

The Bright Stuff

December 2017

Warm welcome to our new deputy principal

by Joe Docherty,
Principal

As all of us – staff, students, parents and carers – prepare for a well-earned Christmas break at the end of another busy and fulfilling term, there is extra reason to look forward to 2018.

That's because next term Oasis Academy Brightstowe will welcome a new deputy principal in the shape of Steve Clayson.

Steve joins us from St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, where



he spent almost ten years and was assistant headteacher during a period when it progressed from "good" to "outstanding."

Married with two teenage sons, Steve lives in Yate and graduated from the University of Warwick in

Microbiology and Virology. After a research post at the London Hospital looking at viruses and their links to cancer, Steve went into youth work and then took a teaching degree at King's College, London.

His first teaching role was in East London and he then moved to a school in Gloucester, initially as head of Year 7 and then as advanced skills teacher, specialising in coaching and teaching and learning, before joining St. Mary Redcliffe in 2007.

In recent years Steve has also had a responsibility for improved teaching and learning across other schools in Bristol, working in partnership with leadership teams, and with Bristol City Council to address recruitment and retention issues in education through the establishment of a newly qualified teacher training programme across the city.

Last year Steve's outstanding contribution was recognised when he received a silver award in the Teacher of the Year category at the Pearson Teaching Awards.

Steve's relentless focus on raising standards and accelerating pupil progress will be a central part of his new role here at Oasis Academy Brightstowe, and I am sure everyone will do their utmost to make him feel welcome next term.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone connected with our academy a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday, 3rd January.



oasisacademybrightstowe.org

Noemi tastes success as she is named city's best young chef

A Year 7 student at Oasis Academy Brightstowe is officially the best young chef in the city after winning a prestigious cooking contest.

Noemi Korenova took first prize in the Bristol heat of FutureChef, sponsored by the charity Springboard, with her entry of chicken and vegetable sote with Hokkaido pumpkin puree, followed by crispy fried caramel fruit in mascarpone cream.

Noemi and fellow Brightstowe student Lucy Rowe, who is in Year 8 and also made the final, had to cook a two-course meal for two within a budget of £7. Finalists' food was judged on workmanship, presentation, composition and the balance of nutrients.

Noemi will now progress to the South West regional final, held early next year.

April Booker, Subject Lead Teacher in Design and Technology,



Picture (c) metro.co.uk

said: "Noemi's win was all the more amazing as she was the youngest student in the final and was up against students several years older than her.

"She will now go on to compete against students from across the

South West and will be assigned a local chef/mentor to support her through the next stages.

"Congratulations must also go to Lucy Rowe, who also did exceptionally well."

Pictured, Noemi with the judges

Royal duties for Year 9 students



Our Year 9s were set a special task with a royal twist by a team from global property and construction business Gleeds.

Some 16 staff from Gleeds visited Brightstowe as part of a "royal refurb" project run by educational charity The Transformation Trust, which saw students design a new-look stable block at Windsor Castle.

Students were given a design brief using different materials and divided into teams, each with an individual role such as architect and project manager. They then gave a presentation at the end of the day to explain their work.

Three teams were awarded prizes and the winning team was entered into a national competition to visit a royal residence.

Chris Paxford, area chairman at Gleeds, said: "Initiatives like this are very valuable as they help young people to appreciate that there are a whole range of careers open to them in the construction industry.

"There is a well-publicised skills shortage in our industry and by 2021 it is estimated that we will need to be recruiting one person every 77 seconds."

Pictured, John Appleby of Gleeds with Year 9 student Alexander Mills



Brightstowe student Freddie Brown has made his professional stage debut at the city's famous Tobacco Factory. Freddie, who is in Year 8, had a starring role in our academy production of "Little Shop of Horrors" earlier this year. Since then he has gone on to play "The Boy" in the Tobacco Factory Theatres' production of Samuel Beckett's iconic play "Waiting for Godot." First performed in 1953, the two-act play depicts two drifters, Vladimir and Estragon, waiting in vain for the mysterious Godot.

Making the future bright for all

Brightstowe student Kieran Williams was among the speakers at the official launch of a new programme called Future Quest.

Oasis Academy Brightstowe is one of a number of schools across Bristol chosen to take part in the scheme, which aims to raise the proportion of young people from socially disadvantaged areas who go to university.

Run by South Bristol Youth with the University of Bristol and University of the West of England, Future Quest targets pupils living in those council wards with the biggest gap between the potential



numbers of young people with the potential to progress to university, and the actual figure.

In Avonmouth, Kingsweston and Shirehampton wards, for example, the combined figure is 12 per cent

whereas official data shows that it should be 17 per cent.

At Brightstowe 15 students each from Years 9 and 10 have been chosen to attend the programme, all of them high attainers at Key Stage 2 with the potential to achieve excellent GCSE results.

