

Bright Times

Issue 9 Term 3 2010

This issue is coming soon on our website www.oasisacademybrightstowe.org

Winter snow

In the winter the snow barely comes,
All we get is cold, cold wind or sour, sour rain,
But the dying hopes fill with life,
After seeing something flow,
Drifting slowly down, away from the dark dull
cloud,

Softly touching,
Nose to nose,
With the one snowflake that is softly seen,
Hearts warmly dance from the glee,
Which they have seen,

More and more,
Faster and faster they fall,
The dancing snowflakes settle down,
And snuggle up to the ground.

The finishing touches on the trees,
Plants, twigs and ground,
Cars turned from red to white,
From our beloved snow.

By Sadie Harrington

Year 11 are currently doing their ALAN (Adult Literacy and Numeracy) tests, one for literacy and one for numeracy and are aiming to gain a pass at level 1 or level 2 for each. So far, over 50 pupils have achieved a pass at one or both of these qualifications. A level 2 pass in these is equivalent to a B grade at GCSE, well done to all those who have been successful so far.



As it did last year, the heavy January snow caused us to close this term for a few days. Thanks to Mrs Miller for these photos of the Academy!



HANSEL & GRETEL

GCSE Drama Trip to see Hansel and Gretel

Some GCSE Drama students went to the Bristol Old Vic to watch Hansel and Gretel which was a strange and surprising performance.

The stage was shaped like an egg and this was to represent food because food was an important part of the story. Hansel and Gretel lived on a farm and the family were poor. They went through hard times and the chickens didn't lay enough eggs to feed them.

I liked the way they had two rabbit puppets to act as narrators. I also thought it was good that they had two chicken puppets who were very funny. First they were fat and happy then as times got hard they became all skinny and lost their feathers.

The character of the mother was very funny because it was played by a man but they didn't try to make him look like a woman, he just wore a flowery costume.

The character of Gretel liked inventing things and she made clever contraptions like a machine to kill a mouse. It had all sorts of levers and involved real fire to burn a rope and set off the motion. It was very complicated and must have taken them ages to work out.

Even though it was a good play for children it had some scary bits like loud bangs and real fire. It also had more adult bits in it to make the grown ups laugh. I would recommend this play to anyone.

By Ben Deurance (Yr 11)

Budding Professional Footballer!

Shaquille Hunter in Year 10 is signed to Bristol Rovers Centre of Excellence. This means that he trains with boys of his age on a regular basis with Bristol Rovers coaches and plays games against other centres attached to other professional clubs.

Shaquille is a determined footballer and is proud to represent the academy. Recently Shaquille played against Plymouth Argyle during the afternoon. He then came straight back to the academy and insisted on playing for the Yr 10 team against Ashton Park.



Mr Rowbottom and Mr Haines both believe he has what it takes to be offered a contract by Rovers at the end of Yr 11. If this is the case he will spend two years training full time as well as following an academic course to gain further qualifications.

He could then be offered a full time professional contract. We all wish Shaquille well in his efforts to become a professional footballer!

Calling all budding journalists and photographers!

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of Bright Times, see Miss Ganner.

Year 11 Celebrate Early GCSE Success

On Thursday 14th January 2010 Year 11 waited anxiously in front of Mrs Winterman for news of their exam results from November 2009.

Mrs De Sousa Wyle's thanked year 11 pupils for their good behaviour during the exam preparations. Then tutors distributed the results slips out to us all.

Pupils reacted in different ways, some pupils didn't want to open them in front of others, some pupils wanted to text or phone their parents to let them how they got on in the exams, some pupils didn't even open their slips in case they didn't get the grades they wanted.

I reached my target grade in English, but I am now working towards reaching a grade C.

Sadie Harrington said that she wasn't happy with her results and that she would "buckle down" for work for her target grades in the summer.



Mrs Winterman was very pleased with the results. Josh Krupa and Nicky O'Donoghue have already secured their C grades in English and Mathematics. John Thorne also achieved an A* grade for his mathematics GCSE. She said that most pupils were on track, having achieved their target grade and now need to strive for those Cs and above. She also said that 28% of all pupils in year 11 have already got an A*, A, B or a C GCSE grade in mathematics having sat the exam early, a fantastic achievement.

By Jennaleigh Sprackland (Year 11)

Free Computers for Pupils

The Home Access Scheme is a government initiative to help parents on low incomes obtain a computer and internet access for their children in years 7, 8, and 9.

It is estimated that a child with access to the internet at home will achieve, on average, an improvement of two grades on their GCSE results.

Parents who qualify can apply themselves by going to the following website <http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/>

Alternatively, parents wanting to know more can contact Miss Ganner at the Academy.



All this term tutor groups have been finding an inspirational person. Here is 11B's choice:

Our tutor group chose Muhammad Ali as our inspiration. We all think that he is an inspiration because of his many achievements. Once one of the top American boxers, Muhammad Ali has shown that he is not afraid to fight, even now he is fighting Parkinson's disease with courage. Growing up in a segregated areas he was faced with a lot of problems in his life, which he never let get in his way of fulfilling his goals. He has won a spot on the U.S Olympic Boxing Team along with many other things. He also says "What keeps me going is my goals" this is important to us year 11s because we have goals to set to achieve our exams and to achieve as much as Muhammad Ali has already in his life. This is why we chose him as our inspiration.

By Natasha Allen and Charlotte Phillips (Year 11)

Year 6 Digital Animation Course

Throughout February groups of Year 6 pupils have been completing an exciting course at Oasis Academy Brightstowe with Miss Whitham and Mr Machin. The pupils have been learning to create their own stop frame animations.

Pupils from Avonmouth Primary school were very enthusiastic about the course. One excited pupil said:
“ This afternoon was brilliant, Mr Machin is an amazing teacher”.

Pupils from Weston Park also enjoyed their course very much, one asking “ I really enjoyed myself, when can we come and do this again?”



Some of the Weston Park Primary pupils making their animations.



Puzzle Time:

First correct answer to Mrs Ladd wins a Mall voucher!

My BrainBashers electronic world atlas has developed a fault, I did a listing of miles from England to particular countries and here is the result:

Spain 14,000miles

Fiji 12,000miles

Germany 18,000miles

Brazil 16,000 miles

How far away did it list Iceland as?



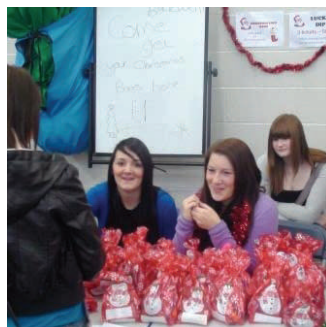
Christmas Market 2009

Pupils at Oasis Academy Brightstowe raised £647.92 for charity through their efforts at the Enterprise Christmas Market held last term. The money raised was split between charities nominated by pupils and our Academy charity, Stop the Traffik.

The impressive total was raised even though each tutor group had to pay back a £10 'loan' which covered the materials costs of the products they made. The event was kindly sponsored by UK Waste Oil and Industrial Fuel Services company 'Eco-Oil' who donated £250 towards prizes for the event including the Brightstowe Business Cup, the winner of which will be announced at a presentation assembly in the near future.



The event was a huge success, Mrs Winterman was spotted with an armful of gifts and several staff were sporting brightly coloured nails after visiting the Year 11 nail parlour!



Thanks to our contributors this issue:
Jennaleigh Sprackland, Natasha Allen, Charlotte Phillips, Sadie Harrington, Shaquile Hunter, Ben Deurance, Ms Laura Hope, Mrs Ladd, Mrs Miller.