


# Sir Robert Woodard Academy

## February 2016 Newsletter



With our new Assessment Cycle in place the opportunities to write about all of our achievements and activities has reduced whilst the variety and intensity of all that goes on remains the same – high. That is how we like it and in this edition you will be able to read about all that has gone on since our last edition.

As we built up to Christmas we were concentrating upon, what proved to be, a successful school production 'The Mysteries' as well as the customary events such as the Celebration of Christmas and the Senior school prize giving. However, in the midst of all this we received a visit from Ofsted. We knew we were in-line for a visit but had not anticipated that we may have one so close to the Christmas holiday. However, having established systems in place supported by clear lines of accountability and a conscientious workforce ensured that we rose to the challenge. The support of the students and the Academy Council coupled with the positivity of our whole community ensured that the inspectors gained a true and accurate picture of SRWA.

The picture that they formed endorsed our own self-evaluation. We know that the examination successes of our Year 11s are crucial. We are also aware that all our students need to be challenged so that they are able to realise their full potential and meet or exceed their designated targets through effective teaching, which ensures appropriate learning.

Such findings, and there are others, which may be read on our website indicate that we have work to do in order for us to progress as an institution. Areas as diverse as our reporting system and the implementation of differentiation pose their own challenges but we will address them.

The findings concluded that there were many positives that we may be proud of, which will form

the foundations for further growth. Leadership, subject knowledge, the successes of a variety of subjects providing example to others and their observation that the students are 'well cared for and feel safe'. This was further endorsed by their comment 'Inspectors saw very few incidents of thoughtless or silly behaviour'. All these qualities bode well for the future.



One quality that they highlighted and that I am particularly proud of relates to our work, in all of its forms, with the local community. The comment 'The Academy's work in the community is outstanding and imaginative.', encapsulates our philosophy of being at the centre of the community providing learning, leisure, social and cultural experiences for one and all. Indeed, our current proposals for a floodlit 3G playing facility fit with our vision and beliefs. The concept is currently at consultation stage and if you wish to look at the plans and hopefully make a comment they may be viewed at [www.planning.adur-worthing.gov.uk/online-applications](http://www.planning.adur-worthing.gov.uk/online-applications) with reference number AWDM/1883/15.

As is customary at the beginning of a new year – despite it being February – we may set 'resolutions' (objectives) that will impact upon the Academy. These resolutions come from several sources that include our own Self Evaluation procedures, the Ofsted Report, the Academy Improvement Plan, ideas from our Parents' Forum, the Academy Council and our own Academy community of students and staff. What is certain is that we are looking to achieve great things and transform the life chances of our young people coupled with being a resource and facility for all the community to utilise. Together I believe we can.

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## Worth Less? Campaign

Thanks to the work of local MPs and everyone's support, we are pleased to inform you that a meeting with ministers from the DfE is taking place on Monday 8th February.

There is still time to support the campaign for fairer funding for West Sussex schools.

Please go to our Facebook page and continue to 'Like' and 'Share' the campaign, as well as leaving positive comments at [www.facebook.com/WorthLessWestSussex](http://www.facebook.com/WorthLessWestSussex)



We are campaigning for  
**£200 for £20million**

Just £200 additional funding per West Sussex pupil would provide our schools with an extra £20million.  
(And we would still be funded below the national average)

Show your support - like this 

## Key Dates

Tuesday 9th February - Woodard's Got Talent Final 7.00pm  
Thursday 11th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30pm-7.30pm  
Friday 12th February - Ski Trip to Lofer, Austria departs  
Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February - Half Term  
Monday 22nd February - Inset Day  
Wednesday 24th February - Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30pm-7.30pm  
Tuesday 1st March - Day Trip to Boulogne  
Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day  
Tuesday 8th March - Year 8 Options Evening 6.00pm-8.30pm  
Tuesday 15th March - Dance Showcase - Matinee and Evening Performance  
Wednesday 16th March - Dance Showcase - Evening Performance  
Thursday 17th March - Dance Showcase - Matinee and Evening Performance  
Tuesday 22nd March - Sixth Form Parents' Evening 5.30pm-7.30pm  
Friday 25th March - Good Friday  
Monday 28th March - Easter Monday  
Tuesday 29th March to Friday 8th April - Easter Holidays  
Monday 11th April - Inset Day



## Friends of SRWA

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, having been appointed as the Chair of The Sir Robert Woodard Academy Council.

