



Images of Change

Autumn term saw the launch of the first House Photography Competition at the Bushey Academy. It was felt that with all the improvements and transformations due to happen at the academy, that *Change* would be an ideal topic. The students had three months to devise and shoot a response and a presentation was given to all students with examples of some solutions to get their creative juices flowing. Students could manipulate images on 'Photoshop', they could shoot images in black & white or colour, or even mix the two together to demonstrate a technical change of image. Students could use either digital or 35mm format – all ideas were accepted!

Over 80 images were submitted which showed a very wide range of ideas, technical ability and solutions to *Change*. Some students had focussed on the school site, others had looked at the changes in weather or natural forms and some wanted to show their expertise at manipulation. The best ten from each category went on display in the LRC for a week in December, where all students and teachers could vote for their favourites.

The three winners managed to each show high technical ability and a personal line of enquiry. It was clear that the whole school felt the same about the winning entries. On behalf of the art staff at The Bushey Academy we would like to congratulate all students for their efforts and very high standards.

Key Stage Three

- 1st place Trushal Karia – Marconi House
- 2nd place Megan Sadler
- 3rd Place Trishna Kerai

Key Stage Four

- 1st place Naasirah Ramjan – Whittle House
- 2nd place Karolina Harmacinska
- 3rd Place Leia Daniels

Key Stage Five

- 1st place Alice Vernham – Edison House
- 2nd place Carol Sing
- 3rd Place Chaoqun Gao



First Iceland Trip - A Great Success

February half term saw the first ever trip to Iceland run by the Geography Department, when 36 students and 5 staff members set off for Iceland. We studied the vast array of volcanoes, glaciers, hot springs, geysers and tectonic shifts which make Iceland so unique. All concerned were truly inspired by the country's outstanding and volatile beauty. It really is a land where fire and ice co-exist.

Some of the highlights of the trip included bathing in the Blue Lagoon in 40° water when the ambient temperature was only 4°! A visit to the spectacular Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where we were able to walk behind the 40 metre high falls, and Eyjafjallajökull - the volcano that caused so much disruption to flights right across Europe last year.

On the final day we took in Solheimajokull (the Black Glacier) to study its unique glacial features. As we walked along the side of the massive river of ice we saw people slipping and sliding on top of it. All in all, the visit was a tremendous success – one which we hope to repeat regularly at The Bushey Academy.



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The Bushey Academy: officially one of the "most improved" schools in the country

Welcome to the latest newsletter from The Bushey Academy. As we approach the end of term, the biggest news item is, of course, the move into the temporary school. Anyone who has visited the site recently cannot have failed to notice the high levels of building activity. Not a day goes past without something significant changing and it was fascinating to see the arrival of classroom after classroom as they were craned past blocks 1, 2 and 3 and put into place to form a whole new building.

As you know, we move during the week beginning 4th April and begin teaching in the temporary school directly after the Easter break. The overall programme is on schedule to allow us to occupy the completed permanent building from September 2012.

Another noteworthy development came in the form of a letter from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust at the start of March. It confirmed what we thought to be true, given the recent successes of the academy, by naming us as one of the "most improved" schools in the country. We are delighted at this recognition and I would like to pass on my thanks to all the staff, students and parents who have worked so hard to make this happen.



"fascinating to see the arrival of classroom after classroom"

I am sure you will enjoy reading about the many activities taking place at the academy in this newsletter and look forward to celebrating more student achievement as we move into the Summer term.

Andrew Hemmings
Principal

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Drama News

The Drama Department has had a busy term working on various projects. This term saw the second House Drama Competition held for the second year in a row in the Drama Studio. The House Drama competition is a student led project where students lead the whole process from putting on the performances, to setting up the rehearsals, preparing the costumes and learning the lines. This year, the theme for the competition was 'Grimm's Fairy Tales' which included performance such as 'The Golden Goose' and 'The Fisherman's Wife'. Tickets sold out very quickly for the event and we were lucky enough to have interval entertainment provided by Miss Anderson and her talented musicians. The evening ended with the traditional award ceremony where the judges presented trophies to winners and awarded the Overall House Oscar for the best performance of the evening. It was a pleasure to see students working with each other from across different year groups in such a supportive way. We look forward to seeing more people signing up for next year's competition.

The winners of the 2nd House Drama Competition results:
 Best male actor: Nejmi Sadak Yr 7 Babbage House
 Best female actor: Lauren Baulch Yr 8 Whittle House
 Best director: Chelsea Greasby Yr 13 Marconi House
 Best play: Rumpelstilskin Babbage House



Year 12 Students Clean Up

Our Year 12 Business, Administration and Finance (BAF) Diploma students had to design, launch and run a new business as part of their course. Last October they attended a workshop where they had to create a range of bath products, comprising bath bombs and soap. From mixing the ingredients to packaging, to naming the products, every part of the operation (apart from manufacture) was undertaken by the students.

