CBA STUDENTS & THEIR FUTURE..



PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED

Award winning students, talented musicians, active fundraisers, aspiring mathematicians, new clubs, sporting heroes - they're all inside In Press...

ASTRONAUT VISITS ACADEMY

The first Briton ever to perform a space walk has urged CBA students to work hard to achieve their dreams.

HEAD BOY AND GIRL ARE SELECTED

Head Girl Barbara Silva and Head Boy Josh Cresswell ACADEMY STUDENTS TO APPEAR ON BBC1



Brooke Westor



LETTER FROM THE

I thas been another busy start to the academic year with lots of interesting and exciting events taking place at the Academy. As I am sure you will have seen in the press, the summer brought the best results the Academy has achieved since opening.

THE HARD WORK OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS IS NOW STARTING TO HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON THE ATTAINMENT OF THE STUDENTS. This has meant that more students than ever before have joined the Sixth Form in Year 12, with the majority of students taking advantage of the Chrome Book initiative that the Academy has joint funded. Following a rigorous interview process the Head Boy and Head Girl have been selected and the Sixth Form is now taking an active role in all aspects of Academy life. Our Gold Duke of Edinburgh scheme is in place and Sixth Form students are currently expressing a great amount of interest in taking part. This scheme will become a key part of the enrichment that takes place in the Sixth Form. Our young enterprise students are starting a new company with the help of local business leaders and the initial ideas that they are marketing have received a good response. These products will be available from local trade fairs over the next few weeks.

We have continued to build the success of our Session 4 activities. We are now running more clubs and activities than ever before with the new clubs, particularly textiles (Sew n Sews) club and the Yu Gi Oh trading cards club proving very popular.

There have been many changes over the last few months that the Academy has had to respond to, however despite this the Academy goes from strength to strength. The hard work of students, staff and parents is now starting to have a real impact on the attainment of the students, and we all believe that this year will be the most successful yet.

I would like to finish by thanking all those people involved with the Academy for their ongoing support. I am sure 2014 will be yet another challenging and successful year.

John Mul

John Henrys



REHEARSALS UNDER WAY FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Preparations are well under way for Corby Business Academy's forthcoming Christmas concert. The event will take place just before the end of term and include performances by a variety of talented young performers. Director of music Clive Wears said: "The rehearsals for the show have been going really well so far.

"All our music groups will perform in it and we hope it will be one of our best shows yet." The concert will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th December in the school theatre. Tickets are free and will be available from the student reception.



MUSICAL TALENT ON SHOW AT ROYAL **ALBERT HALL**

An evening dedicated to the best young musical performers in the country featured students from Corby Business Academy.

A number of students from the Academy took part in the Music for Youth Schools Prom at the world famous Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 12th November.

The students, who performed as part of Youth Brass 2000, were Andile Chiwuta, Sam Addy, James Wilson and Louie Anderson. Cornet player Sam said:"I didn't really feel nervous because I've performed on stage a lot but it was pretty exciting to play there. The acoustics were amazing and when the crowd was cheering it sounded like a massive roar."

Fellow cornet player James added: "There was a wide range of acts and they were really good. I really enjoyed doing it."

Between November 11th and 13th about 3,000 of the UK's best young musicians, aged between 7 and 21, took part in three Schools Prom concerts.

The Royal Albert Hall is a long-standing supporter and major sponsor of Music for Youth, a music education charity.

Together they work to champion youth music and develop musical talent by supporting young performers and offering them a platform to showcase their talent.

Performing at the Royal Albert Hall, on the world's most famous stage, is the chance of a lifetime for young musicians and the Schools Prom concerts have proven to develop some of the UK's best talent.

Director of music Clive Wears also took a group of 20 students from the Academy to the Royal Albert Hall to watch the Proms.



with the Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants

ACADEMY LAUNCHES ITS FIRST **GOLD DUKE OF** EDINBURGH SCHEME

THEY HAVE TO

BE RESPONSIBLE

FOR WHAT THEY

DO AND IT GETS

THEM INVOLVED

IN THE WIDER

COMMUNITY, NOT

JUST IN WHAT IS

HAPPENING

AT SCHOOL.

A group of Sixth Formers are at the beginning of an 18-month programme to become CBA's first ever Gold Duke of Edinburgh award winners.

Nearly 20 Year 12 students have become the first students in the Academy's history to attempt to achieve the prestigious gold award which is normally presented by either the Duke of Edinburgh or the Earl of Wessex in one of the royal palaces.

The students will have to spend at least 12 months taking part in voluntary work, up to 12 months on a physical project, up to 12 months on a skills project and take part in a four day expedition in 'wild country'.

Duke of Edinburgh coordinator Natasha Dunstone said: "We've introduced the Gold Duke of Edinburah awards scheme for the first time this year and we've got 18 students who are very interested.

"We've begun meeting up to decide what they want to do to complete each part of the programme and to decide where they want to do their expedition and so far it seems they are interested in kayaking.

"They are a really nice group of students and they are really excited about taking part. "It's a really big commitment and it is going to take them 18 months to complete." Miss Dunstone said there are many benefits to undertaking the award, including that it is looked upon favourably by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) the British admission service for students applying to university and post-16 education. She added: "I think young people get so much out of it - it is such a balanced programme. They have to be responsible for what they do and it gets them involved in the wider community, not just in what is happening at school.

"They can choose from such a huge range of things to do for their projects but they can't just stick to one thing. So for example if they are involved in football they can't coach a football team for their voluntary project, they have to find something else."

Among the students who want to take part are Joseph Samuels-Hammond, Kyle Murrie, Daniella Ewen and Bradley Thompson. Joseph said: "I wanted to take part because I think it looks really good on your CV. Part of the scheme involves volunteering so you're helping the community too."

Kyle said: "In the past I wanted to do both

the bronze and silver awards but I wasn't able to either time so I'm really keen to do the gold award this time."

Daniella said: "I want to do it for the experience. I'm really looking forward to the residential part of the scheme and to the expedition because we're thinking about doing kayaking which should be great." Bradley added: "I think it's a great opportunity to be able to put this on your CV.

"This is something that employers look for and I think having it can make your application stand out from the rest."

Although the Academy has not run the Gold Duke of Edinburgh scheme before it has run other Duke of Edinburgh award schemes in the past and will once again be opening its Bronze Duke of Edinburgh scheme to Year 10 students after Christmas.

