

Oasis Academy MediaCityUK is...

Inspired

Winter 2020



WELCOME

To the Winter edition of our newsletter

I could not be prouder of how well they have responded to the new expectations this term and how they continue to work hard every day and I do hope this newsletter reflects some of that joy.



Dear
Parents and
Carers, Students
and friends
of Oasis
MediaCityUK.

What a term it
has been! As I
have reflected
on the past 15
weeks since the start of term,

I have started to think about the changes in vocabulary that have permeated school life, from class bubbles and social distancing to remote and blended learning. The world is a very different place to this time last year; what hasn't changed, however, is the joy that our students bring to the academy every day.

I also want to thank the amazing staff here at Oasis MediaCityUK; they have worked tirelessly since September in the most tumultuous of terms, going above and beyond to ensure our young people have the best possible learning experiences.

Finally, I want to say a special thank you to all our parents and carers; your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated by all at the academy.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas.

I look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

With grateful thanks
Mrs M Dillon

Christmas JUMPER DAY

On Friday 11th December 2020, the academy looked very festive indeed, as both staff and students dressed up for National Christmas Jumper Day!

Beyond bringing some much-needed cheer to 2020, the day served as a brilliant fundraising opportunity for Save the Children, with a minimum donation of £1 for both staff and students to get involved.

Prizes were given out for the best jumpers; from Star Wars and Pacman themed jumpers, to more traditional seasonal numbers, it was hard to choose our favourites!



Save the Children

RESPECT
Believe
Inspire



Contact us anytime at...

info@oasisacademymediacityuk.org | 0161 886 6500

www.oasisacademymediacityuk.org

ANTI-RACISM

at Oasis MediaCityUK



With a wide range of different cultural backgrounds and nationalities in England, it is essential for the curriculum to reflect global society and to relate to the increasing global audience.

At Oasis Academy MediaCityUK, we aim to implement a cultural approach that views the school through the perspective of its learners where the intention is to challenge and change attitudes of society to accommodate an inclusive multicultural community. This includes all aspects of education and wellbeing.

We have started to introduce an anti-racist, culturally inclusive diet that integrates multiple perspectives, including topics within the National Curriculum to make it more inclusive for all of our learners, driving the narrative of decolonising the structures in education and focusing on staff training and CPD, student education and leadership and management.

During the next academic term, we be working alongside The Race Trust and Kids of Colour to introduce an anti-racist approach with the aim of becoming diversity champions.



ANTI BULLYING WEEK

2020

Earlier this term, the whole academy pulled together to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week (16-20th November).

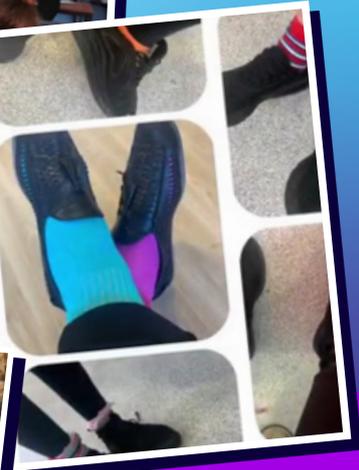
At Oasis Academy MediaCityUK we have always, and will forever, stand against bullying, in whatever form it comes in. Throughout the week both staff and students engaged with a variety of virtual activities, including free workshops, online talks and exclusive resources provided by the Diana Award.

Students also heard moving first-hand accounts from survivors of bullying, including celebrities such as Rio Ferdinand, Peter Andre and Kelly Hoppen.

To cap the week off, on Thursday 19th November the academy pulled together as a whole to celebrate Odd Socks Day. Both staff and students stepped out in mismatched pairs, demonstrating their opposition to bullying and dedication to making it a thing of the past.



ODD SOCKS DAY



Student Writing

Over summer, the Journalism Club at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK were tasked with writing profiles of people they consider role models. Tiffany in Year 9 wrote up two of her role models – Will Smith and Marsai Martin.”

Will Smith



For those rare few of you that don't know who Will Smith is, Will Smith is a world-renowned actor and rapper. He is famously known for his work on The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Men in Black and Bad Boys, just to name a few. This star was born on the 25th of September 1968 to the streets of Wynnefield, Philadelphia USA.

Here's a secret fact about Will; his real name is Willard Smith Jr, after his father. He is also a generous supporter of the Feeding America program.

