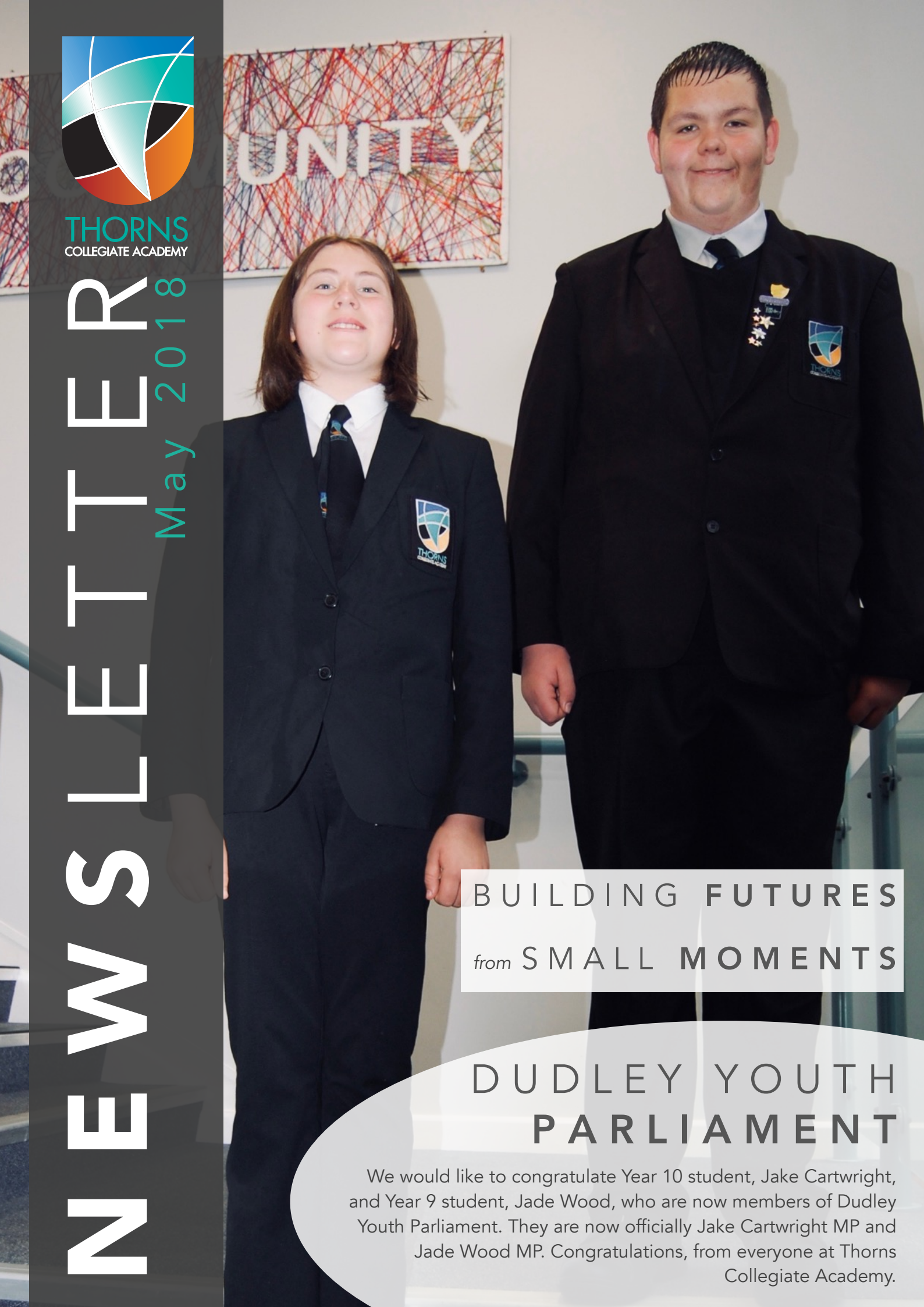
THORNS
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

May 2018



BUILDING **FUTURES**

from SMALL **MOMENTS**

DUDLEY YOUTH **PARLIAMENT**

We would like to congratulate Year 10 student, Jake Cartwright, and Year 9 student, Jade Wood, who are now members of Dudley Youth Parliament. They are now officially Jake Cartwright MP and Jade Wood MP. Congratulations, from everyone at Thorns Collegiate Academy.

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR DANCE

This year's Dance Production, IGNITE, was a huge success, full of energetic, highly-skilled, vibrant performances. Students showed great strength of character to overcome some minor technical difficulties during the Thursday performance, and delivered a roof-raising show the following evening. We're extremely proud of all that took part, and we thank our students, colleagues, parents, and members of the local community for their continued support.

SPORTING **SUCCESS**

The Halesowen & Stourbridge District Schools League Presentation Evening took place earlier this month. Under 14's Girls Cup winners Abi Parton, Molly Jones, Tara Hill and Chloe Bingham (minus Carly Hutchins, who has moved to Scotland) collected their awards, as did Boys Under 15's Cup winners Brandon Ashman and Sam Cooper, who represented their team. It was a fantastic evening for everyone involved.

