

Sir Robert Woodard Academy

Spring 2015 Newsletter



At this time of year we would normally have already, or currently be, experiencing the change from winter to spring; and indeed we are. The weather over the past weeks has been wonderful and at times spectacular. However, if we were to analyse when the change took place we would be hard pressed to identify a dramatic or clearly defined day or period of time. There are numerous subtle changes that indicate that something is occurring; catkins, daffodils, leaf buds slowly opening, migrant birds arriving and as is happening today on the Academy campus, grass being cut. Change and modification are what have allowed us as humans to evolve as a species. Some are rapid, some less so.

One quote maintains that: *'It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.'*



Organisations such as academies are an example of change. Indeed, in the lifespan of an educational establishment serving a community, the change to academy status may be perceived as being extremely rapid. Crucially once the change has taken place it is then up to the community to ensure that it is supported, seeing it as the beginning and not the end of the process.

I believe, as all our literature indicates be they letters or Newsletters, that we have in recent months truly embraced change and embedded positive working practices and relationships that will ensure that we have a sustainable system of working for the benefit of all our students, stakeholders and wider community. The feedback from our Parents' Forum, Business Breakfasts (attended by numerous representatives from local businesses and community organisations) and parental questionnaires, indicates a positivity about the Sir Robert Woodard Academy that we are certain will continue and that will allow us to further develop in the knowledge that we are being supported in our endeavours.

Indeed, we are proud that the reputation of the Academy is clearly changing and that the shackles of being in 'Special Measures' have been fully removed. Our increase in student intake numbers for those transferring this year in September shows a growth from 160 students three years ago to a projected 228 students this year. This is potentially a 42% increase and sets a new record for student intake. This endorsement of the Academy is also illustrated by the significant rise in those students in the current Year 11 and from further afield who have indicated that they are looking to continue their education here in our Sixth Form. The figures here show an 80% rise in the number who have indicated the Sir Robert Woodard Academy as their preferred choice.

Exciting times!

Peter Midwinter
Principal

Academy Canteen

Following a food hygiene inspection of the Academy canteen at the end of January, we have pleasure in announcing that we have been awarded yet again, **the highest food hygiene rating of 5**, meaning 'Very Good'.

Well done to the Catering Team for their excellent work and for maintaining high standards.

Mrs Bull



Another reason
to choose us.

Key Dates

Key Dates for Next Half Term

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter Holidays
Tuesday 21st April - Year 8 Girls' HPV Vaccinations
Thursday 23rd April - Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 24th April - Year 13 BTEC Music Performance Concert
Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
Thursday 7th May - Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 8th May - Year 11 Graduation Ceremony
Monday 11th May - Public Examinations Commence
Monday 11th May - Parents' Forum
Friday 22nd May - Business and Friends Breakfast

Community Notices

The Family Cinema

The Spring term has just concluded with 'Hop' on 7th March.

The summer season will be announced shortly – a mixture of family favourites and recent releases at affordable prices.

Coming soon: We are planning to expand the provision in September by introducing Saturday afternoon screenings of 'golden oldies'.



Intrepid Explorers

On 4th March, the Theatre was full of excited faces of parents and students who wanted to know more about our latest venture into the wider world.

Our students have been offered an incredibly exciting opportunity for the summer of 2016 volunteering in Borneo. Camps International is a well established company that runs a number of camps around the world in which the participants are attached to a community. They work on a number of ongoing projects designed to improve the living standards of local people. The work could include low level construction, painting classrooms, building desks, teaching, playing sports, assisting with the harvest or planting – the focus is on trying to improve facilities and preserve the cultural heritage within the community.

We were delighted by the response, as so many of our young people are excited by the prospect of going out into the world and making their mark and a positive difference. We have eleven students from years 10-12 going on the venture and we look forward to charting their progress as they prepare for the adventure of a lifetime and raise the money to get there.



Mr Williams

Parent View

We would like to ask you to take part in a **confidential** online survey with Ofsted, to check how you feel we are meeting the needs of your child at the Academy.

