

Issue 5
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The
Bradford
Academy



Big Achiever



Comic Relief at Bradford Academy

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Comic Relief

On Friday 13th March, around 60 or so 6 formers braved to stay a whole night in school from 9:00pm until 8:00am the next day. The event was run by SSLT (student senior leadership team) and all the money raised would go to Comic Relief.

Students paid £4.50 for a whole night of fun activities which included: Nerf gun hide and seek, a scavenger hunt, Fifa tournaments, a bouncy castle, a professional beautician, a lot of Easter eggs and a bit too many pizzas and chips. The event ran perfectly, everyone had a great time and we raised just over £500 for the event and thanks to Natwest

bank who pledged to double our amount, in total we have raised over £1000 which we know will go to a great cause! Thank you to everyone in SSLT who spent weeks on planning the event, thank you to all the students who came and made it a success and thank you to the teachers who gave up their Friday night to stay in school we couldn't have done it without you!



We raised over
£1,500
for Comic Relief



Berlin Trip

I will be honest with you. I was not looking forward to this trip. To be frank I was dreading it. I had divided my life up into pre-Berlin and post-Berlin. Why? Good question.

Well the answer is simple. I was, am, shattered. I am not going to bleat on here about how hard teaching is as a profession. It is and I am like most of my colleagues working flat out. Organising and running trips is time consuming. It is added work. Those who doubt this should try collecting in and photocopying 47 student passports, (it took 3 months!) and this is just one of the endless admin tasks. Also there is the fear that this will be THE trip. The time that something goes wrong. It hasn't happened in nearly twenty years of running educational visits, but that is the issue. The law of averages suggest that I should have lost 2.3 children by now!! That fear is real and leads to some "cold sweat" moments in the dark of the night. I sit on the edge of my bed and ask why do I put myself through this?

The answer though is fortunately simple. Educational visits are the single most impactful thing I can do for my students. They change lives, broaden experience, raise expectations, and challenge prejudice. They are unforgettable, staying with us forever. This can be Kieran who is going on an aeroplane for the first time, or Theresa who tries sauerkraut and hates it, or Emily, Pippi, Eunice and Olivia who sit together in a restaurant and order a meal, Isaac who sees the links in a museum in Germany with books he has read and essays he has written. It can be Saania who finally gets the "Iron Curtain" because she is

stood at the Berlin Wall looking across "no man's land". It can be Saul who is managing his spending money, Kelsey discussing with reception about a lost room key. It is even Chloe trying Burger King over McDonalds. Above all it is our young adults exploring what it means to be responsible. To have trust as a commodity which can be earned, spent and lost.

The [History](#) is important, of course it is. This trip focused on Life in Nazi Germany and the Cold War. Two events which have moved across our world like glaciers carving out the landscape we see around us. Berlin was a divided city. Being a Berliner in the last 80 years has not been easy. The city is coming to terms with its history and history is coming to terms with Berlin and Germany. Its failures are more public than other countries and cities. Berlin is a morality tale in stone and blood about where history can lead us and it is a warning to the present generation. Look what we did. Look how we were punished. Look what we can achieve if we avoid the darkness.

Take for a moment the personal history and experience of one student on the trip. Anastasia is a 15 year old girl of Russian heritage from Latvia. Her country of birth has been shaped and reshaped by the grinding movement of the tectonic plates of history. Her life whether she realises it or not, like all our lives has been shaped by the Cold War. Latvia, part of the Russian Empire, gained its independence for a fleeting time between the First and Second World Wars. The country was occupied by the Communist Soviet Union in 1940, and then the Nazis brutally invaded Latvia in 1941 before the Red Army returned in 1944 and stayed until 1989. Latvia has been shaped by rival ideologies: Fascism, Communism and Capitalism for the last century. Anastasia is on the trip because her



family came to a [City](#) in the UK seeking a better life. Anastasia an A grade student is visiting Berlin as part of her studies into a period in [History](#) which has helped define her. On Tuesday March 31st, this Russian Latvian Bradford based teenager found herself in the heart of Germany, the Reichstag, translating Russian Cyrillic graffiti left by victorious Red Army soldiers for her school friends. This is [History](#) alive and at work; it is not dusty dry pages in a book it is stood speaking awkwardly and self consciously in front of us.

Take another example: Dominika is a hard working and friendly 14 year old who originates in Poland. Again, like Anastasia, her family have settled in this part of the European Union seeking greater opportunities for their family. Poland, like Latvia, suffered at the hands of the historical rivalries between political ideologies that led to the murder of an estimated fifth of the Polish population. Racial hatred, prejudice and fear have real consequences. People die. People kill. People suffer. Dominika may not be aware of this history. She may not carry the wounds





image at 226%

logo at 195%

X-Factor star delivers cyberbullying message

For the second year running Bradford Academy managed to secure the services of a professionally singer to perform for our learners.

