

E-Bulletin

Issue 2

31 March 2021



Message from the Principal

I can't believe it's a year since schools closed for the first time in living memory. It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back and see so many happy smiling and excited students into their classrooms.

I know that this has been a tough time and I am proud of how well the students have come back to school. This is always a particularly busy time for schools as we go through the final process of preparing our Year 11 students for GCSEs and this year, whilst very different, is equally as busy. I would like to thank each and every member of staff and all of the families for the work that they are doing to support the students through the next few weeks.

The term, whilst short, has been busy. I hope that everyone is looking forward to the Easter break and we will look forward to welcoming students back into school on Tuesday 20th April.

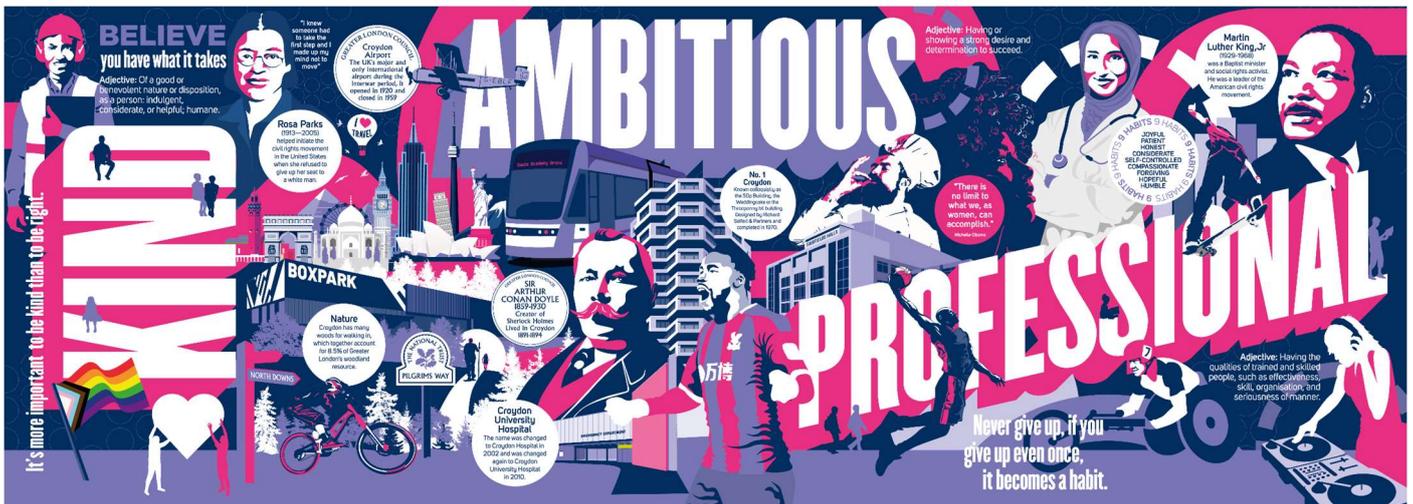
Please can you I remind everyone that any positive Covid-19 test results during the holidays should be reported by email to Yourarena@oasisarena.org and someone from the school will be in touch.

Have a great break.

Thomas Raymond
Principal

New Branding

This term we debuted our new mural and artwork around the school supporting our new slogan at Oasis Academy Arena: "We are kind, professional, and ambitious." The artwork brightens up our hallways, and we hope will be a reminder to our student body and staff to live out our values daily.



Eco-Committee Wins Silver Award

Students in the Eco Committee at Oasis Academy Arena achieved the Eco Schools Silver Award for their efforts making the South Norwood secondary school more environmentally friendly. Their action plan aims to help tackle some of the biggest issues in our school including litter, recycling and Biodiversity.

The committee introduced plastic bottle recycling facilities to the school and encouraged the entire student body to join in the effort by creating and distributing anti-littering posters throughout the school and leading a school-wide recycling and anti-littering assembly. They have also tried to tackle the issue of single-plastics used more generally throughout the school and investigated the school curriculum to assess whether it covered the Eco-Schools' 'Ten Topics'

Year 9 student Fraser said of their efforts, "Being on the Eco-Schools team has meant that I have been able to make a change to the way that the school operates, thus making an improvement."



Now, the students are looking beyond their own academy, and are aiming to contribute to a new recycling scheme across the 52 schools in the Oasis Community Learning Multi-Academy Trust.

They hope to continue their projects this year, even throughout lockdown, with the ultimate aim of achieving green flag status and embedding a number of environmental initiatives into the fabric of Arena academy.