I was honoured to be asked to help steer the Academy, along with the other school council members and the Senior Leadership Team. The future looks extremely good with an excellent team of staff, together with inspiring teaching.

While we have a parents' forum, there is nothing currently in existence to assist in organising events and fundraising to enhance the educational experience of our young people. While the Academy does its best with our available resources, additional funds for other educational priorities would be welcome, and to that end, I would like to propose setting up a 'Friends

of Sir Robert Woodard Academy' to take on that role.

In order to do so, I would like to invite you to come along to the Academy on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 7.00pm to assess the amount of interest and decide on the way forward. It would be helpful if you could email Stacey Bull, Business Manager at the Academy on sbull@srwa.woodard.co.uk by Friday 19th February to let me know if you are intending to come along. We will discuss what the role entails and how to proceed if we all agree.

My email address is david.simmons@yahoo.co.uk, should you wish to contact me regarding this. I look forward to meeting you on Tuesday 1st March.



David Simmons  
Chair of the Academy  
Council  
The Sir Robert Woodard  
Academy

## Parent View

We would like to ask you to take part in a **confidential** online survey with Ofsted, to check how you feel we are meeting the needs of your child at the Academy.

We are constantly striving to improve and would really welcome your participation in this important exercise. Parent View asks for your opinion on twelve things about the Academy - it is designed to help us improve your child's overall experience with us. Please log on and complete the questions at:  
[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)



**Parent View**  
Your Child's School

**Give Ofsted your view  
on your child's school**

# Achievements and Awards



## Discovering Democracy Award

The Youth Council of Britain has awarded SRWA the Discovering Democracy Award for our events and activities that promote democracy within our school and encourage students to reflect on democratic processes within our country. We are very proud to receive this award as a recognition of the value we place on extra curricular activities, enabling all students to become responsible and informed citizens.

## Certificate of achievement

SRWA has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of our contribution and involvement in student democracy.

Students took part in a voting project to identify the issues that they believed were most concerning for young people in the UK. They decided that the most important issue was the right to a living wage, followed by the need for the government to provide apprenticeships that prepare students for work in a changing economy.



Make Your Mark is an annual event in July, so this year our students will be taking part once more. West Sussex was one of the counties who polled the highest number of votes, so we are proud to be part of this.

## The Mysteries - A Spiritual Experience

From 1st-3rd December 2015, The Sir Robert Woodard Academy was treated to a seasonal production of a traditional story which goes back thousands of years and the style of the telling is hundreds of years old.

In the spirit to which we have now become accustomed, The Alan Strong Studio Theatre was unrecognisable. If we have come to expect anything over the past few years it is that we don't know what to expect when Ms Venn gets her hands on a project! On this occasion, the Theatre became a dark place that was part industrial heartland, part bible. Objects and characters emerged out of shadows and nothing was obvious. It was a setting for a modern, spiritual experience, from the tin cans twinkling in the roof, like a post-industrial milky way, to the sculptural shapes on the set that morphed from the Ark to the Stable in the blink of an eye. The Drama Department has a reputation for producing outstanding shows and this took that reputation up a further notch or ten – unbelievable though that might seem to those who saw

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the summer. Every aspect of the production was executed with such apparent simplicity to create a highly complex, all-encompassing experience. The



acting was sublime. The in-house costumes perfectly constructed. The lighting, sound, make-up, stage management and front of house all run by our expert team of students and ex-students were flawless, and the original music, performed by a band of students

and staff was ethereally exquisite.

This was the nativity story, shaken up and re-told for a modern audience – fresh, vital and relevant. The subject matter leant itself to a deep spirituality shared by millions across the globe, but the most moving and powerful aspect of the whole experience was seeing and hearing young people explore the story, together as a finely balanced team. There were no egos here, no stars – just a group of students who loved what they were doing, loved working with one another and delighted in the quality of what they were able to produce together. Ms Venn weaves golden tapestries of theatre, hand-in-hand with these talented performers, and that was where the roots of this transformative experience lay. It was an honour to have witnessed it.



# Lapper News



Lapper Chapter has been very busy over the last term. The Charities Committee continue to raise money for Cancer Research, and following a successful Halloween badge sale raising £111.40 and Christmas cake sale raising £47.50, they embark upon their next venture. This will involve selling and delivering roses for Valentine's day, the week beginning 8th February.



