



SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome message from Miss King

It has been a pleasure to be at Sybil Andrews Academy for my first half term and to work alongside teachers, governors and students. It has also been great to have had the opportunity to meet lots of parents via events such as Progress Appraisal Day and the Parents Forum.

Having been a new school, Sybil Andrews has a great investment from those who were there from its conception to those, like myself, who have joined along the way. This edition of Spotlight gives examples of some of the many events and activities that have taken place both inside and outside of the Academy. We are very proud of our students' achievements in school and I hope you enjoy reading all about them.

As we prepare to welcome our new Year 7 students, who join us for four induction days at the end of term, we are currently considering the tweaks or changes we will need to make to ensure that the school is ready for its increasing numbers. This is an exciting time as we will be welcoming many new staff who are eager to join us as we expand. They bring with them a wealth of expertise and experience and will compliment the current team.

This summer phase two of our building plan also starts. This will see the foundations of Teaching Block 2 being dug over the summer holidays and the new block is due to be ready by September 2019.

Finally, it is my job to ensure that Sybil Andrews Academy continues to develop as a school and retains the best values about being a small school, whilst also expanding. Fundamentally we want to continue the journey towards students gaining an outstanding quality of education, in a place that they are proud to call our school.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Spotlight and I look forward to welcoming you to the Academy soon.

Miss T King
Principal



Maths Matters



The last few months have seen our first ever Numeracy week themed around 'Pi Day' which was part of our whole school drive to raise both the profile and importance of maths/numeracy across the school and included a pi photo and poster competition and discussions during meeting time. Well done to all students who took part! There have been numerous Maths challenge events this year. Firstly, Ben, Tyler, Emily and Charlie (Year 8) participated in the UKMT team competition in Framlingham before 100 Year 7 and 8 Pupils were joined by 25 Year 6 pupils from Sebert Wood and Abbots Green to take the Individual Junior Maths Challenge. All pupils demonstrated valiant effort and numerous certificates were awarded with 3 pupils qualifying for the next round, the Junior Kangaroo! Here is a question for you to have a go at: Billy has three times as many llamas as lambs. Milly has twice as many lambs as llamas. They have 17 animals in total. How many of the animals are llamas? *(For the answer, please ask Mr Tanner)!*

Science & STEM

STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) provides an exciting time both globally and for students. At Sybil Andrews we aim to offer different opportunities for students to experience STEM. We aim for students to understand the opportunities available at Further Education and beyond. Previously, we have had students visiting Culford School to engage with Engineering experiences, run robotics and programming programs and had enrichment opportunities for students to engage with activities. During this term, we visited West Suffolk College where students completed science challenges, completed tours of the engineering workshops/campus and finally used Virtual Reality headsets to trial new technologies and experiences.



Community Partnerships

SAA Visit Moyse's Hall Museum



In May, Sybil Andrews Academy was incredibly lucky to visit Moyse's Hall Museum to view the Sybil Andrews Art exhibition and also take part in a Horrible Histories tour. Students from all four year groups were invited to participate in these visits and enjoyed learning about the life and work of Sybil Andrews, whilst also hearing some fun and gruesome facts about Horrible Histories. The museum staff were an incredible help and delivered interesting and knowledgeable tours that were orchestrated over four separate days. Students discovered a great deal about the life and work of the very inspirational lady after whom our school is named, they were then transported back in time whilst experiencing smells from the past!

Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the tours and it was a wonderful experience to be able to collaborate with Moyse's Hall which is such an important part of our community. We would like to sincerely thank Mr Trevor Beckwith, County Councillor, for providing the funding to transport all of our students to and from the museum, this really wouldn't have been possible without the local Councils valuable contribution. We would also like to thank the enthusiastic staff at Moyse's Hall for their time, support, and for welcoming us into their beautiful and very interesting building.



SAA Students are all Heart!

Earlier this school year, Students from our Duke of Edinburgh team, School Council and Sports Leaders, spent valuable time with Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, learning and practising CPR.

This training was worth every second, as it helped our students to understand the importance of how to save a life and more importantly, how to do it accurately and quickly.

The team from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, delivered the crucial information on saving lives and then, with the aid of CPR Mannequins, showed our students how to do CPR correctly and calmly. It was incredible to then watch as our students practiced over and over on the mannequins until each one of them felt confident that they could carry out the necessary process that CPR requires to maybe, one day, help save a life!

Our grateful thanks go to the Suffolk Accident Rescue team for delivering this very important and potentially life saving training, and we very much hope that this is a partnership that we can continue to build on in the future.



It's all been happening in the Arts!

Mind the Gap Competition

Over 100 Year 8 students have been hard at work in their art classes re-imagining the work of Sybil Andrews and designing posters based on the work of our namesake. Students were invited to think about how railway posters were used to attract tourists to towns and cities and produce a design to promote Bury St Edmunds. They responded to the Sybil Andrews railway poster designs which were commissioned by London Transport in the 1920's and 30's.

