

The Entrepreneur

Spring 2011



Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Produced by Academy students

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It's time to party!

Picture perfect!



DACA's Art Gallery, set up by the students, has been going from strength to strength.

Based in Market Street, in the centre of Darwen, it has recently played host to its first workshops and exhibitions, featuring work by local artists and DACA students. It has expanded the range of products to include handcrafted jewellery, soaps and bath bombs made from essential oils, and Fairtrade items such as luxury, handmade, recycled wrapping paper.

Catherine Jackman, Gallery Manager said: "DART has lots of interesting art and gifts from a range of young and local artists. We're keen to host more art workshops and classes for the community. If you're interested in running a class or taking part, please let us know. We're open 11am to 4.30pm everyday except Tuesday and Sunday and you're sure to find a special gift for every occasion."

As well as the recent Vintage Valentines exhibition, the gallery also curated an exhibition called Darwen's Heritage, combining art work by DACA students and local photographer, Matt Donnelly. It aimed to reflect the beauty and diversity of Darwen and its surrounding landscape. For updates on the



gallery you can 'like' The Dart Gallery Darwen on Facebook and follow @TheDartGallery on Twitter. **Pictured is the Lady Mayoress with guests at the gallery.**

Marathon Man

By Hannah Forster

Marcus Chester, an English teacher at DACA, is taking part in the Windermere Marathon.

The 26.2 mile road race is taking place on Sunday 22nd May and it encounters some very hilly conditions, starting in Ambleside and continuing round Lake Windermere. It is organised by the Brathay Trust who do fantastic work teaching leadership skills to disadvantaged students, particularly those who may be facing exclusion from school.

Marcus has worked with this charity before and can vouch for the worthwhile work they do. He is keen to support them again and says he enjoys the challenge that this course creates. To prepare for the big day, he has to be extremely dedicated, running every day and getting up early on Saturday mornings to do a big run.

Marcus will also be leading some school assemblies to raise awareness of the cause and also the event. It is hoped this will result in sponsorship and we encourage everyone to support Marcus and the Brathay Trust.



Meet our press gang



These DACA students have edited this edition of The Entrepreneur.

We welcome back to the team Hannah Forster and Qachina McKeefry. Our new members are: Robin Ellison, Daniel Conway, Ronan Kay, Christina Horrocks, Robert Tait, George Ashton, Georgia Walsh, Alice Eden, Jake Fellowes, Ann-Marie Rong, Hayden Sledge-Manser, Morris Langman, Matthew Dodds and Jacob Pilkington.

Helping to produce The Entrepreneur requires dedication, independent research and, most importantly, people skills. Not only does The Entrepreneur act as a fun and exciting project, but it also helps to teach essential entrepreneurial expertise. If you think you are a budding reporter and would like to build your entrepreneur portfolio, then join our team. We will be recruiting new members in April, so feel free to come along!

The team welcomes comments and suggestions from members of the community. Local businesses can also advertise in The Entrepreneur. To contact us, please address your email or letter to The Entrepreneur at the Academy address above.

The team are pictured with staff (back row l to r) Miss Graham-Dickinson, Miss Tumelty and Entrepreneurship Projects Co-ordinator, Mrs Lewin.

The Italian Job

By Jake Fellowes

DACA students have recently been skiing in the pristine white Italian Alps.

The group travelled to Dover, caught the evening ferry and set off on the overnight coach journey through France, before passing through the Mont Blanc Tunnel and arriving in Italy. Accommodation was at the Hotel Roma in the Aosta Valley resort where Interski provided skis, boards, poles and boots.

The skiing was amazing and racing down the slopes was a real adrenalin rush. The views, while eating lunch on the mountainside, were astonishing. The students also enjoyed using the bowling complex and the disco area. The food was excellent (although Mr Worthington joked it had been good with outstanding features).



Our students represent the Academy at home and abroad where they impress with their behaviour and attitude. The ski trip has inspired lots of students to achieve so that they can go on these once-in-a-life time adventures. Those taking part had a brilliant time and would like to thank Mr Pearson and the staff for organising the trip.

See page 2 for more pictures.



Pod Spotlight: Link Promotions

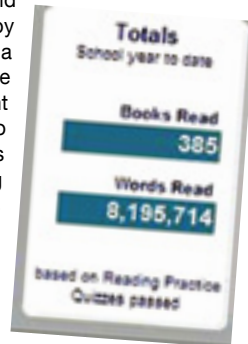


Read all about it!



Many DACA students are currently leading the Accelerated Reader programme.

It is designed to motivate them to read by guiding them to books that are just right for their age group and rewarding their progress. Students can build on their reading skills and discover they enjoy reading. This gives them a second chance to become confident, independent readers. Parents can also keep track of their child's progress by accessing the Accelerated Reader's HomeConnect website, using the information provided by the Academy.



