again be entering the Rotary Young Chef Competition. We have entered this for a number of years and students of all ages are very eager to be chosen to participate in this. So pre- warning all cooks watch out for more information after half term around the school and in the weekly bulletin.



*Last year, Andrew Dillon, Student Executive Director won the local heats in the Rotary Young Chef competition.*

## POST 16 CAREERS

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September a careers event was held at The Academy for all Year 11 students and their parents.

Mrs Butcher ( Careers Coordinator ) and Yvonne Lake ( Connexions Careers Advisor ) explained about the various choices available to students when they leave this Academy. The application process was described and the need to make realistic choices was stressed.

Students and parents were then able to move into the Year 11 Hub where they were able to meet college and training providers. Fourteen different establishments were represented and students could ask direct questions and collect all the information that they would need. They also collected a great many free pens, bags and sweets!!

Please remember that all applications should be handed to Mrs Butcher by December 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest. Reigate College applications should be given in now.

## Young Enterprise

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September this year, Mrs Butcher and 18 students in Year 11 attended the launch of Young Enterprise. This was held at Fairfield Halls in Croydon and the scheme was explained to the students. Four former competitors from the television show 'The Apprentice' were on hand to provide advice and entertainment. They were Tim Campbell, Howard Ebbison, Raef Bjayon and Claire Young. Some of our students had their photographs taken with them and were featured in The Croydon Advertiser.

Several schools take part in this venture, however all the others are sixth forms.

Students are mixed together just as they would be in the business world. 'Host' companies provide the venue for students to use each week and they provide voluntary advisors to support our young people. Students run real businesses and attend regular meetings as well as workshops. Several of our students have already been voted into key roles in their business. I know they will be successful as they have already managed to get me to by several shares in their businesses.

Sponsor companies this year are Nestle, BT, The Home Office, Marks & Spencer and Jury's Inn. The feedback that I have received so far has been excellent.

## YOUNG ENTERPRISE 'BIG SCHOOL' EVENT

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October all Year 7 students were seated in the main hall for an enterprise experience. They were introduced to the idea of working in groups, with students that they may not have met before. Some were quite daunted by this at first.



The event was run by Young Enterprise and supported by two local businessmen, one of whom was a magician! He proved to be an expert with bendy balloons!

Students learnt the importance of team-work and good communication, as well as enterprising skills. They did this through a variety of activities which involved a human treasure hunt, creating business cards, understanding other cultures and making a corporate hat with those balloons!! We seem to have some budding entrepreneurs in Year 7.





Across the Academy many areas of the curriculum are linking work to Black History Month and this also includes our canteen serving Afro-Caribbean food during Diversity Week.

- all students in the Academy have viewed a powerpoint presentation on Black History Month, produced by one of our Year 9 students during their family mentor time. This gave all students the opportunity to discuss issues with their mentor and peers, bringing greater understanding to all

- Daily assemblies are

themed to Diversity and Black History Month

- In History this half term, students have been studying Black History including the contribution of the Civil Rights leaders.
- Year 7 students have studied Martin Luther King as part of their competency curriculum studies.
- A large number of students enjoyed a trip to London and a River Cruise led by a black historian who spoke about the importance of buildings along the Thames as part of black heritage.
- Displays within the World Studies Learning Zone are currently themed to Black History Month and include displays of students work.
- Students participated in a fashion show wearing their traditional costumes including Afro-Caribbean, Egypt, Mauritius and Afganistan.



## HISTORY

This half term the History department has played its part in Diversity week and lessons have been used as an opportunity to highlight the contributions made by people from many different backgrounds to history in this country and around the world.

In Key Stage 4 all students are continuing to work steadily towards their exams in the Summer. The focus for Year 11 is the submission of and improvements to, their coursework and on preparations for the mocks in December.

In Key stage 3 a number of activities are being planned for the coming months. Year 7 have a visit from a Medieval re-enactment group and we plan to run more visits to the site of The .Battle of Hastings.

Opportunities for Years 8 & 9 to visit the National Army Museum at Chelsea are being planned—listen out for news on these.