The students' designs were entered into a competition and one design created by MJ (Year 8) was selected to be produced into a panel on the Cambridge-bound platform at Bury St Edmunds' train station. The competition and the panels were related to an exhibition, produced by Smiths Row at Moyses Hall Museum, who received a National Lottery grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) made possible by money raised by National Lottery players.



The superb linocut poster designs produced by students were judged by Natalie Pace (Curator at Smiths Row) and Hannah Nield (Head of Art at Sybil Andrews Academy) in terms of creative technique and content.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for our students here at Sybil Andrews Academy. We have delighted in producing art work that not only responds to the rail poster designs commissioned in the 1920's and 30's but also to the artist after which our school is named. We were very proud to be part of the project and the work produced by our students represents our history, our community and is a reflection of what Bury St Edmunds means to us.

Artist in Residency Project



The school's link with the arts continued with special birthday celebrations designed to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Bury Arts Society, which were launched through a special collaboration with a local artist and students from Sybil Andrews Academy. The Arts Society Bury St Edmunds, used their milestone to team up with Sybil Andrews Academy and offer students a fantastic opportunity to learn from a Suffolk artist during a two-week residency.

Mixed media landscape artist Alfie Carpenter worked closely with students from across the school to create an eye-catching mural which has been hung in the school hall as a permanent landmark celebrating the Arts Society's 50th anniversary.



Mary Payne, of the Arts Society commented that they were "delighted to be working with the school – which was an outstanding choice given the international fame of the artist Sybil Andrews". Encouraging an interest in the arts among young people is a primary objective of The Arts Society and this collaboration has produced feature works by the students and the artist, which has enriched the academy building.

The project called 'Our View', has featured interpretations of Suffolk landscapes from a young person's perspective and we were delighted to have the support of the Arts Society in enabling our students to respond to their view of Suffolk.



This residency culminated in a celebration event that showcased the work produced not only by students but by Alfie himself. Students were invited to bring their parents to see their work alongside the members of the Bury Arts Society. This provided the school with the opportunity to engage the local community with our students. Parents had the privilege to not only view the amazing artwork, but also to talk to the members of the Bury Arts Society as well as meeting the Mayor of St Edmundsbury.

It was a fantastic opportunity to have Alfie in school and this amazing project gave students a real-life opportunity to engage with artists, to learn from them and see what it really takes to be an artist. There was a huge sense of pride and achievement when they saw their work exhibited.

Miss Nield quoted, "what an incredible experience it has been involving students in projects that allow them to develop their creative skills alongside professionals working within industry and the local community. It has been our pleasure to work with such fantastic people and we look forward to all future collaborations in the future."

Sybil Andrews 120th Birthday Celebration

Thursday 19th April marked the very special 120th Birthday of Sybil Andrews and there was no better way than to celebrate it than by meeting some of her family. For the first time ever, extended cousin's of Sybil Andrews had arranged to meet at Moyses Hall Museum to celebrate the life and work of their very inspirational ancestor and we were very delighted to be invited along to join them.

Student Ambassadors, Staff and Paul Raynor our Chair of Governors, attended the museum to view the exceptional artwork of Sybil, and there we were also incredibly appreciative of being donated an old exhibition poster that Sybil herself once owned entitled 'Racing'. It was a pleasure to then welcome the family back to the Academy for a light lunch and to see where the poster was going to be displayed. We feel very honoured to be the final home for this poster and have, in its honour, created a wall which we are now calling 'Sybil's Corner'. This hosts various prints, information on her life and there is also a signed book by Author 'Hanna Leaper' which is based on Sybil Andrews beautiful linocuts.

We would like to thank her cousins, in particular Mr Andrew Gough, who made contact with the school and for celebrating this very special birthday with us. The donation of the incredible poster 'Racing' has already taken its special place and become part of the history of Sybil Andrews Academy.



Staff in the Spotlight

Mr James Mason - Vice Principal & Teacher of PE



I believe an outstanding education gives our students the opportunity to achieve their full potential, ensuring that they are successful and leave us with good morals and values. I believe that education plays a vital role in shaping how future generations contribute to society in a positive way. 'You have no idea what you're capable of until you try.'

Every student should be encouraged to take risks in their learning, overcome challenges they face and believe that anything is possible. This is key to the creation of confident individuals who can thrive and shape their own future.

I was educated at De Montfort University, in the city of Bedfordshire, where I achieved a BA Hons in Physical Education with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). During my time at university I spent time in America coaching children football from primary school-age all the way up to sixth form level. This was a fantastic opportunity to spend time with different families, learning a range of ways to engage children in physical activity and passing on my passion for sport to them.

