

# NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Dear Families

After eight weeks of hard work and dedication from our students we all feel like it is the right time for a rest. There has been much to be proud of this half term and this newsletter captures some of the highlights.

One of our many highlights has to be the unveiling of our academy show which we are already incredibly excited about. Seeing over 100 students want to be involved only demonstrates our commitment to the Arts and we wish them all well in the many months it will take to prepare.

A date for your diaries is our next Parents' Forum meeting which will be held on Tuesday 13th November, 6-7pm. Please attend for updates about our developmental work. We also open up the meeting to questions; feedback received is that this forum is very useful.

I hope our older students use some time to focus on preparing for their pre-public examinations which begin in the second week back after the break. It is also very important for everyone to be well rested as we look forward to having another productive half term in the lead up to the Christmas break.

Best wishes

Mrs Hillier  
Principal

## Opening Ceremony of Cannock Stadium



On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, students from Staffordshire University Academy had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of Cannock Stadium. The SUA sports captains had a fantastic day out, accessing a variety of facilities and participating in a wide range of activities. Students from Staffordshire University Academy were invited to experience the new facilities, never failing to make our academy proud of their enthusiasm and talent.

The students participated in football games, challenging drills, a competition against other schools and were able to access the new adventure park. Mrs Jukes and Miss Sheppard were very impressed by the excellent level of respect and team spirit which students demonstrated throughout the visit.

A special thanks to Cannock Stadium for organising the event and to Mrs Jukes who provided the opportunity for the students to attend the opening ceremony and have such a fabulous day.

Miss Sheppard, PE



## SUA6 Open Evening



All welcome

Tuesday 20th November 2018

5.30 –7pm

## Academy Student Council Elections

On 21st September the academy held an election for the Academy Student Council. For your information the following results were returned:

Year 7: Courtney Bates and Sam Stanton  
Year 8: Demi-Lou George and Bailey Patterson  
Year 9: Luke Rushbrooke and Chelsea Cox  
Year 10: Jamie Lee Humphries and Bradley Purcell  
Year 11: Owen Hopley and Katie Lewis

The first meeting was held and the Council assisted to shape the new rewards shop which was launched on 8th October.



Mr Williams, Director of Engagement

## SUA Book Fair



Thank you all very much for supporting the SUA Book Fair which took place from 19th to 26th September. It was a great success and definitely made its mark on the library, causing great excitement. The doors were opened for all to see wondrous display cases brimming with new books for all ages and tastes. It attracted shoppers every day, including staff, who enjoyed browsing the shelves before making their purchases. We reached our goal of selling over 50 books alongside lots of stationery and posters. The academy will receive 25% worth of all sales back to spend on new books which is fantastic.

We are hoping to run another book fair next year in the spring or summer term, so keep your eyes peeled on our website for news and updates. Thank you once again for your support.

**Mrs Hodgkiss, Librarian**

## Sports' Journalism Club



The English department has already been a hive of activity this half term with another club created to focus on Sports Journalism running at lunchtime every Monday, supported by our excellent Sixth Form students.

Designed as an opportunity for Year 7-9 students to develop non-fiction writing skills and literacy, talking about the footballers, cyclists, golfers and gamers they idolise the most, is also highly enjoyable.

Eventually, our jovial journalists will have the opportunity to enter their writing into the prestigious Orwell Youth Prize, a nationwide competition that celebrates journalism and non-fiction writing.

In the meantime, we look forward to creating fact files, articles and even webpages dedicated to our favourite sports stars and moments.

As budding Year 8 reporter, Jai Wood, said, 'It's fun and we get to argue about who the best players are!' We couldn't have put it better ourselves Jai!

**Mr Williams and Mr Newton, English**

## SUA6 Macmillan Fundraising



On Friday 28th September and Monday 1st October SUA6 students hosted a Macmillan coffee morning and sponsored teachers cycle to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. Working as a collective, posters, advertisements and assemblies raised awareness for the events. A variety of cakes, drinks and snacks were sold to both staff and students in the gym at both breaktimes on the Friday.