## Diversity Week 2009 by Brian Samoto

This week the World Studies Learning Zone and a group of students hosted a collection of assemblies to all the family groups showcasing some of the diverse cultures and traditions we hold. Many countries were represented including Egypt, Afghanistan, Scotland and Mauritius. It was truly an epic collaboration reflecting the Academy's ethos and vision of being an Inclusive Learning Community in which Every Person Matters no matter what walk of life they may come from.

Monique Lafait in Year 9 produced a PowerPoint on Black History Month which was shown across the Academy. All subject areas promoted diversity as part of their lessons; for example, in History, Year 9 students studied Black History, focusing on the contribution of Black Civil Rights leaders. We would just like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in, assisted with or attended Diversity Week celebrations. We all enjoyed it!



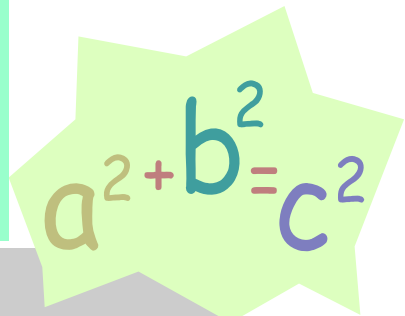
## MATHS

Year 11s have been busy preparing for their first Maths GCSE Module Examination in November - small groups of students have been working with Mr van der Hoeven, Mrs Patel, Mrs Lesova, Miss Dare and Ms Leary at revision sessions after school on Thursdays and completing many past exam papers. They completed their Mock Exam this week and fingers crossed have gained their target grades.

Miss Broadbell's class have been studying hard for their re-sit exam to improve on their grades already gained in the summer. One class of Year 10 students are also sitting their first GCSE exam with the Year 11s and have been attending after school revision too.

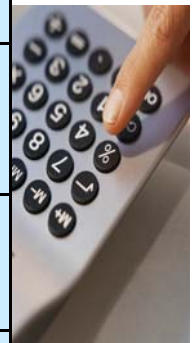
The Maths Department are hosting a series of Half Term Revision sessions and students who are eligible to attend have received a letter already.

Ms Leary and her Team would like to wish all of the students the very best of luck and hopes that **Friday 13th November** is a **lucky** day for them !



## YEAR 11 ASSESSMENT OUTLINE

Module	Content	Weighting	Exam date and papers
1	Handling Data	18%	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 (pm) 1 x 30 min non-calc 1 x 30 min calc
3	Number and Algebra	27%	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010 (am) 1 x 45 min non-calc 1 x 45 min calc
5	Number, Algebra and Shape, Space and Measure	55%	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010 (pm) 1 x 1hr 15 non –calc 11 <sup>th</sup> June (am) 1 x 1hr 15 calc



## YEAR 10 ASSESSMENT OUTLINE

Module	Content	Weighting	Exam date and papers
3	Number and Algebra	27%	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010 (am) 1 x 45 min non-calc 1 x 45 min calc
1	Handling Data	18%	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2010 (pm) 1 x 30 min non-calc 1 x 30 min calc
5	Number, Algebra and Shape, Space and Measure	55%	June 2011 1 x 1hr 15 non –calc 1 x 1hr 15 calc



## FRENCH ENTERPRISE CLUB

We are launching a new French Enterprise Club for Year 9 students every Tuesday after school.

The aim of the club is to give students an opportunity to develop useful business skills and experiences in a French context. These will really make a difference when they come to seek jobs later in their lives, and will also enhance their approach to many of the different challenges that they face everyday, including organisation, determination, financial awareness and teamwork. The French aspect will give students the opportunity to use their language skills in a practical and relevant way. On top of all this, students will also receive the recognised NCFE qualification, equivalent to a grade B GCSE.

The French Enterprise Club will be based mainly around students working in teams to launch and run their own businesses. To enable them to achieve this, they will receive expert help from business people and entrepreneurs in different workshops. There will also be trips to businesses and talks to learn about the basics of running a business, including finance, marketing and project planning.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The Academy celebrated European Day of Languages on 25<sup>th</sup> September. This is a day celebrated across Europe, with the aim of showing people how important languages are, and what fun can be had learning them. There are over 6000 languages spoken in the world, and behind each and every one of them lies a rich and diverse culture.