Miss Dunstone added: "In three or four years I would like us to have a situation where we have our Year 10 students doing their bronze award, our Year 11 students working towards their silver award and our Years 12 and 13 working on their gold awards."

SIGNATURE WINS AWARD WITH ITS NEW PRODUCT

A group of enterprising Year 12 students won a marketing award when they unveiled their new product for the first time.

Members of our Young Enterprise company Signature have created customised face flannel gift sets. When they launched them at the Young Enterprise trade fair for the Wellingborough and Rockingham area last month they beat off stiff competition from 10 other schools to win the award for Best Sales and Marketing.

Signature managing director Diana Olahova said: "The event went really well and we made friends with students from some of the other schools. We received lots of interest on the day and took several orders for our product. When they announced that we had won the award we were shocked because we were up against a lot of other schools, including schools from Wellingborough where the fair was being held. We're really proud to have done so well." Diana added she had enjoyed

taking on the role of managing director. She said: "It has been hard at times. The thing I found most difficult was ordering things but I've enjoyed being managing director."

Young Enterprise link teacher Alexandra Allan said: "Their knowledge of costs, gross profit, targets and effective sales techniques was very evident. These elements are key ingredients in running a successful company.

"The team worked hard to sell shares in their company to raise the funding they needed to pay for the initial batch of stock.

"They carried out market research which showed them potential customers were willing to pay a fair price for customised products and they have since been trained to customise the flannels with embroidery by our Director of Design Technology Cath Davis.

"The students are learning key skills in how to run their own business successfully."

Signature received its marketing

award from the Mayor of Wellingborough, Cllr Graham Lawman.

Customers can choose from a range of pink, purple and white flannel gift sets which have been wrapped up to look like Christmas crackers. The sets include either bath bombs or moisturisers.

The students will sell the customised face flannels, which have been embroidered with general messages of good will, at several trade fairs over the next few months.

The flannels will be sold for £4.99. A sample of the flannels will be available for staff and students to look at in BL7.

The Young Enterprise programme's ethos is learning by doing. It is designed to teach students how to work as a team to raise and manage finances, carry out market research, develop a product or service, promote their company and market or sell their company or service to the public.

The other members of Signature

Signature members Bradley Thompson, managing director Diana Olahova, Rebeca Constantin and Mia Penny working on their face flannel gift sets

are Sa'd Maudarbux, Bradley Thompson, Kia-J Hardingham, Mia Penny, Nicole Bean, Kieran Durnan, Eleanor Jones, Rebeca Constantin, Ross Hamill and Shannon Macleod.



WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED THAT WE HAD WON WE WERE SHOCKED BECAUSE WE WERE UP AGAINST A LOT OF OTHER SCHOOLS

MUSICIANS PRAISED BY

Our musicians won silver at the National Concert Band Festival Midland Regional Festival. The Corby Business Academy Concert Band performed a 20 minute programme containing four pieces of music in the school wind band class. The band received warm praise from the judges and were thrilled with their second place. Director of music Clive Wears said: "Our senior concert band won silver at the festival in Northampton which is quite an achievement.

"The judges highly commended the band's sound and in particular soloists Eloise Robertson on the flute and Kyle English on the cornet." The pieces the band performed were *Fantasy on an Early American Marching Tune* by Robert Sheldon, *Encanto* by Robert W Smith, *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* arranged by Johnny Vinson and *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins.

Members of the Academy's charity committee

GOOD CAUSES TO GET A BOOST FROM **CBA FUNDRAISING DAY**

Good causes are set to get a boost from CBA when it hosts a day of fundraising activities before the Christmas break. On the final day of term 2 students from across the Academy will take part in a variety of fundraisers which will benefit local causes and charities such as Children In Need.

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE ACADEMY WILL TAKE PART IN A VARIETY OF FUNDRAISERS.

CBA's charity committee chairperson is Year 13 student Ellie Mae Moore. She said: "We didn't hold any fundraising events on Children In Need day because there were exams being held at the Academy but on the final day of term students across the school will be doing different things for different charities.

"In our case our committee is concentrating on raising money for Children In Need and I think other groups are raising money for local charities.

"For the first time we're going to have a green screen so students can have their photos taken in front of different backgrounds and we will also be doing a raffle for the whole school to take part in and there will be a cake sale."

It will also include a mufti day and other highlights will be a stall raising money for the Academy's prom and fundraising activities at the Unit's enterprise sale.

The Unit's sale will feature a Christmas chocolate tombola, a stall selling felt brooches, Christmas gifts, Happy Hands UK's new chalk boards and salt dough Christmas decorations. The fundraising day will be held on Thursday 19th December.



STUDENTS BECOME **BROADCASTERS FOR A DAY**

Year 10 students got the chance to become broadcasters for a day during a trip to the Sky studios. Media students visited the studios in London and were given a tour before having the chance to try broadcasting for themselves. Media teacher Claire Howsam said: "They got the chance to work with all of Sky's equipment and got to learn how to film on professional cameras and how to edit using an editing desk. They had to be the presenters and even got to use clapperboards.

"The day was absolutely brilliant and we're hoping to organise another trip to the Sky studios for another class at the end of the year." Student Cory McBride said: "I loved using the equipment and having a tour around the whole of the Sky building."

I LOVED USING THE EQUIPMENT AND HAVING A TOUR OF THE SKY BUILDING.



Talented designers Eleanor Jones

and Megan Hogg

ACADEMY MUSIC CD WILL GO **ON SALE SOON**

will soon be available to buy. All the CD edits have been completed and the finishing touches have been put to the design of the product. CBA director of music Clive Wears said:

"It's great to have such a big range of musicians performing on the CD. "All the CD edits have been done and we have

Band, Senior Choir, Senior Brass Ensemble, CBA Vocalize and the Junior Concert Band.

Rebecca Loveday, Eloise Robertson, Callum Connachie, Shona McKinnon, Shannon Leask and Beth McQuillan. The CD includes hit numbers such as *Stand By Me, You've Got the Love, Fields of Gold, Someone Like You, Ain't No Mountain and Encanto.*

Music Means Business will cost £5.

The creative team behind the look of the Academy's new CD are Year 12 students Megan Hogg and Eleanor Jones.

