



# Walsall Academy Performing Arts Magazine

This is the twenty-first edition of the Performing Arts Magazine. We hope you will enjoy reading about all of the exciting and enjoyable activities and performances that have happened during the term.

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## *The Central School of Ballet*

On Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 April, we were lucky enough to welcome The Central School of Ballet here at the Academy once again. On Monday they delivered workshops to Elmore Green Primary School, Red Hill Primary Academy, Sandwell Academy and our own students during Session 3. On Tuesday morning they continued to deliver workshops to St Peter's Primary School and Thomas Telford School.

For the afternoon we were joined by Robert Maclean and Governor Stewart Roberts and were treated to a wonderful event of Ballet Central students sharing performance work that they are currently touring, and following this a Question and Answer session where we were able to gather information about their training and careers. The two-day event was an amazing experience for all to be involved in.



## *Celebration of Dance*

On Tuesday 25 June we hosted the annual Celebration of Dance here at the Academy. The evening consisted of students from Year 2 up to Year 12 and was a wonderful sharing of performances from all schools involved. It was fantastic for the younger students to see the older students perform and show them what they could progress onto in the future of Dance. Many thanks to the following schools for their involvement; Elmore Green Primary School, St Peter's Primary School, St Johns Primary School, St Francis Primary School, Barr Beacon School, Bloxwich Academy, Aldridge School and Streetly Academy. We look forward to next year's event!

## *Drama Showcase*

On Wednesday 26 June Walsall Academy's Drama Department held a showcase of performances from a range of year groups and Drama Club. This was an opportunity for students in the Drama Club and Year 7 who had not performed on the main stage, and for a live invited audience, to do so in a comfortable and supportive environment. Students gave some great performances on the night, with highlights from Holly playing the character of Oggy in John Godber's 'Teechers', Grace and Lucy giving a fantastic rendition of Noel Coward's 'Private Lives', and Katie and Jacob performing Ibsen's 'A Doll's House' with outstanding commitment. Well done to all those involved.

## *Children's University Graduation*



On Monday 8 July our Year 7 and 8 students who have been gaining hours for taking part in Session 3 activities were invited to a Graduation to celebrate their successes this year. All students have gained fantastic experiences and for some, tried lots of new and exciting activities. Notably, we had two students who gained above and beyond the amount of hours, Millie with 326 and Alex with 494. The evening was a wonderful celebration of their success.

## *Performing Arts House Event*

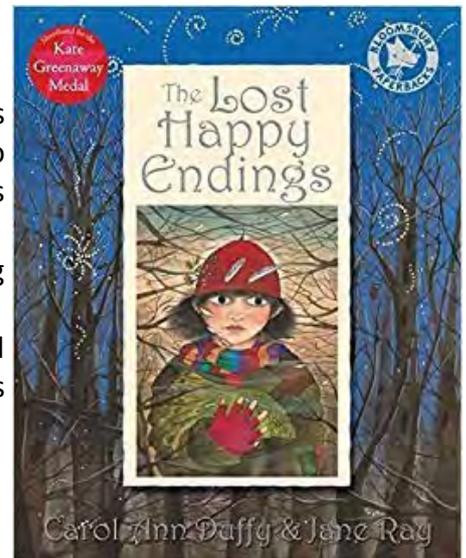
On Tuesday 9 and Friday 12 July, the Performing Arts department hosted a new and exciting Arts project with Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts students. In their lesson time they were allocated into House groups and given a musical to work on. They were required to select people to act, sing and dance and put together a short snippet of their musical ready for the judges at the end of the session. All students put in 100% effort and energy into this one-off project and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## Primary Outreach

The students at Little Bloxwich have been taught Drama alongside Religious Studies using the topic of Easter. Mime and narration was used to show the story of the garden of Gethsemane. They then moved on to performing poetry with an Easter theme. The students created a physical theatre piece that included chocolate, rabbits and holidays.