There were many different activities throughout the day. The French theatre group 'Frog and Rosbeef' came to the Academy and staged two performances of their play 'Mission Impossible' to Years 7-9. Students who were initially doubtful that they would understand anything were soon taking part, shouting 'It's behind you!'

Teaching staff entered into the spirit of things by completing a presentation and quiz in Family Time.

A variety of languages were used in lessons during the day: Miss Lawless read the Lord's Prayer in German and even managed to translate chemical formulas into German!

PE students were taught in Arabic by Mr. Swais.

In Mrs Lesova's Maths class, students who spoke a different first language had to say numbers in their own language (very confusing apparently).

Mr McCullagh's Travel and Tourism group spent the lesson researching European countries and produced some colourful flags and postcards.

Special mention to our prize winners: Sian Bishop won the 'Guess the Teacher' language competition and Shannon Holliday won the poster competition.

Many thanks to all who participated and for making this an enjoyable day.

HELP YEAR 11s practise for their GCSE French Speaking Exam.

If you have a working knowledge of French and can spend some time listening to students practise please contact Miss Wilson: [Jude.Wilson@oasiscoulsdon.org](mailto:Jude.Wilson@oasiscoulsdon.org)  
Volunteers will be subject to receiving CRB clearance.



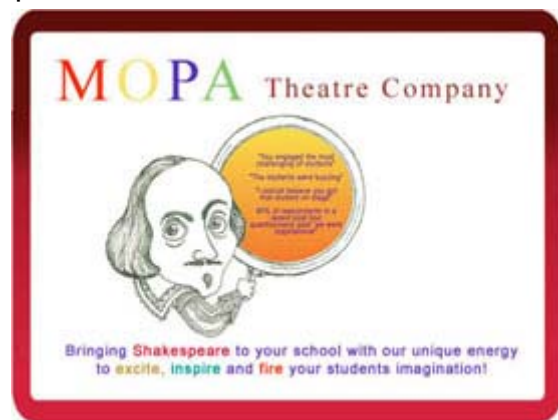
## ENGLISH

**Free Books for Year 7!**

For the third year running, we are participating in the 'Booked Up' programme that entitles every single Year 7 student to a free book. The aim is to encourage and support young people to read for pleasure. Students were able to choose from twelve titles and watched the Booked Up DVD to see each of the authors talking about their book, and to find out what other Year 7 pupils who have read the books thought of them. Orders have now been placed and books will be delivered later in the term, just in time for Christmas.

**MACBETH**

Year 10 coursework is well underway, with students busy drafting their essays on Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. To support students with this, a theatre group will be visiting the Academy on Thursday 5th November and performing selected scenes from the Scottish play, bringing the text to life! A question and answer session will follow, with students having the opportunity to ask the actors questions about their roles.



## ENGLISH ENRICHMENT

**Friday 5th February 2010**

Poetry Live Event in London Westminster Central Hall.

**Tuesday 23rd February 2010**

Year 11 visit to Steiner Theatre in London for The Poetry Show.

**Thursday 18th March 2010**

Year 11 visit to Camden Centre for Student Conference on achieving Grade A.

**Friday 19th March 2010**

Year 11 visit to Camden Centre for Student Conference on achieving Grade C.

NETBALL

We were invited to send a team to take part in the Academies Cup at Knights Academy. This full day tournament was really exciting and gave our girls a lot of experience. They were great ambassadors for the Academy and showed great sportsmanship and enthusiasm:

Laura Viljoen, Lucy Day, Jess Ogbeta, Shericha Douglas, Emanuella Spence-Marshall, Sophie Hack, Amber Benham-Dajee, Vanessa Majewski, Monet Meconi

Music

Samba is back and in full swing. A new team are forming and are ready to take over the mantle of last years award winning band. Everyone is welcome and there are a host of performance opportunities coming up including the Christmas festivities in Croydon.

