

TVA NEWS

WINTER EDITION - December 2013

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Principal Note

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2013.

This has been another great year for Top Valley Academy. The theme of 2013 has been very much about "Partnership" and this is set to continue into 2014.

We have quickly established a very warm friendship with our partner school in Murcia, Spain. Two highly successful pupil and staff visits have taken place between Spain and Nottingham this year and in April 2014 the first full exchange programme begins.

We have also formed a wonderful link with a school in Cameroon. This began with a small gift of computers organised by one of our staff, Mr Ndumu. We hope this will develop into something much more important and lasting in the coming years.

Closer to home, we are also joining forces with two Nottinghamshire Academies, Carlton le Willows Academy (Burton Joyce) and Quarrydale Academy (Sutton in Ashfield) in a shared school improvement partnership.

Finally, we have joined "Challenge Partners", a national network of schools. Our link school is the George Spencer Academy, in Stapleford. In November we had our first Challenge Partners Review (an OFSTED-style, two-day review led by an experienced OFSTED Lead Inspector).

We were delighted that the Review judged both the **Quality of Teaching** and our **School Improvement Strategies** as **Good (Grade 2)**. Two special areas of work, **Primary School links/ Transition** and our **Year 10 Enterprise** and **Employability Project** were also recognised as "**Areas of Excellence**".

We very much believe that all of this partnership work broadens our pupils' experiences and supports our very real ambition to be an outstanding school by working with the very best, in partnership.

All that remains is to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas holiday break and a Happy Top Valley Academy New Year!

KEY DATES:

Friday 13 th December -	Italy Ski Trip
Friday 20 th December -	Christmas Holidays
23 rd -3 rd January 2014 -	SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 6 th January 2014 -	SCHOOL RETURNS

You can see more pictures in the Gallery on the TVA Website!





Spanish Exchange Visit



After the success of last year's Spanish Exchange program, which saw four TVA students visit our Spanish Partner School in Murcia, on the 31st October TVA welcomed 8 Spanish students and their teachers to Nottingham.

The Spanish pupils began their visit by taking part in lessons, experiencing assemblies and break times and were taken on a whole school tour by TVA pupils.

The group visited Nottingham City Centre and Nottingham Castle and enjoyed an evening meal at Spanish restaurant 'La Tasca' with some of our GCSE Spanish pupils. Those who took part got to sample many different tapas dishes and had the opportunity to order food and converse with one and other in Spanish.

Spanish pupil, Elena, 14, praised TVA student Connor, 13, on his Spanish: *"He had the best accent and I really understood what he was saying."*

On their last full day in the city Year 8 TVA pupils joined our Spanish visitors on a trip to Sherwood Forest, learning all about Nottingham legend 'Robin Hood'. After exploring the Forest, all pupils and teachers enjoyed a farewell meal together near the Spanish pupils' hotel in Southwell.

Spanish pupil, Maria Jose, 14, said she really liked the school: *"We really want to come here, it's so cool!"*

We hope our Spanish visitors enjoyed their visit to Top Valley Academy and Nottingham and we hope to continue our strong relationship with our Spanish Partner School through many visits in the future.



TVA Fundraising

Over the last half term Top Valley Academy has taken part in several fundraising opportunities to help out those less fortunate. We are proud to have raised the following amounts for several well-deserved charities:

£182.07 to Macmillan Cancer

On the 27th of September, TVA held a Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan in which they sold cakes and hot chocolate to pupils, staff and the general public. Cakes were provided by Y9 and Y10 pupils who made them during their food lessons.

£1105 to Children In Need

On the 14th November TVA was transformed into a Children In Need funfair in which pupils and staff took part in stalls, games, karaoke and several other fun activities.

As well as throughout the fair, money was also raised through sales of homemade cakes, hot chocolate and hot dogs throughout the day.

47 boxes to Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, delivering shoe boxes of gifts to children all over the world.

This year, the Academy donated 47 boxes full of small toys, school supplies, toiletries, items of clothing and sweets donated by pupils towards the appeal.



Commando Joes' praised by BBC

The BBC visited Top Valley Academy to recognise the success of our fun and fitness programme 'Commando Joes'.

The Commando Joes' scheme came to the Academy in April and is designed to increase communication skills and self-confidence among pupils, whilst helping to motivate them.

The sessions run on Thursdays and Fridays and incorporate fitness training, individual mentoring and other team-building activities.

Paul Henley, of the BBC, said they chose to visit Top Valley Academy after they recognised the Commando Joes' scheme as a new and innovative tool to effectively monitor behavior in schools.

The footage was aired as part of BBC One's 'Sunday Morning Live'.



Dance Academy Auditions

The TVA Dance Academy, which began in 2005, has grown from a small transition project into 5 separate academies catering for children from Year 4 right up until Year 11.

There was a huge turnout for the auditions which took place in October including 140 pupils from our local community.

Successful candidates are now working towards a dance showcase which will take place in April 2014.

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