We are constantly striving to improve and would really welcome your participation in this important exercise. Parent View asks for your opinion on twelve things about the Academy - it is designed to help us improve your child's overall experience with us. Please log on and complete the questions at:

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Parent View
Your Child's School

**Give Ofsted your view
on your child's school**

Performing Arts

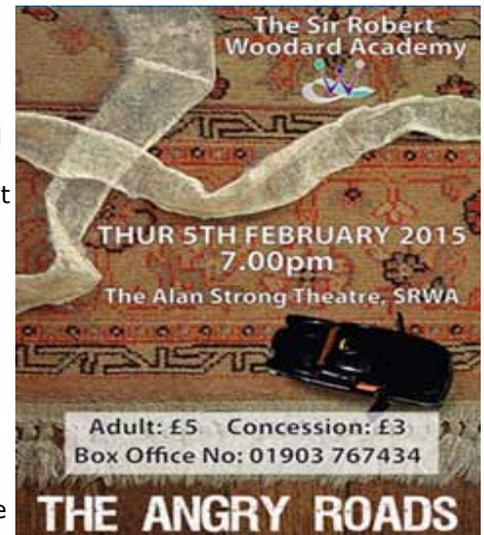


The Angry Roads: A Student Perspective

On 5th February the world-famous Big Brum T.I.E. Company performed Edward Bond's latest play *The Angry Roads*. The Alan Strong Studio Theatre was full of drama students, their parents and members of the public and for half an hour after the show many of them lingered in the Maths Courtyard, discussing what they had just experienced.

Leah Ingall (Year 10) was in the audience. These are her thoughts.

"The Angry Roads was a unique and exceptional performance which allowed young students; like me to widen their knowledge on drama and performing arts. It was about a father and son who have a peculiar relationship as the father doesn't actually speak - he communicates in a different style. An incident has ruined their family and the son is making decisions about his life and what path he will take in the future. I didn't really know what to expect as the brief explanation I had experienced had left me very eager to see this.



The actors wanted the audience to analyse the set and share our thoughts. I definitely felt involved and part of the performance as it enabled us to give our opinions and views.

This performance was definitely an experience. I never knew that a short production, with only two actors, could be to such a high standard. The performance allowed me to think and adapt to how drama can work with a small set and few actors. Not only this, but only one of the actors used dialogue. The other only used gestures and banged his hands on the table to communicate.

The storyline was also thought-provoking. It left the audience, in my opinion, constantly questioning the actions and dialogue used to predict the ending of this piece of drama. It was definitely a thrilling piece of drama that was extremely intense. I have taken aspects from this performance that will help me in the future especially in my drama GCSE. I was able to engage with the actors which helped me understand the depth of the story. I would recommend anyone to go along and watch this as the actors after the performance were friendly and interested in our opinion of the overall performance. They absorbed our opinions as they wanted to know how we felt.

It was a performance that stayed with you long after the curtain had come down."

Leah Ingall, Year 10 student

ESY Goes Silver

On Friday 3rd July 2015 we will be holding the third consecutive Summer Sounds event supporting our friends at Electric Storm Youth (ESY) with their major fund-raising event of the year.

This year, students who are following the Silver Arts Award course during enrichment have taken on the huge task of organising the whole event. Danushka Dooraree, Lauren Wykes, Jaime-Leigh Gilbert and Daniel Smith have brought huge energy, talent and excitement to the event.

In their words: "This event will be entertaining audiences with all aspects of the Performing Arts; Dance, Drama and Music. We will also be inviting the Year 6s from local primary schools to join us in the event. These include: The Globe, Sompting Village, Seaside and North Lancing. It will give them a chance to work with our Performing Arts students in preparing material for the show as well as enabling their transition to the Academy to run as smoothly as possible in the new school year."

After meeting the students for the first time, Marion Peskett of ESY said: "Just to say that Dan, Jaime-Leigh, Lauren and Dee were all positively wonderful!"

We are looking forward to a wonderful show this year.