The launch event was held at the UWE Bristol Exhibition and Conference Centre, with a keynote speech from the Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Marvin Rees.

Jan Pritchard, head of education and learning at South Bristol Youth, said: "Future Quest is not about forcing these pupils to go to university.

"It is about providing the information and experience needed to enable them to make an informed choice, whether that means going on to university, FE College or an appropriate training scheme."

A Bright Day

Year 7 and 8 students are one step closer to a successful career thanks to a day spent with local businesses where they were given hands-on experience of valuable employability skills.

The 'BRIGHT Day' has been run by professional services firm KPMG for the past four years. This year they were joined by staff from law firm Womble Bond Dickinson and catering equipment company Nisbets.

The day featured fun workshops based around problem solving and innovation, as well as teamwork and enterprise skills.

Year 7s worked on number and word puzzles, and used their imaginations to create an invention. This tested teamwork skills and resilience, as well as presentation skills. Year 8s learnt to follow a client brief, so that the newspaper 'giraffes' they created were to the client's exact specification. They moved on to create a 'roller coaster' for presentation to investors, which taught the students marketing and project management skills.

KPMG presented prizes to the successful teams and those students who demonstrated skills such as leadership, resilience, team-working and problem solving.

Joe Docherty, Principal at Oasis Academy Brightstowe, said: "This is the fourth year we have run BRIGHT Day here at the academy and the



event continues to go from strength to strength.

"It is a real privilege for our students to be able to gain valuable insights from such a prestigious group of local employers into some of the key skills they will require in the years to come – namely leadership, resilience, team-working and problem solving."

Teresa Fisk, partner with KPMG in Bristol and local lead for Corporate Social Responsibility, said: "The BRIGHT Days are really important in our drive to increasing social mobility and raising aspirations among young people. It's a way of giving young people skills that they can build on in school. By passing on knowledge of what employers are looking for and giving them the opportunity to experience the challenges that we face in the workplace, they are already one step ahead."

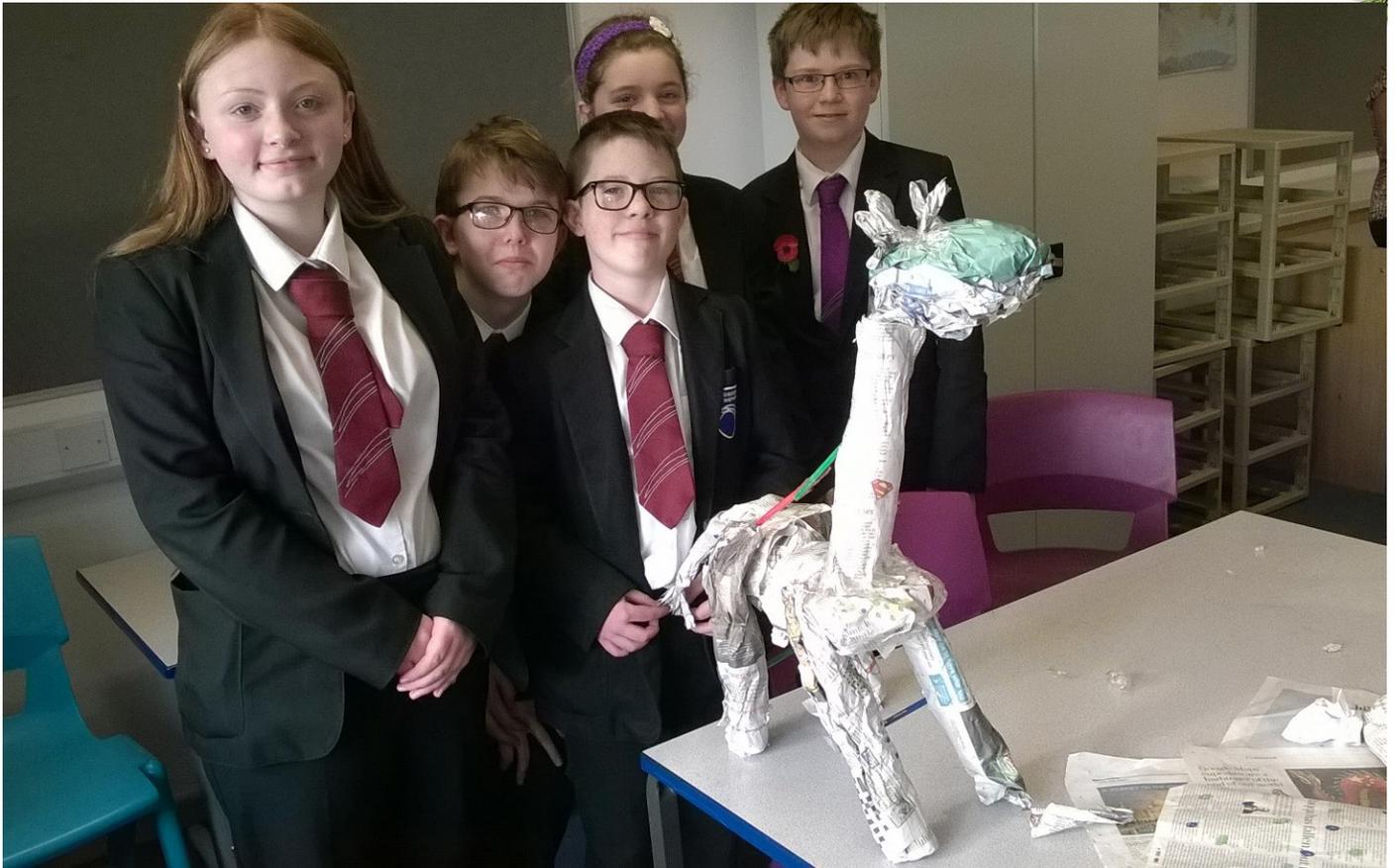
BRIGHT Days form part of a wider programme of activity undertaken by KPMG with the school, that also includes mentoring students, mock interview days and "Dragons' Den"-style enterprise competitions, as well as participation in careers fairs and sessions with business leaders encouraging young people to register to vote. KPMG colleagues are given 42 hours a year by the firm to volunteer for local causes.

