

# The Bulwell Academy Newsletter

Summer 2011



## What a Difference a Year Makes!

Following the opening of the sports courts, The Bulwell Academy can at last begin fulfilling the vision that began over five years ago. Many challenges had to be overcome by students, parents, and staff to enable the final building block to be laid, so that the academy community can begin carving out a new era in education. This journey has offered staff the opportunity to reflect and take stock of the wonderful achievements made, and those that are yet to come.

Ashley Stapleton, vice principal (curriculum) said: "It has been amazing to see how the students and staff from the predecessor have come together as one. There is a great sense of team spirit within everyone at The Bulwell Academy. The new building has developed a new community for learning. The first year has been hard work, but very exciting for all of us."

The academy has been quick to recognise the achievements of its students, holding a Celebrate Success evening. An audience of invited guests witnessed the presentation of the first Teaching



and Learning Awards to students who had achieved excellence in each subject. Winning students, nominated by teaching staff, were presented with a trophy to acknowledge their hard work over the past year.



Above: Paige Whitlam and Abbey-May Scott enjoying the new academy grounds during their lunch break.

Left: Ashley Stapleton with Post 16 Career Academy student, Suzanne Bromley. Suzanne was awarded a national award from Career Academy UK which recognised her outstanding performance on the programme.

## Academy's Sports Facilities are Unmatched

The missing piece to the academy's state-of-the-art site was recently put into place with the completion of the new sports facilities and playing fields. Students now benefit from four tennis/netball courts, two basketball courts, three large 'Tiger Turf' football pitches, and a multiple use games area.

Students and teachers alike proved their dedication to sport while construction of the new facilities got underway, continuing

to excel in a variety of arenas even without outdoor amenities. The under-14 netball team was a shining example of this, being crowned champions of the city. Well done girls!

Another area of excellence was athletics, with 59 competitors taking part in this year's City Athletics Championships. The Bulwell Academy was the runner-up, coming very close to stealing victory.



The under 14 netball squad – champions of the city.

### Inside...

Ofsted Inspection Offers Positive Outlook  
Departing students have a Ball

# Ofsted Inspection Offers Positive Outlook

It's official! The Bulwell Academy is making satisfactory progress in student development following a recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspectors recognised that considerable progress has taken place and congratulated the leadership team on the good behaviour of the students and the achievements of transferring two schools into one new academy.

They recognised the hard work of all the staff and have set some key areas to focus on in the coming year. The academy welcomes these comments and is enthusiastic to build on the advice of the supportive inspectors.

Robert Derry, vice principal (attainment) said: "Another great development in the past year is that we now have a very good handle on where all students are in terms of their academic achievement.

"We have access to a tremendous database called SISRA which provides us with management information to enable us to focus on each individual student to see how they are doing against targets. This is invaluable when tracking student progress which is so important to us."



Robert Derry, vice principal (attainment).

## Academy Students look at the Bottom Line

It's not every day that you have the chance to learn about debt management from the managing director of a global finance company. As part of its partnership with The Bulwell Academy, senior leaders from credit card company, Capital One, shared their expertise with Year 10 students on managing debt.

Developing financial literacy is one of the academy's key priorities as a Business & Enterprise specialist. Students studying ICT recently had the opportunity to visit Capital One for a tour around the building and to meet the company's head of ICT, Jonathan Allen. Jonathan explained how his

career had taken him from mending computers to heading-up the ICT services underpinning a 24/7 business. Following the visit, which included a tour of the restaurant, gym and relaxation areas, almost all the students wanted to work for Capital One.

Alison Bingham, director of business and enterprise, said: "The last year has seen a tremendous increase in the number of activities we have been able to organise in partnership with businesses. This gives our students the opportunity to see the range of careers and opportunities that their studies could bring to them."



(L-R) Brian Cole, UK managing director, and Stuart Mather, community relations manager, both Capital One, with Year 10 students following their presentation on debt management.

## Bulwell Academy Gets the Green Stamp for its Eco-Efforts

The academy has been awarded Bronze and Silver Eco-School status for its exceptional progress in becoming a more environmentally friendly organisation. The Eco-Schools team were so impressed by the academy's progress that it awarded both standards at the same time.

As part of its bid to go green, the academy also held a Green Britain Day to inspire others to make positive changes in their lifestyles, and challenging residents from across Bulwell to join Team Green Britain.



Paige Wilkinson, Hammza Saleh and Sharna Johnson on Green Britain Day.

## Everyone Achieves

## Teaching the Teachers

As the academy has continued to evolve and develop over the past year, so have its teachers. With the flexibility afforded through having all staff under one roof, the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme has proved a major success.