After the success of Harper last year the anticipation was high as the learners waited to find out who would be performing a mini concert for them this year.

Our KS2 learners, Years 7 and 8 were not to be disappointed as Mr Wells introduced Danny Dearden, a singer who reached Mel B's judges house in the most recent series of The X-Factor.

Danny was here to sing live and to entertain, however he also had an important message to deliver – a message which impacts learners in our academy, in Bradford and all over the world in the twenty first century - cyberbullying. Danny reinforced the messages our learners receive in school about staying safe online and spoke first-hand about his personal experiences.

The concert was finished with his Danny's rendition of Mark Ronson's Uptown Funk, which had every learner, and member of staff on their feet begging for more.

These important messages are being revisited in home teams this half term.



of her nation. She certainly doesn't appear to as she sits at the dinner table with her friends Hiba, Nida, Saania and Olivia eating Pizza. Look carefully at this picture: here are 5 Bradford friends enjoying life. Does it matter to them that they are individuals of different races, religions, cultures and countries? Those in our country who have a narrow cultural view of what it means to be British should be forced to explain why these wonderful members of our community, who work hard and engage are somehow, in some way less. This is the perfect antidote to the history of hatred that has shaped Berlin and the Cold War.

This is why history is important. It shows us that those politicians who use fear and hatred to divide us have consequences. The German Parliament in Berlin is surrounded by monuments to the victims of this kind of thinking: Jews, anti-fascists, homosexuals, Gypsies, Allied soldiers and Anastasia's Cyrillic graffiti. All put there to remind the Germans and us of the real results of this kind of division in the past, present and future.

The trip ended. I knew it would. Each day seemed really long, but the trip itself seemed to be over in the blink of an eye. Students complaining on the one hand how they missed their family, their dog and most commonly their own beds, also wistfully asked for just one more night. Tired teenagers talking all the way from Berlin to Bradford when their staff slept because they wanted to enjoy every last second with their friends. That is what they will remember. Time with friends for they can remember a few facts for their History exam even better!





'He's Behind You'

Year 11 Performing arts Acting Students Perform 'Captain Hook's Revenge'

On the afternoon of Thursday 5th March Year 11 Performing Arts acting learners, presented their examination performance of the pantomime 'Captain Hook's Revenge' to a packed out audience of parents, staff and primary Beavers. The show told the famous story of the boy hero Peter Pan and his arch enemy, the dastardly Captain Hook. Hook seeks his revenge on Peter by getting his side-kicks Smee and Sharkey to kidnap the Red Indian princess Tiger-Lily and by stealing the voice of the grumpy fairy 'Tinkerbell.' Peter Pan comes to their rescue helped by the Darling family, Wendy, Michael and the pantomime dame, Dotty Darling.

Full of traditional fun and laughter, the show had all of the usual ingredients of a family pantomime. The audience were encouraged to boo and hiss the evil Captain Hook, played with real attitude and swagger by Sheanesu Rangwani. They cheered the hero Peter Pan, played by Megan Hartshorne and laughed out loud at the silly antics of the dopey Smee, played with real flair and comic timing by Kieran Darbey.

Another memorable performance came from Rajan Dhillon as the very butch Dotty Darling. Rajan managed to carry off wearing a dress and blonde wig while sporting his own full beard and matching hairy legs. His exploding 'boobs' brought the house down! Also, a special mention must go to Haris Khan, who played his role as a pirate with real gusto – arrgghh!

The learners had spent many weeks not only scripting parts of the play and rehearsing their lines, but also holding regular production meetings and organising everything needed to stage a production, from booking the venue to ensuring lighting, sound, set and costume were produced and ready for the show run. The pantomime saw the cast give of their free time to attend planning electives and to attend weekend and holiday rehearsals.

They were 100% committed to achieving their very best and are to be congratulated for the fantastic effort and professionalism of the final result. Well done Year 11!

World Book Day

At the beginning of March, Primary joined in Bradford Academy's celebrations for World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters and spending time enjoying our favourite books.

We began with a whole school assembly to introduce our plans for the day. Every teacher spoke their favourite book character and the primary hall was decorated as a Peter Pan set to create a magical atmosphere for our children.

Throughout the day the learners took part in 'Extreme Reading'. They listened to stories in very unusual and exciting places such as the school minibus, a tent, the MUGA and Mr Dawkins office! They even got to listen to a story in Miss Scourfield's jeep!

