

Welcome back to a new year at BOA, and particularly to all of the new staff, students and parents joining us for the first time. 2015/16 is set to be a particularly exciting time for BOA, as Birmingham undergoes an incredible transformation with the opening of New Street Station and Grand Central, and we co-produce our first professional Christmas production at The Old Rep.

Firstly, I'd like to celebrate the excellent exam results achieved by BOA students, at both GCSE and Post-16. Our average result at Post-16 was 825, the equivalent of AAA. At GCSE, 82% of students received grades A*-C in Maths, and 79% in English. Well done to all of our candidates!

As always, we have an incredibly busy programme of performances and events to keep us entertained throughout this term. Our first appearance on The Old Rep stage will be with Thoroughly Modern Millie, from 15-17 October, performed by Year 13 Musical Theatre Students. Tickets are selling quickly, so book now at oldreptheatre.co.uk/thoroughly-modern-millie.html to avoid disappointment.

Even though we are just a few weeks into this term, we have already enjoyed our first BOA performance of the year! Upcoming performances include: the Wonderland exhibition by Year 12 Visual Art & Design students (20-23 Oct), Turn of the Century by Year 12 Music students (9-11 Nov) and Alice in Wonderland by Year 11 Acting students (14-17 Dec).

After just one week at BOA, our new Year 10 students presented a wonderful showcase. The atrium hosted the Creative Media and Visual Art and Design students exhibiting their work. We watched excellent performances from all our vocational pathways and superb filming from Jack Lander, Luke Furmage and Jack Curtis. I was thoroughly impressed by how much all students had achieved in such a short space of time.

Some of our Year 13 male Acting and Dance students recently enjoyed a taster session with renowned physical theatre company Frantic Assembly. The session took place as part of Frantic Assembly's Ignition project, aimed at young men aged 16-20, which seeks to find the next generation of male physical theatre performers. If anyone is interested in attending an audition to join the 2015 Ignition Company, which takes places at The Old Rep on Wednesday 30 September, visit franticassembly.co.uk/ignition to sign up. Good luck to all involved!

The Free Radio Live Launch took place at The Old Rep on Monday 14 September; it was fantastic to see presenters Sam and Mark on The Old Rep stage. There are lots of opportunities to get involved in Free Radio Live, and I'm really impressed with the number of students who have applied to sing, dance or work backstage at this year's event.

We are now into our second year of managing The Old Rep, and, during this time, BOA students have benefited enormously from the rehearsal, performance and work experience opportunities that this amazing space can offer us. However, we really need your support to make sure that this relationship is viable for many years to come. One way which you can help is to dedicate a seat in

The Old Rep's beautiful and historic theatre. Your personal message will be placed for a minimum of five years; a perfect gift, memorial or celebration. Please email seating@oldreptheatre.co.uk for further information.

This weekend many of our students will be performing at the Birmingham Weekender. Please come and see them by 'The Bull' in the Bullring.

Finally, well done to Erin Lilley who performed for most of the day at the opening of the new John Lewis store.

I look forward to seeing you over this academic year.