Why I admire him:

The reason I admire Will is that he came from humble beginnings in his childhood to be the amazing, inspiring actor he is today. Another reason I look up to this amazing man is that he has proven that you can do anything you put your mind to and to just have faith in yourself.

Will Smith has many achievements, here are just a few out of his many awards:

- American Music Award For Favourite Male Artist – 1999
- Teen Choice Award – Aladdin – 2019
- MTV Europe Music Award For Best Rap – 1997
- NAACP Award For Outstanding Literature – Just The Two Of Us – 2002
- BET Award For Best Actor – 2009 & 2002
- Four Grammy awards

My favourite quotes:

- “Stop letting people who do so little for you control so much of your mind, feelings, and emotions.”
- “Don't chase people. Be yourself, do your own thing, and work hard. The right people – the ones who really belong in your life – will come to you. And stay.”
- ‘Greatness exists in all of us.’

Where you can access his work:

Since Will Smith is an actor and rapper you can access his music on YouTube and you can find his movies on Netflix and other streaming movie apps or websites.

Marsai Martin

Marsai Martin is a well-respected teen actor who shows that children are just as profound as adults. Marsai was born on 14th August 2002, in Plano Texas. Calia Marsai Martin is an American actress and producer. She is known for her role as Diane Johnson in the very popular series Black-ish.

Why I admire her:

The reason I admire her is that she is the youngest millionaire in Hollywood. She started her career at 5 years old doing commercials and made a large amount of money at the age of 10 on the show Black-ish. This inspires me because it shows us that it doesn't matter what your age is; you can do whatever you put your mind to and not let anybody underestimate you.

Lastly, I look up to her as she is a role model for young black girls and teaches them that their ideas and opinions matter – and you can never dream too big.

Here are some of her achievements:

- The youngest millionaire in Hollywood
- NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Performance by a Youth – Black-ish – 2017, 2019 and 2020
- Phenom Award – 2019
- NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Breakthrough Role in a Motion Picture – Little

My favourite quotes:

“Your girl gets a lot of anxiety. It's OK. It's a learning process.”
“My goal is to show young women and girls that our voices and ideas matter, and you are never too young to dream big!”

Where you can access her work:

You can access her work by viewing her TV shows and movies on streaming applications and websites such as Netflix, Now Tv or Sky Movies.



Student Writing

WHY WE NEED MORE POC REPRESENTATION IN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Faith Wilson

I used to hate my hair, absolutely hated it.

No one I saw on TV had my type, just euro-centric smoothness I could never achieve. The girls I saw as I grew up had straight hair, pale skin and a lifestyle I've never lived – with their friends who were the same.



I grew up thinking that my hair wasn't beautiful, trying to convince my mum when the time came for my hair to be re-plaited to give me a weave. Just so I could look a little bit more like the pretty girls I saw on TV.

There was no one else who looked like me, so why should I?



Shows such as 'Super Why', 'Doc McStuffins', 'Invisible Network of Kids' and 'Sally Bollywood' were the diverse ones I stayed up late to watch growing up. I loved seeing children who weren't like me in a sense, but different and represented the minority. Highlighted them in fact.

Take 'Sally Bollywood' for example, Sally wasn't black but I loved her Indian culture. That was a large part of the show and my eyes were heart-shaped at how all the background characters had their own nationality. Showing everyone when other shows didn't.

I was addicted to the 'Invisible Network of Kids' for the same reason. Trixie, one of the four main characters, wasn't a stereotype or given a small part. She was smart, resourceful – though sometimes cold – and was showed as a normal teen with parents she finds embarrassing. I was addicted to the point where at the grand old age of eight, I role-played the show with my best friend who loved it too.

Even though I've accepted myself now, I still wish I had been happy with who I was earlier. Or never looking down on myself at all. I want the children, teenagers, adults of today to be proud to be themselves. Not hating their appearance because they've been falsely represented or not represented at all.

I want change.



My mum didn't let me think like that though, denying me the choice to have a weave and making me wear my hair in cornrows, extensions, naturally – not letting

me hide my heritage. Reminding me that I was just as beautiful as everyone else.

I was only able to believe that myself two years ago, and I look back at my earlier years every once in a while, wondering why it took so long for me to accept myself. I looked back and realised it was my environment, the things that were implicitly emphasised.

That to be happy you had to be skinny, white and blonde.

The problem was that there wasn't diversity in the time I was a kid. Times have changed since then, of course, the characters in shows and actors in movies are more diverse than ever but more can still be done.

Stereotypes can't become the norm.