Mr Williams



Mandela Chapter News



Mandela Master Class

Every term the humanities subjects in Mandela host a Master Class for students in KS4 who show an outstanding aptitude or interest in history, geography, sociology and religious studies. Students meet after school to complete a series of tasks that will help them to consider a key question. This time, students debated the question 'is globalisation making a better world?'



Students reported that they really enjoyed the session and requested that next time the session is even longer!

It is a great opportunity for students and staff to meet together and celebrate the way humanities subjects link together.

Chestnut Tree House Charity Shop Appeal



Mandela is supporting Chestnut Tree House, who need lots more clothes, books and bric-a-brac items for their charity shops. Mandela are collecting these at school and they will then be delivered by the Mandela Charity Committee to their charity shop in Worthing.

If you have any items, please bring these to school for the attention of the Mandela office.

Ms Barr and Ms Davies-Arnold

Nightingale Chapter News



What Are Our Super Scientists Up To?

Super science enrichment has had a fantastic half term of fun experiments. The week before half term the team carried out scientific dissections of hearts, lungs and eyes!

We have designated student leaders within the group who direct younger students and make sure they get the full experience!

A 'Growing' Legacy...

The Woodland Trust have sent us 30 indigenous saplings to grow in our tree nursery. Last year the Gold Curriculum took part in a similar event and a year onwards, their trees are ready to be transferred around the local area and ours are ready to be looked after.



We are looking to give a tree to local schools and churches in the area as well as keeping one for our own memorial for student, Jack Bray.

Any student is welcome to join in the tree planting session.

More details on dates will follow.

Miss Briggs

Mrs Pike and Miss Roberts



Sixth Form News



Cambridge University

I was quite surprised when I found out I had been selected to go to Cambridge University for their shadowing scheme for studying History.

On the first night all the 'shadows' went for a 'formal' at St John's College which was very nice, except for the salmon terrine which was not to my taste. On the second day I went to a lecture on the *Fall of the British Empire*, had a tour of the city and went to a quiz in the evening, which we didn't do very well in! The favourite part of the day and the whole trip was going to my mentor's supervision, which is a one-on-one with an academic and was so interesting. The trip itself removed some of the stereotypes I had of the university and was very worthwhile, although if you decide to go up there, watch out for the bikes!

Josh Baker, Year 12

PSCHE Day

For the Sixth Form students, the PSCHE Day comprised of a platform in which they had to demonstrate their ability to support their peers in preparing an exam revision plan. Students were then given some supported time to reflect on their current performance and approach to managing their workload in the run up to the busy exam season.

There were also guest speakers who alerted the students to some exciting opportunities available to them.

Later on students got the chance to relieve any lingering exam stress with an active group session in the sports hall. Once the healthy body session was concluded there was a healthy relationships workshop.

Overall the day was well received by the students and hopefully, got those who had been putting off their revision planning, kick-started!

Sixth Formers Joined in World Book Day



Mr Langan and Mrs Cole



Careers - Latest News

Year 11 and Sixth Form students were invited to an Apprenticeship Workshop on 17th March and on 20th March, we had an Airline Pilot visit the Academy to talk to interested students.

We are delighted that two of our Year 12 students have been invited for an NHS interview with the hope of gaining four weeks work experience at Worthing Hospital.

Mrs Morley, Careers Mentor

Sport Round-up



U13 Girls' Cricket

The U13 Girls' Cricket Team had a very successful season last year as runners-up in the County Cup Summer League. However the girls were knocked out of the Indoor League early on in last year's season.

The girls have been back in training since September and ready to battle to bring some silverware home this year. They started their indoor campaign beating Shoreham Academy and North Lancing Primary by 60 runs each, this puts them through to the semi-final.

The girls will take on Warden Park, Dorothy Stringer and Blatchington Mill for a place in the County Cup final.

Team: Isabel Carter, Faye Dowdeswell, Jasmine Austen, Jessica Lock, Faithful Shelley, Ellie-Mae Shelley, Freya Steward, Grace Kirpal and Hannah Appleton.