WE ARE THE **CHAMPIONS**

Congratulation to Year 10 Boy Football Team who won their Final 3-1, with goals from Kielan Priest (1) and Marion (2). There was a consolation penalty in last minute for Windsor, but Thorns completely dominated the game from start to finish. There were too many notable performances to mention individuals…all of the lads were outstanding. A well deserved victory after such a near miss in last year's final.

TRANSITION

Earlier this term Year 5 students from Amblecote Primary School and Peters Hill Primary School were welcomed into our Academy. Throughout the day, our young leaners enjoyed a wide range of scientific activities before visiting our L4L area of learning, where they experienced first hand experience of life at Thorns Collegiate Academy.

WORLD OF **WORK**

Year 9 students were involved in our World Of Work morning, in which they spoke with university graduates about their experiences of university, and the jobs that they now have as a result. It was an insightful event that in the past has inspired our students and helped shape their career path once they leave school.

Year 10 students were invited to an informal breakfast event with over 20 local employers and training providers. Responses from both students and visitors were very positive and we look forward to hosting more events in the future as our students prepare for life after Thorns.

LIFE EDUCATION

During April we welcomed PC Rob Pedley to the Academy to discuss a wide range of topics with our Year 10 & 11 students. Knife crime, and its consequences, features heavily in the session, as Rob aimed to highlight that life changing moments are often the result of a series of small, and seemingly insignificant decisions. We'd like to thank Rob for sharing his knowledge and experience with us.

"His assembly really inspired me and told me to live and love my life. He told us that you don't need a knife to protect yourself, you need your confidence to walk away and tell someone"

– Kieran

"It was factual and explored the ideas of knife crime and life choices"

– Dylan

"I was touched by Rob Pedley's story. I like how he told us how to be positive and was brave enough to share his own story"

– Paige

"He (Rob) really made me realise how important my life is and how it can be changed so quickly. He was really inspirational and the things he has been through shocked me because of how strong he is now"

– Alicia

"The talk from Rob Pedley was really interesting as it showed how much of an impact some of our choices can have"

– Elijah

SPORT RELIEF FUNDRAISING

Before the Easter Holiday, Year 8 L4L students and staff worked hard to organise a variety of fundraising events to help raise money for Sport Relief 2018. The total amount raised is a fantastic **£1336.95**. We'd like to offer a huge Thank You to our Year 8 students, staff, and the families who supported us!

MAYFLY FESTIVAL 2018

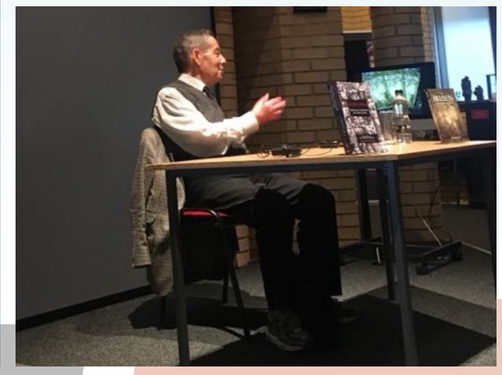
A selection of our Year 10 Performing Arts students were invited to perform at Halesowen College's 2018 Mayfly Festival at Old Halesonians Rugby Club.
Our students spent what was a fantastic afternoon performing, and watching the students from other schools perform.
There were several Halesowen College lecturers present, and our students were keen to quiz them about the courses that they have on offer. We thank Halesowen College for the invite.

A TRULY INSPIRING STORY

Year 8 L4L students and Year 9 Historians spent an afternoon in the company of holocaust survivor Henry Schachter. Henri discussed many of the complexities of war, some of them well known and others very personal. Students and staff alike were captivated by Henry's story, and we are extremely grateful to him for taking the time to engage with our students, and share with us his knowledge and experiences.

HOLOCAUST CENTRE VISIT

Earlier in May, Year 8 L4L students visited The National Holocaust Centre and Museum. It was an interesting yet emotional day that closed with a talk from a Holocaust survivor.



LOUDMOUTH'S LOUD MESSAGE

At the end of April, we welcomed the Loudmouth Education and Training group to Thorns. Loudmouth is an innovative theatre in education company which helps schools and other organisations to complement existing Personal, Social, Health and Economic education programmes through interactive drama and discussion. They spent a very productive day with our Year 7 students.

THORNS **AGAINST** BULLYING

Earlier this term, our new T.A.B (Thorns Against Bullying) members were selected. The successful applicants spent a day training for their new roles. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have showed an interest in supporting the team, and wish the new members the best of luck.

GCSE SUCCESS IS **IN THE BAG**

The PTFA handed over stationery gift bags to our Year 11 students to assist them with their GCSE Exam revision.
The supportive gesture was greatly welcomed by the students, who have been hard at work revising for a number of months.
We thank the PTFA for their continued support.

COMPETITION TIME

Year 7 and 8 L4L students have entered a national Aldi Bag For Life competition, in which they were set the task of designing a new logo for the bags. All students have been rewarded with a certificate of achievement for their efforts. The winning design will be selected by a panel and announced soon. The winning designer will receive Aldi shopping vouchers and a chance to meet a GB athlete, whilst their school will receive vouchers to spend on educational resources for students.
Good luck to everyone who entered!

STUDENT MENTORS

We have been delighted with the work that our Student Mentors have been doing with our younger students. Their role is to offer help and guidance when required, and it has been pleasing to see the partnership flourishing in recent weeks.

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