



St Alban's Academy

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1 2015

GUESS WHO WON THE MILLENNIUM YOUNG INNOVATOR PRIZE?

أندرون من فاز بجائزة المليونير (العصر الالقي) للمخترعين الصغار السن؟

Garo yaa ku guuleystay abaalmarinta da'yarta ee kunkan sanadood ee innovator



One of our talented sixth formers Malik Sheryar Karamat has been awarded the "Millennium Point Young Innovator Prize". This achievement has secured him a place on a sponsored undergraduate course at Birmingham City University in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment (CEBE). Malik competed against three other finalists in a nail-biting live final at Millennium Point on Tuesday, 17th March, where he presented to an audience and an eminent panel of judges to win his place on a three-year course starting in September. The panel included Philip Singleton, CEO at Millennium Point, Paul Glennon, Assistant Director for Partnerships and Collaboration from Birmingham City University and Lauren Deere, Visitor

Services Manager at Thinktank and Birmingham Museums. The 18-year-old winner impressed the judges with his presentation on 'Will Robots Save or Destroy us?' and will gain experience in the workplace through a summer placement with Millennium Point. Malik says: "Taking part in the Young Innovator Prize final has been so rewarding but to win the prize is definitely a dream come true. I am so thankful that I can carry on my passion for mechanical engineering at Birmingham City University. I am very grateful to be given the opportunity. It will give me the chance to broaden my knowledge, expand my education and hopefully lead to a career in a science-based subject."

In collaboration with the British Science Association, STEMNET and the Association of Science Education, Millennium Point launched the initiative last year and identified schools in Birmingham whose Year 13 pupils would benefit from financial assistance. Each school then nominated students who they believed to be worthy of the prize. We are very proud of Malik and wish him every success in his degree and his future in engineering.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We all know that academic success is the result of hard work and years of learning, involving focused attention in lessons, conscientious completion of homework and systematic revision for exams. We know too that the most successful students are not the most gifted and talented but the most committed, determined and ambitious. These are the qualities we aim to instil and we are very grateful for the support of parents in this endeavour. None of your children's outstanding achievements would be possible without your care and encouragement.

We are looking forward to another great year but 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' and the measure of our success with current cohorts will be the exam results delivered to the academy in August. This year, for the first time, we have students preparing for A level as well as for AS and GCSE exams.

Although our students' success will be the well-deserved outcome of dedicated study, a little divine intervention also helps. So I ask that our readers, parents and friends, offer their prayers and best wishes for the candidates at this important and challenging time in their lives.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Exam Season - 11/05/2015 to 24/06/2015

Ramadam - 18/06/2015 to 17/07/2015

150th Anniversary Celebration - 24/06/2015

Year 6 Summer School 29/06/2015 to 03/07/2015

Year 6 Parents Meeting - 29/06/2015

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

In light of the latest very recent attack on an institution of education, a prayer from Kenya:

"From the cowardice that dare not face new truth
From the laziness that is contented with half truth
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
Good Lord, deliver me."
Amen

CLOSURES

Half Term - 25/05/2015 to 29/05/2015

Hub Training - 26/06/2015

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BMW - THE DRAGONS DEN



Sixth formers who have been working with BMW apprentices on the 'Business in the Classroom' project this term gave their final presentations to staff at Hams Hall this week.

They presented their ideas on a potential system for charging electric vehicles whilst on the road network - either stationary or in motion.

Ideas ranged from solar panels on the roof of cars to cables in the road, different batteries and much more. Students also offered ideas on where chargers should be placed for optimum convenience.

BMW staff were impressed by the amount of research undertaken with some students offering well considered comments on the type of materials to use for underground cabling.

Students have learned a lot about the dynamics of working in teams, communicating with professionals and presentation skills,

IS STEM THE WAY FORWARD?



The letters S T E M stand for science, technology, engineering and maths. These are areas that we specialise in at St Alban's Academy. Companies engaged in these market sectors face a growing challenge to recruit people with the required knowledge and skills. This market demand provides wonderful opportunities for our students. The shortage of appropriately qualified people is expected to grow over the next 20 years and those who work in this sector earn more than those in most

other areas of employment. Through the careers advice we offer and through our curriculum we aim to give students as much information as possible about careers requiring qualifications in STEM subjects. Level 3 courses, including A levels but also BTEC level 3 qualifications, especially in science, provide a great route into university and then on to a rewarding career.

Our Future Readiness programme for Year 10 students explores the vast range of STEM careers that are available to young people with the right qualifications. Recently students spent 2 hours working with 11 professionals from a variety of STEM related backgrounds including mechanical, chemical, civil and aerospace engineering, architecture, medicine, health science and construction. They also attended careers events designed to broaden their horizons and understanding of the opportunities in these areas and attended a series of taster workshops in cryogenics, chemistry, forensic science, maths and digital technology hosted by Birmingham Metropolitan College.

REWARD TRIP

On Thursday the 26th March, 94 students were taken to Alton Towers Theme Park by eight members of staff. These students were treated to this adventure as a reward for their excellent behaviour and punctuality at school - this of course means they have not had a detention since the start of term. The day was fun and enjoyable and the students had a great time on the rides. As some of the children had never been to a theme park before, this also proved to be an important educational trip.



The reward trip proves that the students are doing their best in school. Last year we had 84 students, so a steady increase is showing just how well the students are doing! The general consensus was that the trip was well worth getting full attendance, being on time and avoiding detention for.



