

Friday, 10 October 2014

Principal's Blog – October 2014

It is nearly half-term already and what a busy and productive start to the academic year it has been for the Academy!

We welcomed our new Year 12 students and they have settled into their classes and into BOA life with aplomb. Our Year 10s and their parents have been invited to a settling-in evening on October 16th. The relaxed evening gives BOA parents /carers and form tutors a chance to meet and discuss students' progress so far.

On Monday 22nd September, we were joined by our partners Free Radio to launch a huge music event, 'Live 2014'. Presenter Adam Willbourn and the Free Team came to BOA and, with the help of some of our students, got the 'Live 2014' ball rolling! The concert takes place at the LG Arena on November 29th and Free Radio is offering placements for more than 150 of our students to take part. This is the second year of working in partnership with Free Radio and we are delighted that our students will have such a great opportunity to perform and gain work experience at such a high profile event. For further details about student placements available, see here <http://www.boa-academy.co.uk/news.php?story=67>. The deadline for applications is Monday 13th October, so get applying!

In the coming weeks, we will be doing lots of activity with Free Radio to promote the event and BOA's key involvement. In fact, drive-time presenters Joe and Sparky will be joining BOA Radio on Monday 13th October to talk exclusively about the big act lined up for Live 2014!

We are already looking forward to the next academic year and preparing for our intake of new students in 2015. BOA's Open Week is 20th October – 24th October, where we will be opening our doors to lots of prospective students who are keen to imagine studying at BOA. Full details of the week and key open evenings are listed here <http://www.boa-academy.co.uk/news.php?story=60>

There has been lots of activity around the school as students are getting really stuck into their new school projects and pathway studies. The Music Department has been particularly busy; on 19th September our Music Technology students took a trip to London to see John Hopkins, Britain's foremost electronic music composer and performer at the Royal Festival Hall. The show was a mixture of amazing visuals and stunning performances featuring work from his latest album as well as his recent film projects. The students also visited the Daphne Oram exhibition at the Science Museum. Their outing was the inspiration behind the students own work for their recent showcase; 'We speak Machine' on October 8th, was one of four music performances inspired by a variety of genres. From 21st century pop to Big Band, the music department entertained with an assortment of performances at the start of October which were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Some of our Acting pathway students also recently visited London to attend a voicing session for the new series of 'Peaky Blinders'. Joey Dunnion, Harry Kinman and Ethan Carless provided some authentic 'Brummy' voices in a recording session for character Finn Shelby's gang. The popular series, starring Cillian Murphy and Tom Hardy, is currently being broadcast on the BBC and I am enjoying hearing our students in action! Meanwhile, some senior staff members and I were invited to attend the world premiere of Peaky Blinders Season 2 on September 21st at Broad Street Cineworld. It was a very glamorous event and the stars had attracted a huge turnout. It made us feel really proud that our students were a part of the show.

You can see some of our Year 12 Acting pathway students in some unique and seasonal performances this coming week in Gothic Shock. From October 14th – 16th, they will be staging spooky performances of devised poetic frights. Tickets and details are available [here](#).

On September 25th, 47 of our Gaming students went to [EGX](#) – The UK's biggest games show – at London's Earls Court. With Games Developer sessions and a Games Industry Fair, it was a very interactive chance for our

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pathway pupils to meet industry professionals and experience some of the latest gaming technology for themselves.

Some of our students recently took part in a workshop run by theatre company [Frantic Assembly](#). Known as '[Ignition](#)', the workshops are a national initiative looking to develop new ways of increasing young men's involvement in the arts: engaging creativity; developing physical theatre skills; raising aspirations and celebrating achievement. Specifically targeting males between the ages of 16 – 20 who would like to join the unique Company, Frantic Assembly's Ignition will be having a Trial Day at the Rep Theatre in Birmingham on October 11th. To all of our students who are participating, we wish you the very best of luck!

We have had a number of distinguished visitors to the school this half-term. On 23rd September, The Regional School Commissioner for the East of England and North-East London, Dr Tim Coulson, visited BOA. Regional schools commissioners (RSCs) are responsible for making important decisions about the academies and free schools in their area on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. Their responsibilities include monitoring the performance of the academies in their area, deciding on the creation of new academies and encouraging organisations to become academy sponsors. Following a tour of the Academy and meetings with various members of staff and students, we had exceptional feedback from Dr Coulson and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

Last Tuesday, October 7th, we were also visited by Bal Samra (Managing Director and Commercial Director of the BBC). This follows on from our visit from Lord Hall (Director General of the BBC) earlier in the year. We continue to develop our working partnership with the BBC.

Finally, we have had some wonderful news from one of our BOA Alumni. Joshua Gannon, who graduated from us last year, has been awarded a full scholarship by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation to fund his Musical Theatre study at the prestigious Guildford School of Acting. Joshua recently returned to BOA to perform at our Launch event for the Old Rep Theatre and he was delighted to be starting the next step of his career at GSA. Congratulations Joshua from all of us at BOA!

Gaynor Cheshire