

## A Great First Year for the Academy

We have reached the end of another school year, our first year as an Academy. It has been a year of great success and progress. We began the year celebrating our outstanding results in the summer 2012 exams which saw us achieve the fourth best results in the city of Nottingham. There have been many highlights as the year has unfolded since the formal Launch of the Academy by Graham Allen, MP in October and the completion of the first phase of our Environmental Improvements Works.

### Term 1

- Roald Dahl Day at Top Valley
- Two trips to Old Trafford for Champions League fixtures
- Children in Need Fundraising Event which raised over £1500
- Ski Trip to Santa Caterina, Italy
- Joint TVA and Primary Schools' Christmas Carol Concert

### Term 2

- London Theatre Tour and Dance Studio Workshop
- Y10 Easter Holiday Camping Trip (Raising Achievement)
- Launch of "Commando Joes" Initiative at TVA
- Student Council Elections

### Term 3

- Spanish Exchange Preliminary Visit to Murcia
- Dance Performance Showcase
- Y11 Leavers' "Prom"
- Visit of Olympic Gymnast, Hannah Whelan to TVA
- Annual Achievement and Pupil Awards Evening
- Y7 and Y8 History Visit to the First World War Trenches and Ypres, Belgium
- Warwick Castle History Day
- Gifted and Talented and Rewards Visit to the Houses of Parliament

As we look forward to another year of opportunities, we do so with great optimism about the future:

- Our positive results are set to continue
- Our pupil numbers for September 2013 are extremely strong
- Our new build, under the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP), is now confirmed as a 100% re-build for 900 places and planning is already under way on this project as I write.

## Olympian Visits TVA!

Olympic Gymnast Hannah Whelan, one of the up and coming stars of British Gymnastics who competed in both the Beijing and London Olympic Games, was in school to have lunch with the Student Council and run a workshop with a number of our Year 8 and 9 girls.



Hannah was in school to inspire Top Valley Pupils to make healthy life choices, including keeping an eye on their diet and getting enough exercise.

## Pupils visit Norfolk Coast

On 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 30 GCSE geography students went to study coastal management and environments on the beautiful North Norfolk Coast, stopping in the award winning Brancaster Millenium Centre.

The trip provided the students with the chance to observe rare wildlife like Marsh Harriers and lizards carry out experiments in the deep sand dunes. Everyone learnt all about coastal defences, providing fascinating insights and practical examples of the topics that they had been learning in class.

Mr Steer said: "The students were excellent, it was so hot and exhausting to walk in deep sand whilst wearing wellies, yet the pupils never moaned once. They worked well in teams to get the job done and interacted politely with guides from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. They are now experts in sand dune succession".

## Dance Academy



All of the Dance Academy groups took part in the annual tour of our local primary schools, Southglade, Rise Park, Gladehill, Henry Whipple, Robin Hood, Westglade, Bulwell St Mary's and Burford Primary School.

They visited two schools each day, delivering performances in the morning before guiding the Y4 pupils in workshops giving expert tuition, teaching them all of the moves and positions.



# Belgium Trip



# Community Day!

At 6.00am on Thursday 4th July, 31 Top Valley Academy pupils began the long trip from Nottingham to Belgium to visit the Trenches at Ypres.

We first stopped in the town of Ypres to visit the 'In Flanders Field Museum,' an audio-visual overview of the First World War in Belgium. After this we checked into our hotel, had our first taste of Belgium food before returning to Ypres to take part in the Last Post Ceremony; a daily chance to remember those that died in Battle between 1914 and 1918.



On our second day we visited Langemark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot Cemetery in the morning before taking part in the 'trenches experience' in which Top Valley Academy pupils had the opportunity to dress up in World War One clothing and even hold replica weapons used at the time. After lunch we moved onto Sanctuary Wood trenches, where pupils had a chance to experience being in a real World War One trench for themselves.

Iain Addis, Head of History, said: "Everyone involved had a wonderful experience in visiting Belgium and it will really help their understanding of what took place in World War One".

Staff and pupils made the most of the glorious hot weather on Friday 19th July, by taking part in an action packed 'Community Day'. The event was an opportunity to celebrate the end of a very successful year for TVA. It was non uniform day, which made the heat a little easier to contend with and there were plenty of fun activities to take part in. The staff were leading events like dance, serving up popcorn and taking part in a staff Vs Year 11 football match at the end of the day! The event raised over £700! Well done to all involved!



# Health Day

The sunshine provided the perfect backdrop as we celebrated all things healthy with the Year 4 pupils from our family feeder primary schools. The event, which looked to teach the pupils about healthy eating, the importance of exercise and how to keep a healthy mind, involved a number of activities that were run by members of the PE Faculty throughout the day.

Commando Joes' took charge of the field and ran a high tempo exercise session. Away from the sun, a smoothie making session was taking place in the food department to stress the importance that fruit can play as part of a healthy diet.



# Enterprise Project



The Employability and Enterprise Project returned to Top Valley Academy this year between Monday 1st - Tuesday 23rd July. The event is set up to provide current Year 10 students, who will shortly be moving into Year 11, with the opportunity to learn fundamental skills in how to gain employment in the job market and take lessons in enterprise, finance and money management.

There are many magnificent opportunities on offer to the students involved in the project including the opportunity to take part in driving lessons, working in primary schools and organising and running a charity event. On top of this, students will receive presentations and workshops from experts from the Law School, RNLI, Ikano Finance, Bloodhound SSC and New College Nottingham.

The students have been split up into eight different groups that have been named after a famous businessperson or entrepreneur. These groups will also act as their tutor groups until the end of term.

# KEY DATES

Wednesday

Friday

Monday - Friday

Friday

Tuesday

Wednesday

4th September

4th October

21st - 25th October

7th March 2014

22nd April 2014

23rd July 2014

First day back for all pupils

INSET DAY

October Half-term Holidays

INSET DAY

INSET DAY

INSET DAY

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