The Sixth Formers have been working with two Year 9 students for nearly two months on designs for the spine and the front and back covers of the CD. The main image on the front cover will be a photograph of all the performers who worked on the product. It will be surrounded by other pictures too.

Megan said: "One of the main images will be the photograph of all the performers which we took in the Academy's central mall.

"But there's going to be lots of other pictures around it so it looks like a collage that you might find in a school yearbook.

"The pictures are predominantly black and white but we have picked out the green in the ties which works well."

The Sixth Formers agree the project had been a challenge but one that they have enjoyed.

Megan said: "We've been working on the project since the middle of last term and it's not been easy.

"But it's been really good to develop relationships with some of the younger students."

Media teacher Claire Howsam said: "It's been really nice to see Sixth Formers helping some of the Year 9 students to nurture their potential. "It will be great when their work is out there for everyone to see because it is fantastic

"These two young ladies have been creative and organised and they have grown in confidence since the start of this project.

"It's also really nice that the design of the cover means that everyone who performed on the CD is recognised for their work."

Eleanor, who would like to become a designer, added: "It will be great to get the CD out there and for people to see what we have done. This has been a really good experience. It's been challenging but I expected it to be and it's been a good challenge."

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SENATE

The Senate met for the first time during Term 1 and representatives from Years 7 to 13 and Resourced Provision/Unit selected the Head Boy and Head Girl. Each applicant gave a presentation and was then questioned by the Senate representatives and scored on their performance. The successful candidates were Joshua Cresswell who was appointed Head Boy, Barbara Silva who was appointed Head Girl and Bradley Thompson who was appointed Deputy Head Boy. The curriculum committees have also met for the first time this year and will continue to do so termly to give students a voice on all aspects of the Academy. These committees comprise students from all year groups and are chaired by Year 13 students.

NETBALL

Girls who want to improve their netball skills can take part in training sessions. Netball training for girls in Key Stage 3 is currently running on Tuesday evenings. Fixtures for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will start on Wednesday 5th February. If anyone wants to train and play they should go along to a session or contact Mrs Harris.



STUDENTS COMPETE FOR

Students have been thinking about social issues and values which matter to them during their Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Director of YPI, Tim Pare, visited the Academy to speak to all of Year 9 to launch the initiative for this year. Students will work in groups, with each group choosing a charity to represent. They will give a presentation on why their charity should receive a £3,000 fund at the CBA YPI final before Christmas.

Teacher Samantha Stacey said: "This year our final will take place just before Christmas and parents, charities and governors are invited to come along to watch the presentations. Students will be expected to go and visit their chosen charity to ask them questions and to find out what happens in real life. It's real life research, learning and opportunities."

Year 9 student Emily Russell said: "I think YPI seems like a good opportunity, it will mean we are using skills we don't normally use.

"I think it's important because it's about helping other people."

Student Tillie Shannon said: "My group wants to look at mental illness as a social issue because we all agree it's important."

One YPI class even made their own values tree to display the values they thought were important.

Other charities which are being represented include Mind, the Salvation Army, St John's Ambulance and Groundwork.

THE FINAL WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER.



PARENTS TO SHARE THEIR BUSINESS EXPERTISE

Sixth formers are due to take part in mock interviews with senior businessmen and women after CBA asked parents of new students for their help. New parents were contacted earlier this year to see if they could share their

business expertise with GCSE and A-level students.

Several parents responded and they have been invited to carry out mock interviews with Year 12 students in February.

Business Studies teacher Alexandra Allan, who made the appeal, said: "This initiative will help bring business to life. Contact has been made with middle managers at a variety of companies to invite them to carry out mock interviews with our Year 12 students, starting on February 6th.

"Encouraging businesses to work with schools provides them with an opportunity to help develop the workforce of the future."

Parents' involvement in the scheme could also be a one-off visit to talk to a group of no more than 25 students on a specific topic.

The Academy would be keen to hear from parents who have experience of starting or running a business, business strategy and planning, finance, business ownership, interviewing and selecting candidates, production methods and process, sales and marketing, operational management, customer service and staff motivation.

Parents, especially ones in middle management and upwards, who would like to help should email **aallan@corbybusinessacademy.org**

HOUSE SYSTEM

A house system has been introduced for our students in the Unit. The students are now members of one of three houses, Red Kites, Kestrels and Ospreys, and each one has a Sixth Former from the Unit as its house captain.

Students gain merits for good work and behaviour and they in turn go towards points for the student's house. A boccia tournament was the first house competition to be held last term. It was won by the Red Kites with the Ospreys in second place and the Kestrels in third.

Students were also challenged to design a badge, banner or shield for their house. In this competition Kestrels came first, Ospreys second and Red Kites third. At the end of the first term Ospreys had seven points, Kestrels had six points and Red Kites had five points.

As part of House activity the Unit students have also put together 21 shoe boxes for the shoe box Christmas Appeal. Students and staff donated boxes, paper, gifts and money towards postage for the boxes.

SCIENCE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

CBA science students are taking part in an international competition to come up with recommendations for a mission into space. The Cassini-Huygens mission is an international endeavour between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency and in 2004, after a journey of nearly seven years the spacecraft, comprising NASA's Cassini orbiter and ESA's Huygens probe, was the first to enter orbit around Saturn.

The probe made the only landing to take place in the outer Solar System - and the furthest from Earth - when it touched down on Titan, one of Saturn's moons, in January 2005.

The Cassini spacecraft is still in orbit around Saturn providing scientists with information about the giant planet and its moons. The team working on the mission have set aside valuable observing time for educational purposes and they will use this to take images as part of the Cassini Scientist for a Day competition. Students are invited to submit a 500-word essay explaining their choice of one of three targets, lapetus, Dione or Saturn's rings, to be imaged by the Cassini spacecraft in orbit around Saturn during its next mission.

Dr Rachel Causey, of CBA's science department, said: "Students from all different years are taking part in this international competition.

"Prizes include certificates from the European Space Agency and for the senior group of entrants, a chance to spend a week with Cassini scientist Professor Murray at Queen Mary, University of London."

The winning essays will also be published on the ESA website. The essays will be judged in three categories: 10 to 12 years, 13 to 15 years and 16 to 18 years.

HEAD BOY AND GIRL Are selected

Our new Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy for 2013-2014 have been chosen.

Josh Cresswell and Barbara Silva are the Academy's new Head Boy and Head Girl and Bradley Thompson is its new Deputy Head Boy.