The finished products were delivered to the academy in January and the students set about the next phase of the project: marketing and sales. They decided to base their campaign around Valentines Day, to take advantage of the heart-shaped bath bombs and designer soap. The products were publicised through a school assembly, complete with an original rap, posters and a message on the academy's internal TV system. Selling took place at break-times from the LRC and the Dining Hall in the week leading up to St Valentines Day.

The final tally of sales was in excess of £300 and the students decided that all profits from the sales would be donated to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The students proved to be canny business brains and academy students and staff responded positively to the products on sale.



This term we have also seen the A Level Drama performance of 'Fragmented Interpretations' a performance written and directed by the students themselves. This will be the last performance to take place in the current Drama studio before we move into our temporary accommodation after the Easter break.

We also were able to show our awarding winning mime 'Gnomes' at the Celebration of Success Evening earlier in the term; a big thank you to all the students who took part in the event. We look forward to more exciting projects in the Summer term.

GCSE students are currently working hard, devising their performance pieces as part of their GCSE exam, which takes place on May 12th. These pieces will be performed to a visiting examiner and is worth 40% of their final grade. The year 12 students are also preparing their practical examination of 'Cradle Me' which again takes place after the Easter break.

BAFTA

The launch of The Bushey Academy Friends & Teachers Association at the very end of last December gathered pace as we moved into the Spring term. Thanks to the enthusiasm of many parents, teachers and friends of the academy, plans have been secured for BAFTA's first social and fundraising event; a quiz and supper evening open to both adults and children.

In addition to organising events of this nature, BAFTA will become a further vehicle through which our parents, carers and wider supporters can be 'Proud to Belong', - through a variety of contact and involvement with the academy. This might, for example, take the form of offering business partnerships linked to our business and communications specialism, from a varied pool of parental expertise.

To learn more about BAFTA events and meetings or to get involved, please contact the BAFTA secretary, Ms Sprenger, at the academy: asprengr@thebusheyacademy.org or 020 8950 9502 [ext 364].

Celebrating Success!

On 26 January, The Bushey Academy held its first Celebration of Success Evening, with over 350 students, parents and guests attending. The evening was held to celebrate and reward students who had either excelled academically, or exhibited a great attitude to learning or sporting prowess during 2009/10.

As our prize winners and parents entered the hall, they were guided to tables laid out with refreshments made by Cucina, and decorations made by the People & Society Zone staff. The cabaret style layout of the evening gave it a 'Brits' feel, full of excited guests, our students and proud parents. The atmosphere was vibrant.



The evening started with a speech by guest speaker Roger Harcourt (Headmaster, Freman College, 1975-2004). The six zones then presented their awards in their own personalised style, awarding prizes including vouchers, robots and prestigious trophies. All in all, over 160 awards were given out in celebration including four special awards, given to three outstanding individuals and the winner of the Meller House Cup.

The Principal's Award for Commitment:	Michael Major
The Vice-Principal's Award for Achievement & Standards:	Marianne Henry
The Richard Fox Great Ideas Award:	Shaun Taylor
The Meller Cup:	Babbage House

The evening ended in style with superb performances by students from the Expression & Performance Zone.



We were pleased additionally to welcome motivational speakers from Kids2Work and Magnificent Minds, who offered workshops on 'how to stand out from the crowd' - especially when it comes to submitting applications for further study or employment.

As well as the involvement of our own students, we were pleased to welcome a range of sixth form students from our sister academy in Harefield, and from Bushey Meads School, with whom we share consortium curriculum links.

As a result of this event, many students had their minds opened to occupations they were not previously thinking of. Indeed, a day to think about longer term goals and dreams.

Careers Fair

Linked particularly to our business specialist status, students in Years 9 to 13 were involved in a Career Event in February. The aim of this event was to provide youngsters with opportunities to think about the pathways they might like to pursue when they leave the academy - and, perhaps more importantly, how they might aspire to access those pathways.

Students enjoyed the opportunity of speaking to representatives from a range of occupations, professions and firms - learning first hand what lines of work are available in certain fields, and of the range of skills and qualifications that are sought.

The retail sector was well represented at our event by way of John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and Tesco. Students were similarly able to obtain information from the areas of accountancy, banking, law, the arts, estate agency, construction, catering, care, and media; in addition to public services such as the Army, Police and Fire Service. We are very grateful to organisations who attended for their spirit of partnership in giving so generously of their time and various expertise.