BARCLAYS LIFE SKILLS

In response to complaints from employers that young people lack basic work skills, Barclays commissioned an employability programme for schools to raise student awareness about the skills required for the world of work. Their aim was to help 1 million young people unlock their potential.

Taking advantage of this free resource we invited Barclays personnel to work with Key Stage 3. Workshops supported by Barclay's staff conveyed vital information about life at work.

Year 7 considered the challenges they face now and those they will face in five years, how to overcome them and how this relates to future career choices. Year 8 focused on how we are perceived and the importance of body language. Year 9 worked on money matters and budgeting.

The team will return to St Alban's Academy in the summer to work with Year 10 on interview skills and how to manage money.



PERSONAL BRANDING FOR YEAR 12



During a recent Super Learning Day Year 12 students worked with a local consultancy company, Rikem and other local employers including General Electric, Birmingham City Council, Ernst & Young, Silk City Radio, Associated Images and New Born Design.

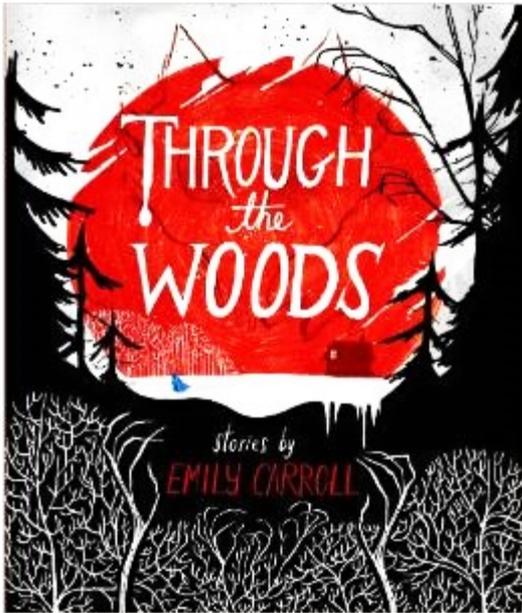
The students considered how they are perceived by others and worked on how to make the most of their skills in order to sell themselves to prospective employers, a useful skill as they are currently looking for work experience placements.

They worked on 'ME BOARDS' to develop their particular brand which they then

presented to the group in a 29 second pitch.

The Year 13 A2 Business group - in conjunction with 'Bright Futures' - worked closely with Rikem to organise the day, which included: recruiting employers, setting agendas, organising refreshments and facilitating the day. They chaired and took minutes of meetings with Rikem and school staff

RECOMMENDED READ



This beautifully crafted book is a thing of terrifying beauty. All fairy tales begin and end in the dark woods don't they? This simple fact has not been lost on the author and

illustrator Emily Carroll. She has concocted a story reminiscent of those 70's horror films that were once the vogue. Take your pick of influences, from 'Little Red Riding Hood' to 'Brothers Grimm', with even a hint of 'Daphne Du Maurier', they're all here hiding in the shadows, waiting to leap out at you. Although it is clearly the work of one person, Ms Carroll cleverly uses a range of styles and influences for each story, from the faux Georgian of 'A Lady's Hands Are So Cold' through to the 1950's-ish 'The Nesting Place.' Undoubtedly you'll have your own favourite set. Thematically we get sibling rivalry, dop-pelgängers, neglected wives, and sullen orphaned girls...along with the ever present woods of course! Carroll leaves some of her stories with very ambiguous and surreal endings, which just add to the eeriness of the whole thing.

This is best read on a clear, silent moonlit night by the light of a flickering candle with a mug of steaming hot chocolate to steady your nerves....

MATHS PUZZLE

$$\text{If } xy=10 \\ (x+1)(y+1)=20$$

$$\text{What is } \\ (x+2)(y+2)$$

UNIFORM SALES

From May 2015 any new uniform can be purchased from Clive Mark Schoolware Ltd located at 38 Poplar Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7AD. Open from 9am until 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

For more information please ring, 0121 444 7623.

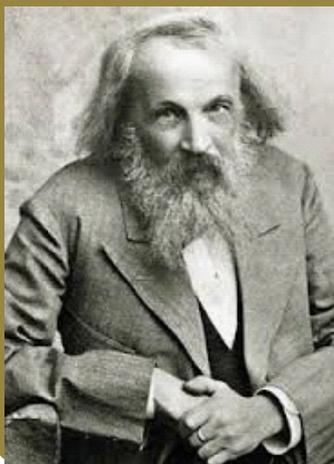
LAKE DISTRICT TRIP

14 students from St Alban's Academy went on a residential outdoor activity trip last month, staying next to Lake Windermere in the Lake District. It was a



cold weekend and there was still snow on top of the mountains, but that did not stop the activities. During the weekend students paddled canoes across Lake Windermere, abseiled and explored the caves in 'The Cathedral' in the Langdale Pikes, climbed a practise tower and rode a zip line at the centre. It was a fantastic weekend enjoyed by all who attended. One of the students said 'I feel really lucky to visit such a great place and would love to come again!'

SCIENTIST OF THE MONTH



Dmitry Mendeleev (1834 - 1907) was a Russian chemist who developed the periodic table. Mendeleev found that when all the known chemical elements were arranged in order of increasing atomic weight, the resulting table displayed a recurring pattern, or periodicity, of properties within groups of elements. In his version of the periodic table in 1871, he left gaps in places where he believed unknown elements would find their place. He even predicted the likely properties of three of the potential elements. The subsequent proof of many of his predictions within his lifetime brought fame to Mendeleev as the founder of the periodic law.