

TDA NEWS



WINTER ISSUE 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Christmas is well on its way and the students of The Discovery Academy have exceeded last year's standard in getting our community in the Festive spirit. We held our first Christmas Fair at the start of the month, which involved some enterprising students running stalls, along with helping community leaders including Father Christmas!



Our Performing Arts Team have challenged themselves further this year by putting on the Dickens show 'A Christmas Carol'. The more complex acting and language required really showed a higher standard and expectation and, despite the first show being postponed due to poor weather, the cast demonstrated their resilience in ensuring the show must go on.

One Christmas event that has involved all students is the student response to our "We Can!" campaign, which has been inspiring. I am always humbled to see how our students respond to support others who are less fortunate than themselves. So far we have collected more than 500 items to help local families and I think we will easily hit our target of 1,000.

The term has again brought many students success both academically and for contributions outside of lessons. In the New Year, Year 11 students will receive their mock exam results and will know exactly what they have to do for the summer exams. Other year groups will also receive the results of their end of term assessments. New prefects in Year 10 will be officially confirmed and plans will start for a number of student run extra-curricular activities that will keep the Academy full of opportunities and energy. We are so proud of our students' achievements and the new Year 7 have impressed us with their start, who along with Year 11 are the best attending year groups to date.

Next year will also see the introduction of new proposals around mobile phones, which has already been consulted on. Due to issues, such as the use of social media, the Academy is banning the use of mobile phones within the academy grounds. I understand as a parent the safeguarding importance of your child having a phone as they travel to and from the Academy, and that practice can continue as long as the phone is out of sight and turned off during the academy day. Parents who need to contact their children during the day for an emergency are requested to contact our main reception.

I would like to wish all our students, parents, staff and our community a wonderful Christmas. I feel very privileged to work in a community that, together, is making a real difference. I look forward to working with you in the New Year. As always, if you would like to raise a question or comment please email me at theprincipal@thediscoveryacademy.co.uk or feel free to attend our next Parent Forum on 18th January, 2018.

Simon French
Principal

Attendance

Congratulations to the following students for improving their attendance this year: Beth Dobson, Nadia Iqbal and Connor Wood. All of your hard work this year is paying off, well done!

Could we remind students that attendance needs to be kept above 95% for a chance to take part in the rewards the Academy has on offer.

Exam Reminder

Tuesday 9th January 2018 - Morning

Year 11 BTEC Health & Social Care Unit 1

- Human Lifespan Development -1 hour

Year 11 BTEC Construction Unit 1

- Construction Technology -1 hour

(Studio College students only)



We are very proud to announce that we are now able to offer students in Years 9 and 10 the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

The scheme is an internationally known award for students to participate in four key areas, these are: volunteering, physical, skills and taking part in an expedition.

If you would like a fresh challenge, to learn something new outside of the classroom, please contact Mr Owen or Mr Goodwin at the Academy to sign up.

Geography

During this term, we have taken all Year 10 and Year 11 Geography students to Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire to conduct their fieldwork investigations. Despite the battle with a bit of rain and freezing cold conditions, they were an amazing credit to themselves and to the Academy. Well done to everyone!



Performing Arts

A group of students performed in the 'Artscool Project' in November this year, alongside professional dance studios and performing arts schools. The theme was 'archives' and our students looked at The Potteries and portrayed how it used to be by way of a dance piece incorporating coalminers and pot bank workers. The dance opened the show and all students did fantastically well on such a professional stage with a large audience.

Well done to: Ruby, Lorna, Jamie-Leigh, Trinnity, Teri, Tia, Ashleigh, Leila, Katelyn, Sofia, Charlotte, Jack and Jade.



This term students have represented the Academy in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions. All students have been a credit to the Academy and we look forward to the same level of representation and continued effort for the rest of the academic year. Well done to everyone who has taken part in a PE event so far this year!



The Autumn Term has been action packed, with our Spooky Evening of creative writing for Years 7 to 9 and the first of our Literacy Festivals for primary schools. Thirty

pupils from Maple Court joined us to work with Glenn James, a local author, and they created some spectacular monsters and wrote stories and poems that included travel through time and different dimensions! Parents joined us to listen and celebrate their hard work.

Accelerated Reading has taken off with 14 students already receiving their Star Reward badges for their word counts and quizzing. This year's first Millionaire Reader is Tierney Rust - fantastic work!



We were also delighted to attend the National Literacy Trust VIP Author Event where a group of Year 7 students met HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and Joyce Pereira received an award for her contribution to reading in the Academy.

Watch out for our recommended book list on the Literacy area of our website for ideas for Christmas gifts.

Speak Out

Members of 'Speak Out' have proved themselves to be excellent role models throughout the Autumn Term. Working with Miss Skitt and Miss Lee on Tuesday afternoons, they have researched and informed the Academy about various events and national days. Some of these have been fun and light-hearted, such as National Cake Decorating Day. However, even these fun days often send important messages to the rest of the Academy; students decorated cakes and sold them to support Mind - a charity close to many people's hearts. More recently, members of 'Speak Out' played a pivotal part in the Remembrance event at the Academy, rehearsing and performing poetry in memory of all those who lost their lives in the armed forces. 'Speak Out' continue to raise important issues - last week they helped the Academy celebrate Rosa Parks' Day, informing students of the civil rights movement and the importance of equality - and look forward to raising more in 2018!

The Discovery Garden

We have had great success with plants in the Discovery Garden this year. Students gathered a bumper harvest in the autumn.

We would like to thank Veolia, who very kindly donated compost for use in the garden back in February.

