

It is the last day of term! It has been busy as ever, literally going to the wire with our final performance of the year yesterday evening. We enjoyed our Year 10 Music student's showcase 'Jukebox Jollies'. The Year 10 choir opened and closed the performance in style which also featured a wide variety of songs from The Beatles to Sia. Well done to all involved.

This term the Year 13 students on the Music and Music Technology pathways have performed their last showcases at BOA. These wonderful evenings of varied entertainment were very well supported. The Year 13 Music Technology pathway's evening was a thrilling and pulsating night of music to dance to, which the large number of students from other years and pathways really enjoyed.

At the beginning of this term the majority of the Year 12 Music and Music Technology cohorts travelled to Derby University. They visited the Music faculty and gained a valuable insight into life at university and what Derby offers students on the Music and Music Technology courses.

Our extra-curricular Jazz Group has been rehearsing weekly and has performed twice in school to great acclaim.

This year, the whole of the Year 12 Music pathway have been formed into a choir which has been rehearsing during pathway time on Fridays. The rehearsals have been an excellent way to improve the students' level of musicality as well as their ability to work in a team. The choir was invited to perform at the National Governors' Association 10th Anniversary dinner at the ICC on 17th June. The students, supported by a small band of Year 13 students and staff, performed with exceptional enthusiasm and enjoyment. They captured the attention of the delegates, even drawing them away from their dinner. The delegates were very supportive and appreciative, giving a standing ovation at the end of the evening.

Individual students have been busy outside of school too, pursuing professional careers by launching EPs and performing in a variety of gigs at venues and festivals – including one student at Glastonbury Festival.

Following on from their successful performance of *The Witches of Eastwick* at The Old Rep in March this year, outgoing Year 13 students performed for one last time in an eclectic 'Variety Performance', showcasing the sheer range of skills that students have developed throughout their time here at BOA. The majority of the work was written, created and choreographed by the students themselves, proving themselves to be rounded and knowledgeable young practitioners.

Year 12 Musical Theatre pathway performed their showcase *Once Upon A Time* at The Old Rep to sell out audiences. The production featured student-created work as well as works choreographed and directed by staff, all of which related to the various storylines and contexts evident in a range of traditional and contemporary musicals. It was encouraging to see so much talent on stage and I look forward to seeing them in next year's full scale musicals.

Our outgoing Year 13s have again continued our high success rate in securing places at top vocational schools, conservatoires and universities including: Urdang, The Arts Educational School, Liverpool School of Performing Arts, Rose Bruford, London College of Music, Mountview Academy of

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Performing Arts, Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, Bird College, Guildford School of Acting, Royal Holloway, Millennium, Trinity Laban, University of Exeter, Edge Hill University and Birmingham City University.

Year 10 Dance Pathway's *Choreo* has been a great success, showcasing our students' impressive range of talent and skills of our students. I really enjoyed the range of dance styles from urban to tap, contemporary to jazz.

Recently, Jamaal Burkmar (Year 13 student Mahalia's brother) has provided contemporary dance workshops for Year 12 students, exploring his new and inventive dance form. This was a fantastic experience for our students, not least because Jamaal has recently been awarded the Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Choreographer Award. Other industry workshops have included commercial jazz from Ryan Perry and physical theatre innovators Motionhouse, who have been teaching excerpts from *Broken* to Year 12 students as part of their summer project.

Versus Dance Company successfully performed as part of U Dance 2016; the second time they have been chosen to perform at this weekend dance event. The company performed and took part in workshops in Manchester with industry professionals.

The English and Acting departments linked up this term when Year 10 English learners visited a 'blasted heath' (one of our acting studios) to see the performance of three soliloquies from *Macbeth*. With textual analysis and performance, the students saw different aspects of the Shakespearean language.

In June, the Digital Arts students took over The Old Rep to celebrate the best of the year's work in the company of industry professionals, some of whom were kind enough to sit on a Q&A panel for our audience. Hugh Pearson (Codemasters), Ryan Phillips (Hipster), David Bradley (Top Draw), Jon Rashid (Gaia 3D) Debbie Isitt (Film director), Nick Lockley (Maverick TV), Tom Lawes (The Electric) and Gurdip Bhangoo (BBC Academy) were on hand to speak to students and take questions from the audience.

The stage show was presented by two BOA Broadcast students, Nathan and Hanuszka Liskewski, who did an outstanding job fielding the questions from the floor and leading the discussions. After the stage show the evening continued with screenings of student moving image work, an exhibition of Digital Arts work and an interactive gaming arcade.

In alumni news, this year the English Department supported the university application of former A* A Level Literature student, Molly Roberts. Molly had been doing a Foundation degree in Dance this year but, due to injury, had to change her plans. As a BOA student who achieved D*D*D* in Dance pathway and, crucially, an A* in her English Literature A-level, Molly applied to a number of top universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group institutions. A whirlwind of applications and interviews later, Molly's destination for September 2016 will be The University of Liverpool to study Law (LLB Hons). We wish Molly all the best in her studies. Our most recent Alumni Newsletter can be found here: _____

This term, Venus House has raised over £500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust through various fundraising events. They hosted Lip Sync Battles, a fundraising fayre and Amy Ferguson ran the Brighton Marathon to raise further donations. We recently hosted a talk from the Teenage Cancer trust about recognising the signs of cancer in young people and treatment options available.

On 23rd June, myself, Michael Penn and Nathan Dodzo were invited to a glittering affair at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane. There was a certain irony that BOA had been nominated for an International Award by the Times Educational Supplement on the day the country decided to exit

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the EU. Sadly, we are no longer eligible for the European money that funded our students' work experiences in Malta, Portugal, Denmark and the Netherlands. Hopefully, as the dust settles, we will be able to find alternative funding streams to try to support this work.

Our recent Year 11 prom was a brilliant event to celebrate the achievements of our students throughout this year. It was also a fitting occasion to say goodbye to those who are not returning to us in September. The prom was highly successful and enjoyed by all who attended. Our students made a real effort with their outfits and all looked very glamorous!

May I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all staff; Support, Teaching and the Site Team. They often go well beyond the call of duty. I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you in September.