Geography Teacher and Eco-Coordinator Jon Channon commented, "The Eco-Schools programme has been a fantastic way to evaluate our current initiatives at Arena and help radically transform them (with the students help). They identified a number of areas that we needed to improve as a school (including improving biodiversity, increasing recycling and reducing litter) and have been consistently involved in projects to try and achieve this. A huge thank you to the students (Fraser, Blessing, Aaliyah, Oliver, Chloe, Caydee and Emilija) for their help on this, also to Ms Le for her continued support."

Jack Petchey Award Winners

Congratulations to several Oasis Academy Arena students who are Jack Petchey Award Winners!

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme recognises outstanding young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex. Awards mean different things to different people. The Achievement Awards are not solely for academic achievement – they may be used to recognise a personal triumph for someone who has faced a challenge, a young person who has pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone or it may be an opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of a team player'

Jessica Hegrova has achieved the Jack Petchey award because of her outstanding efforts in French since the start of Year 7. She has constantly demonstrated exemplary behaviour and attitude.. Becoming a JP winner, especially during lockdown has enabled Jessica to continue to strive to do her very best, especially when her teachers are not in front of her, teaching and guiding. Jessica has been an outstanding role model throughout.

Emerald Nganzie has made significant progress in English this year. His hard work and determination reflects his confidence to share his ideas and opinions. He is cheerful student who always attends lessons with a smile. He is always keen and ready to learn. Emerald has grown in maturity and has been a positive role model for other students. Emerald is passionate about sport and loves football. Since winning the award, Emerald has shown great leadership by supporting other students in football practice each week. in maturity and has been a positive role model for other students.

Kadidiatou has shown an excellent work ethic and level of professionalism since joining the Academy in Y7. She consistently puts in her best efforts every lesson despite any other distractions either in class or outside. She is a strong role model for her year group in terms of modelling this behaviour and striving for excellence.



An iPad for Every Arena Student!

Every student at Oasis Academy Arena now has access to their own iPad, since they were distributed this January. These iPads not only helped students stay connected to school during lockdown, but also helps them conduct their own research delving deeper into their subject and enabling them to follow their own lines of enquiry. In total, 580 iPads were distributed at the school.

Thomas Raymond, Principal at Oasis Academy Arena, commented on the rollout saying,



"Oasis Horizons provides each and every one of our students the opportunity to access online learning during school closure, but it does so much more than this. Horizons will give each student access to the curriculum, resources and supporting tools to enable each student to continue their studies when not in school. This is such an exciting time for our students and we continue to support them to achieve great things."

Leonardo, Year 8 Pupil at Oasis Academy Arena, commented on how he felt receiving their new iPad, saying, "It felt like the school wanted what was best for us"

Every pupil will be taught how to make the most of their device, and how to look after it. If an iPad is reported missing it can be locked remotely, and then have its location tracked.

National Offer Day

Families learned which secondary schools they were offered on March 1st. We are so excited to welcome a new group of students to join our school and can't wait to see how they will grow during their time at Oasis Academy Arena. We know the students and staff will give them a big Arena welcome into our family!

If you have any friends or family who would be interested in a place at Oasis Academy Arena next year, send them our way. We'd be happy to grow our family even more! Contact the office at info@oasisarena.org

KS3 STEM Day

Oasis Academy Arena enjoyed a day with a difference last Wednesday the 24th March, our very first virtual drop down STEM (science, technology, engineering and Maths) day for Key Stage 3.

Year 7 had an activity-packed day hosted by the Royal Navy. They got a chance to meet with and speak to serving officers who use a variety of STEM skills in their careers.

They met a Royal Marine who outlined the uses of STEM skills in survival and humanitarian aid situations. He even showed Year 7 how to make their own compass from a leaf and a metal needle.

Year 7 also met a helicopter engineer and she discussed her career journey and then showed them how to make their own model helicopters.

Year 8 and 9 spent the day focussing on engineering and the future of STEM careers. They met with Sophie Wilmott, a representative from Mott Macdonald (an international engineering consultancy whose current projects range from wind farms to flood defences to the HS2 railway network). She shared with them the wide range of careers available in STEM and the routes one might take to move into an engineering career.

Students had a chance to develop their own engineering skills while undertaking the hula-hoop building challenge set for them by Sophie. We had some pretty amazing structures from nothing more than hula hoops, marmite and lots of excellent engineering skills!

Years 8 and 9 then met with Ms Cheng from Brunel University to hear about the benefits of choosing higher education and the different routes available from traditional degrees to degree apprenticeships.



All in all, a great day that got our students thinking and talking about engineering, potential careers and their futures.

We are now looking forward to our careers week that will take place during the week of the 5th of July.