**Tuesday 3:15 in G25**

Choir is now running and will soon be preparing for the Academy Carol service. Rehearsals are on **Friday lunchtimes in G24** with Mr Moisan. All choir members are permitted to get their lunch straight away (with a choir pass) and then be ready to sing by 12:50.

CROSS COUNTRY

Six students competed in the Croydon Schools Athletics Championships:

- Kadel Henry
- Ericsson Manuel
- Jack Hibbert
- Jason Hayes
- Anthony Williams
- Jimmy Juggloo

Anthony finished in the highest place - 15th in Croydon schools Year 10 and 11 pupils!

There is a chance he could now be chosen to compete for Surrey in the Regional Championships. This is the best result we've had in recent years at the Cross Country.

Well done to Anthony and the whole team!



**BOY'S RUGBY LEAGUE STARTING EVERY TUESDAY AFTER HALF TERM**  
Bring sports kit, football boots & mouthguard

**ENIGMA DANCE AUDITIONS**

**See Ms VanderBerg**

## YEAR 6 OPEN EVENINGS

This year our open evenings were a huge success with a vast amount of parents and year 6 students who came to visit Oasis Academy Coulsdon. Now the school has changed to an Academy under Oasis's management, there has been an amazing increase in popularity.

We had many students from all year groups who gave up their evening to stay and help out. These students were all amazing whilst helping the teachers in their subject for example in science Miss Green had brilliant helpers, even helpers from Year 7 who had only been at Oasis a week or two. The Year 11s gave tours to the visiting families giving them an insight to our school life. Everyone did an amazing job giving parents a great first impression of Oasis. All the staff who had to stay in their subject areas were also terrific as they worked really hard all night talking to parents and students, also preparing their classrooms for the evening.

At the end of the night Parents and Year 6s were all asked to fill out a questionnaire about the school and their evening visiting it. We received many positive views and very good words were said about the students all round for being polite and very helpful.

We all hope that we have a great range of many students joining Oasis next year as we hope their first impression was superb.

*Adam Lakdhari & Heather Kelvin*

**Imagine  
Croydon**

Shaping our future together

Pauline Dennis and David Omonya have surrounded themselves with the crème de la crème of the student leadership team and have entered a Borough-wide competition linked with the Imagine Croydon project.

Croydon 2040 is the part of Imagine Croydon that gives students and staff the chance to run Croydon. It is an interactive online competition that puts teams of children and young people in charge of the borough. Students have to make decisions that the Council, NHS Croydon and the Police make every day and are responsible for guiding Croydon into a prosperous, successful and happy future all the way from 2010 to 2040. Week by week Pauline and David have met with their team who have been presented with a series of policy and budget decisions which will change the future of Croydon.

Well done to all students taking part and thank you to the extra time that you have been putting in at the end of the Academy day. Early days but the team are currently in first place – we wish them well for the rest of the competition.

## New Student leader plans!!!

**The Year 11 student leadership team has had a very busy and full packed start to their roles. Many of the leaders are already planning how they intend to better the Academy with new and exciting ideas.**

**Our Mentoring Director, Anu Bankole, has begun planning a Power-Point she intends to give when we return after the half term break for the upcoming Anti-Bullying week with the help of Remi Reid.**



Anu Bankole

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

*"It is improving"*

*"We all achieve"*

*"A Part of success"*

*"Improved, family, wanted"*

*"Somewhere safe"*

*"Interesting, better, fun"*

**As part of a Transition survey, we asked Year 7 to sum up the Academy up in three words.....**

*"Fun, educational, helping"*

*"Interesting, better, fun"*

*"Brilliant in the making"*

*"Support, community, partnership"*

*"Achieving, Fun, Excellent"*

*"A brilliant school"*

*"Excellent, Best, Successful"*

*"Strong, strict, excellent"*

## VISIT TO THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September a small group of student leaders visited the Mayors Parlour at the impressive Town Hall buildings. We were given an introduction to the history of Croydon using the various artefacts handed to Mayors over the years. One of the significant items was the mace that is placed in a particular way during the opening of chambers otherwise the chambers cannot commence. It was unusual as it was decorated with two C's representing Croydon Council and hand crafted by a local man. We then spent some time in the council chambers where debate and decisions are made by members of Council. The Mayor explained how she timed both parts of the proceedings' with a traffic light system which was connected to a timer ...this keeps councillors to time. She also was keen to point out the public gallery and pressed the point and encouraged the students to send in a question on a theme of their choosing to get clarity. It was a very informative and interesting visit and the mayor was very impressed with our students and encouraged them to get involved in local politics so who knows this may have been the catalyst for a future PM !!