At St Peter's Mrs Pattinson is working with Year 5. This term the students are creating a variety of different performances based on their History topic 'The Tudors'. The scheme has included looking at both wealthy and poverty stricken people with a particular focus on the Aristocracy. The class have created tableaux and thought tracks based on King Henry VIII Wives as well as creating devised improvisations. Physical theatre has been used to create The Spanish Armada.

The Lost Happy Endings by Carol Ann Duffy was a fantastic resource to use in Year 2 at Lower Farm Primary School. This is a fairy tale about a childlike sprite called Jub, whose job it is to collect and distribute the happy endings for bedtime stories from the top of a tree in the forest. The class took part in a series of workshops that focussed on physical theatre creating the forest through a series of stylised movements and tableaux. The students also enjoyed creating villains. They used a variety of voices and facial expressions to make themselves appear frightening to others.



## Summer Sizzler

On Thursday 11 July we hosted our annual Sumer Sizzler event in the theatre. The event included performances from Dance and Music students and accompanied by food and drinks supplied by the Hospitality and Catering students. A wonderful, relaxing evening of enjoyable performances and refreshments.





# Performing Arts Star Students



## Key Stage 3

### Drama

Samuel is this term's star student in Drama. He is a wonderful communicator making sure he listens to everyone's ideas when working in groups. He uses his rehearsal time wisely, re-working until he reaches a very high standard but what stands out most is his ability to perform many different characters using a variety of facial expressions, different voices and gestures. Well done Sam!

### Dance

India has been selected as Star Student for Dance this term for her outstanding commitment during Session 3. India has started to create a group piece of choreography for the Christmas Concert and has taken the lead effortlessly in the group. The piece is looking fantastic and we can't wait to see it on Stage. Well done India.

### Music

Christina has made an excellent start in Music. She has worked incredibly hard in lessons and is showing a natural flair. In this current module we have been looking at rhythm and African drumming where Christina has been creative and composed an excellent piece. She has shown great team work skills while working with her group. Keep up the good work.

## Key Stage 4/5

### Drama

Lilly has been working exceptionally well in Drama on Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* for Component 2. Her effort in class has been excellent, and her grasp of the themes and content of the play has shown her to be a perceptive and inquisitive actor. Lilly has impressed with imaginative ways she has staged her initial scenes. Well done Lilly.

### Dance

Maisie is this term's Star Student for her outstanding commitment each and every lesson in all of the performance pieces that she is in. Maisie has a wonderful, energetic character and works incredibly hard in all sessions. We are looking forward to have Maisie as part of the school musical this year. Great work Maisie, keep it up!

### Music

Orla is showing a fantastic commitment to music this year. We are currently working on Unit 5 and Orla is working very well independently to improve her skills on the piano. Orla spends a lot of time doing extra practice at home which is evident in lessons, and she is clearly keen to do well this year. She will always ask for feedback to improve. Well done Orla!

# Session 3 Programme

As always, the Performing Arts Department offer a wide range of Session 3 activities for you to come and enjoy. Whatever your ability, come along and sign up - you don't need to have any previous experience! Don't forget that if you are in Year 7 or 8 you can add up hours to achieve awards through the Children's University Scheme. You need to gain 30 hours for a Bronze Award, 65 hours for a Silver Award and 100 hours for a Gold Award. A great way to be recognised for all of the fantastic activities that you have been taking part in throughout the year.



Day	Subject	Activity	Time
Monday	Dance	Kickstart Dance Company (KS3)	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Performing Arts	School Musical Rehearsals	3.30pm-5.00pm
Tuesday	Dance	Coursework Catch-up Session (KS4/5)	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Drama	Drama Club	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Performing Arts	Advanced Stage Academy	3.30pm-4.30pm
Wednesday	Drama	Unity Performance Group	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Music	KS3 Choir	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Music	KS4/5 Choir	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Dance	Coursework Catch-up Session (KS4/5)	3.30pm-4.30pm
Thursday	Dance	Exam/Performance Rehearsal	3.30pm-4.30pm
	Performing Arts	School Musical Rehearsals	3.30pm-5.00pm

## Upcoming Events

21 October—School Musical Auditions

16 December—A Hollywood Christmas





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