## Christmas Tree Festival



Lapper was very honoured to have a Christmas tree decorated by the Chapter Council, representing the subjects in the Chapter at the Christmas Tree Festival in the church of St Mary de Haura in Shoreham during the Christmas period and were pleased to receive so many positive comments.

## Tutor Board Competition

Although Lapper are a community, we are also embracing our competitive nature this year by firstly having a tutor board competition, which was won by L4, Mr Lelean's tutor group. We have now embarked upon an ongoing competition where each half term the tutor group will gain points to have an overall winner at the end of the year. L3, Mr Bromley's tutor group won the Speed Stacking competition and L6, Miss Hammersley's tutor group decorated their board in a very festive and glittery way to win the Christmas and winter decoration competition. The decision of what is to come next has been put out there for the Chapter Council to come up with the next task for students to compete at.

I would like to commend the effort of the Lapper students who made and sold lemonade for the 'Make' challenge, but unfortunately lost out to the other chapters. The spelling team also did really well, winning all the way through the Spelling Bee until the last round, narrowly losing their lead to rivals Mandela.

The students and staff in Lapper have continued to be very busy within the Performing Arts and Sport subjects, both in lessons and during extra-curricular activities, especially during the festive season and I would like to say congratulations to them on their successes and hard work.



## Ricardo Rocket Car Competition



On 13th November 2015, the years 12 and 13 Three Dimensional Design BTEC students visited the Ricardo test track to attend the Ricardo Rocket Car Competition. In this event the Ricardo employees go head to head in designing and engineering a vehicle to be propelled down the Ricardo test track by a small, yet quite powerful rocket, the objective is to cover the most distance possible.

The SRWA students were invited to take part in the event and prior to the competition, the students worked tirelessly designing, testing and manufacturing their cars.

All four cars entered by SRWA had relatively good runs with one of our vehicles remaining in fourth place for a large proportion of the competition. The students had a great selection of design ideas but unfortunately, we just could not quite match the distance covered by the light weight vehicles designed by the Ricardo employees.

The event was a great opportunity for the students to meet the professional Ricardo engineers and engage in some friendly, design related competition.

The students worked really well together in a team and showed

dedication as a number had to stay late to get the cars ready for race day. The students enjoyed the event and learned some valuable engineering lessons, as well as gaining some new ideas and designs for next year.





# Mandela News



BHAFC SEASON TICKET CHRISTMAS ADVERT



Daniel is in my tutor group and was asked to shoot an advert with the Brighton Seagulls football team. He filmed this just before Christmas and it was a big secret until it was aired at the stadium. Daniel shared his experience of the day with the tutor group and they asked him some questions. To see the advert, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nrRYaJ8rik>. This was a cool experience for him, the tutor group was very impressed as am I. Miss Lautier.

Daniel: "I was asked to be in the mid-season Christmas advert for Brighton Seagulls football club. Just before Christmas I got to spend the day filming with the team. I was a fictional character called "Billy" and the advert was a snapshot of a life in the day of this character. I met up with five of the players, we went to film in different locations including a school in Worthing, a hairdressers in Hove and in a house in Worthing, which was meant to be Billy's house. Then the players were my "imaginary friends" in the video but at the end they all appear in real life.

## Student Q & A



Did you get to meet Lualua?

Yes I did, we played football together in the imaginary back garden for one of the scenes.

Did you get a photo with Lualua??

Yes.

What did you enjoy the most about your day?

Probably playing football with Lualua in the garden, there was fake snow

What will you take from this experience besides meeting the players and the memories of this fantastic opportunity?

Being on the screens at the stadium in front of 27,000 odd people was pretty cool.



## Break the Glass Ceiling Day

On 26th January, selected year 11 students were invited to attend a Break the Glass Ceiling Day which featured inspirational speakers and workshops focussing on confidence building and self belief. Students were treated to a series of inspirational talks by entrepreneurs and adventurers.

The invitation was also a reward for students who have a strong commitment to learning so that they can feel enabled and encouraged to pursue their dreams.



Thank you to our business breakfast colleagues who are going to be mentors to some of our Year 11 students.

After attending an induction/training morning our mentors start this month. They will be providing an extra listening ear and offering

advice to some of our students who are unsure what career path to take.

If there are any other members of our community who would like to be involved in the mentoring project please contact Ms Barr.