This year we tried something new, a sponsored cycle where students sponsored the member of staff who they thought would travel the furthest distance. For guessing the teacher who went the furthest (Mr Williams – 25km) the student got a prize of an array of chocolate treats. Combined, the total distance travelled far exceeded our target of 150 miles.

The atmosphere and support for the event was overwhelming. So many students donated and enjoyed everything we put on. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved making this such a well-planned and organised event.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the students and staff we raised £470.59 for the charity.

**Oliver Glynn and Andy Johnston, Year 12 students**



## Open Evening



Open Evening is a crucial and important annual event on the academy calendar. It gives us the opportunity to open our doors and welcome prospective Year 7 students and their families to view our facilities, meet staff and sample activities.

We are thrilled that 108 families attended our exciting event on Thursday 4th October 2018. The evening commenced in the hall where families were welcomed by Mrs. Hillier, Principal and listened to the samba band. Tours around the academy were offered where departments shared a range of fantastic activities. Food tasting in the catering department was very popular!

We are similarly delighted, following Open Evening, that a number of families chose to attend our Open Mornings. These tours were available Monday 8th—Thursday 11th October and those who attended found viewing our academy in action, observing lessons taking place, very informative.

**Mrs Haffie-Hobday, Assistant Principal**

## Y9 Uni-vision trip to Staffordshire University

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, seventy Year 9 students had the pleasure of attending a Uni-vision trip to Staffordshire University, Stoke campus. Students arrived at the campus and were taken to the Students Union for a lecture on the science of fireworks.

Students were enthralled with a highly entertaining session that was led by pyro technician expert Matt Tosh. Matt showed students how different chemicals mixed together reacted to make the loud bangs and screams that occur when fireworks are lit. Students remarked that they loved the interactive experience, they especially liked the indoor fireworks display.

Students then attended a session delivered by the Exotic Zoo. Students got the chance to handle a range of animals from a scorpion to large constrictor snakes. Students were very brave and overcame their fears. Students remarked how they found the session on conservation very insightful.

**Mr Porter, Head of Year 9**

## Your Body, Your Rules



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Andy Johnston and Jayne Startin-Bailey (Year 12 Students), alongside Miss Dudson, attended the 'Your Body, Your Rules' training workshop delivered by Soroptimist International Cannock and District. Jayne and Andy are part of a community project supporting young people with issues relating to social media and inappropriate texting. June Bould, President of Soroptimist International Cannock & District, commented: "After meeting Andy and Jayne, I know they are going to be great ambassadors at Staffordshire University Academy. They are confident and already have wonderful ideas about how they are going to provide support and guidance to students who may have concerns about images". Team SUA are looking forward to the delivery of year group assemblies and guidance sessions from our ambassadors in the near future. Look out for our 'Your Body, Your Rules' posters and information around the academy.

**Chase View Support Centre**



## Child Behaviour Coach – Parenting

After half term Mrs Palmer and Miss Dudson will be offering a six week programme to parents and carers to support positive behaviour approaches. These sessions will discuss new ideas and strategies around positive behaviour which, it is hoped may create a long lasting impact for the whole family. This will support participants in making empowered choices; helping children be the best they can be.

If you would like to be a part of the programme or for more information please contact Mrs Palmer directly on 01543 224671 or email [JPalmer@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:JPalmer@suacademy.co.uk).

**Chase View Support Centre**

## 150 Day Countdown



On 26th September, we welcomed Year 11 students and their families into the academy hall for the first of our countdown to success events. The first event, 150 days, signified the number of school days until the first GCSE examination. Students were provided with a revision essentials pack containing their examination timetable, revision materials for English, maths and science and stationery to support independent revision. Useful websites were shared and an order form for revision guides was also in the pack. If you wish to order any revision guides, at a discounted price, please contact Miss Fletcher.