That black girls are volatile, that they're rude, that they don't cry. That dark-skinned black girls are 'less attractive' than lighter skinned. I want black girls who can cry but it doesn't make them weak. I want black characters who are angry but gentle. Who are rude but caring. I want real, whole, black characters. 'Good' and 'Bad' traits.

Like Maya Angelou said, "If you're always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be."

CAREERS & Aspirations

Despite the various challenges of 2020, the Careers Programme at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK has continued to steamroll ahead, with many exciting opportunities taking place across the academy.

Virtually accessed employer talks have taken place in the following curriculum areas:

- **Science** – talks were given by a self-employed engineer from the construction industry, a manager delivering cutting edge tech solutions in public health and hydrologists analysing the impact of water movements and climate change on big business.
- **English** – an actress who has appeared at the Lowry spoke to Year 8.
- **Creative and Technical** – talks in public services and architecture were given to support the Health and Social Care and Product Design curriculum.

Volunteer speakers all enjoyed speaking to our students, one commenting that “It’s always good to give back when you can. And you never know, we might want to employ these students in 10 years or so.”

Additionally, this term our first careers bulletin was published. This is a document written for parents, carers and teachers with information on local educational institutions, opportunities for students and how the employment market is developing in the greater Manchester area. The bulletin can be downloaded for accessing the following link: bit.ly/38VDHqf.



innovate<her>

In addition to career talks, a cohort of Year 10 girls completed the InnovateHer programme with a final online session linking to employers in the digital Tech industry.

The vision of InnovateHer is to get girls ready for the tech industry, and the industry ready for girls.

They equip girls aged 13-16 with the self-belief, confidence and skills to pursue a career in technology through their educational programme, whilst working with digital and tech companies to create inclusive workplaces for them to work within.

MANCHESTER
1824

gateways PROGRAMME



This term a group of Year 10 students took part in their fourth annual session with the University of Manchester. This exciting and inspirational programme is designed to:

- Allow students to find out more about life at university
- Explore the range of subjects on offer at university
- Develop a range of skills that will help students to succeed at GCSE and beyond

This is a prestigious programme for high ability students which has run throughout students’ time at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK with visits to events run by the University of Manchester each year.

This year’s remote session focussed on the issue of student finance.

CRISP PACKET PROJECT

We need your... CRISP PACKETS!

This term Oasis Academy MediaCityUK is asking students, parents and staff not to throw away their empty crisp packets, as we are collecting them so they can be transformed into blankets for the local homeless this winter.

We have partnered with the Rough Sleepers Project: North West to ensure that vulnerable people who are living on the streets have something warm when sleeping as we head into the colder months.

These crisp packets will be washed, sanitised and ironed together to make blankets and sleeping bags for rough sleepers around the North West.

The academy has collected hundreds of empty crisp packets so far this term, but we still need more. Each blanket requires 150 packets to make and can take up to five hours.

Hannah Miller, Hub Leader at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK, has commented on the project, saying; “The interest we have had so far has been overwhelming... Each blanket does take a while to make, but it’s so worth it.

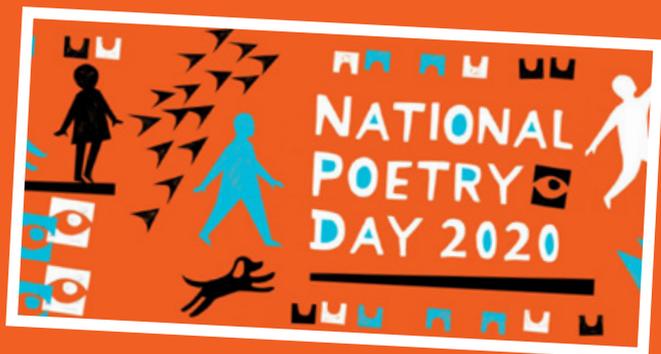
We’re asking anyone; students, staff, parents, community members far and wide, please keep your crisp packets, we need them to create insulated blankets for the homeless this winter.”

You can find out more about the Rough Sleepers Project:

North West via their Facebook or Instagram pages. In the meantime, if you have crisps packets please consider sending them to: Rough Sleepers Project, Oasis Hub MediaCityUK, King William Street, Salford, M50 3UQ.



OCL National Poetry Competition



To celebrate National Poetry Day (1st October), this term Oasis Community Learning ran a National OCL Poetry Competition, inviting all students to submit their poems, from haikus to sonnets to lyrics!