On Monday 7th December we had Nadia Chalk from Worthing's "Creative Waves Community Arts" visit the Academy to do a whole day workshop with our gifted and talented students in years 7,8 and 9. Using vintage postcards from the area as inspiration, students had to design and then

paint their own postcard on a wooden tile base. The finished tiles have been varnished and put on permanent display on the coastal path next to Lancing Beach Green. It was a very enjoyable day and Nadia commented on how creative and talented our students were.



# LRC NEWS



## Ricardo Centenary Book Presentation



As Ricardo, Lancing's local world class engineering company reached their centenary in 2015 (one hundred years of innovation and technology) a special book was commissioned to celebrate their achievements in design and production of tanks, aircraft engines, cars and F1 racing engines.

SRWA are proud to be associated with Ricardo, and as they have constantly pushed the frontiers of development in the industry they wanted the views of some of our young people on how they think the world will change in the next one hundred years.

Scott Day, an ex-Boundstone student, now Senior Marketing Executive at Ricardo, organised a morning in the Learning Resource Centre at SRWA where a selection of imaginative and literate students were gathered together to think about how technology might change our lives in the

next century. Jade, Fran Bohea, Edmond Chan, Megan Porter, Bethany Steer, Noah Simmonds, Jess Flavell, Taz, Jack Taylor, Frances Romain and Danushka Dooraree worked together to exchange ideas on the future of transport, energy, technology in

foresee a greater public transport system and fewer private cars, perhaps cars only being used for sport, and Jess thinks we may have gone back to the horse and cart because of energy and pollution issues! All students feel it is a priority to find new sources

of energy and to have less pollution and waste. The results have been published in a beautiful glossy book that covers the whole Ricardo story, and looks into the future with ideas from our students, a selection of graduates as well as key Ricardo personnel. We are delighted to feature among such



future, and the possible impacts on the global economy as well as the simple question of whether the world will be a better place? Jack thinks that the future of 3D technology will mean that manufacturing would decline and that cars may have disappeared in favour of new forms of transport; most of the students

illustrious company! Scott Day came back to the Academy again in January to present a copy of the book to each of our contributing students, with Mr Scanlon and Mr Midwinter making the presentations in the Learning Resource Centre, and of course a copy for our Academy library.





# Nightingale News



## Stargazing at University of Sussex

In the new year the Science department took a selected group of 20 students to the University of Sussex to learn all about stargazing and our universe. We travelled to the University by coach and were treated to a wonderful lunch. Afterwards the students were involved in learning about

university life taught by current and past students prompting them to think about further education. They were then treated to small and interactive sessions on our universe by the university lecturers - one of which was in the planetarium! As part of the Academy's careers programme we have forged

partnerships with the local universities, which enables us to provide our students with experiences they may not encounter in the classroom. This is our second Key Stage 3 trip this year and we look forward to many more to come!



## Brighton Science Festival

The Brighton Science Festival is taking place from Tuesday 2nd- Sunday 28th February 2016. There will be events for adults in the evening throughout the month, hands-on workshops for children during half-term, as well as our two flagship events.

### Bright Sparks

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th February  
Hove Park Upper School, Hove

### The Big Science Weekend

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th February  
Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton



Come up to town, solve a murder, programme a robot, blow square bubbles, make the earth quake, cycle across the Solar System, learn a magic trick, meet-up, make friends, shop, eat, sleep, wake, repeat.  
There are events and workshops each day.  
See [www.BrightonScience.com](http://www.BrightonScience.com)

All ticket information and the full programme can be found at: [www.brightonscience.com](http://www.brightonscience.com).



## Sussex Study Experience

The Sussex Study Experience, is a programme organised by the University of Sussex for year 12 students. The students are able to select a specific subject and learn alongside a leading academic in their chosen field and discover things at the cutting edge of research. Below are some comments from two of our year 12 students.

### **Lauren Neal**

I am currently studying the history and media strand on the Sussex Study Experience at the University of Sussex. I feel extremely lucky to have been chosen to go on this course as it was only open for first generation scholars and many people applied. This course gives a detailed insight into how some university courses run and a complete overview of

life at university. On the course, we have people travelling from as far away as London in order to gain the knowledge and experience this course offers. Whilst completing the course, I got to talk to different tutors and people who attend the university and get their opinion on their particular subject and their views on the university and everything surrounding it as a whole.

### **Millie Adcock**

The Sussex Study Experience has really helped me gauge a better understanding about university life and what certain subjects have to offer. I have also met some great people in both my subject strand 'Writing Brighton' and the others. I am very glad to have been given the opportunity to take part as places were limited.