Josh, Barbara and Bradley were selected by members of our Senate.

Josh, Barbara and Bradley will spend the year representing their peers both in school and outside, supporting CBA events and leading the Senate. Their duties also include leading tours around school and meeting visitors, giving assemblies and presentations, working with younger students and sitting on interview panels.

Barbara said: "I was honoured to be chosen for the position.

"I put myself forward for the role because I've always been a confident speaker around adults and my peers. If you are able to put across your opinion in a professional way I think it makes you ideal for a role like this.

"In previous years the Head Boy and Head Girl were the face of the Academy to external visitors. This year the role will be extended so we will have more interaction with younger students too."

Josh added: "I'm very excited to be the next Head Boy and hope

to further develop the role.

"I put myself forward for the role because I wanted to develop my citizenship skills and contribute to further successes at the Academy.

"I found the selection process challenging and competitive as I was up against my fellow peers.

"I'm most looking forward to interacting with the lower years as well as representing the Academy positively to visitors.

"For me the toughest challenge will be balancing my academic studies and extra-curricular activities with the duties of being Head Boy."

Head of Sixth Form, Kim Isaksen,

Head Girl Barbara Silva and Head Boy Josh Cresswell

said: "All of the applicants were excellent candidates and their presentations were of a high standard.

Deputy Head Boy Bradley Thompson,

"Congratulations to Josh, Barbara and Bradley."

I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO INTERACTING WITH THE LOWER YEARS AS WELL AS REPRESENTING THE ACADEMY POSITIVELY TO VISITORS.





James Butlin

Kelly Hume

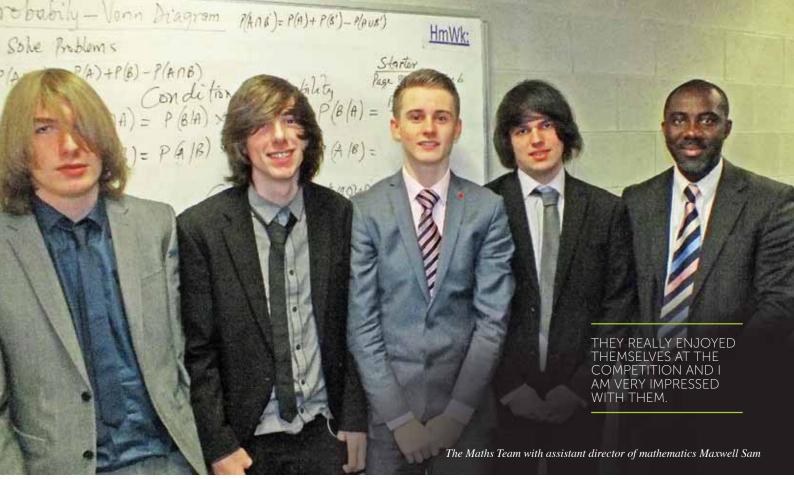
YEAR 7 STUDENTS SHOW THEIR

Two Year 7 students have excelled under the Accelerated Reader programme during their first term, taking around 100 quizzes between them. Since starting at CBA in September, Kelly Hume and James Butlin have been regular library users and have shown a lot of enthusiasm for the Accelerated Reader scheme.

Accelerated Reader is a programme that encourages students to read books and assesses their understanding of them through online quizzes. Students receive certificates and prizes based on the number of quizzes they pass and the number of quizzes in which they get 100% of the answers correct.

Librarian Amy McKay said: "Every time James and Kelly come in to get a book and do a quiz, they are taking more books home with them. In about five weeks Kelly's reading age has increased by 18 months through her sheer determination.

"They have both just been working so hard."



STUDENTS REPRESENT CBA AT MATHS CONTEST

A group of Sixth Formers took on some of the brightest young mathematicians in the area in a national competition.

Joe March, Shay Garscadden, Sam Addy and Daniel Thompson represented CBA in the first heat of the Senior Mathematics Challenge at Loughborough University last month.

Unfortunately, the team did not make it through to the competition's regional heat but CBA assistant director of mathematics, Maxwell Sam, thinks the experience will help them in the future.

He said: "This is the third year we've taken part in the competition and every year we do better than we did the year before. The other schools sent Year 13 students whereas we sent Year 12 students because we want them to gain experience of competing at this level now so that when they represent the Academy next time they will do so with flying colours.

"Being in Year 12 means they hadn't covered as much material as the students from the other schools had at this stage but we're sure they will do very well next year because they are very bright. They really enjoyed themselves at the competition and I am very impressed with them."

In the first task, the students were challenged to complete

10 questions in 40 minutes as a group.

The second task was called crossnumber and was similar to a crossword but the questions were about maths.

The final challenge was called mini relay. The Sixth Formers took it in turns to answer questions and each one had to get the correct answer to enable the next member of the team to answer the following question.

SIXTH Formers Become **Mentors**

About 60 Sixth Form students have volunteered to help younger students with their numeracy and literacy skills. The Year 12 students are working with Year 7 students either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups for short periods of time every week. About 28 Year 12 students have volunteered to be

CBA librarian Amy McKay said: "Before we began the scheme we trained the Sixth Formers which involved looking at common reading difficulties, how it feels to have low literacy skills and low confidence in your reading and methods that can combat those problems.

literacy mentors.

"Each mentor was paired up with a Year 7 student and they meet twice a week for 20 minutes to take part in a reading activity.

"If the Year 12 students are telling the Year 7 students that reading is beneficial the younger ones are more likely to respond well to that because they think the Sixth Formers are cool.

"It's also great for the Sixth Formers to take on this responsibility and to be role models. When we ran this scheme last year we had one Year 7 student who advanced their reading age by 18 months in a 10-week period."

About 24 Year 12 students began helping more than 30 Year 7 students with numeracy in November.

CBA numeracy skills co-ordinator Samantha Anderson said: "We've given the Year 12 students some ideas to start with but they are going to take ownership of this and cater the programme to suit their students. One Year 12 student asked the younger students what they wanted to work on and is using that as a basis for what they'll be doing for the term.

"Our Year 12 students are very enthusiastic about this scheme they have been brilliant. They're enjoying it and have been interested to find what some students can do and what others can't. Our Year 7 students are more likely to share their anxieties and ask questions of the Sixth Formers."