Oasis Academy MediaCityUK is absolutely delighted to announce that two of our students won for the secondary category, out of all the entries submitted across 52 academies.

Congratulations to our winners!

- BLM by Nicole Neamu
- Untitled by Jodi Iheme



BLM

They stand there,
signs in their hands,
courage driving them,
shouting at the top of their lungs
wanting justice for their brothers
and sisters.

Confronted and surrounded,
they carry on,
insulted and hurt,
they carry on,
carry on fighting for what's right.

Untitled

Black lives matter,
what does it mean.
Its not about how dark I am
or maybe what you see.

You may see me as aggressive
for standing up for what's right
but you don't know what it feels
like to be in a lifelong fight.

You get judged for nothing,
no matter what you do.
Its always 'your people,'
but nobody really cares about
you.

Slurs and swear words,
being hurled at them,
left and right,
they don't stop
they know what they are there for,
and they wont leave.

One day,
We will all be equal,
In everyone's eyes,
When that day comes,
Is the day we'll stop fighting.

Nicole Neamu

Just because you have 'black
friends' doesn't mean you get it
but its normal for you not to
nobody really does.

Black lives matter is not a trend
its about trying to put racism to
an end.

You don't have to protest.
Just try your best to understand
That we are not different
because of the colour of our
hands

Jodi Iheme

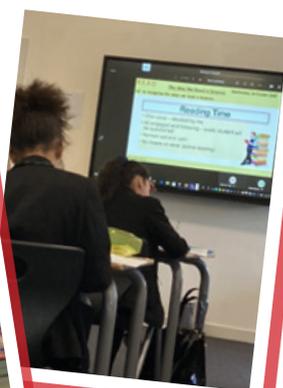
ReAdInG REVOLUTION

Reading is not only one of the greatest educational tools there is, it is also one of the most enjoyable experiences you can have. Reading and literacy are incredibly important to Oasis Academy MediaCityUK and this year, more so than ever.

Instead of switching between classrooms, this year during lesson transitions students have been switching books! Students read during every lesson change, all students having been provided a novel from our diverse and exciting range of books, as part of International Literacy Day.

We are also prioritising reading across all subjects, with every curriculum offering a READ lesson in which students read and explore a relevant text, whether that be the beginning to a magical adventure in English or an article about the periodic table in Year 8!

It has been nothing short of a pleasure to see so much reading going on in the academy this term.





Book reviews



This year the Hay Festival of Books moved their series of literary lectures and talks online. Faith Wilson and Lewis Hough from Oasis Academy MediaCityUK's Journalism Club attended two of these talks and reviewed for them the academy blog.

What was the name of the book?

The Austen Girls

Lewis Hough reviewed Hay Festival's online talk featuring Lucy Worsley discussing her alternate take on Jane Austen – 'The Austen Girls'.

The Talk:

The talk began with Worsley explaining the key context from the Georgian Era, and how all women at age 14-15 would be expected to find a husband in a ballroom. It is now we meet the main characters. Fanny Knight and her cousin Ava. Fanny is much more of a quiet person, who likes to write and read, and keep to herself. Ava, on the other hand, is an outgoing, loud and social person.

Fact:

Both Fanny & Ava are real people, both of whom were Jane Austen's nieces!

Worsley then proceeded to read an extract from her book, "The Austen Girls."

My Review:

It was a brilliant talk, and it was unique to see history portrayed in such a different way. Usually we hear about key figures, such as Jane Austen, yet we never really see those who were close to them. **Overall, I'd give the talk an 8.5/10!**



What was the name of the book?

Viper's Daughter

Faith Wilson reviewed Hay Festival's online talk featuring Michelle Paver discussing her latest book – 'Viper's Daughter'.

The Talk:

With Hay Festival online it's much easier to watch recorded posts of the selected books and authors, which means reviews!

The talk I will be reviewing is the one about "Viper's Daughter" by Michelle Paver.

The author:

Michelle Paver.

"Travel back six thousand years into the Forest of the Stone-Age..."

Paver's book is set a thousand years into the past, 6001 years; to be precise. Viper's Daughter is the seventh book in the series that started with Wolf Brother. Viper's Daughter is a tale about a boy, girl and a wolf battling to live in the Stone Age. The boy, Torak, is the best tracker in the forest. The girl, Renn, is an amazing shot with a bow and arrow. The wolf, well, he's a wolf.

"The book starts when Renn realises Torak is in danger and she's the threat..."

