

**GOOD**  
with  
**OUTSTANDING**  
features

**THE ACADEMY  
OF CHOICE  
FOR RECORD  
NUMBERS OF  
STUDENTS**

**50% EXPECTED  
TO GET A\*  
TO A GRADES  
IN TRIPLE  
SCIENCE**

**THIRD PLACE  
IN MOSAIC  
ENTERPRISE  
CHALLENGE  
REGIONAL FINAL**

**MASTERCLASS  
WITH RUGBY  
WORLD CUP-  
WINNING JONNY  
WILKINSON**

# PRINCIPAL'S VIEWPOINT

“Judged as **GOOD** with **OUTSTANDING** features”



**Worth the wait!**

**As I am sure you will be aware, the Academy was visited by Ofsted recently to carry out a full section 5 inspection over two days. These inspections are incredibly thorough**

**and are carried out by a team of Her Majesty's Inspectors and Ofsted inspectors. They have judged the Academy to be GOOD overall with areas that are judged as OUTSTANDING. This is an amazing achievement but one that is well deserved. It is the hard work and belief of the students, parents/carers, staff and our local community that has allowed us to achieve this judgement.**

It is incredibly pleasing to see that the Outstanding judgement is linked with our care and support of young people at the Academy. I hope that our parents and carers can take pride in knowing that their children attend one of the best Academies/schools in the region. However, our focus is on the Year 11 and Year 13 students who are sitting examinations currently. Their approach to their studies has been impeccable and I am sure they will be rewarded with the results they deserve.

The Academy continues to drive forward in the Arts, as well as the academic aspects of its work, and parents were recently invited to a showcase event to see the students perform to, what can only be described as an outstanding, professional standard. Students continue to have access to many extra-curricular activities in sports, arts and business - to name but a few – working with our business partners to develop skills that will help them to prepare for, and excel in, the world of work.

**Darren Gelder, Executive Principal, Grace Academy**

## ACADEMY UPDATES

### NEW ROOF

We're excited to announce that work has already begun on the new roof with the major work starting over the summer holidays, ready for the students' return in the Autumn Term.

### SUMMER TRIPS

#### BURNHAM ON SEA

Monday 31 July  
Depart 8.30am returning late  
Price: £12 per person

#### BATH CITY

Tuesday 8 August  
Depart 8.30am returning late  
Price: £12.00 per person

#### COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

Depart 9.30am returning 4.00pm  
Price: £13 adults, £10 for children

For more information or to book a space please contact reception on:  
0121 329 4600.

# THE STUDENT VOICE

MADISON SHERRIFF - YEAR 10  
KYLE BAKER - YEAR 10

## RAISING FUNDS FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR

Student leaders will be running a number of fundraising activities during the last half term of the year, in an attempt to raise enough money to purchase a community access AED, with the goal of raising around £1,600. An AED – or automated external defibrillator – is a computerised medical device that delivers an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again. Rapid response using automated technology can significantly improve the chances of survival for someone in cardiac arrest. An AED is a portable defibrillator especially designed for people with little or no medical background.

**“I think it’s important for us to get one because there are people in the school with heart problems, but also people in the community. We could be the closest place for people to go in order to get help,”** said Kyle Baker, Year 10.

**“It’s beneficial for us to have an AED because we can potentially save people’s lives instead of them waiting for the ambulance to arrive, which can often take too long,”** said Madison Sherriff, Year 10.

## TUTOR GROUP 11D WINS BEST ATTENDANCE AWARD AFTER ACADEMY ACHIEVES BEST ATTENDANCE AND EXAM RESULTS EVER LAST YEAR!

Speaking about the importance of encouraging good attendance, 11D Form Tutor Steve Bradshaw, said, “Research shows that regular attendance and better grades tend to go hand in hand. To support this the Academy has structured tutor time to be constructive for the student. Besides focusing on attendance (with the students taking ownership of their own attendance graphs), we also cover topics each day such as Ethos, Literacy, and Discovery or Circle Time, with assembly on Fridays.



