



'The best Year 11 DT practical assignments we have ever had!'

Term 4 is ending on a high both in terms of the temperatures and with some of the achievements of our youngsters.



I have been really impressed with the work from our Year 11s. It has been a term to improve English Controlled Assessment grades, to enhance Maths and Science grades and to consolidate work in option subjects. We are now turning our minds to revision and there are a number of Year 11 revision sessions during the Easter holiday—please see the website for details. Many are now turning their thoughts to life beyond Year 11 and Ms Sroka, Mrs Davies and Ms Suart have already spoken to many Year 11s about the sixth form and it looks like many students will be staying on next year. Year 13s are turning their attention to their final drive for revision and to a bright future of university and employment beyond King's Oak.

King's Oak Academy is setting up a new and exciting link with a business partner, the construction company Wates, through an organisation called Business in the Community. This will allow us to enhance our careers guidance and support to students, and will also mean that a team of mentors will come in to work with Key Stage 4 and 5 students next year to help them with their target setting and academic achievement. This will add to the impressive work of the staff who have been part of the RAT (Raising Attainment Team), in supporting Year 11s through their GCSE year, under the leadership of Ms Suart.

On Wednesday night this week Mr Warren's Year 11 Music BTEC class organised a fantastic Rock Night. We were treated to some great performances, and there was a great sense of the students organising everything—a real achievement.

Another highlight of the term was when some of our talented Year 11 DT students (see overleaf) came and showed off their amazing coursework assignments to the staff. The quality of work was incredible and the students were really proud of their achievements.

Congratulations to Hani Sali who qualified to compete in the National Athletics Championships in cross country a few weeks ago. Well done to him!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing our students back on Monday April 16th.

Ian Frost, Principal

Gifted and Talented in PE Day at University of Bath

On Friday 9th March our most able performers in PE went to the University of Bath for the day as part of a group of 50 students from across the Grange Sports Partnership.

The students were looked after by the Sports Development staff there and given experience in a range of sports which they may not have tried before, such as pole vaulting, beach volleyball, judo and hand/eye coordination practices. In addition they were given a tour of the world class facilities used by athletes in preparation for the Olympics. At lunchtime they had the chance to interview some of the international athletes who train at the Sports Village.



This was a fantastic day, which our students really enjoyed. They left exhausted but with a great experience and inspiration to continue with their sport.

Student to perform with Youth Music Theatre UK

Congratulations to Evie Hay (Year 8) who has been offered a place in Tess of the D'Urbervilles – one of Youth Music Theatre UK's summer productions in 2012. Of the 20,000 students who attended the auditions only 2,500 people were successful from across the UK. She was chosen for the production because she impressed them with her openness, energy and creative spirit as well as her vocal and physical skills. She can look forward to an excellent experience this summer when she performs this new musical in the Wilde Theatre in Bracknell, Berkshire. Well done!

The Year 10 and 11 basketball team has a new kit.

The new kit was presented to them by Chris Blake of New Directions, Recruitment and Training, Bristol.



The boys love the kit and were keen to play in it during their next training session. They can't wait to take on the local schools wearing this kit, the quality of which, they feel, matches the standard of their play.

Many thanks to New Directions, you have made our boys VERY happy!

King's Oak Academy Friends' Association (KOFA)

The King's Oak Academy Friends' Association (KOFA) are a small group of parents who organise social events to raise money for the benefit of students. We have recently purchased footballs for the students by selling raffle tickets with the prize being 2 lovely cakes. We would like to thank Inga for making and donating the cakes. If any parents would like further information about the KOFA or would like to help in any way, please contact Mr Rhodes at the Academy.

Garden Club

The Science Department is hoping to reap the benefits of a garden club! Green fingered students from Years 8-11 have been working hard after school learning how to design, sow and grow.



Student response has been fantastic with loads of enthusiasm, ideas and hard work. We are hoping to engage everyone in the school community so if you are a keen gardener and would like to get involved you can come along to help or donate tools, seeds or cuttings.

Well done in Design & Technology

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who have completed the practical part of their Controlled Assessment. The work produced has been of an outstanding quality as you can see from the photos and could easily be sold in shops.



Some pupils, on this aspect of the course, have exceeded their FFTd grades by several grades. What a fantastic effort!



The practical work this year has been the best we have ever had. Well Done!!

National Science and Engineering Week

The week running from the 9th-18th of March was National Science and Engineering Week on a theme of "World in motion". This was marked by visitors to the school, activities in lessons, after school clubs and trips out of school.

Our visitors included Arkive, who collect video and photographic data on endangered animals who came in and did talks and ran activities with our students. Teachers also ran a competition to allow students to produce a short film and then enter into the "prove it" competition that will choose the best 30 second film nationally. This was supported by a lunchtime club.

Two trips also ran, one to Airbus, taking the top triple scientists to experience engineering at the cutting edge of technology, and another to Bristol University. This trip was for A-level Biology students and involved real biochemical investigations performed in a laboratory with very successful results. All students who took part behaved excellently and really enjoyed these extra activities.



Celebrating Carers

**10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Saturday 14 April 2012,
University of the West of England Exhibition and Conference
Centre, Filton Road, BS34 8QZ**

As part of South Gloucestershire Council's on-going work to support people who look after someone else, they are holding this event to celebrate the role of Carers and to provide an opportunity to share information and advice, as well offer some fun and relaxation. For more information or to book a place please contact Sue Jaques or Sue Kerswell on 01454 862356 or email CCHengagement@southglos.gov.uk.

A reminder that the Academy finishes on Friday 30th March and re-opens on Monday 16th April 2012 as Week 1 on the timetable.

Stones from the Sky

Year 13 were invited to the Colin Pillinger Lecture by the Physics Department of Bristol University on Thursday 22nd March in the Great Hall.

Professor Pillinger was responsible for the probe Beagle 2 which landed on Mars in 2003 and was also one of the first Scientists to analyse Moon rocks from the Apollo 11 mission in 1969; he is also an old boy of the school.



His lecture entitled "Stones from the Sky" explored the scientific stories of Meteorites from Mars and the Moon. It included several examples of detective work on tracing the initial location of meteorites and how long they had been in space before landing on Earth. Professor Pillinger then finished with a description of his work with the samples taken from the moon.

The Year 13 students were allowed an audience with Professor Pillinger, at his request, at the end of the lecture when they asked questions relating to his work with Beagle and the possibility of extra terrestrial life.

Yamaha Music School

The tutors of the Yamaha music school, based at King's Oak, travelled to a further four local primary schools to present a guitar workshop to over 370 pupils. The interactive road show culminated in each pupil receiving a voucher for a free taster guitar lesson here at King's Oak.



If you are interested in any music tuition please contact Mr Warren at King's Oak.

These pictures were taken during the road show at Air Balloon Hill Primary School on 29th February.

Upcoming Events in Term 5

You can find more information on the website calendar

2nd—5th April	Revision Sessions (see website)
21st—23rd April	Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition
25th April	Year 8 Girls HPV Injection
3rd May	Y10 and Y13 BTEC Performance
7th May	Bank Holiday—Academy closed
8th May	Y11 Applied Science Trial Exam
12th—13th May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition
23rd May	Parents' Forum Evening
1st June	Last day of Term 5
11th June	First day of Term 6 (Week 2)