



'Despite the cold, there has been a great atmosphere around the Academy.'

It has been a really busy Term 3 and there has been a number of exciting events at King's Oak. Despite the cold, there has been a great atmosphere around the Academy. Our Year 11s and Year 13s have been making excellent progress towards their GCSE exams, BTEC qualifications and A Levels. Keeping up a good record of attendance is so crucial to long term success and I am delighted that our Year 11s have the best record of attendance of any year group. The Maths GCSE exams that many Year 11s took early, have proved successful for many, allowing some Year 11 students now to focus their efforts on English or other option subjects. A big thanks to Mrs Osborne who led a superb parent and student revision session to really help our students learn in more creative ways and to help parents learn new ideas to help their children to be more successful.

In our Newsletter you can read about the new Yamaha Music Project where Mr Warren has led live interactive music roadshows and we have had hundreds of primary school children coming into King's Oak on Saturday mornings to try their hand at learning a new instrument.

There have also been brilliant Careers and Enterprise sessions led by Mrs Alam-Lloyd for Year 9s, 10s and 11s this term to help our learners think beyond school. Our Drama and Media students had a really exciting two days in London with Mrs Powell which included a tour around the BBC and a performance of "Wicked".

Our new royal blue King's Oak PE sweatshirts for girls have now arrived. They are optional and parents can use their £10 voucher towards this.

This week our Dance Leaders, Mrs Holtby and Miss Jones, led the Footlights Dance Evenings. We were treated to a wide age range of talented dancers who combined great technique with enormous enthusiasm and thrilled the audiences on both nights. It was lovely to see the impact of hard practice and talent.

Around the site we have builders in! We hope that by the start of Term 4 the landscaped path and benches around the Green Area will be ready and we will have a new large wet-weather shelter in place. Also, our King's Oak tree will be spotlit!

Can I remind you that in the event of extreme weather we will use our website and local radio stations to keep you informed about whether we are open.

Ian Frost, Principal



Adult Numeracy Classes

The Maths and Computing Department at King's Oak Academy are excited to promote the opportunity to attend free adult numeracy classes that have been running on Monday evenings. The classes are available for anyone wishing to attend the sessions from 6.15 to 8.15pm weekly. Through these classes parents and other adults have the chance to work on key numeracy skills that they need for their workplace, to help with their children's homework or simply to build their confidence with numbers. The group is friendly and informal with a well earned tea and biscuit break!



Learners taking this course are following the Adult Numeracy Core Curriculum and will be gaining either Level 1 or Level 2 numeracy qualifications. Each learner is given a personalised learning plan so that they are able to work on the skills that really matter to them and will only take an assessment when they feel ready. Examinations are flexible and there is no pressure to take them at the end of the course. Learners expect to be ready to take a relevant qualification exam after about 8 sessions. If you are interested in attending this class, or have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Chris Sawyer on 01454 862251 during school hours or e-mail sawyerc@koac.org.uk.

Drama and Media Trip to London *"Fire up the Quattro, King's Oak has arrived"*



Drama and Media students went to London for two days to experience a variety of workshops and a tour around the BBC. They were lucky enough to see the red Quattro used in the BBC series "Ashes to Ashes". During the tour they had a chance to read the weather, be a Blue Peter Presenter, read the news or take part in a quiz show. Students readily participated in all workshops and were eagerly trying to spot the celebrities at the studios.

In the evening they went to see a performance of "Wicked" at the Apollo theatre, meeting a member of the cast the next day and taking part in a "Wicked" based drama workshop.

The trip was really enjoyed by the students, they all participated and behaved exceptionally well. I am sure the techniques and skills they acquired in the workshop will be invaluable in future performances.

G&T Mathematics

The Maths and Computing faculty are pleased to be able to offer a unique opportunity for a group of gifted and talented year 10 mathematicians to work with an undergraduate mathematics student from the University of Bristol. The students will be taking part in weekly sessions to work on developing mathematical problem solving skills through an extension project connected with the 2012 Olympics.

Well done to Year 13 Business Students

Year 13 Business students presented a cheque for £200 to the Jessie May Trust in Kingswood on 24th January 2012. This was raised from their mini-enterprises that they have been carrying out during Terms 1 and 2.



There were two businesses - 'LA Design' run by Abi Purdy and Liana Belton who sold jewellery, and 'Tuck-in' run by Tom Marsh, Guy White and Louis Cousins which was a tuck shop for sixth form students. Congratulations for raising this money which will be used to help support parents with their terminally ill children.

Yamaha School of Music

KOA is expanding its music tuition provision linked with support from Yamaha. Currently offering Keyboard tuition, with the acquisition of £10,000 worth of new equipment (guitars, drums, PA, etc) we are now also offering drum and guitar tuition.



Mr Warren, accompanied by Yamaha professional musicians, has visited 13 primary schools across the local community. Live interactive music roadshows were presented to over 1000 Year 5 and 6 pupils which culminated in them receiving a voucher for a free taster lesson here at KOA. During

the two Saturdays of taster lessons, over 400 parents and children joined in making music. There has been a very good response for more lessons which will take place after school or on a Saturday morning and will start next term.

If you missed out but would like a free taster lesson, contact Mr Warren at King's Oak.

Footlights 2012

Well done to all those pupils who performed in 'Footlights' this week, you all worked really hard and the dances were really well choreographed. Special thanks must go to the eleven Year 11



dance leaders (pictured above) who choreographed more than half of the dances in this year's performance and are well on the way to completing their Level One Dance Leadership Award.

Well done everyone, it was a great show.

AMBITIONS+ Careers Event

at UWE Exhibition and Conference Centre

on Thursday 1st March 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Make your future happen

This event is open to all Year 10-13 students and parents to help them make choices about their future, whether it is for employment, college, university or apprenticeships. Leaflets with more information have been given to all Year 10-13 students. Make plans to attend – there will be something there for everybody.

Dragon's Den/Careers Education Workshops

All Year 9 were off timetable for the whole day on 17th January 2012. They attended a carousel of three events. The first was a Speed Dragon's Den Enterprise Workshop which resulted in them presenting a new product idea. The second and third workshops were on Communication and Interviewing skills to help prepare them for the world of work. They will continue this theme in their PSHE lessons as they investigate different career/job opportunities.



Battle of the Bands

We had two bands representing KOA at the Battle of the Bands at John Cabot on 26th January 2012:

Decade Party (Year 11) Joe Roberts, Molly Perryman, Chelsea Searle and Joe Murnan and **Acid Eclipse** (Year 10) Ben Mahony, Liam Naish, Kane McEvoy and Andrew Connell

Both bands performed really well with Joe Roberts and Joe Murnan receiving special awards for their individual skills.

A reminder that the Academy finishes on Friday 10th February and re-opens to students on Tuesday 21st February 2012 as Week 1 on the timetable.

Upcoming Events in Term 4

You can find more information on the website calendar

23 February 2012	Year 8 Parents' Evening
1 March 2012	BTEC Performance Y10,12,13
7 March 2012	KS4 Information Evening
8 March 2012	Year 11 Taster Event for Post 16
14 March 2012	Year 11 photographs
13 March 2012	Year 13 Parents' Evening with Tutors
21-24 March 2012	KS4 French Trip
21 March 2012	Parents' Forum Evening
22 March 2012	Year 12 Parents' Evening at BMA
30 March 2012	End of Term 3
16 April 2012	Start of Term 4 (Week 1)