This was a great day for promoting fantastic books and reading.



image at 175%

Maths Conference 2015

On Friday 6th and Monday 9th February the Maths department at Bradford Academy held a Most Able Math Conference. This was an all-day event which had 35 Year 7's (Monday) and 55 Year 8's (Friday). The learners worked in groups to creatively problem solve and test some preconceived theories about graphs and how we can use them to recognise and map the relationship between time and distance.

The experiment was called "Project Runway" and used a fundamentally simple science experiment to measure the time it took to walk the 10m runway. The groups of learners were asked to create some mathematically minded hypothesis eg: the slope of the line will be steeper the faster the person walked the runway, the graphs will look like straight lines, a graph with a curve will indicate that someone started walking very slowly and got faster as they got to the end of the runway etc. Lewis Godsmans 'Uptown funk walk' was entertaining the crowd's while Grace Marsden's quick walk meant her slope was sky high.

These walks were then plotted on a graph and learners were asked to demonstrate their mathematical modelling skills by plotting and describing linear graphs using equations. We also looked at the effect of speed and what that looked like on the graph and its slope.

All learners had a fantastic time and have been asking when the next challenge will be... hopefully soon Year 7 and 8!

Paralympics

The ever increasingly popular Paralympics took place again on Wednesday 28th January during period 5 in the sports hall.

Learners participated in five different activities and put in inspirational performances to please their Heads of House and earn points that could be crucial when the awards are given out at the Night of a Thousand stars in July.

Over 30 learners participated in the penalty shoot out, ten pin rolling, Kurling, Velcro Target, drop and table tennis cup shot. The atmosphere was electric, the standard on show was elite level and the fun factor was unbeatable.

reword last 3 lines? 'was' used 3 times in a row

Sophia Kimboko, Iyanna Baig, Kyla Brown, John Paul Stevenson, James McNamara and Shontay Cory were the Primary learners that lit up the competition with their amazing efforts. Sophia was scoring perfect penalties, Iyanna tore away the ten pins, Kyla and John Paul were cool Kurlers, James was a true champ at table tennis and Shontay threw her way to victory in the Velcro target drop.

All learners were sensational and their enthusiasm and endeavour ensure that the event continues to go from strength to strength. All learners were awarded a House Medal to reward their contributions. Nicole Bowers and Haris Khan showed they will have what it takes to face the media with their humour and charisma. The event is a massive reflection of the talent we have in Bradford Academy.

Mr Todd





Nursery Birds of Prey

In nursery this half term's topic is "Whatever Next!" by Jill Murphy. As part of this topic we are studying owls and birds of prey. We were very lucky to have a visit from Chris at SMJ Falconry. Chris brought a selection of birds in to nursery for us to meet and he gave us lots of information about these birds. We were given the opportunity to wear a safety glove and hold the owl if we wanted to and we had lots of brave volunteers!



Primary Firebird Week

On Monday the 9th of March, Primary were lucky enough to be visited by Saviour Pirotta, a world class and award winning author. Saviour is famous for writing books such as Firebird, A Seed in Need and Around the World in 80 Tales. Saviour is originally from Malta however he is now based in Yorkshire, England (aren't we lucky?).

During Saviour's visit to Bradford Academy he visited the children in their classrooms and told interesting and amusing tales about his childhood, growing up in Malta. He made the children laugh with his stories about his 'Granny' and the mischief he got up to as a young boy. As well as making the children laugh, he captivated them with his enthusiasm for writing and reading. He spoke to them about what it is to be a writer and the processes he goes through to produce his books. The children were able to ask Saviour questions about how or where he found inspiration for his book 'Firebird', how long it took to write and how he worked with the illustrator to produce the beautiful images that run alongside the text.

should instances of 'children' be changed to 'learner' in this article?

After Saviour's visit the children were left excited and their interest in his book 'Firebird' was raised which was a perfect way to start our 'Firebird Week'. The week involved the children taking part in many activities in all different areas of the curriculum. During science the children experimented with different wing types and how wings affected their speed when running across the playground. In maths, they used the data they had collected to plot their findings onto a graph. During literacy some children retold the story and produce a giant comic strip. Fiona Dixon helped the children to produce their own model Firebird and encouraged them to experiment using different materials for different parts of its body. Finally, Rob Savage and Miss Mitchell linked the children's work to the music and dancing in the Firebird ballet. To celebrate, the children invited their parents into school to look at all their amazing work!

This week helped all of our primary children to become engaged, excited and to develop an in-depth understanding of a very complex text. This was both a successful and rewarding week for all of our primary learners.

