THORNS
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

PART OF THE SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

It's the most wonderful time of the year

There have been plenty of festive activities during the closing weeks of the term. We'd like to thank our catering staff for providing us with a delicious Christmas Lunch, and all of the staff and students that took part in our Christmas Jumper Day which helped raise money for the charity Save The Children. The fundraising didn't stop there either! Students also participated in a Reindeer Run to raise money for The Mary Stevens Hospice.

BUILDING **FUTURES** *from* SMALL **MOMENTS**

BACK TO THE 80's

...THE TOTALLY AWESOME MUSICAL!

What can we say? WOW! Our Back To The 80's production was a huge success. We can't praise our students enough for their levels of effort and commitment, and for their outstanding performances. The show involved many different aspects of performing, including acting, dance, and music, and the cast switched effortlessly between them with professional efficiency. The feedback we have received from our audiences has been hugely encouraging and the blossoming camaraderie between students was a delight to see. We're already looking forward to the next show.

THORNS HAS TALENT

Earlier this term, Year 7 students took part in their very own take Thorns Has Talent event, in which participants were asked to pay £1 to perform to the rest of the year group, who in turn would pay 20p to watch.
The wide range of acts was pleasing, varying from dancers, singers, bands, stand-up comedy, and dramatics. All proceeds went to BBC Children in Need.
Further Children In Need fundraising activities also occurred, including a Cake Sale and whole school Mufti Day.

COMMUNITY CARE

Thank you to all of our families that donated items these past few weeks. They have been passed on to LCP Leslie's Care Packages, a charity that supports the homeless, vulnerable and people in need.

HUGE IMPROVEMENT IN GCSE PROGRESS

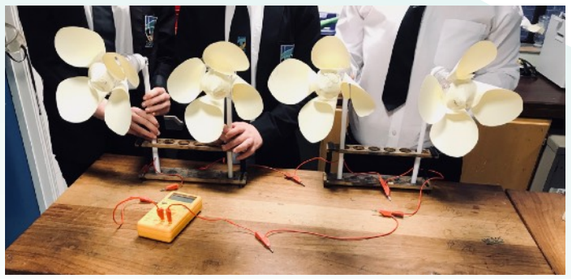
We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of the outgoing Year 11. The indications from the provisional Performance Checking Tables are that we have the most improved Progress scores of any school in Dudley. The Academy is immensely proud of this achievement, and we would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for their efforts, as well as Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust for their support with our ongoing journey.
Principal Manny Kelay said "We are extremely proud of our young people, who made every moment count, achieving results which reflect their hard work. We wish them well as they move on."
The Academy has achieved improvements in key subjects, with English results rising significantly. More students achieved a Grade 4 in Mathematics than ever before, opening up new college courses for themselves. Acting celebrated a cluster of Distinction* grades, while in Dance sixty-five percent of students achieved the highest possible grade.
Principal Manny Kelay added "We are a truly comprehensive school – we do not only celebrate the strongest academic achievements, but those at every level. Every result is important."

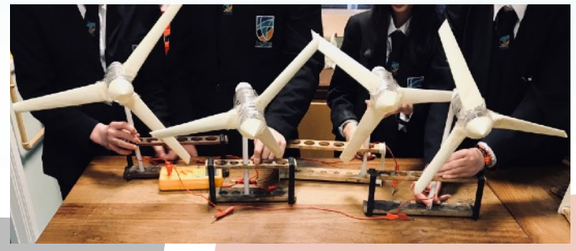
FUTURE **FOCUS**

We would like to send our heartfelt appreciation and seasons greetings to the following companies and representatives who supported our inaugural Year 10 Business Breakfast yesterday. It was wonderful to see so many local people inspiring our students in what is a busy festive season.
Year 10 students have gained valuable insight into many of the different career paths that will be available to them in the years to come.

SCIENCE IS A **BREEZE**

We witnessed some healthy competition between Year 10 students as they built wind turbines AS PART OF A science project. Congratulations to Taya Mclean, Mia Jewiss, Felicity Raybould and Tara Hill (group name 'Lancelot') who won the morning competition, and Ryan Bagley, Lauren Davies and Natasha Phipps (group name 'Bug') who won the afternoon competition. All students involved created impressive and imaginative designs.





PERFORMING ARTS

As always, our Performing Arts students have been busy working on a range of theatrical and musical projects. Our double-headline event, Thorns Exchange and A Midsummer Night's Dream, proved once again the abundance of talented students we have at the academy. Videos of both events will be uploaded to our website and YouTube channel in the New Year.

Earlier in the term, Year 10 & 11 BTEC dancers were fortunate enough to work with members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet where they learnt choreography from the ballet 'Still Life At The Penguin Cafe'. They focussed on the Southern Caped Zebra section which will now be used as part of their BTEC assessment.
Students experienced having a live pianist play for them whilst they learnt key motifs from the ballet and also had a Q&A session where they got to ask Jenny and Andrew (from the Birmingham Royal Ballet) about the process of staging a ballet.

