

Monday, 15 September 2014

Principal's Blog – September 2014

It has been an action-packed start to this new school year! At the start of the month, we welcomed the new Year 10 students to BOA. They spent their first week working with our varied industry partners, culminating in a display of their performances and their work in an afternoon showcase. Our Year 12 students also came in for their tutor interviews to prepare them for the new academic term.

On Thursday, September 4th, BOA re-launched Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre with an exclusive evening of student performances at the iconic city venue. We are delighted and honoured to be the custodians of such a prestigious and important piece of history and theatrical heritage. To celebrate, Year 13 Musical Theatre graduates returned to BOA to reprise excerpts of the 2013/2014 BOA musicals season for two exclusive shows. Their performances included highlights from Robert Brown's 'Parade', Sondheim's 'Merrily We Roll Along' and 'Madness' smash hit musical 'Our House'.

We have many plans for how we will operate and manage The Old Rep. We want this theatre to be a vibrant space - and the idea of a theatre for young people run by young people, has always been at the heart of our proposal. The theatre will continue to be a performance venue for both professional and amateur companies, whilst refurbishment backstage will allow it to be used for both classes and rehearsals.

We are also offering the public a chance to be a part of the Old Rep Theatre through our 'Dedicate A Seat' campaign – for £250, you can dedicate one of the seats to a person, cause or occasion of your choosing. Your dedication will be marked with an inscribed plaque featuring a personal message of your choice and will be in place for a period of 5 years. For more information about Dedicating A Seat, please click [here](#). Alternatively, please email seating@oldreptheatre.co.uk

We have a busy Autumn term ahead with a variety of events, performances and exhibitions already lined up – for full details of our Autumn Season schedule, please click [here](#).

As we prepare to welcome back all of our students, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and my staff for all their hard work during our first term week. The success of BOA has been down to having students and staff who give 110% all of the time, and I am very grateful to them for that.

Gaynor Cheshire