When she leaves, to find her Torak and Wolf trek north to the edge of the world, encountering volcanoes, giant ice caves, mammoths...

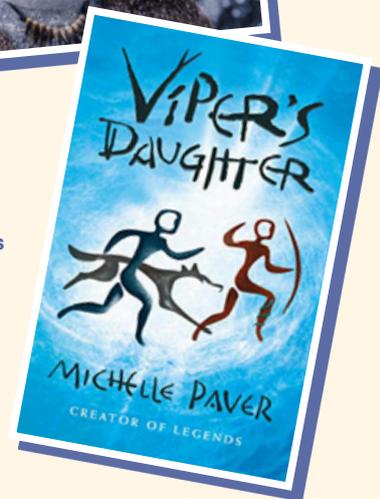
"I went to the Arctic for research..."

Paver's book is set deep in the past and to get all the facts right she travelled to the Arctic to take in the scenery and animals. Due to one of her characters being a wolf, she got into close contact with wolf pups.

Wolves weren't the only animals she got close to, Arctic foxes also being among them. To get a grasp on living in the Stone Age with no bed she even slept on the floor!

My Review:

It was a fantastic talk and I love how she went to get her own research to aid her story. It is a rarity to see stories written in the Stone Age Period and I feel compelled to read the book now. **I rate the talk 9/10!**



POETRY

During lockdown the Journalism Club at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK continued to meet virtually, producing some incredible pieces of work.

Here is a selection of their poetry; many poems reflecting on the unusual situation the entire country found itself in throughout 2020.

Several students tasked themselves with creating 'Dear Yuri' letters commemorating the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, who in 1961 was the first human to look out his spacecraft window and see the entire world below him.

Laura in Year 8 responded artistically...



While Tiffany in Year 9 produced this poem...

DEAR YURI

As I sit here in my gown and nightie
I look up to the night sky and wonder what
Lays above me

Is it stars and planets like what you used to see
Or is it millions of satellites waiting to
Destroy me?

I know this about what I can see
But I'm tired of everyone telling me
What I should be

You should wear a mask
You should stay at home
But what about my happiness which I no longer own?

What about the people?
What happened to freedom?
What about poor George Floyd who died
From a system that's supposed to protect?

So Yuri as I write to you I hope you saw a better
Life than we see today.

Tiffany (Year 8)

Lesley in Year 9 wrote this striking poem about the need for good mental health.

INNER PEACE

Hold on to your personal peace,
Even if others want to steal.
Hold on to whispers of joy,
Even if others are deceiving.
Hold on to the things that captivate,
Even if others are struggling.
Hold on to a peace of mind,
Even if it seems to slide.
Hold on to your own sunshine,
Even if the clouds come out to play.
Inner peace is what we call it,
And for now it's here to stay.

Lesley Boli

In response to the tragic death of George Floyd, and anti-racism protests around the globe, Faith in Year 10 wrote this stunning piece of poetry in tribute.

R.I.P GEORGE FLOYD

There was another death on the twenty-fifth of May,
In the US of A,
One involving police,
But not ending in peace.
A man of forty-six died,
An African-American to be precise,
Cuffing came first,
But the police were his curse.
Pressure was used,
On his neck, back, he was abused,
"I can't breathe", he said and said,
But the cops didn't listen and now he's dead.
A man lost his brother,
As he called out for his mother.
Because of racism deep in bones,
That was only shown because of a phone.
That's why we need to stand,
So that this doesn't happen again on any land,
So that justice is sought,
In this battle that must be fought.



Faith Wilson

PHOTOGRAPHY

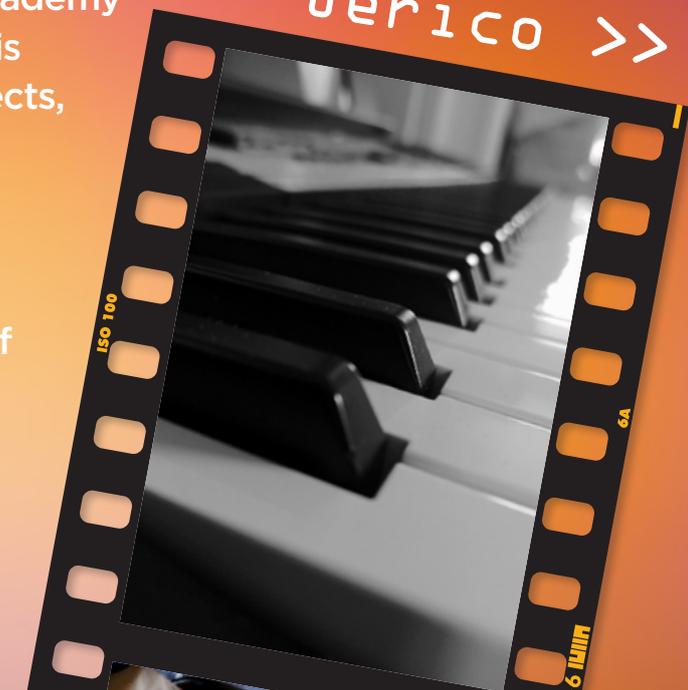
Students from Journalism Club at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK also coped with lockdown this summer by engaging in photography projects, using their creative skills to reflect on and celebrate the world around them.

