

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Dear Families,

There have been many highlights this term but most recently our academy showing of 'Beauty and the Beast' made us all feel so proud to be part of #TeamSUA. The feedback from each of the three sell-outs was absolutely fantastic and I know all of the staff and students involved really enjoyed their participation. Thank you to all who came to join us to see the performance, your support was really appreciated.

We now begin the final countdown for students in the run-up to their final summer examinations. There are several additional classes running over the Easter break to support additional revision. A timetable has been sent home and also posted on our website under: 'Students – Intervention'.

Wishing you all a peaceful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term.

Best wishes

Mrs Hillier



National Enterprise Challenge

On Friday 23rd March the whole of Year 9 were given the chance to complete the National Enterprise Challenge. They worked in groups and were tasked with creating a unique product which would be sold by Rymans, the stationer. They then needed to create a marketing campaign and present their ideas to the rest of the year group. The students developed life skills and engaged with the tasks leading to some very creative and original ideas. One of the groups did so well they have been invited to the Regional Finals in July and we look forward to them representing the academy.

Mr S Williams, Director of Teaching and Learning



Parent App - Schoolgateway

Are you signed up to the academy school app?

We are very excited to announce that we have revolutionised the way we communicate with parents, and the way you can communicate with us! In January we launched an official school app which can be downloaded on all smartphones and tablet devices. This app will allow you to send and receive messages from the academy, view your children's' timetables, see live behaviour and reward points and much more!

You can download the app and register now - just search in the relevant app store for 'SchoolGateway' and then register using the email address registered with the academy. We look forward to getting as many people using this as possible to streamline the communication process and enable much more effective dialogue between the academy and parents of our students.

Mr S Williams, Director of Teaching and Learning

Parents, welcome to:

Schoolgateway

Keeping you informed of what's going on at school.



Download the app

or visit the website:
www.schoolgateway.com

Activate your account today!

Academy Show—Beauty and the Beast

Talented students at Staffordshire University Academy delighted audiences all last week with their production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. The cast performed to over 1000 audience members, including over 200 pupils from local primary schools who enjoyed matinee performances on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th March. Following sell-out evening performances, an additional performance was added on Friday 23rd March, due to popular demand and feedback.

Academy students, from across Years 7-13, have rehearsed intensely since October, including weekends and some holidays, highlighting the #TeamSUA ethos. Sets have been built, costumes and make up designed. Students also created merchandise which proved highly popular on show nights.

I am so proud to have been part of this process. I am incredibly lucky to be able to work with such talented and inspirational students. Ideas for next year's show are already coming in; so watch this space...

Miss E Humpage, Head of Faculty

The winners of the star raffle prizes can be found on our academy website. www.suacademy.co.uk







High Fives –January 2018

Since the start of spring term, Mr Newton and the English department at Staffordshire University Academy have been welcoming students from primary schools in the local area to 'High Fives'. This programme helps to stretch and challenge students that have shown a talent for the study of English in their own schools. The programme also prepares them for the excitement and opportunities of secondary school life here at Staffordshire University Academy.

Year 5 students from Littleton Green Primary and Chadsmoor Juniors are all in regular attendance, and appear to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to meet and greet the staff; as well as the other students in their new class. Working through team-building activities and competitions, the students have already attempted to build the tallest tower possible from the basic materials they were given. This has really helped the students to know each other and prepare for life at secondary school. One enthusiastic student, Ella Templeman from Chadsmoor Juniors, said, 'I never thought I'd make friends with people from other schools so quickly'.

Extending their English skills is the primary focus for the weeks ahead, with students set to write stories, perform poetry (even entering into rap battles) and begin analysis of key literary texts that they might study through their secondary school journey.

Mr L Newton, Teacher of English



The Sound of Music! - January 2018

Music at SUA is most certainly making its mark this academic year. Students are taking part in a variety of activities from curriculum-based lessons, vocal groups, African drumming and even getting the opportunity to join the academy Samba Band. SUA are now taking the next step in their musical journey and have launched instrumental lessons. We have partnered up with Entrust who are providing the academy with highly skilled practitioners to teach instrumental lessons to the students.