## Teenagers! What every parent *has* to know!

We were delighted to host an information evening organised by Care for the Family. It was standing room only for a talk by family expert Rob Parsons who presented **Teenagers! What Every Parent has to know**. He gave parents in Coulsdon the inside track on how to get their child - and them - through the teenage years.

Charity Care for the Family ran a survey of 3000 parents of teens. **Parents admitted they were not confident in their ability to parent teenagers**. Only 15% of the parents said that they felt confident, whilst 62% said that they felt most parents didn't understand what it meant to be a teenager today.

Rob said, "Today's **teenagers are experiencing things that previous generations didn't** – like the growth of technology, an expanding debt culture, the incredible pressure to be thin if you are a girl or muscular if you are a boy. These days it isn't enough to be an ace footballer – you have to be a **good-looking ace footballer**. **All these pressures make life much harder for teens and their parents.**"

The surveyed parents attended **Teenagers! What Every Parent Has to Know** and following the event, 88% said they felt more confident about being a parent of a teenager, 93% felt less isolated and 95% had come away with a least one practical idea which would help them with their teenager.

Rob was keen to point out that many of the **traumas of teenage life are part of the natural process of growing up**. "Adolescents are at a time in their lives when everything is changing: their bodies, their friends – and most importantly their brains. They are quite literally out of control with their emotions and feelings."

"So it seems that **testing teens are here to stay**, but there is some good news!" says Rob, "The changes don't last and the main task for parents is to **just get them through**."

**Teenagers! What Every Parent Has to Know** included tips on

- Understanding what's going on in your teenager's brain
- Why reading your child's school report can fool you
- Keys for dealing with the really testing teenager
- The big issues: sex, drugs, self-esteem
- Why teenage boys sometimes act as though they hate their mothers
- Danger signs for teenage high achievers

**Teenagers! What every parent has to know**

**Order online at**

**[www.careforthefamily.co.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.co.uk)**

**Cost £7.19**



## ROTARY CLUB OF OLD COULSDON

We are delighted to be linking with the Rotary Club of Old Coulsdon again this year and will be entering students for the many competitions and youth opportunities they run. These include:

### **Youth Speaks**

A team of students are entering this highly acclaimed debating competition and the heats are taking place on 10 November at Shirley High School

### **Young Chef**

A highly popular competition— Mrs Buckingham will be launching the competition after half term.

### **Rotary Dinner at Oasis**

We are delighted to be preparing, serving and hosting a silver service dinner for the Rotarians in March. Ideal practice for our Year 10 food technology groups.

### **Young Photographer**

This competition went well last year and we look forward to entering it again

### **Young Writer**

New this year for budding authors, see Miss Williams for details.

### **RYLA**

Last Easter we were able to send no less than 5 Year 11 students on this weekend leadership and team building course and all of them were sponsored by Rotary. Applications will need to be submitted early 2010 so put a note in your diary to see Mr Cheshire.

Oasis Academy Students will also be involved in running stalls, performing and setting up/clearing up the Rotary Club 'Old Coulsdon Village Fair' and we hope to be even more involved with community projects this academic year.

# Brunel

The introduction of Families has been a tremendous success and I hope students begin to appreciate that they are developing skills that will allow them to interact with people of all ages – just like the world of work! Both myself and Miss Kavanagh (see below) are working hard to ensure Brunel students are aware of our expectations. We are committed to ensuring that students are well mannered, smart, organised, attend regularly, arrive on time and above all “let the teacher teach” so that knowledge is gained in **all** subject areas in order to be successful.

