

TDA NEWS

SPRING ISSUE 2017



A Word From The Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring is in the air and lots of things have been happening at The Discovery Academy this term. Last week saw performances of our Easter show 'Wonka' to the local community, primary schools, parents and students. The Academy has also been involved in lots of events and visits, too many to mention individually, but whether it involves students programming a Lego robot or competing to produce the most aerodynamic glider, there are now lots of examples of Discovery students getting involved and enjoying a widening range of opportunities.



All of the above involves students inspiring each other and doing something that they would not have normally done. That is an experience I want every student at Discovery to have experienced by the time they leave us. To widen their horizons, do something that might initially challenge them but then have that feeling of real achievement, this is what will give them confidence to try the next thing.

I tell you many times how great our students and staff are, here at the Academy. I am sure some of you might say "well he would say that" but there really is a changed culture at Discovery and other people are now saying it too. We had a visit in March from The Department for Education who commented on how everyone in the Academy demonstrates the raised expectations and has a clear sense of ambition. 'Expect excellence' is becoming a reality and your children are making that journey.

I wish everyone a happy Easter and look forward to keeping you updated on the progress the Academy is making through the Principal's video blogs that we now post every two weeks on Facebook and our website, it is worth taking a look!

Simon French



It has been an exciting Spring Term with the celebrations of World Book Day and the 30th anniversary of

the publication of 'Where's Wally?' Staff dressed as their favourite book characters and the Science Faculty was transformed into Hogwarts. We also hosted our first Literacy Festival of the season with Kingsland Academy pupils joining us to share in creative writing workshops. Our Millionaire Readers are increasing and membership of the Millionaire Film Club grows stronger every month as our students continue to read, quiz and achieve their Literacy Star awards.



Creativity & Technology

In time for Mothers' Day, members of the Enterprise Club created beautiful handmade cards and fabric badges. They worked tirelessly at the end of the Academy day to make the goods then, every lunch and break time, they were able to sell the items to other students and staff. Well done team!



Humanities

On 15th March, a group of twenty seven Discovery students from Year 9 and Year 10 attended a Keele University Conference on World War 1. As part of this day, these students also had the opportunity to take a tour of the University campus and discuss higher education with current undergraduates. The Discovery students were a credit to the Academy and both of the University staff who delivered lectures to the group commented on how engaged and confident they were. I was delighted to see so many of

our students actively considering their pathways to higher education and hope that this visit will help them to aspire to achieve at the highest level.

Below are some quotes from the students who took part.

Caleb - *'Andy Robertshaw's lecture was really interesting and it was good fun to see Joe dressed up as a WW1 soldier!'*

Grant - *'It was really interesting to learn about the WW1 trenches, especially about how taller soldiers were more at risk than shorter soldiers because their heads could stick up above the parapet.'*

Fabio - *'It was great to learn about a famous period of history from a different perspective.'*

Ben Tomasiak
Director of Humanities across the CAT

MFL Club

Year 7 students have been having great fun with Charlotte and Gregoire, our Foreign Language Assistants, in MFL Club on Friday lunchtimes.

Students have celebrated the festivals of Christmas and Mardi Gras/Karneval (or Fasching as it is sometimes called) by: entering a Christmas card competition at Birmingham University; baking speciality biscuits - Grittibaens and Vanillekipferl a traditional treat made in Switzerland, Germany and Austria; making masks in preparation for Mardi Gras/Karneval and then playing games and eating Crepes/Pfannkuchen at their Karneval party.



International Table Tennis Tournament

Mr Taylor and Mrs Callcutt took some Year 10 BTEC Sport students to the Fenton Manor Sports Complex to watch the international table tennis match between England and Holland. The students had the opportunity to see how a table tennis match is run. They observed the rules and regulations in action and the roles and responsibilities of the officials. The students really enjoyed the event and were a credit to the Academy and, as a bonus, England won!



Sports Centre Easter Treasure Trail

The Discovery Sports Centre will be holding an Easter Treasure Trail on Saturday 8th April. The fun starts at 11am and will run until 1pm. The cost is £2 per child and includes a chocolate gift. For enquiries or to book please see a member of staff at the Sports Centre or call on 01782 882100 ext 175.



Muddy Fun Run

Join us for a romp through the mud on Saturday 29th April. A great (if dirty) way to get some fresh air and exercise!

Summer Fair

The Community Summer Fair will take place at The Discovery Academy on Saturday 15th July. We are sure you will find something to entertain you, so please join us on what we hope will be a 'sizzling' day!

MUDDY FUN RUN!

at
The Discovery Academy
Saturday 29th April
10.30am
No need to book!

The Discovery Academy, Discovery Drive,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 0GA



Facebook

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