These pictures from Tiffany in Year 9 and Jerico in Year 10 are a beautiful snapshot of one of the most unusual summers we have ever had!

Jerico >>



>> Tiffany



Oasis

Hub
MediaCityUK

NEWS

During the Covid pandemic, Oasis Hub MediaCityUK has been busy in the kitchen, preparing, cooking and delivering almost 1,500 fresh and nutritious meals to over 30 of our community's families most in need. This emergency provision ran from April to September and will continue throughout school holidays.

Since September, our team have been back in the hub and working with the academy to provide mentoring support to young people from all year groups. We have done 1:1 sessions, cooking skill classes and have recently set up a year 8 gardening project and can't wait for Spring to see the planted bulbs bloom.

A group of Year 9 students recently completed an introduction to wakeboarding course at Helly Hansen Watersports Centre at Salford Quays. Over the 6 weeks, the change in attitude and increase in confidence was astounding – they did fantastically well and gave learning this new skill their all.

This Christmas, the hub is looking to spread Christmas cheer across Salford. Year 7 and 8 have visited the hub to hand-make Christmas cards to be sent to the elderly across Salford, and they have made some beautiful creations.

We know that for many of our families, 2020 has been a difficult year, with many losing jobs, having hours cut or being forced to isolate alone. Christmas should be a time of joy, not of stress, as they worry about the additional pressure of trying to buy treats, or worse still, how to buy anything at all.

Oasis Academy MediaCityUK have pledged to provide 30 hampers to some of our vulnerable families this Christmas. Containing the usual staple food provisions, and festive treats like chocolates and mince pies. We have also had academy students in the hub to make Christmas Eve boxes and bake biscuits to go with the festive hampers.

If you would like to contribute to our Christmas Appeal, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/christmas-hamper-campaign-oasis-hub-mediacityuk.



Hello I think you amazing
and a wonderful person.
Dont worry I care about you!
Stay positive and we'll get
through this:). sorry my
card doesnt look so good.
Have a merry
Christmas!

CHRISTMAS BAUBLE

Competition

We had some amazing entries from Year 7 for our Geography Christmas Bauble competition.

All baubles were made from recycled things they have at home. Well done to all who took part!



Festive Food

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who made these delicious looking gingerbread!

Now, roll on Christmas!



I'M AN
CELEBRITY
 GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Oasis Academy
 MediaCityUK

Bush Tucker Trial

Coming soon!

BUSH TUCKER TRIALS

We're not a wild jungle in Australia or a cavernous castle in North Wales, but staff still took part in their own Bush Tucker trials this term!

Students voted on which staff members they'd like to see munch on some treats; some tasty and some... not so much.

Well done to all our brave staff members who took part!



BOOK DIVERSITY

It is with great excitement that we are announcing the new diverse range of books that will be available to students from January.

We are always striving to ensure the curriculum and resources on offer at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK truly reflect the wonderfully diverse and inclusive community we serve.



THE WELLBEING Trolley

Oasis Academy MediaCityUK takes the health and happiness of both its students and its staff very seriously.

This term the staff Wellbeing Committee was out in full force, delivering little bundles of happiness to all our hard-working staff.

We could not be more proud of all the staff who make our academy what it is.



UPCOMING DATES

DATE/TIME	EVENT	YEAR GROUP
5TH JANUARY 2021	Academy reopens	All years
21ST JANUARY 2021	Census Day	All years
15TH FEBRUARY 2021	Academy closes for half term	All years
22ND FEBRUARY 2021	Academy reopens	All years

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST ACADEMY EVENTS

WWW.OASISACADEMYMEDIACITYUK.ORG