To work at Sybil Andrews Academy was an exciting opportunity for me; to start a school from the very beginning, to watch it grow to its full capacity, create a positive culture and to be part of something new, whilst also offering me my own career progression. Part of my role at Sybil Andrews is overseeing the pastoral team supporting them in making sure students make positive choices, feel safe in school and help break down the barriers that some have towards school to help them fulfil their potential. When I am not working I enjoy playing football, going to the gym, playing golf and spending time with my family. Don't count the days, make the days count.' Muhammad Ali

Forest Schools

We have continued to build our wonderful relationship with the Green Light Trust, who come into school once a week to deliver various outdoor activities to enrich our students social and outdoor life skills.

Each week activities differ, ranging from lighting a fire safely, cooking breakfast, making popcorn, climbing trees, hanging from hammocks, balancing and building dens. Students are always very excited to share in their experiences when they return to school.

It is clear to see just what an impact this enriching experience has on our young people, increasing their confidence and learning to work in a team.



Trust Sport



In May three schools across the Samuel Ward Academy Trust competed in our first ever Trust competition for cheerleading and dance. All the girls who participated in the event, performed in front of judges and many parents.

A range of disciplines from cheerleading to Contemporary Dance were performed. Performing, were our Year 9 BTEC dancers and our very own SAA Starlets. Students were judged on a variety of skills including showmanship and creativity.

Congratulations to Newmarket Academy who took first place and a special mention to Jasmine (Year 7) and Jessica (Year 8) who both won the 'Stand Out Performer' awards.

International Connections

Holland College Sports Tournament Budding teachers in the making!

At Sybil Andrews Academy we always continue to strive to develop our international relationships. In April we welcomed students from Staring College, Holland to host a sports tournament that involved Netball and a game of five-a-side Football. Our year 9 students represented the school superbly, introducing our new friends to two of our most popular sports games.



As part of our Leadership offer, we were delighted to take eleven of our Language Leaders to Sebert Wood Primary School where they delivered a series of three lessons in French to Year 5 students. As part of the activity, our Language Leaders spent time planning and resourcing their lessons and even had to deliver these in front of their class teachers in a practise lesson. Despite some initial nerves, our Language Leaders were a huge credit to themselves and feedback from the Year 5 students and their class teacher was overwhelmingly positive. Bravo les ambassadeurs de langues!

International Schools Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Intermediate International Schools Award for the international links we have already managed to establish in our first 18 months as a school. Our projects, to name but a few, have included a French penpal letter exchange, Kenya Enrichment Day, visits from Belarusian children supported via Chernobyl Children's Lifeline and our two-day visit from the Shanghai Music Bay Learning Center. A big thank you to all the staff and students involved and for their enthusiasm in forging so many international links.

Performing Arts from across the Globe

Earlier this year, we were very pleased to play host to seven students and two teachers from the Shanghai Music Bay Learning Center, who visited us for two days to experience life in a British school. Our Language Leaders were outstanding hosts during the visit, touring our visitors around the school and ensuring they gained hands-on experience of different lessons.



Mrs Tabrar and Ms James hosted an inspiring performing arts workshop in which our Performing Arts Ambassadors worked alongside our Chinese visitors to produce music to compliment a mime sketch. Many of our students participated in a Mandarin workshop where they got the opportunity to learn some basic words and phrases. The two-day visit culminated with an impressive showcase of dance, music and drama from our Chinese visitors. We are looking forward to developing our cross-curricular links with this partner school in coming years.

Star Performers

...Beyond the classroom

Scouts lead the way

At Sybil Andrews Academy our students out of school achievements never go unnoticed and we love hearing what they have been up to.

One accomplishment in particular has come up a few times this year and that is for the 'Chief Gold Scout Award'.

This award is incredibly difficult to achieve, including one of the challenges being a weekend camping and hiking expedition that saw (Year 9) students, Poppy-Mai and Emily walk 17 miles whilst carrying their own 65 litre rucksacks. Both girls completed their task, coming 2nd place in the whole event! Other students that have also excelled in this challenge have been Joe and Ben (Year 9), who both completed a similar expedition, accomplishing a 2 day hike walking from West Stow to Honington Base and then walking to Euston the very next day! All students have received the prestigious 'Chief Gold Scout Award' for their years of Scouting dedication, hard work and leadership skills and we couldn't be prouder of them all. Well done!



Success at the track!



Lewis (Year 8) has been certainly been keeping busy, competing in numerous Cross Country competitions and steaming ahead with incredible results. Lewis, only thirteen, is currently third overall in the country for his age in the Run Britain Ranking. He has won the three qualifiers prior to the Anglian Champions Cross Country and went on to win the Anglian, therefore qualifying him to run for English Schools in Leeds. At English Schools he came ninth overall in an under 15 race and first in his age group, and this made him a reserve for the England Team!!

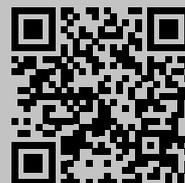
Not stopping there, Lewis has also achieved much more this year, including, a British Athletes Cross Challenge series silver medal, gaining fourth place at the London Marathon and second place in the country for his 1500 meters time so far!

Huge congratulations go to Lewis for his continued accomplishments and for having such inspirational dedication. We look forward to what happens next!



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