It was great to see so many of our families supporting the Year 11s as they begin this exciting (and slightly daunting) journey. The next event, 100 days, will be a revision fair based in the hall on Tuesday 20th November from 6-7pm. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

**Miss Burns, Assistant Principal**

## Chase View Support Centre

In order to help our students succeed the academy have a role to play in supporting our students to be resilient and emotionally healthy.

CVSC is offering a 'post box' service for students requiring additional support, especially for those struggling to manage any social, emotional and mental health issues.

Confidentiality is paramount. However, should a safeguarding concern arise this will be passed on to our 'Keep Safe Team' and shared with other services, if necessary.

Please also use the email provided should you wish your child to be considered for additional support : [semh@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:semh@suacademy.co.uk)

**Miss Palmer, Chase View Support Centre**

## Snow Ball 2018 Raise for MASE

As part of the English department's continued aspirational programme of extra-curricular activities, students in Years 7-9 (supported by Year 11) have once again committed to 'The Action Group'; a group that plan, organise and promote their own fundraising activities with the support and encouragement of the academy's leadership team. Their motto is, 'Together, we will create change!' and their second project, is the 'Snow Ball 2018; Raise for MASE' a family night and disco that will hope to surpass the £1800 raised in the fantastic summer fete. MASE is a local charity that offers support, guidance and friendship for people with Alzheimer's and their family/carers.

Students will devise activities, design leaflets and posters, deliver assemblies and form time presentations, and are currently planning to visit the support group one evening to present their fundraising ideas. 'We wanted to choose a charity that works so hard within the local community', said Lucy Ankers, Year 11.

With dates and times for this excellent event yet to be finalised, please watch this space for more developments from 'The Action Group'.

**Mr Newton, English**



## Walsall Football Club Partnership

A group of Year 7 students have been given the opportunity to work alongside professionals from the club on their maths and English in addition to supporting the academy's work on resilience.

So far, students have learnt about the different roles and responsibilities that are found within a professional football club and have also learnt what qualifications they would need to obtain should they wish to pursue a career within this field.

Last week, students created a game which involved implementing the S.T.E.P process as well as developing their mathematical skills.

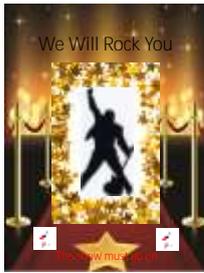


In weeks to come, the group is going to be involved in a journalism course, a visit from one of the clubs 1<sup>st</sup> team players and then be invited to a game at the end of the 10 weeks.

It is a very exciting project for Year 7 to be involved in and we look forward to the continuation of it.

**Mr Shepherd, Head of Year 7**

## We Will Rock You



Throughout the academy there has been a real buzz surrounding the whole academy show.

Students were eager to find out what the show would be. On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the 'show reveal' it was announced that this years production will be 'We Will Rock You'.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October saw students taking to the stage and auditioning, celebrating their singing, dancing and acting skills. Students attitudes to everyone's performance is to be commended. A real Team SUA occasion!

The cast list has just been revealed and rehearsal have commenced. We look forward to seeing you at the academy show in the spring term.

**Miss Humpage, Director of Creative**



## Rewards at SUA



<p><b>Earn points by showing RESPECT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being respectful to others</li> <li>Putting in 100% effort at all times</li> <li>Supporting others</li> <li>Producing a great piece of work</li> <li>Being a team player</li> <li>Having good attendance</li> <li>Attending additional classes</li> <li>Representing the academy</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Spend points on...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stationery</li> <li>Cookery classes</li> <li>Ties and planners</li> <li>Cinema experiences</li> <li>Amazon vouchers</li> <li>Free lunches</li> <li>Queue jumps and much more!</li> </ul>
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The rewards system and the things you can buy, has been designed by your Academy Council. If there is anything extra you would like to be made available, let them know!

If you do not have your ClassCharts login details ask your tutor.

**Aspire, Believe, Achieve!**

## Introducing CHARACTER @ SUA

CHARACTER @ SUA is a programme which aims to target the needs of individual students and help develop their core character. The programme aims to:

- ◆ Offer opportunities for students to share opinions, discuss current issues, and reflect on how these might be relevant to their own life and circumstance.

