



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Parent/Carer,

After a strong start back after half term, I am writing to share a range of recent positive news from Magna.

Tesco Community Grant

You will all be pleased to hear that, due to Mr Cohen's entrepreneurial spirit, the Academy has been successful in winning the Tesco Community Grant that ran from October to mid January in all the Tesco stores in the local area. Many thanks to all of you who asked for an extra token or ten at the checkout and spread the word to friends and family through the community. The IT and Media department now has £1,500 to put towards some exciting new robotics equipment.

UK Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust's charitable aim is to advance the education of young people in mathematics. The biggest competitions are the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenges. Each year, Magna Academy enters a cohort of students for the relevant UKMT challenge. Year 9 and 10 sat the Intermediate Challenge on 2nd February. This was a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience. Seventeen students achieved an award and the top scorer, Volodymyr Pereva, achieved a Gold Award and an invitation onto the next round in the competition, which marks him out as being in the top 5% of entrants across the country.

Guest Speaker Feedback

Magna Academy welcomes many guest speakers to enrich the education of our students and, on Friday 10th February, we were delighted to welcome Jordan from Kier Infrastructure. Kier Infrastructure is a company that runs many complex engineering projects across the UK. Jordan ran a workshop with Year 10 students, where they used their problem solving skills to discuss what would be involved in the hypothetical task of planning a second runway at Bournemouth Airport. Jordan was extremely "impressed" with our students as they were well informed on current national concerns, for example noise pollution and the impact a second runway would have on the



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environment. Jordan commented on how the students were “fully engaged with the task and asked pertinent questions to further their understanding”.

Creative Writing Winners

On the previous day of industrial action, we asked students to complete a piece of creative writing. We were impressed with all submissions and extremely pleased with the effort that students had clearly made with their English work. The English team have read all pieces and have selected winners for the most creative writing - well done to the following students who will receive a book of their choice as a prize in recognition of their excellent efforts:

Fin Roberts Y9
Hayden Bennett Y9
Jessica Crayton Y7
Jack Dennis Y7
Rae Johnstone Y7
Molly Marande Y7
Teejay Bennett Y8

Examination Year Groups

As ever, we are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and 13 students who are now sitting their second series of mock examinations. In preparation for these important assessments, over three quarters of students have attended raising achievement sessions after the academy day and over 50% attended raising achievement sessions over the half term break. This is testament to their determination and positive attitudes to succeed. We thank them for being such inspirational role models to the rest of the academy and are excited to celebrate their success with them in the summer.

Shrek Junior

Shrek Junior rehearsals are picking up pace: the cast is sounding great and [tickets are on general sale now](#). The performances for Shrek Jr are on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March, with a performance for local Junior schools on the 28th as well.

Bandstorm Competition

Serenity, one of our Year 11 bands (who won the 2022 Magna's Got Talent competition), are through to the next round of heats for the county-wide 'Bandstorm' competition. They are one of fifteen bands from across Dorset who are through, and five will be going through to the Grand Final event at The Old Fire Station in Bournemouth on Tuesday 25th April (from 6pm). We are looking forward to seeing if they get through to the final and wish them the best of luck.

Sixth Form Update

Two Year 12 students, Emma and Zuzanna, have just returned from the latest Aspirations NASA trip to Florida. The trip lasted 7 days and covered all aspects of the NASA space station alongside other space related industries/activities. The trip also included: a behind the scenes tour of Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) including The Vehicle Assembly Building and the Launch Command Centre; a presentation and Q&A session with Kwatsi Alibaruho, Senior Vice President of Mission, Launch and Recovery Operations, at Sierra Space; a full day at the KSC visitors centre; and compressed rocket

building and testing with Grade 6 students at a local Elementary school. The trip culminated in a midnight SpaceX rocket launch viewed from Cocoa Beach, just a 5 minute stroll from the hotel.

In other Sixth Form news, Lily and Eve organised two fundraising activities for the Zanzibar trip happening in summer 2024. They held a Year 7 Disco and a Key Stage three movie night - the two events combined raised £300.

On Wednesday 23rd February, the Sixth Form held a cake and hot chocolate sale. They raised £150 which will be donated to the Red Cross Turkey - Syria earthquake appeal.

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

Year 12 AED students have been working with Onwave Technology based in London. The company is a Digital Technology and Connectivity business working with national and global partners. Our students were set a challenge by the COO and Technical Account Manager, requiring them to be Project Development Engineers. The question asked: what geofencing could be used for (further to the uses already employed by Onwave); what other industry sectors could use it and how would it help them; and what problems could geofencing solve? Following the project research and presentations given, I am delighted to tell you that Emma, Amelia and Lauren won the challenge. They will now go forward to the presentation finals at Rivers Academy on March 13th, where they will face other students who have designed and created projects from other Academies in our Trust.

We are very proud of both our students and staff who continue to go above and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Ullah
Principal