Ewen Macgregor, Legal Director at Womble Bond Dickinson, said: "We have a long-standing relationship with Oasis Academy Brightstowe, having supported them and the students for the past five years.

"We're delighted to be working collaboratively once again for the BRIGHT Day with KPMG and Nisbets, helping pupils identify their own strengths and have a better understanding about future



is had by all



career direction and what expectations employers have.”

Zoe Joyner, Head of Engagement at Nisbets, added: “We have worked closely with Oasis Academy Brightstowe for a number of years, and really enjoyed joining KPMG and Womble Bond Dickinson again for the BRIGHT Day.”

Above, Year 7 students with their giraffe, created to meet a “client” brief; right, Ewen Macgregor of Womble Bond Dickinson addressing the event; opposite page, representatives from KPMG, Womble Bond Dickinson and Nisbets with Brightstowe Principal Joe Docherty (top right)



Geography students go West

West Somerset was the destination for our winter Year 11 Geography field trip. Students headed to the scenic coastal village of Porlock to collect data for their GCSE fieldwork, aiming to gauge the effectiveness of local sea defences.

Their first stop was Porlock Marsh, home to a natural shingle ridge that has been breached by the sea. The next stop was Porlock village, where students conducted field sketches and sediment height measurements of the sea groynes.

The group's final location was Minehead, where the Year 11s conducted environmental quality and land value surveys.

Mason Davies, Lead Teacher of Geography, who led the trip, said: "Year 11 were excellent across both days and represented their school amazingly well. Next up for them in March is central Bristol, where they will be looking at the impact of regeneration on the Temple Quarter area."

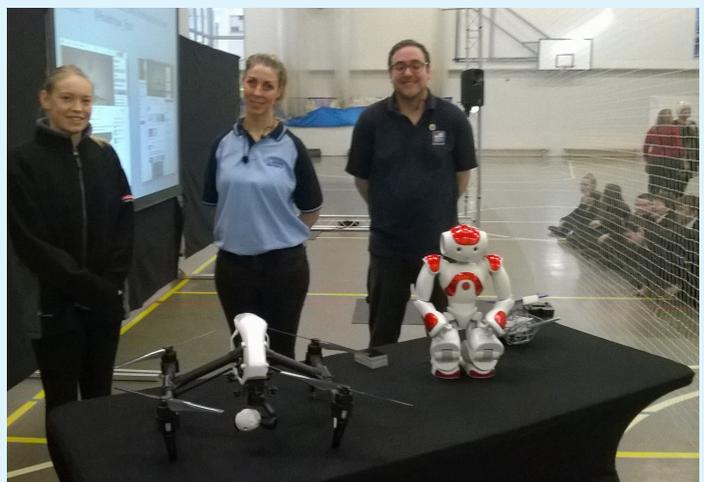


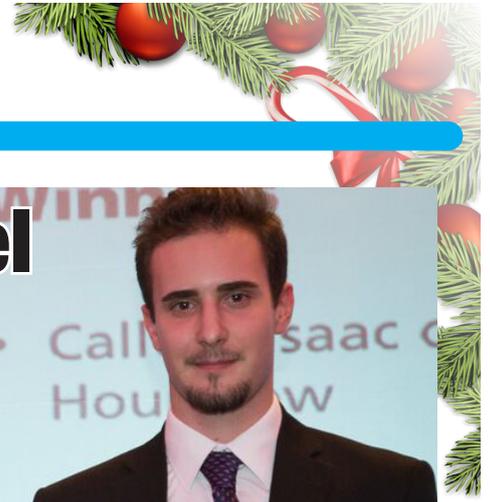
Drones and robots came to Brightstowe as Year 7 and 8s were given an insight into the careers of the future.