Link Promotions were one of the first businesses to move into a Darwen Creates Office Pod.

Set up just over a year ago by Liam Brindle (25) and Nik Connor (23), both from Darwen, the business has grown steadily. They felt it was time to move out of the spare room and into their first office (where they are pictured). Here, they give an account of their business experiences so far:

What is your business?

We are an advertising company that deal with all aspects of advertising from leaflet, logo and banner design to web design and search engine optimization.

How and why did you set it up?

We both used to work for an advertising company in Darwen. After gaining experience and working together for some time, we discussed the idea of starting our own company so we could make decisions ourselves. It took a couple of months to get set up, but as soon as we had everything in place, we left the company and began working for ourselves.

What challenges have you faced?

We feel that every day in business offers a

different challenge but the main challenges we have faced so far have been: leaving well paid employment, dealing with customers, working from home and motivating ourselves and our staff.

Who has helped you to establish the business?

We'd had very little help in starting the business. When we had been established for a year we decided it was time to get an office to push the business forward. Having seen the space at Darwen Creates we jumped at the opportunity and really appreciate what we have here.

What do you enjoy most about running your business?

The fact that we rely on nobody but ourselves. We earn our own money and we motivate ourselves.

In previous employment, we had felt unappreciated. Now we both appreciate and respect everything that we do.

What advice would you give to entrepreneurs about to start up?

Take your time, get everything in place, make the process of setting up as smooth as possible. Make sure that you have sufficient funding and enjoy yourself. If you're not having a good time it isn't worth it!

How can we find out more about your business?

You can email Liam on lb@linkpromotions.net

Are you Darwen's next star?

By Ronan Kay and Christina Horrocks

Search for a Star judges are going to primary and secondary schools to audition children with talent.

The Grand Finale will be held at DACA and parents, children and adults can come along and watch. The judges pick the top three acts and the audience decides the ultimate winner, using voting pods. The winners from last year's competition will perform at the final. The lucky winner gets to perform at the Darwen Live Music Festival, which will be the third year of Search for a Star.

Do you have what it takes to be Darwen's next star? You can enter the competition on you own or in a group. If you would like more information please contact one of the teachers involved or refer to our website: www.daca.uk.com



Help to start a business

By Morris Langman

Darwen Creates, the business incubation centre at DACA, has been extremely popular with the local community since its launch last October.

The project, which provides space, support and advice to help people start a business, is already working with dozens of people developing a wide range of businesses.

The Darwen Creates team have also been delivering evening classes in starting a business. They are developing a new workshop programme with local businesses in a range of topics from marketing to basic book-keeping.

As well as supporting the workshop programme, many local business people have volunteered to mentor young people and new entrepreneurs, through their business start-up journey. Even DACA students are starting to support businesses working with Darwen Creates. A Year 10 Graphics class are designing the brand identity for a new local news website called Darwen Times.

Max Larcombe, Darwen Creates Project Manager said: "We're getting lots of enquiries from people across Darwen interested in starting a business. From Dog Grooming to

Web Design we can help in a number of ways! Any local business people who would like to offer support should contact us to discuss ways of getting involved."

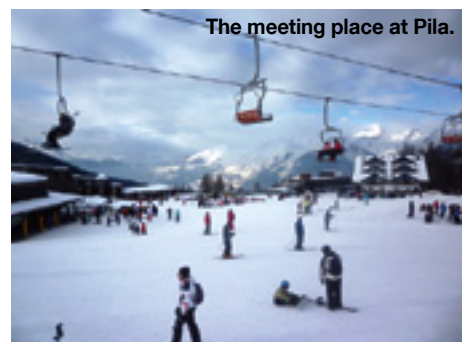
If you would like more information visit www.daca.uk.com/darwencreates or call 01254 819 555 to talk to the team. You can also follow updates on Twitter @DarwenCreates.



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The Italian Job

More pictures from our ski trip.



Love is in the air!

"The aim of the project was to bring young and old people together, to benefit from a shared experience."

Life's a Ball

By Dan Conway

Romance filled the air at the Year 7 Valentine's Ball, organised by the sixth form BTEC Business group. As part of their course, they had to plan and run an event and carry out necessary tasks such as risk assessment. The sixth formers decided to hold the event in the Drama Studio, which can accommodate 160-180 students.

Year 7s showed great interest and the £2 tickets began selling quickly. Additional activities on the night included making Valentine cards, decorating cakes and face-painting. There was also a tuck shop and soppy songs were played that would make your heart melt!