A range of instruments are available that students can begin to learn, ranging from a French horn through to a violin.

This is a wonderful opportunity for both the students and the academy. This academic year students at SUA are really enjoying the musical opportunities which are being offered. Not only are they rising to all challenges, but they are beginning to display and show off their musical talents. Entrust work closely with many of our feeder primary schools and students are happy to have the familiarity and continuity with staff who taught them previously. I am looking forward to more students signing up and taking part in this new initiative.

Miss E Humpage, Head of Faculty



Above: Sian Burman and Ellamae Reid being instructed by, Mrs Anderson, during their instrumental lesson on clarinets.

Smart Moves—January 2018

Year 7 students at Staffordshire University Academy are being provided with a fantastic opportunity to develop their resilience with the 'Smart Moves' programme. The programme is designed to enable students to discover what helps and guides them to think about who they can enlist to support them. It also encourages students to identify the positive aspects of their life and develop problem solving skills they can apply to their studies and everyday life.

Head of Year 7, Mr. Chris Shepherd said, "Our Year 7s have made a fantastic start to their secondary school education. We wanted to continue their personal development and help them to manage their emotions and be able to express themselves and their aspirations. Although the programme is still in its infancy, there have already been many instances where we have been able to discuss, in greater depth, the ambitions of the students as well as providing them with the platforms and guidance to explore possible solutions to problems that have arisen."

SUA are one of the first secondary schools in the area to deliver the programme. Year 7 will continue to follow the programme for the next 6 months, building resilient learners and enabling them to face the tasks that life throws at them throughout their time here at SUA and beyond.

Mr. Shepherd added, "We have been really impressed so far with the programme. We are excited to be able to offer this and it will form part of the transition process when our new Year 7 students join us in September, continuing the work that our pastoral teams do to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary education."

Mr C Shepherd, Head of Year 7



County Building Visit—February 2018

On Friday 9th February, Year 7 students from Staffordshire University Academy were invited to attend and visit the County Buildings, Stafford, to see what happens there and to take part in a mock debate. The visit was organised by two County Councillors, Bryan Jones and Phil Hewitt, following a visit to SUA when they had met the Year 7 Student Council. Bryan and Phil were impressed by the students so this visit was offered to encourage students to learn more about the role of a County Councillor and to experience a debate in the Council Chambers.

The students were given a guided tour and found out lots about the history of the County Buildings including what goes on there every day. The highlight of the day were the debates in the Council Chambers, chaired by the Chairman of the County Council, Mr Michael Greatorex. The Year 7 students presented 'for and against statements' and then carried out a vote at the end of each of the debates. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students and gave them first-hand experience of the important work that takes place at the County Buildings. The students had an amazing time and learned lots about democracy and politics supporting the academy's work promoting British Values. **Mr S Andrews, Assistant Principal**



Students from SUA meeting Councillor Bryan Jones on their visit to the County Buildings



Students from SUA in the Council Chambers following their debate.

CVSC 1st Anniversary—January 2018

Tuesday 16th January, 2018 was a day to remember as Staffordshire University Academy celebrated the first anniversary of its multi-agency hub, Chase View Support Centre (CVSC). Since opening its doors twelve months ago, the center has gone from strength to strength and the academy are very proud of its achievements. Midlands Psychology, CAMHS, Locality Support Teams, T3, School Nurse, YESS Counselling, Care First, PCSOs, West Chadsmoor Family Centre and Staffordshire Women's Aid are just a few of the weekly visitors working together to support our students and their families. The center has been visited by County Councillors and a number of other professionals to view the center and the work undertaken. Both Mrs Hillier, Principal, and Mrs Palmer, Manager of Chase View, are delighted with both the success of this valuable resource and how well-established collaborative working has become with the agencies.

One of the many projects undertaken this year includes Family Learning. Family Learning has empowered parents and carers to engage in local enterprise projects. Success of the first round of this project means the academy are looking into extending the project further with the support of partners.