Mike Cook, vice principal (CPD), sees the programme as key to accessing the potential of students: "Curriculum teams have worked closely on developing strategies that ensure our students make good or outstanding progress within all of their lessons. As an academy, we realise that this is only the beginning of the journey, but we are excited by the opportunities and challenges that the new academy year will inevitably bring."

## Bulwell EAZ Set Up Camp

Bulwell EAZ, the partnership of schools in Bulwell, was looking for a cost effective way to continue offering a residential programme for a large number of children and young people. The Bulwell Academy offered its site as a venue and equipment was purchased with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Learning Away programme, enabling 160 primary children to stay on site in a series of three one-night camps during the Easter holidays. The academy's student sport leaders supported the week's activities and more events like this are planned for the future.



Students from a local primary school prepare for a night's sleep-over in the academy courtyard.



Lauren Young (left) and Chelsea Wright tuck into the chocolate fountain.

## Departing students have a Ball

The class of 2011 got to see out the end of the academy year in spectacular fashion with a Prom night held at the beautiful Goosedale Conference Centre. Students dressed up in their finest evening dresses and made a memorable entrance by arriving in a convoy of luxury vehicles.

The party was a much deserved celebration after the hard work and stress of exams, symbolising the beginning of a new and important phase in the students' lives. Many of them will go on to apprenticeships, others have secured work with local businesses, and some are going on to further education, be that with a local college or remaining to take up places in the academy's Post 16 centre.

Early successes of the new Post 16 centre have been recognised by local universities with five students leaving at the end of year twelve to start their university degree programmes, a year earlier than many students usually start higher education.



Above: Toba Ibrahim and Mitchell Tideswell make a well articulated entrance. Below: Liam Briggs and Georgina Haynes are crowned 2011 prom king and queen by The Bulwell Academy. Below Left: Aimee-Jo Cox and Deanne Dane let their hair down.



# In the staffroom...

## by Graham Roberts, Principal

We have been reflecting on what a remarkable difference a year makes and it is all good news. The opening of the new sports courts and development of the school grounds brings to a close a long and demanding period for us all. The excitement and joy of the students was even greater than anticipated and the sound of young people playing sports and games at lunch time has sent our pride soaring.

However, it is not the building alone which drives forward improvements; the considerable efforts of the staff were recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection where the behaviour of our students drew particular praise.

Furthermore, our Business & Enterprise specialism grows from strength-to-strength building on partnerships with employers who bring tremendous added value to our learning and careers opportunities.

The completion of all construction elements does not herald the end of changes here.



*The Bulwell Academy principal, Graham Roberts.*

After a much needed summer break, the staff will be seeking to build on our progress to date, considerable focus will be placed on student attendance and punctuality and for this I will be seeking the support of all our students and their parents.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and wish to thank the parents, students, staff and academy partners for all their support over the past year.

## Exams Exposed



*Angela Beckett, the academy's examinations officer.*

"Sometimes it feels as if all roads lead to me," says Angela Beckett, the academy's examinations officer. After years of hard work by both students and staff, the time comes when students are examined on their knowledge and the application of their skills. Any parent will know what a tense time exam season can be.

The academy's excellence in the area of examination management was recently recognised by the Joint Council Qualification inspectors (often described as the Ofsted for exam bodies) who noted that they were '...pleased with the procedures and policies in place'. This reflects considerable planning and hard work by Angela who is responsible for making sure that students' efforts are not wasted through error.

It isn't always an easy job when a student decides to take an unscheduled holiday, turn up on the wrong day or an hour late, as Angela explains: "One of my greatest challenges was earlier this month when over 400 students took their maths GCSE on a Monday after a week of half term holiday. Trying to seat 400 nervous youngsters to start at the same moment in time, in locations throughout the academy, took military precision."

## New Starters

The Bulwell Academy welcomes three new additions to its Special Educational Needs department, with Sarah Baker joining as assistant principal (inclusion), Keith Dyson, for SENCO Behaviour; and Katie Brettell for SENCO Learning.

Year 11 students will be attending their employment intelligence programme work and life experience placements on the first week back after the summer holidays: 5 – 9 September.

## Dates for your Diary

- Bank holiday: *Monday 29 August*
- Staff inset days: *Tuesday 30 August – Friday 2 September*
- 2011/12 term begins: *Monday 5 September*
- Autumn half term: *Break up Monday 24 October and return Monday 7 November*

## Contact details

For further information, or to find out more about the topics in this newsletter, please contact:

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## Everyone Achieves