The numeracy mentors meet their Year 7 students for 15 minutes on a Friday.



PROFILE ON CBA'S **ABBIE PARSONS**

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES LED MISS PARSONS TO COME UP WITH AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF MIXING OLD AND NEW TECHNIQUES

JOIN THE YOUNG SEW N SEWS

Anyone who wants to join the club should look out for details of its meetings on the Academy's noticeboard or speak to Miss Parsons. One of the new faces at Corby Business Academy this year is textiles teacher Abbie Parsons. We caught up with her to find out what inspired her passion for textiles and how she is enjoying life at CBA.

CBA's Abbie Parsons was inspired to go into the world of

textiles by her teachers. She enjoyed both textiles and art and was unsure which one to follow but thanks to 'inspirational' teachers she soon found that textiles was dominating her creative thinking. She said: "I could have gone down the art or textiles route but I was inspired by my textiles teachers and they led me to bring art and textiles together. Whenever I had a creative idea it was always a textiles piece. Whether it was something usable like bags, which I used to make for my friends in the holidays, or later for art and design pieces.

"The advice I would give to anyone interested in pursuing textiles as a career is practice, practice, practice all the time. "Every area of art requires you to draw so keep a sketch book to keep your ideas in or to collect images, fabrics you like, notes about things you like or exhibitions you attended. "Read people's blogs and surround yourself with inspiring things - if you do you will enjoy it. Don't make it a job, make it something you enjoy." Miss Parsons studied a variety of subjects at GCSE including English, mathematics, science, French, IT, RE, textiles, art and geography and then went on to study English, maths, art and textiles at A-Level.

Next, she underwent a year long foundation course in art and design before she began her BA Hons in Textile Crafts at the University of Huddersfield. She said: "My degree was about experimenting with different areas of textiles, pushing the boundaries."

This led Miss Parsons to come up with an innovative way of mixing old and new techniques in her final year project at university. She created a collection of wooden keys, many of which are now on display around the walls of CBA.

She said: "I was looking at memory in the home and being able to unlock the key to the past. My Dad was doing up a house at the time which inspired me. "I used a laser cutter to make the keys out of MDF and clear acrylic and stitched them together. "My project combined traditional crafts with new technology. There were overlapping boundaries, it wasn't just stitching on fabric."

Miss Parsons spent last year teaching in schools in Leicester and Solihull and graduated as a teacher from Birmingham City University last summer.

She has already settled in well at Corby Business Academy and is enjoying her time here. She said: "It's good to be out on my own. To have my own classroom and to make my mark.

"This is an excellent school that provides a lot of opportunities for its students.

"We have lots of equipment here which other schools don't such as sublimation presses and heat presses and CAD camera embroidery machines. It's quite exciting to use specialist equipment as it can help to make lessons very interesting."

An after school club has been launched to help students explore their creative side. The Sew n Sews textiles club is aimed at students in Years 7, 8 or 9 but is open to anyone whether they are studying textiles or not. Textiles teacher Abbie Parsons said: "I think it's quite exciting to be able to come along and make something interesting with textiles and not be constrained with having to do all the design work. You can just come along, be creative and have fun. This term students can make Christmas decorations and we've got one girl who has decided to make a stocking for her little brother. But if students want to do something different they can. For example, we have one Year 8 boy who is making a beanie hat. I'm open to students suggesting to me what they would like to make. It might be that we get students coming along with some old clothes they want to embellish."

NEW CLUB IS A **SUCCESS**

A new club has been launched for fans of the Japanese collectible card game Yu-Gi-Oh! The Yu-Gi-Oh trading card game is based on the manga series Duel Monsters and its spin-offs which were created by artist Kazuki Takahashi. It was named the top selling trading card game in the Guiness World Records in 2009 and collectors at CBA can now show off and swap their cards at a new club which normally meets during session four on Tuesdays

in ML4.

Year 9 student Ben Freer is a big fan of the game and has hundreds of cards. He said: "As soon as I played the game I was hooked. I've been collecting the cards for seven years. "I like to take my cards to the club to show them off, compare them and swap them. "I'm really happy that the club has started. I even brought my sister along to one session and she really enjoyed it. "I hope the club will inspire my friends to start collecting the cards too."

Ben's favourite card is The Dark Magician who was the first main character in the first series. His most powerful card is Slifer the Sky Dragon.

Ben said: "No matter what happens with the game in the future I will always keep my Slifer the Sky Dragon card. It is very precious to me and I will never trade it."



Yu Gi Oh fan Ben Freer

PROFILE ON YEAR 13 STUDENT

Ellie was among the first students to enter the Academy - joining as a Year 8 student the year CBA opened.

Now she is in her final year, is chairperson of the Academy's charity committee and is a former Head Girl but she can still clearly remember how she felt when she first arrived.

She said: "I moved here with a group of friends and we stuck together but being in such a big place was daunting.

"We all got lost and we found it quite hard to get about. I think that's one of the reasons the staff are so keen for the older students to mix with the younger students now.

"I'm chairperson of the charity committee and we have about four or five younger students who are involved with it - I think it's really important that the different age groups mix.

"I hope the younger students feel that they have older students who they can go to, to talk about school life."

Ellie and her friends are beginning to feel the pressure of A-level exams and coursework and as a result she feels she can identify with the nervousness some of CBA's newest students might be experiencing.

She said: "We do feel under pressure because of exams and coursework and deadlines so we probably have similar feelings to some of the younger students it's just that we're in a higher age group.

"When the pressure gets to you it's important to have the support of your friends, teachers and people at home because they can get you through it. It's quite a big step to move up from Year 11 to Sixth Form because the older students are expected to do more by themselves.

"At the end of the day we've seen older students get through it so we know we can too."

During her time at CBA Ellie has discovered where her strengths lie and it has helped her to decide what career path she wants to take.

She said: "During Year 11 we got the opportunity to go to Uganda but to do that we had to raise lots of money first. So we set up fundraising events such as discos and mufti days and I realised that I really enjoyed doing that and it was something I was good at.

"As a result when I've finished my A-levels I'm planning to go to Liverpool John Moores University to study event management.

"My advice to younger students would be to grab every opportunity at CBA and focus on taking the path you need to get to where you want to be in the future."

Ellie is studying business, media, travel and dance for her A-levels.