Above: Mr Adamson (Governor) , Mrs Palmer (CVSC Manager) Opening the centre in 2017.



Left to right: Dave Plant (Vice Principal), Kate Mitchell (School Nurse), Jo Palmer (CVSC Manager), Lucy Dudson (Student Support Assistant/Tier 2 Counselling Support), Claire Bailey (Student Social Worker), Dave Sheffield (T3)

CVSC—Pet therapy

The academy are also fortunate to be able access support from Buddy, a golden retriever puppy, currently in training to become the academy's own therapy dog. The suggestion came from Buddy's owner, Miss Dudson who is an integral member of staff in CVSC. Miss Dudson, works closely with students providing classroom support and counselling to those requiring some one-to-one sessions. Buddy has proved himself to be a positive influence, supporting students in the reducing anxiety, managing stress and generally offering a comforting presence. Once fully trained, Buddy will also provide reluctant readers with a study buddy.



Councillor Visit

Chase View Support Centre staff were excited as County Councillors visited CVSC on the 8th and 13th March. Councillors came in to witness the positive work delivered by SUA staff and outside agencies to support students and the local community suffering with mental health issues. It is recognised that mental health and emotional concerns usually arise during adolescence. Half of young adults with mental health issues have symptoms by the age of 15, and nearly 75% by their late teens; early intervention is essential.

"Johnny, Ann and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit and were so impressed with your commitment, professionalism and devotion to giving your students and families the best support you can." *Bryan Jones, County Councillor for Hednesford and Rawsley.*



Mrs J Palmer, Chase View Support Centre Manager

Year 9 creative writing competition

In English students have been studying GCSE style language in Year 9 and to support them with their creativity, we recently held a creative writing competition. Students were given the title 'The Storm' and were tasked with writing either a narrative or descriptive piece based on the image provided.

Staff in the English department and the Senior Leadership Team were amazed at the originality, creativity and sheer hard work in producing some truly brilliant writing. As a result of such excellent work, we had a difficult task in choosing the winners! But, on the last day of half term (February), we held a special celebration assembly for Year 9 to celebrate writing, share the stories and announce the winners. An electric buzz of excitement could be felt as we declared Eboni Neville in third place, Jacob Rollins in second place and Sophie Garner taking the first prize. It was a tough decision but Sophie's narrative stole the top spot for its originality, excellent use of vocabulary, structure and overall effect. It was a fantastic occasion and great to see so much writing talent at the academy.

Mrs J Overbury, Teacher of English



Sound Training

Sound Training has been re-branded Lexonik. Lexonik delivers instant impact on literacy. Additional benefits include greater vocabulary understanding, comprehension, spelling and above all confidence! This term 43 students have taken part in the intervention and improved their reading accuracy by an amazing average of 52 months.

Mrs K Walker,
Assistant SENCo



Careers Fair—February 2018

On Tuesday 13th February 2018 we held our annual Careers Fair in the academy sports hall. We welcomed 30 exhibitors from universities, colleges, training providers and employers who were able to talk to our students about higher/further education and apprenticeships, covering many different career paths from engineering to business to art. The RAF, army and navy were represented along with the police and many different areas of the NHS. All of our students had the opportunity to visit the Careers Fair and find out information and ask questions. Assistant Principal, Sean Andrews said, "This is the second time that we have organised a Careers Fair and it is now an annual event. We are very grateful to the many organisations that attend our event and provide some very useful advice to our students. It complements the work that we do in the academy to support the future aspirations of our students".

Mr S Andrews, Assistant Principal



Staffordshire University Bus Tour

Students can jump into their futures by donning Virtual Reality headsets which featured 3D tours of different campus locations including the crime scene house, mock law courts, ceramics studios, journalism newsroom and motorsport labs.

'I especially liked the VR experience on the bus, it was definitely a worthwhile experience' remarked some of the Year 10 students.

Mr R Porter,
Head of Year 10



Apprenticeship Bus

On Friday 16th March Stafford College visited the academy with their fantastic Apprentice Bus. Year 10 students were given the opportunity to visit the bus to find out all about apprenticeships and the options available to them. Students behaved impeccably and were a credit to the academy. We look forward to working closely with Stafford College in the future.

