



ACADEMY NEWS

From the Principal

Shortlisted as Community School of the Year.....

I am delighted that the Academy was recently short listed by the Times Educational Supplement to be Community School of the Year. The award ceremony took place at the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane and members of our community team were able to represent the Academy. Although we were just 'piped at the post' by a primary school from Swindon, it was still a great accolade for the work of all those who give so much to our community engagement activities.



Will you be at the Language Celebration?

On Monday, 29th June, we are holding a celebration of all the languages spoken and taught within the Academy. It promises to be a great evening with an opportunity to taste lots of food from around the world, a chance to try out some phrases in one of over twenty languages and lots of entertainment. The evening is free of charge and I hope as many of you will join us as possible - you are certainly most welcome!



Olympians come to the Academy on July 1st.....

Next Wednesday we will be welcoming a number of our international and Olympic swimmers to the Academy. They are joining us to celebrate the efforts of our young people who are learning to swim in the temporary pool located in the sports centre. There will be special events, an assembly with stories from the Olympics and the visit will be reported by lots of local media. Once again, it is good to see the Academy emphasising the importance of being able to swim. Recently we have welcomed over 500 primary school children to the pool.



Year 5 Information Evenings.....

This year we held two information evenings for parents of children in Year 5 of our local primary schools. It is increasingly important for parents to be aware of what life is like in secondary education as so much of the curriculum and the ways in which schools work can be confusing. I am delighted that so many parents joined the two evenings and hopefully found the sessions helpful. Such was the success of the two events, that I am sure we will repeat them in 2010!



What a Prom.....



Last Tuesday Year 11 held their Prom at the Thistle Hotel in Corn Street. It was amazing to see how smartly dressed all the young people were and it was hard to believe that five years had passed since they first joined the Academy. The year group deserved to celebrate the end of their examinations (and they were certainly the best prepared and behaved students we have ever had in the exam halls) and we can now look forward to getting the results in late August.

Post 16 Taster Week.....

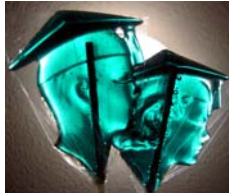


Another first for the Academy as we hold our first ever Post 16 Taster Week starting on Monday. Students will be able to try out different subjects on offer and will also have the opportunity of getting away from the site and engaging in activities such as canoeing. With over 300 students once again expected to join our Post 16 courses in September, the taster week should help everyone make the right choices for study.



World of Work Qualification.....

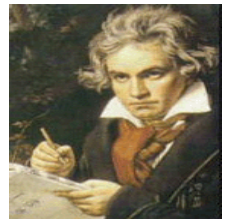
In a couple of weeks time, all of Year 10 will be spending two days at the Memorial Stadium in a careers conference. During the two days, the students will have the opportunity of meeting with employers from over 20 different vocational areas and they will also complete assignments related to finding your first job. This learning will build on the work experience undertaken by most students earlier in the year and all will be able to complete BTec units adding up to a world of work qualification. Next year the year group will also have the opportunity to sit an employability skills course and examination.



Year 10 will also be voting for their Head Boy and Head Girl in the next few days from the ten nominations received.

An evening of Beethoven.....

Tomorrow our choir will be performing with other musicians at the Colston Hall in an evening of Beethoven. The choir have been really challenged in preparing for this performance and we are certainly very proud of their efforts - it promises to be an excellent concert.



New Masters degree in teaching and learning.....

The Academy has been working with the University of the West of England in helping over 40 of our current teachers to achieve a Masters degree. From next year, all new teachers joining the Academy will be part of the pilot programme leading to a Masters degree in Teaching and Learning (MTL). Our teaching personnel are becoming increasingly well trained and we are also pleased to see many of our associate staff joining degree and other professional training programmes. As always, we seek to develop all of the staff working at the Academy as this, in turn, leads to improved outcomes for all our young people and adult learners.



An international DVD.....

This week students have been working with film professionals in producing a DVD about the Academy in a range of other languages spoken within the community. These will be available for parents in the autumn and will provide lots of information on how the Academy operates, why it is good to be a student at the Academy and the opportunities that exist.



Sports Day with a difference.....

On July 2nd we are holding a whole day event as our 'sports day with a difference'. Apart from traditional sporting events, there will also be inter House arts competitions, some whacky sport/fun events and a chance to build rafts to try out in the pool. Of course, everything will lead to points for the House Competition which, with just three weeks of the year left, is running 'neck and neck'. Prizes for each of the Houses will be distributed on the last day of term and so there is certainly everything to play for at this years event which is part of National School Sports Week.

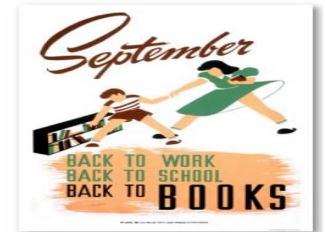


Another reminder.....

This school year ends for students on Friday July 17th at lunchtime. The following week sees the staff of the Academy preparing for new curriculum developments in September.



The new school year begins at 8.45am on Monday September 7th.



The new Year 7 will join us on Friday September 4th and this will also be enrolment day for Post 16 students.



The last edition of the Academy News for this year will be published on July 10th and will contain details of who is leaving us at the end of the term and other news as we look forward to the start of the 2009/10 academic year.



In the meantime, I hope to see you at some of the forthcoming events.

Forthcoming Events

School First Aider - Qualified First Aider required, 1 or 2 days per week, Term Time Only. Start date, September 2009. Closing date, for applications 4pm on 2nd July 2009.

Please see website for further information.

www.cityacademybristol.org



Finally.....

It is hard to believe where another school year has gone! What a fantastic year it has been for the Academy. This summer's edition of the Academy Way will cover some of the most memorable events of the year - we will post this edition to you during the summer holidays.

Ray Priest
Principal