THORNS STUDENTS ON THE BIG SCREEN

We'd like to congratulate students Zak Lackenby and Hayden Jones on their fantastic and inspiring recent achievements. Year 7 student Zak is starring in the new film Nativity Rocks, which is in cinemas now, and Hayden will be starring in the brand new BBC series Back in Time for School, which will be aired on Thursday 3rd January 8pm on BBC2. We can't wait to see their performances. Well done both!

STEM AT THORNS

Enginuity, our team for this years MNA STEM Challenge, met our mentor from Thomas Dudley Ltd for the first time this term. We are looking forward to the competition, which will begin after the Christmas break.
The Thorns STEM Club also helped raise awareness for the Save Our Saltwells Campaign earlier this year.

CURIOUS DRAMA STUDENTS

BTEC Acting students visited the University of Wolverhampton to see the National Theatre's school tour of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', which the students are studying the play as part of their BTEC qualification.
A fabulous time was had by all. The students impressed the university lecturers with their behaviour and ability, and have been asked back to take part in more workshops at the university. Well done to all our students.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Earlier this term, Thorns students participated in a number of activities focussing on Remembrance Day.
On Friday 9th November, Thorns students and staff held a Remembrance Service in which those who sacrificed their lives to secure and protect our freedom were remembered. Lest we forget. Follow this link to watch a short film documenting the service:

http://bit.ly/TCARemembrance

All students at Thorns were asked to write their name on a poppy, with the intention of creating a display in Main Reception. We were delighted with the result (below). Well done everyone!

In Maths, students followed a series of instructions to create a coordinate picture, and in History students created Remembrance-themed bunting on which the 149 men from the local area who died during the Great War 1914-1918 were remembered. Their work was displayed on the Quarry Bank War Memorial, Stevens Park.

On Sunday 11th November, BTEC Dancers were invited to attend an event called 'Homecomings' at Grand Central station, hosted by Birmingham Hippodrome, to commemorate 100 years since WW1. It was an honour for our students to represent Thorns at the event and pay our respects to all the brave people that fought in the war and to give tribute to those that sadly never made it home. Thank you to Ben Hallworth and Birmingham Hippodrome for allowing us to be a part of such a beautiful tribute.

HIGHWAYS UK - **NEC TRIP**

On the 8th of November the DT department were fortunate to be invited to attend the Highways UK Engineering Exhibition at the NEC which, for the first time, was open to a selection of schools.
Ten of our most dedicated Year 10 representatives learnt about the multitude of careers and opportunities within the ever evolving field of engineering, ranging from design, development, drone pilot data collection, management, civil engineering, marketing amongst a whole host of others.
The students were given the opportunity to question some of the most influential figures in the planning and development of our road networks as well as some of the brightest graduates and apprenticeship scheme trainees.
Our students represented the academy with a high standard of behaviour and the event organisers where impressed with the high quality and maturity of their questions and responses.
Towards the end of the event each school had to feedback some of the things they had learnt and what they found interesting, and the award for most entertaining speech went to Hasnain Ahmed, who drew comparisons of the multi-million pound 3D augmented reality projects to the mobile phone app Pokémon Go.
We would like to thank the event organisers, the students, and the multitude of staff it takes to organise a trip like this for all their support and efforts.

FOOTBALL FOCUS

The Year 10 Girls Football Team were victorious in all three of their games last night in the Year 10/11 Girls Football League, winning twice against Hagley and once against Leasowes. Danni Groves scored all of our four goals.

The Year 8/9 Girls Football Team showed fantastic spirit and resilience on a wet evening at the Dudley Schools League last night.
Despite playing with two players short and losing their opening two games the girls battled on, beating Earls 1-0 in the penultimate game, before beating Hagley 2-0, Paige Thomas scoring all three goals.

The players' commitment and determination was a credit to the academy and we're delighted with their efforts.
Well done girls!

ARTISTS AT WORK

Year 10 have continued working on their coursework whilst experimenting with a variety of new techniques (right).

Year 11 have recently completed a 3D Clay Workshop focusing on Zoomorphism (below).
Well done to everyone involved for their imaginative and creative work (below).

PRIMARY LIAISON

We invited students from Peters Hill Primary to the academy to take part in a variety of creative workshops. An enjoyable morning was had by all and we look forward to our next collaboration with one of our local Primary Schools.

AWARDS EVENING

Our 2018 Awards evening enabled our former students to celebrate their academic achievements with staff, who in turn were delighted to hear about the positive experiences their former students are now enjoying.

5 GOALS IN 2 GAMES

This term saw Thorns Collegiate Academy visit Wembley Stadium twice, and on both occasions students enjoyed watching a winning performance from the England National Football Team, beating USA 3-0, and Croatia 2-1.

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SCIENCE **HOMEWORK** CLUB

DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO DO YOUR **SCIENCE HOMEWORK**?

WOULD IT BE USEFUL TO HAVE A **SCIENCE TEACHER ON HAND** TO HELP?

COME TO SCIENCE HOMEWORK CLUB - **TUESDAY 3.15-4.15pm**

SC1 & IT1 WITH **MRS MILLER**

OPEN TO **KS3 & KS4** STUDENTS

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