AT THE END OF THE DAY WE'VE SEEN OLDER STUDENTS GET THROUGH IT SO WE KNOW WE CAN TOO.

Rethink Your Drink Rethink Your Drink PRC CHAA A healthy bottles of Year 9 stu foods and To get a so called Rethe

THE RESULTS WERE:

Water - 0g Cherry Tango 7.9g Fanta 10.4g Isotonic 19.5g Raspberry and Cranberry Drench 21.8g Red Bull - 27g Tropicana - 33g Dr Pepper - 51.8g Irn Bru - 52.6g Ribena - 52.6g Cherry Coca Cola 56g Mountain Dew energy drink - 60g Lucozade Pink Lemonade 70g Asda orange energy drink 151g Large bottle of Cherry Coca Cola 224g



Teachers Cath Davis and Abbie Parsons show off the Rethink Your Drink display

PROJECT LEADS TO A CHANGE IN DRINKING HABITS

A healthy living project designed to show how much sugar is contained in bottles of pop has led students to alter their drinking habits.

Year 9 students have been examining how much sugar and fat are in different foods and drinks as part of their work on nutrients.

To get a sense of how much sugar can be in products they created a display called Rethink Your Drink which placed drinks bottles next to sachets containing the amount of sugar within each drink.

Food teacher Abbie Parsons said: "The students were asked to bring a drinks bottle from home and then they used their measuring skills to work out the quantity of sugar in each drink. The amounts of sugar in some drinks came as a real shock to them especially when they thought about how often they drink them."

CBA Director of Design Technology Cath Davis added: "I think some of the students have changed what they are drinking because of this project. I have also used the display with my tutor group because we have been talking about the NHS and how obesity is one of the biggest problems we face and causes many people to go into hospital. As a result we started looking at sports drinks and how much sugar is in them and began talking about the other drinks they could have after events to help them recover. For example, it's been proven that muscles recover more quickly if you drink milk."

The display of drinks bottles can be seen in AL7.

About 40 students have already signed up to attempt to read nearly 140 books nominated for this year's Cilip Carnegie and

YOUNG READERS TAKE ON

CARNEGIE JUDGES

Kate Greenaway Medals. The list was announced last month and students have been hitting the Academy's library shelves to track down the titles vying to be named the best stories for children and young people. Librarian and Carnegie co-ordinator Amy McKay said: "The students are already very keen to read the books.

"The beauty of a process like this is it encourages them to read outside their comfort zone and discover new authors."

The students have been challenged to read the books and pick the ones they think are best. If their findings agree with the judges they will be awarded a prize by library staff.

Among those taking part in the challenge are Year 8 pupils Lauren Shirlaw and Laurie Coleman.

Lauren, who has been reading *The Great Unexpected* by former Carnegie winner Sharon Creech, said: "It's a very exciting book and it really twists at the end. The story changes from place to place."

Laurie, who is reading *Monkey Wars* by Richard Kurti, added: "I think the book I'm reading could be a real contender for an award.

"It's quite gory and is definitely not for the faint-hearted. It's exciting and it flows really well. "I'm hoping to read as many of the books on the list as possible." When students read one of the books their picture will go up on a display in the Academy's library featuring the award contenders.

THE BEAUTY OF A PROCESS LIKE THIS IS IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO READ OUTSIDE THEIR COMFORT ZONE AND DISCOVER NEW AUTHORS.



OUR LIBRARIAN IS NAMED CARNEGIE CO-ORDINATOR

Our librarian Amy McKay has received the prestigious honour of being named the co-ordinator for the Cilip Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards. The Carnegie medal and Kate Greenaway medal are given to outstanding examples of writing and illustrations respectively and are often described by authors as the one they want to win.

Last year Miss McKay was one of the judges for the competition and this year she has been appointed the awards coordinator. She said: "These are the most prestigious book awards for books for children and young people in the UK.

"I loved being a judge last year and I was gutted in June when it was all over so I'm ecstatic to have been appointed as coordinator this year.

"I am a point of contact for the judges and have to make sure all the books arrive from the publishers. I have to make sure the judges stick to the strict criteria of the competition so we find the best of the best.

"I also help to organise the awards ceremony and I'm a point of contact for the authors which means I get to mix with people I really respect. I love the Carnegie because it represents the very best in contemporary children's literature."

As part of the role Miss McKay also has to read all the books which have been nominated for the awards which this year totals almost 140.

She said: "I think being Carnegie



Our Happy Hands UK Young Enterprise firm has begun making its latest product range.

The company, which is made up of members of the Unit, is continuing to produce its popular cake stands and tea cup candles but has come up with a new product to add to its list of achievements. It has begun to make chalk boards in different shapes, such as Scotty dogs, and it plans to launch them at its enterprise event on Thursday 19th December. Young Enterprise link teacher Nikki Clark said: "They have put their designs onto MDF which our AMID department has kindly cut out for us.

"Our students are then going to paint them with blackboard paint and drill holes in them so they can

co-ordinator benefits our Academy. Firstly, the students are trying to read all the books with me and secondly, it means when students come to me asking for a book recommendation I can point them towards the best in children's fiction.

"Later in the competition they will also be shadowing the judges and will be putting forward their own recommendations for the finalists and winners and we hope to have some authors in to see us too."

be hung up.

"They have worked together really well as a team. They identified who does what roles well and organised themselves.

"Our Sixth Formers are also relating their numeracy work to the practicalities of running Happy Hands UK."



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TEENAGE NETBALLER IS SELECTED FOR ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A teenage netballing star has been selected to represent the county in the England Development Programme. Year 11 student Erica Turner is one of just 11 players from the county to be selected for the programme and as such is recognised as one of Northamptonshire's finest players.

Erica began playing netball in Year 6 and has since worked her way up in the sport through school, club, county satellite and county Academy level to county performance level.

Her sights are now fixed on moving up again to regional and then later to national level.

Erica said: "I was really excited to be selected for the programme. "The training is more intense at this level and my muscles often ache the next day.

"Hopefully in the future I will go on to play at regional level and then at national level. Most England players are aged between 20 and 25 so I still have time to get there because I'm only 16.

"I also play other sports, including cricket and football, and I probably take part in some form of sport every day. I enjoy team sports. I like the competitiveness of it. I'm a very competitive person.

"When I'm older I'd like to play sports professionally or be a PE teacher because I'd enjoy passing on the skills I've learned to others."