## Year 8 Multi Taster Day



We took twenty, year 8 students to the University of Sussex for a taster day where they were able to experience first-hand what it was like to study at the university. They spent time in the lecture theatre and attended three subject taster lessons which were run by academics and university students. The subjects included law, which covered human rights; reasearch into ants; simulating different outcomes using computers; and art history; where students had to look at paintings and discuss what they felt the artist was trying to portray.

## Pilot Project

We were contacted by University of Brighton and asked if we could take fifteen of our students from year 7 and year 8 to the university for a day to take part in a pilot project. The students were involved in five practical activities, where the aim was to raise the students' awareness of different subjects and how many skills can be transferred into different areas. An example is the Health Professional activity, where the students entered a room and on the floor was a dummy and they had to establish what had happened. In this scenario the person was unconscious and the students had to explain what signs they should look for on the person and in the surrounding area. The other activities were Business and Management, Engineering, Crime & Punishment and Photography.



## Barclays Life Skills

We had four members from Barclays Life Skills come into the Academy and work with a group of our year 11 students on how to compile a CV. These sessions were really beneficial for the students as they allowed them to interact with professional people. The service that Barclays offers to schools is free of charge and an invaluable resource.



# SUPPORT OUR 3G PITCH

- 3G Artificial Grass Pitch - allows play all year
- Providing accessible community use for all
- Providing free facilities for local primary schools
- Keeping our children fit and active
- Raising aspirations, health and wellbeing

Please visit our website to show your support  
[www.srwa.woodard.co.uk](http://www.srwa.woodard.co.uk)

# Upcoming Events



 All children must be accompanied by an adult family member (18+) £2.00 - per person  
Tickets can be reserved by calling 01903 875507 or online at £6.00 - family of 4  
<http://www.srwa.woodard.co.uk/#Community/FamilyCinema>

Doors open 10.45am Film 11am - 1pm (with an interval)  
Please note all films will be shown with subtitles

Sir Robert Woodard Academy  
Alan Strong Theatre

Saturday 27th February 2016      Saturday 16th April 2016



All Films rated PG    Tuck Shop available

## Family Cinema

We are delighted that this continues to be a big success with the community. This autumn, we had very popular screenings of *Home*, *Cinderella* and *Inside Out*. These are all delightful family films that are sure to become classics – As always, the aim of the family cinema is to screen recent releases at affordable prices with a tuck shop that won't break the bank. You can bring the whole family for a fraction of the cost of the multiplexes and what's more, it's on your doorstep.

Our new season includes *Minions* on Saturday 27th February and *Pan* on Saturday 16th April. Come along and find out what the fuss is all about.

THE SIR ROBERT WOODARD ACADEMY  
PRESENTS  
**DANCE SHOWCASE**  
15TH - 17TH MARCH @ 7PM



A CELEBRATION OF DANCE,  
FROM JAZZ TO  
CONTEMPORARY,  
SHOWCASING  
PERFORMANCE AND  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY SRWA  
STUDENTS

THE ALAN STRONG THEATRE  
THE SIR ROBERT WOODARD ACADEMY  
UPPER BOUNDSTONE LANE  
SOMPTING  
LANCING  
WEST SUSSEX  
BN15 9QZ

**TICKETS**  
ADULTS £5 / CONCESSIONS £3  
BOX OFFICE: 01903 875507

Tickets are available to purchase on  
WisePay or you can contact the Academy  
Box Office to reserve and pay within 24  
hours.

Please note that if you are reserving tickets for the Dance Performance, tickets are to be collected and paid for 24 hours after reserving them. Parents of students at the Academy need to purchase tickets via WisePay.

To book tickets for either of these events, please call 01903 875507.

JOIN OUR  
**mailing list**  
TODAY



## Performing Arts Mailing List

We are currently updating our Performing Arts mailing list to promote our productions and events that are held throughout the year. If you would like to be on our mailing list and informed of upcoming events and productions, please email Mrs Blake at [tblake@srwa.woodard.co.uk](mailto:tblake@srwa.woodard.co.uk) - please include your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you are only interested in receiving one of the following: dance performances, musical performances, drama performances, community event, family cinema or all events, please also state this in the email.

## Academy Information

Follow us and contact us by:-

Telephone: 01903 767434  
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