Miss Gill

Year 9 Rugby

The team played Shoreham Academy and Steyning. Although the results did not go our way the boys put in a brilliant performance in both games. Highlight performance came from winger Adam Moore, whose tackling, defensive play and attacking runs were inspirational. Also making his debut at fly-half, Dominic Lelean's kicking game was fantastic, converting 2 from 2.

Captain Matthew Thurgar is very excited for the season ahead and is looking forward to leading the team to victory.

Mr Matanle

U13 Netball

The team got off to a tough start to the season with two narrow losses against Towers and Rydon.

This did not keep the girls down for long; they all showed great determination and came back to training fighting. This was evident when they put on a great netballing display against Steyning Grammar School. The girls moved the ball up and down the court with ease and shot with precision. The defensive unit of Jade-Ella Giles, Grace Kirpal and Jessica Thornhill proved to be unbreakable. Fantastic 10-0 win. The girls are hoping to keep this momentum up for their last two games of the season.

Team: Jade-Ella Giles, Grace Kirpal, Jessica Thornhill, Sophiya Moulton, Maddie Gillman, Saffron Bloxham, Sophie Owens, Olivia Fern and Isabel Carter.

Miss Gill

U16 Girls' Football

Well done to all the girls who are taking part in the U16 Girls' Football League being held at Worthing High School and representing our Academy in such a positive way through sport.

The girls have played several games, narrowly missing out on a win. Deserved victory came for the girls when they beat Steyning 1-0 to claim three important points.

Players are: Leah Ingall (c), Casey Dolton, Jamie Morland, Michelle Hepworth, Layla Rodd, Ashleigh Johnston, Bryony Johnson and Louise Tugnutt.

Miss Roberts

U16 Girls' Basketball

The U16 Girls' Basketball got off to a fantastic start as it is their last basketball season at the Academy. Winning four games out of four, the girls were looking to get that elusive league victory they have been striving for for the past four years. The girls then faced a strong Angmering side which consisted of two England players. The girls hustled hard and put in some great performances, especially from Bryony Johnson and Alicia Veale. Unfortunately the girls lost by 10. However, the girls came back the next week fighting to keep that league win alive. They all fought right to the end and finished with two big wins over Shoreham Academy and Worthing High. The girls had done all they could do at this stage and the league winners title was left in Angmering's hands. Once all results were in, it appeared that Angmering had let the league title slip through their hands, which left our girls WINNERS!

Well done to Bryony Johnson, Alicia Veale, Ella Griffiths, Grace Kirpal, Michelle Hepworth, Joakima Driscoll and Jamie Morland.

What a fantastic season.

Miss Gill

Year 9 Basketball

At the end of last half term, we hosted the Basketball tournament for local schools.

The Year 9 boys led by Kayshaun Marrett put in fantastic performances. The team played four games winning one and drawing another to end up 3rd in the competition. Highlight performances from star player Kayshaun, meant the team was extremely competitive throughout the whole tournament.

I look forward to seeing this team grow when entering Basketball next year at KS4.

Mr Matanle

Learning Resource Centre



We have had a massive week of celebrations for World Book Day this year, so we have all been very excited.

Author Chris Bradford

On Monday 2nd March a group of Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires (students who have read over a million words in the books they have borrowed from the LRC, and successfully quizzed on) met the action adventure author Chris Bradford at Worthing High School. Chris is a martial arts master, has trained as a bodyguard and uses his practical experience in the settings for his books; he sometimes brings a Samurai Sword to his events and is a thrilling speaker. Congratulations to all who attended: Henry Ayling, Luke Ellarby, Kali-Ann Horrocks, Leonie Hull, Anya Lynn, Danielle Pacifico, Megan Porter, Jade Smith and Tia Deacon.



Storyteller Jamie Crawford

On Wednesday 4th March Jamie Crawford, storyteller and entertainer delivered a fantastic performance to our Year 7 students who have been studying fairy tales and the origins of some of the great oral and traditional tales. Many of the older students remember being scared by Jamie's creepy sound effects and were keen to see him again; our current Year 7s really enjoyed his presentation and we will I am sure welcome him back again next year.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Staff and students dressed up as their favourite characters from a book; we have examples of Oompah loompahs, boys in striped pyjamas, Jamie Johnson from the Dan Freedman football books and many more – it was a hugely colourful and imaginative day.