Mr S Williams,
Director of
Teaching and
Learning



Sporting Success

Congratulations to the Year 9 Girls Futsal Team who have qualified for the County Finals after finishing 6th at the EDA tournament. SUA were the highest placed school from Cannock and Rugeley District, winning a place at the finals to be held in Stoke later on in the academic year. The girls played well and represented the academy superbly in matches against Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley and Lichfield Cathedral School. Best of luck in the finals girls!!

Team: Ellie Crosby, Lauren Crosby, Sasha Crawford, Sophie Maybury, Jessica Sim

The Year 9 boys Basketball team have won their opening fixture of this year with a 34-22 victory over EDA.

The SUA boys started well but EDA came back strongly for the first quarter to finish level at 8-8. In the second period SUA began to dominate and opened up an advantage which was increased as the game went on leading to a convincing win.

Team: Reece Matthews, Dan Gosling, Cory Jones, Callum Collins, Joshua Robinson, Ben Clay, Connor Lloyd-Smith.

Mr I Kirk, Head of Year 8 and 9

Dementia Friends

On Wednesday 14th March Diane Wallace, Dementia Friendly Outreach Worker, delivered a powerful presentation to raise the awareness around dementia in the community. Both sixth formers and staff were invited to this significant awareness session.

All attendees were moved by the event and are now Dementia Friends, wearing their badges with pride. Due to its success this training will be rolled out to the whole academy in the summer term.

Mrs J Palmer, Manager Chase View Support Centre



Gotta Dance

On Friday 16th March, students from Staffordshire University Academy had the pleasure of performing in the 'Cannock Gotta Dance' show at The Prince of Wales theatre. The students, who ranged from Years 7 – 11, had a fantastic evening, successfully performing to a large audience. Students from Staffordshire University Academy have attended this event for the past 3 years, however this is the first year in which they have performed two dances.

The students performed a cheerleading dance which involved a new complex lift and a dance to, 'Mi Gente', which consisted of a fusion of Latin American and Salsa. Miss Davis and Miss Sheppard were very impressed by the excellent level of commitment and team spirit which the students demonstrated in the months leading up to the performance.

A special thanks goes to SSPA Events Ltd for organising the event and to Miss Sheppard who used her experience of competing in Latin American dancing to choreograph the 'Mi Gente' dance. Her involvement enabled the students to experience a brand new dance style.

Miss K Davis, Teacher of PE

Students who participated in the show

C.Cheetham-Brown, C.Rawlins, E.Neville, T.Ingram, K.Julian, J.Chapman, D.Belcher, T.Ingerfield-Lapsley, O.Johnson, J.Shaw, E.Reid, C.Pickering, S.Goodwin, K.Chapman, J.Humphries, S.Crawford, J.Burgess, S.Norman, L.Butterworth, C.Green.



Photographs courtesy of 'Epic Images'

Alton Towers Rewards Trip

On Thursday 22nd March SUA took 225 students to Alton Towers. These students were successful in achieving 100% attendance, had excellent punctuality and excellent levels of behaviour. The students had a fantastic day and took full advantage of the park being quiet. They behaved impeccably during the trip and were a credit to the academy. The trip was so popular and successful that we will be running another rewards trip to Brean Sands on July 17th.



Mr D Plant, Vice Principal



Catering Food tasting

As part of our drive to continue to widen choice and food variety within the canteen, eight students from across four year groups took part in a food tasting session. Here they were required to complete detailed reviews and taste new products and give their opinions. The students were fantastic and this will now become a regular feature of academy life moving forward. A big thank you to both students and canteen staff for making this possible (the puddings proved particularly successful with the students). Who knows, we may have just inspired the next Jamie Oliver or Delia Smith! **Mr D Plant, Vice Principal**



STEM Project

A team of 5 girls are taking on the challenge of creating a product that will support or aid somebody who is disadvantaged. The girls have come up with the idea of a device that will help people in their bathrooms and help support somebody who may be visually impaired. The girls have been in the design stage for the last 4 weeks and have now reached the point of testing and building prototypes. As well as sketches, the girls have used computer aided design (CAD) software to develop their designs and increase the accuracy of their product. Over the next few weeks the team will develop their idea further, allowing time for testing and production.