Director of sport Amy Harris said: "I'm exceptionally proud of Erica for all her hard work and natural talent. I hope that in the near future she will represent England in netball."

she will represent England in netba



HOW will be among the first in the c

Students at CBA will be among the first in the country to see a special physics roadshow.

The Academy will host the Ever Wondered Why roadshow by the Institute of Physics (IoP) for Year 9 students in December. It will be one of the first schools, nationally, to host the event which covers a range of topics, from the size of the universe to optical illusions - all with the aim of persuading pupils that physics is an important and valuable part of what they study at school and beyond.

The roadshow will be delivered by experienced physicists from the IoP with backgrounds in industry, research and teaching.

IoP teaching and learning coach Peter Tiktin said: "Using water, planets, optical illusions, fuels and tornados, students will be guided through an hour of demonstrations, interactive experiments, explosions and freezings. The end result will be a renewed wonder and excitement about physics and its relevance to us."

Year 9 will be split into two halves and the event will be delivered to each half in sessions 1 and 2 on Monday 9th December.

Vice principal Lorraine Smith said: "I am really looking forward to this event as an additional way of helping students to become more aware of, and enthusiastic about, physics. It's about seeing physics as something more than 'what Stephen Hawking does'." Unit members take part in the competition

SILVER FOR NEW AGE KURLING STUDENTS

Young sports stars from CBA shone at an event designed to help young disabled pupils take part in competitive sport. A team of students from the Unit came second at a new age kurling competition in Wellingborough - beating teams from six other county schools.

Teacher Claire Robinson said: "To come second was a real achievement. We've not done too much new age kurling in the past but it's something I would like us to do more in the future. "The students found it great fun and are keen to do it again."

MACIE TRIUMPHS AT GYMNASTICS

Talented gymnast Macie Walker won a Gold medal in vault at a gymnastics competition in Malta.

Macie, who is in Year 7, took part in the competition with the rest of her team from Corby Gymnastics Academy during the summer. It was Macie's first international gymnastic event.

Teams from all over Europe, including Belgium, the Netherlands and Malta, were represented.

Corby Gymnastics Academy won overall second place and its members won five individual medals, including Macie's gold. Macie said: "I had never been to a competition abroad like that before, it was fun.

"I've been doing gymnastics since I was five years old and I go five times a week."

Macie has also recently taken part in a Level 4 competition in which she won gold on floor and vault, bronze on the bars and silver overall.

Vice principal Lorraine Smith said: "Macie is a great ambassador for the Academy. It's great to see that our students' skills and talents aren't just confined to inside school."

ISABELLE IS ARCHERY CHAMPION

A talented young archer has won a prestigious trophy. Year 7 student Isabelle Croyden began competing as a barebow archer in November 2012. This September she came first in her discipline in an archery competition and was presented with Northamptonshire County Archery Society (NCAS) Junior Barebow County Outdoor 2013 Champion Trophy.

She was presented with the trophy for coming first in every county competition she has taken part in.

Vice principal Lorraine Smith said: "It is wonderful to see such a young student showing such incredible promise for the future. Isabelle is a credit to the Academy."





Unit students have fun at Adrenaline Alley during the filming and

(middle right) teacher Nikki Clark is interviewed by the BBC crew

ACADEMY STUDENTS TO APPEAR ON BBC1

A prime time BBC1 television programme will feature staff and students from Corby Business Academy.

Students and teachers from CBA's Unit were invited to Adrenaline Alley in Corby in November to take part in filming for the National Lottery Live Show because they supported the venue in its bid for funding from the People's Millions in 2010. The programme will look at how the venue used the £43,862 it received from the People's Millions to create a specialist area so young people with disabilities can participate in activities such as BMX riding, cycling, skateboarding and inline skating. Adrenaline Alley founder Mandy Young said: "The relationship we have with CBA is one we want to continue to build on.

"The lottery programme will be showing good causes such as ours that were funded through the People's Millions.

"CBA helped us to get our funding because we spent time talking to staff and students about what we could do to increase participation for disabled people.

"It's great that we can open our

doors to disabled participants because the kids love being here." CBA special needs teacher Nikki Clark, who was interviewed for the programme, said: "We first linked up with Adrenaline Alley on an art project and then they offered us the chance to go and watch the cyclists and the skaters and then for our students to have a go themselves. Back then for a proportion of our students it was inaccessible.

"Since then Adrenaline Alley has introduced hand bikes and trikes and a cycle track which goes around the venue which has meant all our students can participate in sports there now. "The children were so excited to go along for the filming. They enjoy being there so much and it increases their confidence."

The Unit uses Adrenaline Alley for a variety of purposes, including its sport and leisure curriculum, as a place to try out different activities in the community in a safe environment and to enable students to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award physical section.

All the students love going there. Zoey said: "The bike was good fun

and everyone was happy." Jessica said: "I was really fast on the bike and scooter."

Liam said: "I was on the scooter and I liked going down the ramps."

Harry added: "I love working with Casper. He's funny and makes me happy."

Unit director Claire Robinson said it is clear that the students receive many benefits from spending time at Adrenaline Alley. She said: "In supporting a practical session at Adrenaline Alley it is clear to see the students' growth in self confidence and esteem. It encourages independence, team building skills, social development and interactions between students but most importantly they are having fun.

"The staff support the special needs of our students in a friendly and positive way that promotes their learning and development." Two students, Harry and Samantha, have also been invited to go to Pinewood Studios for the filming of the programme in the studio on the night.

The show is expected to air on Saturday 14th December.



THE RELATIONSHIP ADRENALINE ALLEY HAS WITH CBA IS ONE WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON.



TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Our Academy grounds will soon look a lot greener thanks to a donation of more than 400 trees. Steve Ellis, who is part of the Academy's site team contacted the Woodland Trust and arranged for it to donate 420 trees to the school.

The first trees have started to be planted around the school tennis courts by members of the Resources Provision KS4 Duke of Edinburgh group and Sixth Formers from the Unit.

Teacher Claire Robinson said: "The students loved being outside and planting the trees and they worked really well together as a team."

A student from the Unit plants one of the trees



ASTRONAUT VISITS ACADEMY

The first Briton ever to perform a space walk has urged CBA students to work hard to achieve their dreams.

NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE, who is a veteran of six space shuttle missions, spoke to students at a conference held by XMA at the Academy in October.