“I am fortunate to have been a Year 11 tutor for the last two years and I am always sad when they leave. No matter how my tutor group starts the year, I believe they always end it as the best tutor group in the Academy. As a tutor you get to know your ‘tutees’ and take an interest in them. So good luck to the Year 11s, but in particular good luck to Tutor Group 11D. You are the best. I wish you everything you wish for yourselves, and more.”

# NEWS

## GIANT PORTRAITS IN ONE DAY WITH STREET ARTIST JOHN DENARO



Student Evie Eggleton said: "I have learned new skills I never even realised I had."

The students were challenged to think big, and work quickly, as they produced outsize images of themselves and others in one day, with advice and top tips from the professional artist.



Twenty-two students won a world-cup level masterclass in footwork, handling, and kicking skills after being selected for a day of training with former England rugby union player Jonny Wilkinson. Student Rosie Allen said: "It was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in playing rugby. I had a brilliant time learning new skills and meeting new people. I would like to thank the staff at Grace for including me in this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity."

## REGIONAL FINALS OF MOSAIC ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

After putting their business acumen to the test, students are celebrating a third place win in the Regional Finals of the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge held at KPMG in Birmingham. In the regional finals, the team presented their own social enterprise idea, 'Wood if you Could', to a panel of real business experts. The idea behind the scheme is to identify community projects that local businesses could be involved in, helping them to make a positive impact on the Chelmsley Wood area and beyond.

## STRENGTHENING -

Kelly Slack, final year student from Aston University who did the research, said: "The students were insightful and brilliant in sharing their ideas and I was really impressed."



## THE EASTER EXPERIENCE

Students in Year 8 were encouraged to engage with an Easter story in a more experiential way using drama, while Year 7 students were invited to watch Easter film, The Miracle Maker. Two talented Year 13 drama students, Clyde Harvey and Gabriella Burns, dressed up as a Roman soldier at the foot of the cross, and Mary Magdalene finding the empty tomb.



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## GRADE BOOSTER



Six of our Year 13 students tackled challenging business topics at the Edexcel A Level Business Grade Booster workshop in Birmingham. The workshop is designed to give A Level Business students essential revision support for their three end of year exams, refining their exam technique and building confidence in the essential assessment skills.

# MASTERCLASS

# NEWS

## WITH WORLD CUP-WINNING JONNY WILKINSON

### YEAR 13s IN FOOTBALL MATCH AGAINST STAFF



Assistant Principal Matt Godwin said: "It was a really great, fun atmosphere with a good level of sportsmanship, and it was a great idea."

Year 13s set the ball rolling for a celebratory football match against teaching staff to mark the end of their final year at the Academy.

## G - MENTAL HEALTH

In new research, students said the Academy is good at dealing with mental health issues, but they would like more direct teaching on it so they can recognise the signs and know what to look for.

### COMMUNITY APPRENTICES RAISE OVER £400 FOR CHARITY

A group of Year 10 students learned how to present themselves in business, along with finding out more about employment opportunities and apprenticeships in a project run by Interserve and business charity Envision. As part of the project the students raised £462.96 for charity through bake sales, raffles, and selling goods in tutor time. They also visited Birmingham City Football Ground for a Careers Fair as part of the scheme, and will receive a reference to go alongside their CV to say they took part.


## A LEVEL BUSINESS

Talking about the quality of the students, Business teacher Nancy Dubb said, "The students are determined, passionate, self-motivated and driven and really enjoyed the sessions."

### EXTRA REVISION SESSIONS OUT OF HOURS

Over 100 Year 11 students have been putting in extra time, out of hours, to attend revision sessions run by teachers over Easter, Half Term and after school. Vice Principal Greg Godwin, said, "We believe this added commitment from students is great preparation for the next step in their education. It's an important part of their development as adults, learning to take responsibility for their own learning."



A photograph of four young women standing outdoors on a grassy field, wearing climbing helmets and harnesses. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The woman on the far left wears a yellow helmet with 'PETZL' on it. The woman next to her wears a pink helmet. The woman in the center wears an orange helmet with 'PETZL' on it. The woman on the far right wears an orange helmet with 'DM' on it. In the background, other people in climbing gear are visible, along with a wooden building and a fence. The text '“THE ACADEMY OF CHOICE FOR A RECORD NUMBER OF YEAR 7 STUDENTS”' is overlaid in pink at the top. The text 'JUDE HUMPHRIES HEAD OF TRANSITION GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL' is overlaid in white and pink at the bottom. A small number '6' is in the bottom left corner.