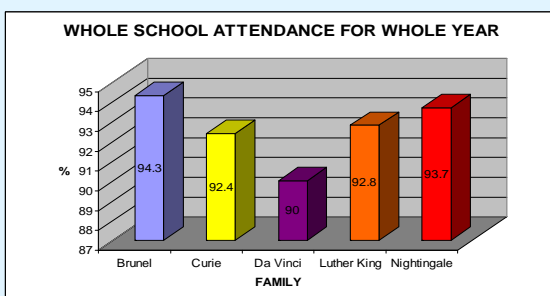
I would also like to inform all parents of the weekly schedule for Brunel Family time, when students get to spend 30 minutes with their mentor.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Quiet reading (appropriate books/news papers)	Family assembly	Theme for the week	Reflection books	Competition Time

We are delighted to report that Brunel family are top of the Attendance Figures as of the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Family mentors (Miss Van De Berg, Mr Turner, Mrs Davies, Mr Moisan, Mrs Kavanagh and Miss Fisk) are working hard to ensure that as many Brunel students as possible reach the 95% attendance figure. Parents are encouraged to send their

children to school in all but the worst cases. Please ensure that if your child is absent

that you telephone the school and write a note in their planner on their return to inform staff of the absence.



Mr Cheshire

*When the position of assistant family leader arose, it was an opportunity too good to miss! In my role as a family mentor and cover supervisor, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students around the Academy and felt that now was the right time to get even more involved with the pastoral care the Academy has to offer.*

*I look forward to working with Mr. Cheshire and all our family mentors, and forming positive relationships with all the students, to ensure that our high standards are met and Brunel continues to excel.*

Mrs Kavanagh

# DA VINCI

Our first half term as the ‘da Vinci Family’ has flown by. The seven da Vinci mentoring groups are really settling in well. It has been great to see all the year groups joining together and working very much as a team. It seems the year 7s have certainly gained in confidence being with the older students. Also the older students seem to love looking out for and passing on advice to the younger students.

Every day we have a specific subject matter that the mentoring groups follow. On a Monday the mentoring groups have quiet reading and signing of planners. Planners are very useful for parents, guardians and teachers to use as a method of communication as well as for students to write in their homework and information. On Tuesday students fill in a ‘Reflection Book’. Here students are encouraged to reflect on the previous week and to set specific targets on what they hope to achieve for the following week. Wednesday’s are Community Time. This is when we have a whole da Vinci Family assembly taken either by the Academy Leadership team, myself or by one particular mentoring group. On Thursdays we have discussion time where each of the mentoring groups discuss either the theme of the week or a current issue. Fridays appear to be the most popular mentoring session as this is competition day. Here students work in pairs or groups to try and work out and answer a variety of questions or logic puzzles with the winners receiving Vivos.

A number of students from each of the year groups have been voted onto the Family Council to represent the views of the other students in da Vinci. Every three weeks they meet to discuss various concerns or ideas that they want to put forward to the School Council. At the last meeting various ways to raise money for particular charities was discussed so look out in the next newsletter for what they actually did.

I have been very proud of how all the students have thrown themselves into being part of the da Vinci Family and I look forward to working in partnership with all the students over the coming year.

Mrs Buckingham

## Luther King

I have a dream .....we are living the dream at the Academy! What a half term it has been for Luther Kings .... attendance is up, attitude to learning is very positive and involvement in extra curricular activities has increased.

In community time students have been focussing on the aspect of personal reflections and setting targets on how to improve. Students reflect each week in their mentoring time discussing in groups about personal successes that they have achieved over the week.

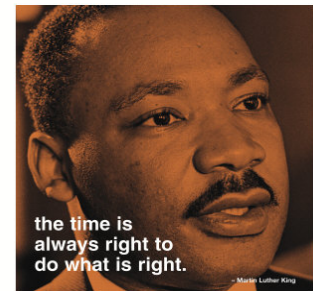
We are delighted in the way that students have bonded in their new family mentor groups. Students were apprehensive to start given their new surroundings and groupings but with planned activities, form quizzes and family competitions from the mentors they very soon developed new friendships and a real sense of family pride is starting to shine through.