6-Up Book Award



The 6th March saw our feeder school 6-Up Book Award readers arriving from Seaside and Sompting Village Primary schools to take part in activities centred around the themes of the three shortlisted books; Skyhawk; 0.4; and Secret Breakers.

There was excitement as they handed in their reading passports for judging and settled down to watch pre-recorded videos from each of the shortlisted authors. Each school had sent in a question for the authors and all were answered with enthusiasm, which caused a few of the readers to change their minds about their favourite book!



Everyone then voted for the book they felt should win. Students had a refreshment break whilst waiting for the announcement and tension mounted as the votes were counted! **0.4 by Mike Lancaster** got the most votes by far - in fact 14 students voted it their top read - and is the **2015 winner of the 6-Up Book Award!**

Book Fair

The LRC has also hosted a Scholastic Book Fair from 6th-13th March, where students have been able to use their World Book Day vouchers to get £1 reduction on any title; the LRC earned commission on sales to provide free new books for the shelves – a real help to the Academy.



Mrs Waton
LRC Manager

Chaplain's Corner

Twitter: @SRWachaplaincy
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Things are moving apace here in the Academy. The Chaplaincy Space created as a drop in for students during break and lunch is going really well with often 20 or more students passing through to take advantage of a quieter space to meet together. It also gives me the opportunity to catch up with some of the students I support and encourage in their experience of school.



At the end of January we remembered the events of the Holocaust during WW2 and subsequent genocides, to ensure that every new generation never forgets the tragedy of war and the persecution of those who appear different to ourselves. The Holocaust Memorial Day was on 27th January and we hosted an event in the Academy that was attended by members of Adur District Council and local community representatives from churches and schools, as well as staff and students from the Academy. Our Performing Arts Sixth Form students, Martha Franks, Curtis Lavender, Charys Osborne and Liam Pearson, performed a powerful piece of physical theatre. A piece of music specially composed by another Sixth Form student, Shaun Williams, was performed live and another Sixth Form student, Kallum Howell, gave an outstanding presentation on the HMD theme, 'Keep The Memory Alive'. The whole event was very moving and those who were in attendance acknowledged the contribution of our staff and students.

I can hardly believe we are just weeks away from the Easter break, so let me wish you a very Happy Easter and I look forward to the opportunities the summer term brings.

Rev Hodge



Student Support Notices

If your child is absent due to a minor cough, cold, sore throat or a headache without other symptoms (for example, a fever), the Academy will record the absence as unauthorised.

We have a First Aid Room within the Academy where students can come if they are feeling unwell. If we have a signed consent form from you, we can offer them pain relief at lunchtime should they need this to ease minor conditions. If your child is assessed by our dedicated First Aider as being too unwell to stay at school, you will be contacted and your child will be sent home.

If you are unsure whether to send your child in when they are unwell, please contact us on 01903 766177 and we will give you some guidance.

You must contact the Academy if your child is going to be absent, on the first day of their illness and every day thereafter by telephoning 01903 766177 between 08:00 and 09:30. If we do not hear from you, we have to assume your child is truanting and mark the absence accordingly until you tell us otherwise. We do expect to know the nature of the illness and how long the absence is likely to last. If it becomes clear that your child will be away for longer than expected, you must contact the Academy as soon as possible to explain this. When your child returns from their absence they should bring a letter from you confirming the details of their time off.

Vomiting and diarrhoea - Children with these conditions should be kept off school but can return as soon as they begin to feel better and usually once food has had chance to digest. It is not necessary to keep them off for 48 hours.

If you need further clarification around attendance matters or illnesses, please contact the Student Support Team on 01903 767434 choosing option 2.

Academy Information

Follow us and contact us by:-

Telephone: 01903 767434

Academy Website: www.srwa.woodard.co.uk

Email: enquiries@srwa.woodard.co.uk