He said:"I thought the only way to becoming an astronaut was to be a test pilot because that's what had happened in the past.

"I thought my dreams might be finished when an eye test prevented me from taking this route but I've realised that you should never look to the past to determine your actions, always strive to create a new way of doing things - you are the future and you are better equipped than anyone to see potential for change."

GOOD TURNOUT FOR OPEN EVENING

More than 120 prospective Sixth Form students attended Corby Business Academy's latest open evening.

The event gave people the chance to find out about the Academy's rapidly developing Sixth Form and the visitors included many students from other schools. Students and parents had the opportunity to learn more about student life in the Sixth Form and met with teachers to understand more about the curriculum on offer at the Academy.

There was also a chance to find out more about CBA's extra-curricular activities, including the Duke Of Edinburgh scheme, Community Sports Leadership Award, Extended Project, work experience and mentoring programme.

Sixth Form head Kim Isaksen said: "I was immensely proud to show off our Sixth Form to prospective students.

"We have an excellent curriculum offer as well as a vast array of enrichment opportunities which ensure CBA Sixth Formers have the richest possible experience."

Visitors were also given the chance to learn about the Raising Participation Age (RPA). Under RPA the Government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training.

Students who started Year 11 or below in September 2013 will need to continue until at least their 18th birthday in either full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider, in full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training or in an apprenticeship.

CBA student ambassadors helped run the open evening in October by supporting staff, escorting parents to sessions and generally enabling the smooth running of the event.

All applications for the Sixth Form must be submitted to Kim Isaksen by January 31st 2014.

Anyone who has any queries can email **kisaksen@corbybusinessAcademy.org** or call **01536 303123.**

NEARLY 1,000 VISITORS ATTEND YEAR 6 TOURS

More than 50 Sixth Form students were involved in running tours for nearly 1,000 visitors who came to CBA during the Year 6 open week.

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and many parents commented on their professionalism.

Throughout the week Sixth Form students ran tours for parents and prospective students, explaining all aspects of Academy life.

Head of Sixth Form Kim Isaksen said: "All of the students who participated in the tours were excellent ambassadors. The tours gave them the opportunity to develop their confidence as they spoke with large numbers of adults. "The Sixth Form are a credit to the Academy and they play a crucial role in the day to day life of the school."

TAEKWONDO SUCCESS FOR KELLY

A science technician from Corby Business Academy has achieved her 2nd degree black belt in taekwondo. Kelly Mitchell has been involved in taekwondo for 15 years and trains about two or three times a week.

She said: "When you get your first black belt you have to wait at least two years before you are eligible to go up to the next level because you need that time to gain experience.

"At the end of that I had to do my practical exam in Bristol which involved doing floor work, then sparring and then breaking boards. "I was quite confident when I came out of the exam because I had been well prepared for it and I thought I'd done well.

"I was ecstatic and relieved when I found out I'd passed."

It will be another three years before Miss Mitchell can take her practical exam for her 3rd degree black belt.



FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

Parents are reminded that they will be fined if their child is absent without authorisation from the Academy.

As of this year the Brooke Weston Trust Academies and the local authority will issue warnings and fixed penalty notices if students fail to attend school.

While parents and guardians can provide explanations for absences it is at the Academy's discretion as to whether the absence will be authorised or unauthorised.

A change in the law has also meant that the Principal will not be able to authorise any holiday requests in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

A family holiday taken in term time will result in a warning and a fixed penalty notice. Furthermore, if the absence is not authorised the student may be deleted from the Academy roll after 20 school days.

Other criteria for fixed penalty notices include a student having a high number of unauthorised absences within an academic year and when an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable explanation.

The fines cost £60 per parent or adult for each student and must be paid within 21 days to the local authority. This cost increases to £120 per parent or adult for each student if the payment is not received within 28 days.

If the fine is not paid within 28 days the local authority will start court proceedings which could lead to a £1,000 fine per adult.

ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON TWITTER?

Following our Academy's Twitter feed is a great way to keep up to date with all the latest news from staff and students.

More and more people are following us every day and if you want to be one of them search for **@CorbyBusinessAc** on Twitter.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

The next parent consultation evening has been postponed.

The event was due to be held on Thursday 12th December. A new date and time for the meeting have yet to be arranged.

Our Parents' Consultation Group provides the opportunity for parents and carers to discuss issues which impact on the development of the Academy.

It has already worked closely with CBA to make changes to the parents' car parking area and has initiated changes as to how parents are informed about homework and the curriculum on the website.

All parents and carers are automatically members of the consultation group and are welcome to attend the meetings which take place once a term.

Parents are asked to submit items for discussion via email and a formal agenda is put together which is worked through at each meeting.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS TESTING DATES

The latest dates for Functional Skills Testing for students have been released. ON JANUARY 8TH 2014

there will be a test for Year 11 students in mathematics from 1.20pm to 3pm. **ON JANUARY 10TH2014** there will be tests for Year 11 students in

ICT from 11.05am to 1.05pm and from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

ON FEBRUARY 5TH 2014

there will be a test for Year 11 students in English from 11.05am to 12.35pm. **ALSO ON FEBRUARY 5TH 2014**

there will be a test for Year 10 students in mathematics from 1.15pm to 2.45pm.

STUDENT ABSENCE

A student's absence from school can be reported on the Academy's website. On the Academy's home page at www.corbybusinessacademy.org there is a section called Report An Absence.

Once parents or carers have clicked on it they will be asked to provide the student's name and year, the reason for their absence, the day of absence and their own name and contact details. Parents and carers may be contacted later in the day to confirm that the information that has been submitted to the Academy is correct.

SESSION 4 CLUBS

A list of all the Academy's Session 4 groups is now available to view on the school website at:

www.corbybusinessacademy.org

A link to the list can be found under the Student Info section of the website.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents evenings will be held for Year 11 students in December.

Sessions will take place from 3.45pm to 5pm on Tuesday 10th December and from 3.30pm to 7pm on Wednesday 11th December.

Letters were sent out to parents at the end of November.

Parents have been able to use the online booking form on the Academy's website to book appointments since Monday 2nd December.

BA STUDENTS & THEIR FUTURE..

PRESS GET IN TOUCH

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of In Press. If you have any items for our next edition please email our press officer Catherine Bontoft at cbontoft@corbybusinessacademy.org

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