



Academy Edition - 24th March 2017

essa NEWSLETTER

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Raising Aspirations with the University of Cambridge

For some time we have been working with the University of Cambridge to raise the aspirations of our students and engage them in their futures.

In March we hosted the access tour for local secondaries in which Cambridge students showcased life at the university. Students got the opportunity to learn about how they can access a place at the university, along with having the opportunity to engage in tasks led by the students in the arts and sciences.

This gave our students a real taste of what opportunities are open to them following a successful GCSE course. The majority of our students attended the science session in which students were asked to create a action plan to deal with the national issue of diabetes.

Students were asked to pull together a full initiative with a budget of 1,000,000 pounds, which was then presented to the group. As ever our students came up with some fantastic and inventive ideas which were loved by the university students.

We very much look forward to continuing this journey with our students as they embark on the residential trip to the University of Cambridge in September.

Essa Director Mrs Alexander said "It is always so fantastic to welcome universities into the academy, especially when they are as high profile as the University of Cambridge. The day provided an opportunity to break some of the barriers for our students. They left the sessions knowing that hard work and a love of learning would help in their application to top universities".



Upcoming dates for the diary

8th May Parent Workshop- eSafety/Computing

22nd May Enterprise Week

3rd July Healthy Week



Learning Connection with Essa Primary Pupils

> **All of our students across every year group have a passion for working together and sharing their learning.**

Year 7 English students have been working with Year 1 students at Essa Primary in an English lesson. Students have been writing short stories about survival. The group were so excited to be able to deliver these stories to their peers.

Not only did our students read their stories to the primary students, but they also got opportunity to do some one to one reading and play educational games. It was such a fantastic experience for all involved.

Teacher Mrs Alexander said "Year 7 are a fantastic year group who really take ownership of their learning. They have a constant thirst to be challenged and really demonstrate a love of learning. During this year the students have been leading their own lessons, teaching punctuation and grammar. We really look forward to visiting Essa Primary again soon".



Science Week

During National Science week students in Year 7 and 8 explored the solar system.

They considered the forces acting on rockets as they hurtle through the Earth's atmosphere and journey into space.

Students then applied this and considered materials, costing and aerodynamics to design a rocket which would hopefully reach the sky!

Some classes made their own scaled planets. Students then visualised the comparative sizes and distances of solar system bodies using their planets.

Careers Fair

On Friday 10th March 2017 we hosted our annual careers fair. This was a fantastic chance for students to find out more about opportunities that are open to them for the future.

We had 22 providers who attended, ranging from FE colleges, apprenticeship providers and other organisations such as the Army and the National Citizenship Service.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the event. Interacting with employers and further education providers has raised aspirations and given students an opportunity to explore future career pathways.



If you would like to visit the Academy to see us in action then please don't hesitate to book a place on our next tour or arrange a private visit. Go to www.essaacademy.org or call **01204 333222**. You can follow us on social media for regular news updates, features and video content.