



## The Weekly Word

No. 36 July 21 2017

### A note from the Principal

What an amazing first year in Banbury! I have loved every minute of it. From teaching my Y10 maths class, to presenting awards yesterday to the talented young people we have at Banbury, to running on sports day, to going ice skating with the attendance trip winners, to walking to Adderbury with the whole school, to being the Wizard in the show, to welcoming students from China, Japan and Russia to the campus – I could go on and on. Your children truly are inspirational people to work with and for. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all parents who have supported the work we have done this year to improve the experiences we can give your children. What we have achieved this year would not have been possible without your help. I would also like to thank my colleagues who have shown such amazing passion and energy and given so much of themselves for the community. I am indebted to them for the incredible support they have given me this year.



I look forward to an amazing 2017/18 year with so much to dream about already. I hope you all have a safe and restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming your children back on the 5<sup>th</sup> September at the normal time (8.40).

## Aspirations Days

Last week students enjoyed three days of activities, including; kick boxing, first aid workshops, fossil treasure hunts, origami, sports, arts and camping.



### Year 7 Aspirations Art Attack Day

Y7 students wowed us on Aspirations Art Attack day! The skill, patience and creativity they showed while painting the school was truly inspiring and the English and Expressive Arts department would like to say a big thank you. We are very proud of you and your creative legacy will be here now for many years to come.





## Year 8 Aspirations Trip to the NEC

As part of Aspirations, Year 8s visited Dinosaurs in the Wild at the NEC Birmingham. The immersive and interactive voyage of discovery fired up imaginations as fascinating scientific insights were brought to life. During the exhilarating live-action adventure students experienced what life was like 67 million years ago.



## Circus Skills

We hosted circus skills workshops for our Aspirations primary schools.



## Year 8 Dinosaur Modelling

Last week, Y8 students joined science for a roaring, soaring few days of dinosaur fun! The morning brought a dinosaur scavenger hunt where students hunted across the whole campus for dinosaur skeletons and fun facts.



Students had a go at dinosaur modelling. Starting with a stimulus, for example a footprint, tooth, or tail spike, the Y8s created a model and habitat from pieces of recycling. The models were incredibly creative! There was a Stegosaurus from egg boxes, Plesiosaurus from a cereal box and Talarurus out of newspaper. Thank you Y8s; you were **dino-mite!**



## The Wonderful Wizard of Oz!

After the success of previous productions including *We Will Rock You*, *The Lion King*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *Billy Elliot*, students at Banbury Academy this year took a trip down the yellow brick road as they performed the timeless classic – *The Wizard of Oz*!

Thirty talented students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13 made up the musical's cast and team. The cast and team spent the last four months taking part in rehearsals consisting of acting, singing and dancing. This year, the cast had a few extra surprises in store as they were joined on stage not only by a real dog as Toto, but also by the school's principal, Sylvia Thomas, who played the role of the Wizard!

Ben Coleman, the school's drama teacher, directed the musical whilst Head of Music, Lynda Webb, took charge of the vocals and the live band. "After the success of last year's production of *Through the Looking Glass*, we were excited to give the students an exciting new challenge," said Mr Coleman. "The cast and team were utterly fantastic throughout the entire process and wowed audiences of the 5 productions. We were so thrilled to have the Principal of Banbury Academy, Miss Thomas, joining the cast on stage. Having her on stage shows the school's commitment and dedication to the arts and the theatre!" The production team was also made up of current students, with Year 13 pupil Amelia Haverson choreographing the production and Owen Vint operating the sound. Ex pupils Luke Wetherill and Josh Lake also joined the team, with Luke as assistant director and Josh as lighting operator. "The team worked incredibly hard to create another exciting musical," said Mr Coleman. "With talented performers, a live band, student technicians and numerous set designers, the pupils involved are a true testament to the talent on offer at Banbury Academy. We could not be more proud"

The story follows Dorothy as she is whisked away from Kansas to the magical world of Oz! Whilst avoiding the Wicked Witch of the West, Dorothy must travel down the yellow brick road to beg the Wonderful Wizard of Oz to get her home. With the help of The Scarecrow, The Tin Man and The Cowardly Lion, Dorothy must brave a number of obstacles if she is ever to return home to her beloved Aunt Em.

The Performing Arts Department are already planning next years production. Watch this space!



## Sixth Form News



### NASA trip

An amazing once-in-a-life-time trip to America to visit NASA.

*Zachariah, Olivia, Aaron, Jacob and Mr Sterland at NASA.*



*Aaron in the space shuttle.*

Read all about our adventures on Twitter: [@BanburyNasaTrip](https://twitter.com/BanburyNasaTrip)

### Open Day

Banbury Aspirations Sixth Form students visited Nottingham Trent uni as part of Aspirations week. They experienced taster sessions, talks on personal statements and degree apprenticeships.

A useful and inspiring experience for all.

**Mrs Berry, Head of 6th Form**



### Year 12 Psychologists

The year 12 Psychologists had an incredible experience dissecting a brain in virtual reality in our VR suite.



### Decorating the Common Room

Students have been re-designing and redecorating our sixth form space with a striking colour scheme and graphics.





## Sports leaders UK Level 1 qualification

20 Year 9 students delivered a primary Change4Life festival at Banbury Academy on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July as their final assessment for their Level 1 Sports Leaders Qualification. The festival was organised for children lacking in confidence or passion for sport, giving them the opportunity to take part in sports they maybe wouldn't have done otherwise. The young leaders did a great job of encouraging and supporting all the children to do their best and not give up if things didn't work the first time. It was a huge success – the PE Coordinator from Cropredy Primary School commented that *"The children came back absolutely full of it - they had the best time! Some even said it was the best day ever!"* Well done to all the leaders who passed with flying colours! Hannah, Holly, Lauren, Sadie, Shannon, Holly, Tia, Maia, Cassidy, Elizabeth, Sophie, Jaymee, Ella, Simran, Millie, Joy, Lucy, Leah, Hollie and Julia.



## Join the lottery

Don't forget to do the lottery! A ticket costs £1 per week and all funds go directly to our school.

[Join here](#)



This term all Banbury Academy Lottery supporters will be entered into a draw to win family membership to a choice of Heritage organisations.



## Naples trip

Our journey to Naples was exciting for all. We had several students who had never been on a plane or out of the country and it was lovely to not only give them that opportunity, but experience it with them.

The students deserve to be congratulated for their behaviour and respect on this trip – it made for a great time for all involved and I hope the new experiences they had and memories they made will stay for them for many years to come.

## Aspirations day whole school walk

The Banbury Academy Aspirations walk to Adderbury fields last week was the culmination of our celebration of our values of engagement, purpose and belonging.



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