



Aspirations Academies Trust

in association with Quaglia Institute

What has been happening in the West London District during the Spring term?



The Brilliant Club Launch Trip - St Anne's College, Oxford

Year 9 and 10 students of Rivers Academy West London experienced the wonders of St Anne's College, Oxford at the launch to the 2017-18 Brilliant Club. The programme aims to offer students with a chance to experience university style research and engage them with the ambition of going to study at University. The students were treated to an in-depth tour of St Anne's libraries, lecture halls, accommodation and sports facilities as part of the day. They also worked in small workshops with PHD tutors and were provided with guidance on writing reports with the inclusion of Harvard referencing.



Reading Activities



Reading has been given high focus at Oriol Academy this year. There was a lot of Fun and Excitement when pupils and staff dressed up as book characters to celebrate World Book Day.

Mrs Kidwai dressed up as Florence Nightingale and Mr Talbot dressed up as an injured soldier to support their history project work in Year 2.

Some of our KS2 boys have enjoyed weekly reading sessions with Rivers and SSWL students during Reading Club. The older students becoming hero role models to the younger boys.

By reading every night, our pupils experience a huge Sense of Accomplishment! Congratulations to all those children who have already completed a Reading Journal. As a reward they receive a certificate and a new book to read and add to their own home library.



They were treated to a wonderful lunch, enjoying a selection of sandwiches, fruit and orange juice.

Rivers Academy students proved to be an absolute credit and represented the Academy with great self-confidence. They can now look forward to a series of tutorials, focusing on the topic of 'Ethics in Business.'

Engineers' Speed Dating

Tech City hosted an 'Engineering Speed dating event' courtesy of Arcadis Design and Consulting. We had a team of four civil engineers working from Arcadis visit us to share their experiences.

They passed on hints and tips to our budding Engineers about what to do to get ahead in the engineering industry.

Year 12 student Mohammed said 'I experienced a whole new field of engineering. I understood that no matter what country or state you study in, all engineering concepts remain the same, opening all doors to any field of engineering anywhere in the world. I understood the design concepts of bridges, the calculations of the weight put on a bridge, and also how just the slightest changes can make the biggest differences.'

Eniola, an Engineering and Maths student said 'It was an amazing experience having civil engineers come in and talk to us about what their job is like and what it has to offer. It was great seeing how the designs for a bridge ended up looking for real.'

Overall both the students and Engineers felt they gained a lot from the experience. Students could see a real *sense of purpose* in what they are studying at the college and how it links to their future employment. Arcadis said 'Tech City has some enthusiastic and focused students. We had a great time working with them and they asked some very good questions that really put us on the spot! It was brilliant to see a college encouraging young people into engineering and the experience renewed our confidence in the next generation of engineers.'



Jamie's Farm – February Half Term Residential

During half term, 13 Park Academy students from Years 7, 8 and 9 visited Jamie's Farm in Bath. Jamie's Farm gives students the opportunity to escape city life, and to run the working farm for the week with a real focus on family, therapy and fun. Students were involved in feeding and looking after the animals (including newly born lambs), moving sheep through miles of country lanes, cooking for large groups of people of over 25 and spending quality time together on muddy walks across the countryside. Mr Taylor, Ms O'Connor and Ms Cox accompanied students on the trip and all saw how powerful the impact was on each and every student. It is evident that the Residential encompasses the Aspirations 8 Conditions, including Leadership & Responsibility, Fun & Excitement, Sense of Accomplishment, Belonging and Spirit of Adventure!



The trip benefits students by allowing them time to reflect on what is going well at home and school, as well as setting targets, challenges and goals for their return. Some highlights include Alicia assisting with the birth of a lamb, Dillon milking the dairy cow, David being a legendary log chopper for the fire wood (which was needed for cold February nights) and Rhyanna expertly tending to orphan baby lambs. The residential does not allow mobile phones, sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks, but all students said how great they felt after a break from these things, all of which are usually so important in their day to day life. Jonty, Education Manager at Jamie's Farm, said of Park Academy students; "During their visit students participated in a range of activities including farming, cooking, gardening, therapeutic horse work and walking in the countryside."

We lived like a family; working, eating and playing together. After each meal they reflected on their success and behaviour, giving compliments and showing recognition of the rest of the group's achievements. They were focused, kind, caring and positive; working hard and up for every challenge. They also engaged in sharing feedback for each other and challenges for their return. It was an absolutely pleasure to work with Park students for the week; they were a credit to themselves, and the Academy".



Ofsted came Calling!

Space Studio West London has only been open for three years and we are delighted and very proud to have been recognised as a 'Good School' in all categories after our recent Ofsted Inspection.

The Principal Mr. Andrew Morgan said he was particularly pleased that the report had highlighted that 'Leaders and staff share the school's unique vision'. The aim of the school is to be a transition between school life and the world of employment and the report highlighted the 'productive learning environment where pupils work collaboratively with each other, their teachers and industry mentors'

The unique vision of the school has been exemplified this term by visits to the Sky Academy; Royal Holloway University; Knightsbridge Train station (exploring decommissioned tube lines) and Surrey Satellite Technology limited.

The School was visited by over twenty visitors from engineering companies such as British Airways; Morgan Sindall and the British Interplanetary Society, for a year 10 speed networking event.



Democracy in Action!

Oak Hill and Oriel Debate Club experienced real life *leadership and responsibility* when they visited the Houses of Parliament in March and took part in a 'Laws and Debating' workshop.

They were given a tour of Parliament and sat in the House of Commons observation deck listening to a live parliamentary debate on Fisheries and Agriculture.



Also this term, the Oak Hill family celebrated World Book Day, dressing up as our favourite book characters. Oak Hill's Patron of Reading, Richard Vobes, ran mime and storytelling workshops with year 3 pupils.



SAVE THE DATE: Oak Hill Academy's ICT TECH FEST will now take place on Friday 8th June 2018. Please contact the academy if you would like further information.

We wish our West London Aspirations Family a very peaceful Spring break!