- ◆ Raise awareness of key events in the cultural calendar and nationally recognised weeks e.g. Anti-Bullying Week.

- ◆ Encourage students to actively contribute to the lives of others through donations and charity work, or daily consideration of their own actions and the impact that these have on other people.

- ◆ Develop students' social and emotional intelligence by consideration of their moral compass through situation based lessons.

- ◆ Raise aspirations with strong links to careers and research into life beyond education and the skills required to be successful.

- ◆ Provide Citizenship, British Values and SMSC education.

**Mrs Allsopp, Director of Humanities**



## SUA Year 8 Netball against Hart School

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October the Year 8 girls' netball team represented Staffordshire University Academy in a fixture against The Hart Academy. The girls demonstrated sheer determination and focus as they made their way around the court. Oalayah Johnson was nominated by The Hart Academy as Player of the Match due to her fierce interceptions and attack throughout the game.

All students work so hard and attend netball club every week to progress in this challenging sport. We are sure that, with their work ethic, they will continue to progress and succeed in further sporting events to come.



A special thanks to Mrs Jukes and Miss Wakeham for organising this fixture, to Mr Handy for taking the students to the fixture and to all students who represented Team SUA.

**Miss Sheppard, PE**

## Autumn Examinations

Year 10 students will sit their English Literature PPE examinations on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th November. Students have received their examination timetables.

Year 11 students will sit PPE examinations in the week commencing Monday 12th November through to Tuesday 20th November. Students have received their examination timetables.

Our full PPE timetable is available on our academy website, or please contact the academy with any queries.

**Mrs Reynolds, Examinations Manager**

## UK Dance Championships in Blackpool

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Eboni Neville participated in a prestigious dance competition in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Eboni competed against hundreds of other dancers from across the country in a variety of dance styles such as a freestyle, slow and street.

Eboni has become The British Under 16 All England Freestyle Champion and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in her fast routine. Eboni has previously been recognised in the academy as an inspirational individual and a hard worker.

Today she has shown us all why she truly deserves that title.

Eboni is a member of our dance troop here at Staffordshire University Academy and has performed in many academy concerts, musicals and performed at the Prince of Wales Theatre. This young lady is motivating the next generation of dancers to Aspire, Believe and Achieve! We are always impressed by the excellent level of enthusiasm and determination that Eboni demonstrates in each session.

**Miss Sheppard ,PE**



## Geography

Students in 10A geography created drainage basins out of cola flavoured laces. Students found this an enjoyable and engaging way to learn about the river basin as they got to be more hands on. They also enjoyed eating them all at the end!



Members of 8HA geography practised their geographical skills. After learning to read and describe climate graphs, the class had a go at

constructing their own climate graphs using strips of sugar paper and wool. The group worked really well in their pairs and created some fantastic climate graphs, well done!

**Miss Goodwin, Geography**

## Extra Curricular Activities

Extra curricular activities have got underway at SUA. There are a wide variety being offered this year from sport to music and drama to animation right the way over to gardening. After half term students' attendance and participation to each club will earn rewards that will contribute to the end of term celebration assemblies. The most up to date extra curricular timetable is on the academy website.

**Miss Humpage, Director of Creative**

## Key Dates

5th November	Academy opens to students
5th-8th November	Y12 GCSE Resit Exams
12th & 13th Nov	Y10 English Literature exam
12th-20th Nov	Y11 Pre Public Exams
13th November	Parents' Forum meeting 6-7pm
14th November	Students arrive 11.05am
20th November	100 Day revision countdown and Sixth Form Open Evening 5.30-7pm
23rd November	Student Takeover Day
28th November	My perfect uni visit
3rd December	Academy closed to students
5th December	Y11 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
11th December	Christmas Concert 6-7.30pm
18th December	Achievement Evening 6-7pm
19th December	Senior citizens' Christmas party
21st December	Christmas Jumper Day
21st December	Academy closes at 12pm
7th January 2019	Academy opens students arrive 11.05am

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