Around 60 students attended the Ball, with many tickets sold at the door. It ran from 5-7pm and the 6th form students were glad it was a success as they had put a huge amount of effort into planning it. They are also selling photos of the

event, in the form of key rings and prints. The romance theme continued throughout Valentine's Day with personal messages on the big screens around the Academy and a drop-off box in the LRC for anonymous cards.

Vintage Valentine Project

By Qachina McKeefery and Ann Marie Rong

Year 7s formed a workshop with Age Concern and Aha Creative (pictured). They produced cards for boys and girls using a range of materials, adopting the theme of Valentine's Day from past and present perspectives.

The aim of the project was to bring young and old people together, to benefit from a shared experience. Everyone commented on the confidence the Year 7s gained and how the experience of old and young working together can educate and create positive relationships. The cards were photographed and exhibited in the DART Gallery to chart the progress and success of the programme.



Business matters

Girls Allowed

By Matt Dodds

Thirty-two DACA girls and their mothers have travelled to London as part of a programme called Girls Allowed. They learned how to start up a business together, within an after school programme. Visits included BBC London, Heat Magazine, Tatty Divine, Camden Market and other large companies (pictured). The two day capital experience was to inspire the group on a national level.

All the students believed it was a valuable experience. Eleven year old Abigail Almond said: "It was really good because I went around London and learned new things I wouldn't normally get the chance to." All the students and staff would like to thank the businesses involved.

A taste of working life

By Jacob Pilkington

DACA students and their family members have visited local and national companies. The visits raised awareness of the opportunities available to young people and widened their understanding of business issues.

The businesses visited were: The Hilton Hotel, Police Headquarters, Slater PR, Crown Paints, Manchester Airport and BBC Manchester. It was a valuable experience and they gained more understanding of the business world, which will really help them in the future. We extend our thanks to all the businesses which made the visits possible.



The show goes on!

By Robert Tait and George Ashton

Students from Performing Arts and other budding actors have been entertaining DACA students and visitors with impressive productions.

These have ranged from a highly emotional piece, focussing on the impact of war and conflict, to an hilarious pantomime performance. The Academy offers students a great range of facilities which can be accessed through the curriculum in lessons and in sessions after school. Our magnificent drama studio provides students with opportunities to express their artistic and creative abilities.

The GCSE Expressive Arts group - led by Mrs Dean, Miss Hyde and Miss Pilkington, portrayed the impact of conflict and war on those fighting and on those who suffer at home. It was a moving piece which included interpretive dance consisting of improvised Haka. The group performed this thrillingly, showing the purpose of intimidation before battle.

The Christmas production of Cinders from the Drama and Dance performers was a tale of rejection, perseverance and romance, from the classic story Cinderella. It was given a modern twist by adding comedy and including high levels of audience interaction. Everybody associated with the drama performances did a fantastic job and showed extraordinary levels of expertise; we look forward to upcoming performances from the faculty.



Creating links abroad



Darwen Creates has taken part in an Aldridge Foundation supported programme to develop an entrepreneurship toolkit for developing countries.

The team visited Malawi (pictured) for a week and met with local business people, council officials and managers of international banks, to build relationships and develop a draft of the programme. Their response was incredibly positive and the team are now in the process of assembling and piloting the toolkit, with the potential to roll it out nationally.

Chris Midgley from Darwen Creates commented: "We are working very closely with the local communities to ensure the programme fits the needs of those who need it most."

Working alongside the UK based charity Masambiro, Darwen Creates is supporting the development of the pilot entrepreneurship programme, as well as providing on-going staff training and seeking sustainability for the programme.



It's time to party!

Sports report

A game of two halves

By Robin Ellison

DACA defended for 40 minutes before Preston's, All Hallows, took the lead with a screamer from 25 yards. Keeper, Chris Holt, was unable to stop the ball and helped it into the back of the net with minutes of the first-half remaining.

Our defence was challenged after half-time with fast attacks and wing play. Resistance was broken within 6 minutes when a through ball was slid to an All Hallows striker. Holt was left helpless, as the defence had pushed up, leading to a one-on-one situation which the striker took brilliantly.

DACA settled into a rhythm of last ditch defending which kept All Hallows at bay until 10 minutes from time. Then, another brilliantly taken goal settled the game. However, the best DACA player was Frankie Brown Jnr and he proved it with a superb free-kick from 30 yards out, with 2 minutes to spare. The celebration said it all with an acrobatic finish to the game.

Sports Hall athletics

The Year 8 girls were successful in the Blackburn and Darwen Sports Hall athletics competition beating 5 other schools to become champions. They competed fantastically, winning the majority of events. The students were: Naomi Fielding, Rosie Dickinson, Jess Riley, Lizzie Maynard, Lauren Ashworth, Casey Robinson, Sicelo Nkomazana. They went on to represent BwD at the Lancashire Schools Sports Hall athletics, joined by Jade Fearnley and Elisha Taylor. The results have yet to be confirmed.

