



## What a year?!

It is hard to imagine that it was only a year ago when the students came to visit us on their induction day. The Year 7 team have seen them grow and develop during the year. They have gained confidence and made real progress in their learning.



What has been the highlight of the year? There have been so many things that make us proud.



## Everyone Achieves



We wish them every success as they move into Year 8 where they can build on the positives from this year and find even greater success in the months to come.  
**Well Done to all.**

## Explore News

Newsletter Date: July 2017



## Learning presentation skills

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For the past six years MK Academy has worked in partnership with Arcadis, a local construction consultancy company based in Milton Keynes, to help develop real world learning for our young people. This year the theme was 'Well-being'. The traditional classroom is often too small to provide the best learning environment for large classes. Teachers want additional less formal spaces for learning and students need to spend their breaks in a healthy environment. The task was: Can the non-classroom spaces in school fulfil both these needs? How could the non-classroom areas be used for learning and leisure?

Students worked solidly for two weeks: discussing, drawing and perfecting their designs before being taught how to use persuasive techniques so that they could create and produce a speech. Further training in presentational skills and what the client wanted was given by Kate and Beth from Arcadis, to help build the students' confidence when they were faced with the panel of judges.

As this was a competition, students competed against each other as only 4 teams could go through to the finals to be held at the Arcadis Office in Central Milton Keynes.

The day of the finals came. Nervously, the students tucked into the buffet and met the four judges who they would need to impress. One at a time, each team was brought before the panel where they presented their ideas using persuasive rhetoric to the judges. At the end of each presentation each team was faced with some gruelling questions about their ideas – which, thankfully, all the teams had answers to. At the conclusion of the competition the judges were extremely impressed by the student's ideas and their ability to present to an older audience who they had never met before. One judge commented: "I was blown away with the quality of the presentation; they have done a better job than some of our clients!"

Sadly there can be only one winner and after much deliberation the judges decided that 'R.E.L.M.' represented by Ethan, Malachi, Lauren and Ruth were the winners and the runners up were 'MKCreations' represented by Juliana and Prudence; very well done.

The judges commented on the winning team's confidence, range of ideas and the amount of detail they covered in their presentation: "everything was thought about."



### • Date to remember

**School begins next term on:  
Wednesday 6th September 2017.**

**In:  
Achieve Village.**



**Our competition finalists were:**  
**Acorn Construction:** Mary-Louise, Chardonay, Etedal and Chantelle.  
**Transformers:** Kelis, Urszula and Tia.

"It was a great day where our students had the opportunity to use their English skills in a business environment and to realise how important these are in everyday life. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience." Mrs Read, Director of English.

## Recognising Achievement

This term Year 7 students with either 100% attendance or 0 behaviour points were recognised by our Year Team and were invited to take part in an activity afternoon at the Caldecotte Project. We were offered a choice of two activities, climbing or canoeing and we loved both. The students had a fantastic time and really enjoyed themselves. The climbing group were taught by Caleb, an ex student from MKA.

On behalf of Year 7 we would like to thank the Year 7 Team for organising this wonderful trip and for everything they have done to support us this year as we all appreciate it.

Caitlin



## Rookery Farm Trip

The Steps Group went to Rookery Open Farm in Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire. They saw lots of animals, had a great time and took part in lots of activities. Mrs Dorrian and Ms Ryan are very proud of how far they have come this year and wish them all the best for Year 8.



## Home Sweet Home

Over the past few weeks a group of Year 7 students have been working with artists from the local community to celebrate Milton Keynes being 50 years old. We have been working as part of the Home Sweet Home Project which links local communities including primary schools and nursing homes for the elderly. We have had the opportunity to work alongside artists to produce a bespoke production for our local community. It has also been great to work with young children from Moorland School, The Willows and Jubilee Wood School. We performed to a packed audience of family and friends and the evening was a great success.

Husnah.

## The Rollercoaster Challenge

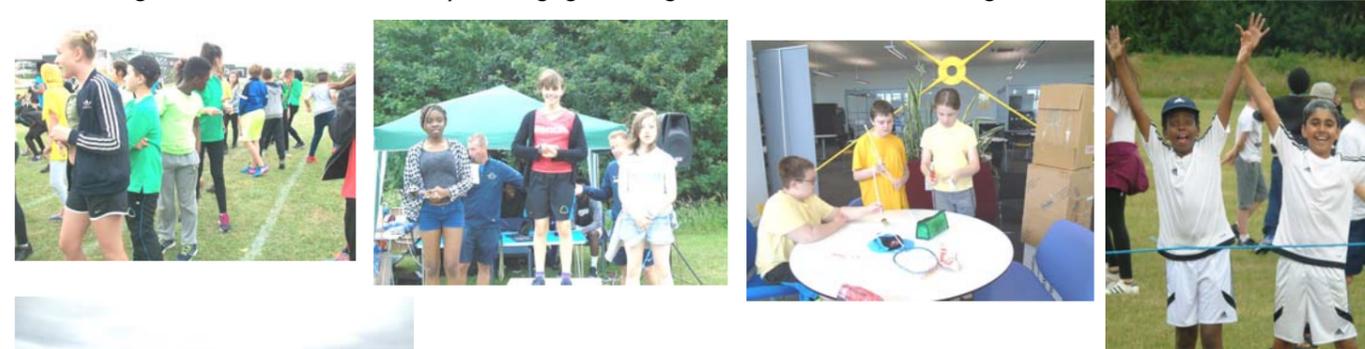
A group of Year 7 students took part in the Rollercoaster science challenge after school. We worked in groups of 3 or 4 and to start with we had to research the science behind a rollercoaster and then work as a group to design our own. The next evening we had to put our plans into action and start building using foam tubes, string, sticks, tape and cardboard. Once it was built we had to trial our loops with a marble. After making some improvements it was time to compete against each other to see which rollercoaster worked the best. There were some amazing designs with high loops and lots of speed. Each group had the chance to show off their designs and show how well they worked. We then voted on the rollercoaster that was the best. We had so much fun.

Maria



## Sports day

What a competition! The students were divided up into Sports Houses called Linford, Woughton, Campbell, Woburn and Wilen and given a colour to wear. They then met in Houses to select their teams for each event. The competition was hot!! In the morning there were activities for everyone ranging from 'tug of war' to rounders to building towers.



In the afternoon came the athletics and there is some amazing talent in Year 7.

**The winning team was LINFORD!!!**

**Congratulations to all for a great day.**