Members of the BAE Systems roadshow team put on an interactive display involving a flying drone, a talking robot called Nao, and lessons in writing code.

The session is part of an initiative which is also supported by the RAF and Royal Navy, aimed at encouraging more young people, especially girls, to think about a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related areas.

Pictured, the BAE Systems roadshow team with a drone and Nao the robot





National award for Izabel



Brightstowe student Izabel Jarman has won a prestigious national award after excelling in her work experience placement.

Izabel was nominated for the award by staff at Sansway House Day Nursery in Lawrence Weston who were impressed by her attitude and commitment during her week-long placement in March.

She was named work experience student of the year at the awards, organised by work experience and internship provider Spark!, along with Callum Isaac, who attends Logic Studio School in Feltham, west London. Fellow Brightstowe Year 11 students Conor Gillespie and Dominika Wos were also among the nominees at the Spark! Partnership Awards, which were presented at the Holiday Inn in Brentford.

This year's Oasis Academy Brightstowe Year 10 work experience week will take place on the week commencing 12th March. Pictured, Izabel Jarman (centre) with Mary Barry of British Airways, who sponsored the award, and Callum Isaac.

'Dragons' test students

Several of our classrooms were transformed into "Dragons' Dens" as our Year 10s became entrepreneurs for the day.

The Mitie business challenge day saw students split into teams which then devised a business plan and pitched for a notional £40 million investment to "dragons" from the Mitie Foundation.

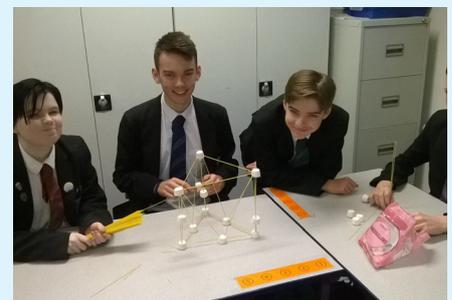
This is a charity run by facilities management company Mitie which works in schools, prisons and with the unemployed.

Students had 30 minutes to design a product or service and

there were prizes for the best team and best product. There was also a challenge involving building a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. The tower had to be as tall as possible and stay upright for a minimum of ten seconds.

The students' business ideas included a trans-global "Neptune Express" bullet train, a health and fitness body suit, and a phone app and a robot, both of which were designed to help with household chores.

Year 10 Charlie Salmon said:



"At home I am always building things with Lego and I want to be an architect, so this was a really useful day."

Pictured, Megan Pearce, Charlie Salmon, Harry Fox and Zak Kilminster with their creation

Ex-Army chief's inspiring talk

"Making A Difference" was the title of an inspiring talk given to our Year 9s by the former head of the British Armed Forces.

General Sir Peter Wall was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1974 and went on to serve all over the world, including operational command tours in the

former Rhodesia, the Balkans and Iraq.

He retired as Chief of the General Staff in 2014.

"The first thing that's happened in my lifetime is that there has been an amazing amount of change, particularly the digital revolution and changes in

society around equality," he told Brightstowe students.

"In your lifetimes, the rate of change will be massively greater. Therefore you need to be alert to two things: what is your gift, the thing you are good at? And what is your dream - what do you want to do in life?"



Diary dates

- Tuesday 2 January – INSET DAY – ACADEMY CLOSED
- Wednesday 3 January – START OF TERM
- Thursday 11 January – Year 11 parents' evening
- Tuesday 23 January – Future Quest trip to Bristol Old Vic
- Thursday 25 January – GKN – engineering visit
- Monday 29-Tuesday 30 January (inclusive) - Kingsweston inset days
- Monday 5 February – Future Quest writing day
- Wednesday 7 February – Kingsweston parents' evening
- Thursday 8 February – Year 10 parents' evening
- Monday 12-Friday 16 February – HALF TERM
- Tuesday 27 February - Thursday 1 March – Academy performance The Wrestless Princess
- Wednesday 7 March – Year 8 options
- Monday 12 – Friday 16 March – work experience week
- Thursday 15 March – Year 7 parents' evening
- Thursday 15 March – parent/student finance evening for Future Quest
- Friday 16 March – INSET DAY – ACADEMY CLOSED
- Wednesday 21 March – World Book Day
- Friday 23 March – END OF TERM – ACADEMY CLOSING AT 3.20pm