Other sports news

The sixth form football team are in a steady, mid-table position. Unfortunately, last minute equalisers in 2 games have resulted in us sitting just outside the European places. Oliver Turnbull currently holds a great record of scoring in every league game this season. The team have improved greatly after a smooth transition from the rigid 4-4-2 formation to the more continental 4-3-1-2.

We are not settling for mediocrity as the UEFA spot is well within our reach. The mood in the camp is fantastic; however, after a lengthy lay-off due to the frosty winter, the players' fitness will be key in the run-in to the end of the season.

By Hannah Forster

Many of Darwen's senior citizens have been partying at DACA!

The event, run by Mr Carter, included singing, dancing, bingo and a raffle. He played a YMCA video and encouraged everyone to join in by doing the actions and singing along.

Many Year 11s were involved in making the day special, particularly the lead students and we are very thankful for their efforts. They were successful in making the guests feel welcome in the new building and encouraging them to party at our new Academy.

The party was fantastic and the senior citizens really enjoyed themselves. They gave wonderful feedback to the staff, about the students and the event. Comments included: "The students were very kind," "The food was fantastic" and "We have had a wonderful time." We hope this is something we can do again and continue to welcome all ages at DACA.



"The party was fantastic and the senior citizens really enjoyed themselves. They gave wonderful feedback to the staff, about the students and the event."



Georgia Walsh and Alice Eden report on Free Adult Learning Courses at DACA



The courses are held Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm at Darwen Aldridge Community Academy.

Learn a variety of skills on the following courses!

Photoshop - learn the tools, features and basic techniques. Create shapes and rotate and resize.

Entrepreneurship - improve your skills and knowledge of entrepreneurship.

Maths - for students 11-16 and their families. Help to achieve at least grade C.

English - an opportunity to improve the literacy skills of you and your child.

ICT - improve your PC knowledge and learn different computing techniques.

Spanish - improve your Spanish - when you go on holiday you could be fluent!

Salsa - enjoy and get fit! Learn all the moves and progress to the advanced stage.

Healthy Lifestyles - learn what's in different foods and what exercise you need.

Family Cooking - make different types of food and your cooking will be brilliant!

If you can't get a babysitter, a childcare service provides a **FREE crèche** with activities for 0-13 year olds while you take the course.

Contact details to book a place: **01254 819500** or **standoutindarwen@daca.uk.com**

Star students

How far away is the closest star to our sun and do you know your Quasars from your Pulsars?

These and other fascinating questions were answered at the 'Deep in the Heart of Galaxies' lecture at the University of Central Lancashire. DACA sixth form Physics students, James Eastham and Tom Thornber, attended with Dominic Holden and the brilliant Mr Stansbie and Mr Brindle.

The lecture was given by world renowned astronomer and research scientist, Dr Victor Debattista, who also explained the difference between a light year, a parsec and an astronomical unit. The students learned about Black Holes and whether they are wandering around the universe, caused by colliding galaxies.

They were fascinated by an outstanding slide show describing the shape of our galaxy, the Milky Way and



other star clusters. Everyone was spellbound by Dr Debattista's presentation of the evidence gathered to support our current level of knowledge on this most interesting of topics.

The evening culminated with an Avatar-style 3D movie of the motion of stars and Black Holes when galaxies collide. "This has given me a real taste of the lectures which I can expect at university next year," said Tom. James added: "The lecture was really interesting and opened my eyes to the wonders of space."

Pictured are Mr Stansbie, Tom and James.

Personalised Learning Centre

By Hayden Sledge-Manser

The PLC, based on Victoria Street, is a place where DACA students can receive extra support from staff.

In the relaxed atmosphere they can be involved in decorating the Centre and creating their own personal 'chill out' lounge. In the basement there is a pool table and a plasma screen, TV and sofas. There is also a 'placement room' which students can use for reflection.

Students arrive at the PLC excited and bubbly, ready to start the day. In the bistro they can read newspapers,

drink tea and chat to other students and teachers. This creates a calm atmosphere before lessons and activities begin.

They study Maths, Food Technology, PE, Citizenship, Outdoor Education, Science and English - similar lessons to a regular DACA student. There is a construction room for woodwork and plumbing where they can learn skills and complete repair jobs in the kitchen and bathroom.

Director, Mr Lucas, together with Manager, Mrs Storre, run the team which helps the students with all aspects of their lives and education. The PLC is designed to fit around the students' strengths, improve on their weaknesses and build them a positive future.