I am delighted in the way that the older students have supported the induction and transition of the New Year 7's and how they have taken a personal ownership in insuring that they feel safe, confident and welcomed. With almost 100% of Luther King parents and carers attending the settling in evening it was very pleasing to hear parent after parent praising the new system and how quickly their sons and daughters have settled into the life of the Academy.

In community time students have been developing their understanding about their family Leader and how he became an inspirational leader for peace and freedom. In mentoring time students have watched and listened to his speech I have a dream. Students reflected on what he must have felt in preparation to delivering a world changing speech but he still had the courage and strength to stand for what was right. Many of the students have responded to this and have gained great strength and renewed passion to succeed especially when times are hard.

Given such a fantastic start to the year we all look forward to reporting next half term on the personal successes of Luther King students and feeding back on their triumphs.

Well done to all Luther Kings and have an excellent and safe holiday.



## YEAR 7 & NIGHTINGALE

Blackland Farm- 113 excited year 7 students visited BLACKLAND FARM over 3 days from 20th-22nd October. They used this opportunity to learn many team bonding games and activities which included a selection from abseiling, canoeing, climbing, archery etc.

On 22nd October from 6.00pm - 8.00pm year 7 students the annual YEAR 7 DISCO was held in the main hall. Staff and students danced to music provided by a DJ with snacks and drinks available. A wonderful way to end their first HALF TERM to the Academy. So far we are very proud of the start that year 7s have made, and I am sure that they will continue to have high standards of ORGANISATION, WORK, BEHAVIOUR AND EFFORT.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARENTS/CARERS of year 7 students who attended the very 1st ' MEET THE MENTOR' EVENING held on the 7th October 2009. It was a pleasure to meet with our parents/carers who came in spite of the adverse weather conditions. Many of the comments and observations were highly positive and is the continuation of a long partnership.

Mrs.Carmen Patel and the other Family Leaders have launched THE READATHON which follows on from the reading activity being done in mentoring time. This is our planned activity to help children with cancer and leukaemia. We have started reading for pleasure and to name this charity . We hope to conclude and to collect all contributions by the end of November 2009.

## CURIE

The Curie family students have settled into the new family system and have made new friends across the year groups. Many students have also taken the time to get involved with the life of the school with varied activities such as Dance , choir and mountain biking. As we have said before those students who have been making the most progress in lessons and getting the most out of the school day are those whose attendance is over 95% and have excellent punctuality. The Year 11 Curie family members are settling into the run up to their exams and are working hard to complete any outstanding course work and we will be running after-school catch up sessions to help them reach their potential.

By the time you have read this the year 7 students will have been on their trip to Blacklands farm to experience some teambuilding events and sports. Hopefully they will have returned home with a lot of happy memories of their trip and a bag of muddy washing.

We are extremely fortunate in the Curie family to have had Mrs Rich appointed as Assistant family leader. She will bring a wealth of experience and understanding to the family and we will all benefit from having her in the Curie family

It has been a pleasure and privilege to get to know the members of the Curie family over the first few weeks of the school year and I look forward to developing productive and lasting relationships with their parents and careers so that all the students can get the best from their time in the Academy .



**Our new website is under construction  
and will be launched after half term.**

## BANGALORE

**We have recently heard from our partner school in Bangalore who are busy training to take part in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, raising funds for Oasis India.**

**The Marathon is taking place in January 2010 and is a premier fundraising event. Last year it raised over Rs7.75 crores (approx £100m) for over 100 charities.**

**Students at our Academy will be helping raise funds to support them.**



## STOP THE TRAFFIK

Stop the Traffik launched their “Start Freedom” campaign with a webcast from the United Nations building in New York on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. We have registered our support for this important campaign which caters specifically for young people. Students from across the range of Oasis Academies will be actively driving it forward. The live broadcast from New York will launch the campaign, which will culminate in the Start Freedom week in March 2010.

David Millar, Principal of Oasis Academy Coulsdon said, “All of our students are horrified at the actions of some people who want to sell human beings for their own profit. They want to join this campaign which will seek to stop human trafficking, bring the traffickers to justice and protect the people who are trafficked. In addition they want to urge young people from all over this region to stand together and become a voice which will be listened to across the world.”