**Mr D Howe,
Teacher of
catering**



Attendance Matters

SUA's target for attendance is 96%. Thankfully in the 3 months I have been here I have been supported greatly by parents and students in our drive to: 1. Maintain the excellent attendance of those students 97% and above: 2. Improve attendance of those who are below the school target of 96%: 3. Work closely in partnership with parents to remove any barriers, which apart from genuine illness, may prevent their child from being at school. Students are required to be in school 190 days (380 sessions as each day = 2 sessions). The percentage is calculated by:

Number days attended divided Number possible days X 100

For example: In week 25, possible days will be 125. If your child had: 2 days off since September that will be: $123/125 \times 100 = 98.4\%$

5 days off since September : $120 / 125 \times 100 = 96\%$

10 days off since September : $115 / 125 \times 100 = 92\%$

If you have any worries or concerns then please contact me and I will be happy to explain decisions made and the rationale behind our policies.

Attendance matters. Every day counts. Thank you for your continued support. It is a pleasure working with such polite and respectful people.

Ms Glackin, Attendance Intervention Manager

Student Ambassadors

Year 9 Ambassadors ran a breakfast on Monday 29th January, for some Year 7 and 8 students to help support them in school. The Year 9s are now trained to support the academy by taking on roles of responsibility to make SUA an even better place to be.

Ms Glackin, Attendance Intervention Manager



Safeguarding

This term students have discussed and debated cyberbullying issues and digital footprints. We strongly encourage parents and carers to discuss privacy settings and the importance of keeping safe online with their child. A number of resources are available on our website to help and our "Keep Safe" team in the academy are always happy to advise.

Next term, students in Global Values will be exploring British Values and current keep safe messages being delivered alongside the 'Run, Hide, Tell' campaign. A link to resources used will be made available on our website and a letter with further details sent to parents.

Mrs Haffie-Hobday, Assistant Principal and SENCo

STOP 

THINK 

STAY SAFE 

Reading Success

Well done Year 7 and Year 8 for continuing to engage with reading and rewards. The reading rewards continues to be very popular. Breakfasts for the forms who have passed the most quizzes will be delivered on Thursday and students on the leaderboard qualify for a summer reading reward trip and prize draw for the Kindles. Keep reading!

Mrs Haffie-Hobday, Assistant Principal and SENCo

Key Dates:

29th March	Last day of term, students finish 12pm
29th March	Paris visit
16th April	Academy reopens to students
17th April	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
24th April	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
30th April	Bikeability
7th May	May Day - Academy closed
8th May	Parents' Forum meeting 6-7:00pm
22nd May	Year 9 Pathways & Parents' Evening 4-7:00pm
25th May	Last day of half term
4th June	Academy reopens

Parking

The academy endeavours to ensure the safety of all students at all times, including before and after school. Road safety is particularly important during these busy periods and due to increased traffic in and around the academy, we have implemented some additional health and safety measures to reduce any risks. As a reminder an agreement has been reached with the **Belt Road Victoria Working Men's Club** (opposite the Marston Road entrance). Their car park can be used by parents/carers each day. We hope that you continue to support us with this matter to keep our students safe.

The academy would also ask drivers to be considerate and mindful of our local community and neighbours on Marston Road who require easy access to their properties and driveways throughout the day including school collection and drop off times. We would politely ask that parents collecting students do so from the car park at the Working Men's Club.

Uniform

For clarity, we need to reiterate that footwear is required to be of the following:

Female: Flat shoes or ankle boots: plain black leather, imitation leather, suede or patent. No strapless or backless shoes. No sequins, beads, chains, studs or contrasting stitching.

Male: Shoes or ankle books: plain black leather, imitation leather, suede or patent.

No trainers are allowed at all. Shoes that look like trainers will be challenged.