**“THE ACADEMY OF CHOICE  
FOR A RECORD NUMBER OF  
YEAR 7 STUDENTS”**

**JUDE HUMPHRIES**  
**HEAD OF TRANSITION**  
**GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL**

## JUDE HUMPHRIES COVER STORY

**As the Academy continues to top the league tables in North Solihull, combined with being rated as ‘Good’ with ‘Outstanding’ aspects by Ofsted, we are now the school of choice for a record number of up to 190 new Year 7 students in September this year.**

The Ofsted result is just one more step towards us giving better life chances to local students. One of our top priorities is to make sure that the transition to our Academy from local feeder primary schools is as easy as possible, both academically and socially.

Our teaching is based on differentiation and designed to get the best out of each individual child. This means that while Year 7 students are initially put into sets for some subjects when they first arrive, they are continually assessed and moved between sets if required.

As soon as we know our in-take of students, we visit all our local primary schools because we think it is crucial that we get to know our new students face to face. This is followed up with our induction day in the summer term when Year 6 students are invited to come and get a taste of how the Academy works.

Head of Transition, Jude Humphries, explained: “The key to successful transition is knowing the systems in advance, and knowing who you can go to if you need help. We tell new students exactly what happens on their first day in advance so they feel safe and secure. Taster days help students to get to know our staff, understand our rules and expectations, and learn simple things such as daily routines, where to line up, and how to get here. They even get to see their Year 7 dining room which is a safe zone just for them.

“We also put students in tutor groups on our induction day so they can meet the children they are going to be with when they get here on their first day. We spend a huge amount of time researching who their friends are so they get to be with friends they know, but also make new ones too.

“We always do an assembly in the first couple of weeks where the new students are presented with a special Grace Academy pen, and parents are also invited so they have the opportunity to meet the staff of the Academy over coffee.”

The Academy’s summer school for students helps those who may need extra support in the transition process. Within the first two weeks of coming to the Academy students are also invited to take part in a team-building weekend at Whitmore Lakes, where they learn more about the Academy’s ethos and key values of Grace, Respect, Integrity, Potential, and Excellence.

We look forward to welcoming our new students in September!



## SCIENCE IN FOCUS

**Targeted revision sessions, separate coursework days, and holiday sessions, have secured excellent progress for students in Science, with 50% of students expected to achieve A\* to A grades in the Triple Science Award at the end of the academic year.**

By having targeted intervention groups with top performing students, and separate tutor groups and intervention for Year 11s, our pupil premium students are closing the gap in terms of their performance compared to other students.

Explaining the department's focus on doing things a bit differently, Emily Sumerling, Joint Head of Science, said, "We have incorporated new, lecture-style revision sessions for students with hand-outs and interactive practical sessions like dissection, helping students to learn in a more 'hands-on' way.

"There is a big focus on gifted and talented (G&T) students across the Year groups, with an emphasis on differentiation and getting the best out of every child. The new system of evaluation in Key Stage 4 called Progress 8, means that every individual grade matters, rather than focussing on wider level boundaries. A new challenge of 'Life Without Levels' at KS3, has energised us and we're excited about the system which is helping us to raise standards all the time."

Among the extra-curricular projects our G&T students have been involved in this year are a STEM challenge in which our Year 9 students won the regional final, and a group of our students attended a day event at Solihull College in March to learn more about sustainability and conservation.

The Academy's eco-site provides students with an excellent introduction to Science and the opportunity to learn outside the classroom. Emily said, "Last year the site produced so much produce that the canteen used some in their food. The students also won the 'Solihull in Bloom' bronze award for their recycled greenhouse, a project which helped us to incorporate nature and conservation into the school curriculum. The students learn so much better outside and really enjoy the eco-site which enables us to teach conservation, ecosystems, lifecycles and plants in a hands-on and engaging way, putting the subjects into context for students."

Emily Sumerling explained that the department is trying to excite younger Year 5 students in Science as well, encouraging them to visit Grace Academy and take part in exciting experiments they wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity to see. Emily said, "We set up our own planetarium and took 70 Year 5 students from our feeder schools for a walk through the solar system so they could learn how it was formed. Other subjects we have covered with Year 5 G&T students are microscopy, human anatomy, circuits and respiration."







Speaking about the strength of the Science Department, Emily added, “We have a very strong, dedicated team with loads of enthusiasm and skills, and a love of their subject. We are committed to engaging students through a variety of activities to get the best out of every child at every stage of their learning.”

**“DEDICATED TEAM AND  
ENGAGING ACTIVITIES”**

# COMMUNITY HUB

## SHIRESTONE BAKE CHEESE SCONES AT GRACE

Students from Shirestone Primary School left as pleased as punch with their cheese scones after using Grace Academy's facilities. They learned everything including classroom expectations, food preparation, and going away with a completed product, and travelled to and from Grace Academy in the Academy's mini-bus. Family Support Worker Maxine Bromley said: "Opportunities like this allow young people to experience, and become familiar with, a larger learning environment, while reducing their anxiety levels about going to secondary school. Walking into a large building can be daunting if it's your first experience of doing this."

## EASTER WEEKEND TRIPS OVERSUBSCRIBED

Over 50 parents, carers and children from the local community came with us on our popular, subsidised trips to Barry Island and Liverpool during the Easter break. Costing just £11 per person, these trips are a fun and affordable way for local families to get away from it all and enjoy quality time together, making memories while they visit top tourist attractions. Parent Diane York, who went on a trip, said: "The trip to Liverpool was wonderful. We enjoyed everything about the day. It was fantastic."



## BROWNIES LEARN THE RULES OF THE KITCHEN

Brownie leader Charlotte Atkins said: "The cooking evening was fantastic because it let the girls cook dishes they would not have been able to do at Brownies. Because there was so much space it meant the girls could work in small teams which not only helped with their team work skills, but also in the way the leaders can supervise the girls. The facilities were brilliant. Thank you again for allowing the Brownies to have this opportunity. They thoroughly enjoyed it and hopefully we can come again in the future."



# BULLETIN BOARD

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JULY

Family Fun Day - Saturday 1  
Year 13 Leavers Party - Tuesday 4  
A Night at the Musicals - Tuesday 11  
Senior Citizens' Tea Party/Craft - Thursday 13  
End of Term - Tuesday 25  
Burnham on Sea Family Trip - Monday 31

### AUGUST

Bath City Family Trip - Tuesday 8  
Cotswold Wildlife Park Family Trip - Tuesday 15

### SEPTEMBER

INSET Day - Monday 4  
Start of Autumn Term - Tuesday 5  
Open Evening - Tuesday 26



@GASolihull

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK:  
GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL

[www.graceacademy.org.uk](http://www.graceacademy.org.uk)

## WHY NOT JOIN THE PTFA?

Call Matt Spina for more information  
on: 0121 329 4625  
or email:  
[MattSpina@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:MattSpina@graceacademy.org.uk)

Help us to strengthen home school links by joining the Parents, Teachers, Friends Association. Steven Cooke said, "I wanted to be more involved in what my son Ethan was doing and to be able to influence certain aspects of his education."

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Solihull Child Services Duty and Referral Team:

0121 788 4316

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP):

0870 000 3344

In an emergency call the Police: 999

Childline: 0800 1111

Police non-emergency: 101

NSPCC:

0808 800 5000

To report a concern:

[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Women's Aid:

0808 800 0028

Helping Hands Food

Parcels:

0121 711 7311

[familycentre@renewalcc.com](mailto:familycentre@renewalcc.com)

Registered in England as a limited company no: 4967658. Registered office:  
The Pavilion, Manor Drive, Coleshill B46 1DL



GRACE ACADEMY PRESENTS

... A NIGHT AT THE ...

# MUSICALS

**TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2017**

TICKETS £2.50 - £5 | 7PM | GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL | CHAPELHOUSE RD  
TO BOOK CALL 0121 329 4600 | EMAIL [solihull@graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:solihull@graceacademy.org.uk)

[WWW.GRACEACADEMY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.GRACEACADEMY.ORG.UK)