Student representative Rochelle Reid said, “It’s disgusting that these things should happen, and we know we can make a difference to people’s lives. Whoever has a conscience should get on board with this project and let us together stop the traffickers ruining the lives of those caught in this awful situation. Last year, our Academy was the largest fundraiser for Stop the Traffik; I feel passionate about this cause and we will be supporting this campaign in a big way”

United Nations special envoy for Stop the Traffik, Steve Chalke, said, “It never ceases to amaze me how passionate some of our young people are when it comes to issues of conscience. Whilst the subject matter is extremely harrowing, it is great to know that the young people of the UK are motivating each other to get involved in this very serious matter, and looking together to make a difference to people’s lives.”

**UNIFORM**

With colder weather approaching, we would like to remind all students that high standards of uniform and appearance must be maintained at all times.

Coats, scarves, hats, gloves, must be taken off inside the building.

Baseball caps are not permitted.

Leggings are not permitted and multi-coloured socks should not be worn under tights or stockings.

Outdoor coats must be plain black/navy blue with no patterns or logos.

Failure to follow these expectations will result in the item being confiscated until parent/carer can collect it.

The Academy will be closed to students on the following additional dates:  
 3 & 4 September 2009, 23 October 2009, 4 January 2010, 19 April 2010

**Term Dates 2009-2010**

September 2009							October 2009							November 2009							December 2009						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

January 2010							February 2010							March 2010							April 2010						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

May 2010							June 2010							July 2010							August 2010						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Schools are closed where date shaded red (bank holiday) or yellow (school holiday). These dates are set by Croydon Council's department for children, young people and learners. Individual school dates may differ slightly to these. Please check with the school concerned for their term dates.

5 staff training days have yet to be decided for 2010/2011. Parents will be notified of these once they have been agreed.

**Term Dates 2010-2011**

September 2010							October 2010							November 2010							December 2010						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

January 2011							February 2011							March 2011							April 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

May 2011							June 2011							July 2011							August 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Term dates follow those published by the Local Authority and broadly match all other local schools.

**CYCLE SAFETY** As the dark nights approach all students who travel to school by bicycle should have working lights on their bike and should wear a cycle helmet at all times. Students should also use a suitable cycle lock when leaving the bicycle at school.

**The Academy Mountain Bike Club runs every Thursday at 3.30pm — see Mr Martin for details**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

### FRIENDS OF OASIS ACADEMY COULSDON

Register your interest online, email [foac@oasiscoulsdon.org](mailto:foac@oasiscoulsdon.org)

## STAFF PROFILES: Miss O'Keefe & Mr van der Hoevan by Heather Kelvin

### What was your first impression of Oasis Academy Coulsdon?

It has a great atmosphere but it's definitely not in London because it's quite far to travel too. That the students are very friendly and outgoing.

### Have you enjoyed your time at Oasis so far? If so what have you enjoyed about it?

Very much, I really enjoyed playing basketball with the Year 11's

I have enjoyed working with the teachers and their creativity and everyone is very friendly.

### What do you think is the best part of Oasis?

The year 11 hub is a great resource to prepare the year 11s for college.

The exuberant atmosphere.

### What do you think could be improved?

I think the students need to sort out their ties and lengthen them.

The jury's out!

### Did you find it easy to settle in? If yes what made it easy for you?

Yes my family group are great, very welcoming.

The students made it very easy for me to settle in and also Mrs Lesova and Miss Williams.

### Do you enjoy teaching your classes?

Some of them I enjoy.

Most of the time for most of my classes yes.

### What football team do you support?

AFC Wimbledon  
Queens Park Rangers

### What's your favourite food?

Anything from Mark's and Spencer's.

Italian Food

### What do you do to relax?

I like to go out with my friends and have a drink and I always play football. 'Play football, wear football, eat football.'

I like to go out with my friends, eat and drink. I love to sing and play football.

**SORRY NO**  
**Trick or Treat!**



**Halloween...**

A message from the police

[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

**SAFER  
NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
LOCAL POLICE. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE.