

# NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We've had another fantastic term here at BOA Digital. Students have had some great opportunities to expand their technology knowledge by working with companies in Birmingham, including the Premier League football club, Aston Villa.

Extra-curricular activities are incredibly important for us and pupils have tried their hand at chess, singing workshops and even self-defence classes.

As we look into the summer term, I encourage students to keep up their hard work, and being kind and supportive during lessons. Thank you for sharing our digital values!

*Mr Averis*



## SAMPAD

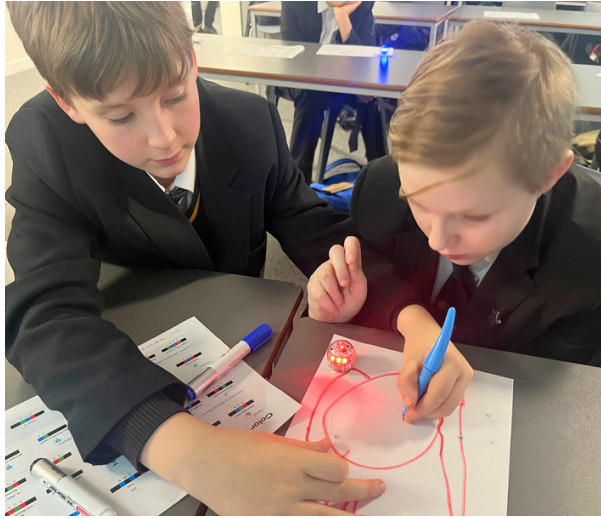
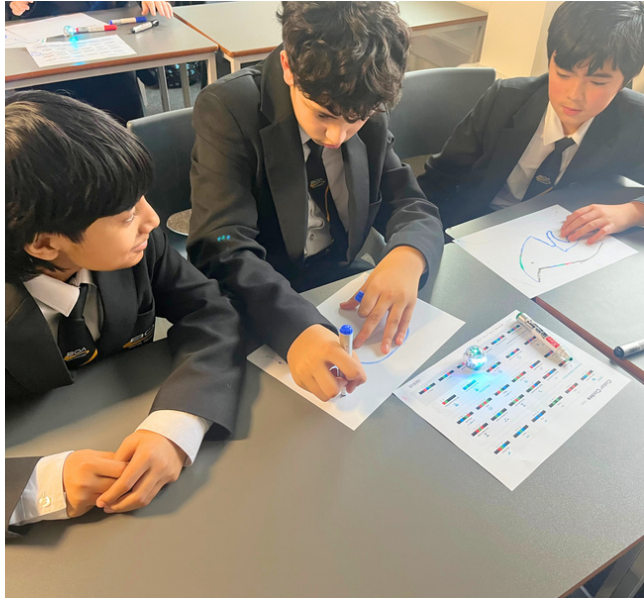
On Tuesday, 5th March, we were visited by Sampad, a charity that promotes South Asian arts and culture in the UK. They visited us with an author who ran a writing competition with two of our year 8 classes inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech. Students had to create their own piece of creative writing inspired by the topic of a 'dream'. We had a selection of amazing entries, including raps, poems, artwork, songs, stories, and speeches. We have submitted lots of the entries and are now waiting to find out if we have a winning writer in our mix! Well done to all those involved.

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## ASTON VILLA

We had a fantastic launch to the STEM Stars Programme with Aston Villa Football Club and the Aston Villa Foundation. Our Year 7 students have teamed up with AVFC over several weeks, building skills in teamwork, algorithm creation, and code debugging. And let me tell you, our young minds were buzzing with excitement!

Our students have been part of an action packed programme where they've learnt how to design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals. As well as that, they've used sequence, selection and repetition in programs and learnt about how some simple algorithms work.



They've been scoring goals by working scientifically and mathematically, engaging as a team and building communication skills. We've had brilliant positive feedback from students, teachers and the course leaders so far!

Here at BOA Digital, we absolutely love teaming up with creative, innovative companies that can teach our students new skills. Keeping up with new technology is what we're all about and it is vital for our pupils to learn. We are building our young minds for the future.

### **FOOTBALL FACT**

Aston Villa is one of the oldest and most successful clubs in England, having won the Football League First Division seven times, the FA Cup seven times, the League Cup five times!

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## CHESS

Chess Club is open to both new and experienced players alike! The number of students attending the club has continued to rise each week, and it is serving as a great way for students to socialise with others that they may usually not speak to during normal school hours.

Usually, players are encouraged to play against each other on physical boards - however, for students that prefer to play on computers, that is an option too!

After the Easter Break, the students will be competing in a tournament that players of all skill levels are again able to join; the winner of the competition will win a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on what they like!



## CODING

We are beyond thrilled to announce that a few weeks ago, we had the incredible opportunity to host an online Q&A session with a data analyst and coding expert. It was filled with valuable insights and career advice for all the budding coders in Year 7. From discussing the latest industry trends to answering burning questions about coding, it was a truly enlightening experience. Stay tuned for more exciting events like this in the future!

### FUN FACT

Did you know coding has over 700 coding languages in use today! Only two countries speak more languages, Papua New Guinea (836) and Indonesia (710).

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## MONSTER ART

Years 7 and 8 all began their first clay project in Art lessons this term to create an army of clay monsters! Students studied medieval grotesques and the work of artists James DeRosso and Antony Gormley. They went through the research, designing and making stages, using hand building techniques such as pinch pit making and score and slip to construct their final sculptures.

They all look fantastic and we can't wait to get the kiln literally fired up before the end of the year so we can see all the pieces finished! Well done to all students; behaviour in the art room during the project was fantastic with students following health and safety rules really well.



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## BOA CHOIR

Students in 8I and also selected students from year 7 and 8 have been working with A level Music tech student Kieran Powell from BOA CDPA. They have been taking part in singing workshops as a class choir and also some students have been working as a smaller vocal group.

This has given pupils the opportunity to experience singing collaboratively as a group, which is hugely beneficial to wellbeing. The workshops will culminate in a showcase in May, to which parents of those participating will be invited to come and watch.

The students have been working hard practicing their songs in and out of practice sessions and we can't wait to see the showcase! It has been fantastic for students to have had the opportunity to work with an older peer and Kieran has worked so positively with the students. It has been an uplifting experience for all involved!



## SELF-DEFENSE

This term, the girls have had the opportunity to learn self-defence. They learnt some theory, self-defence techniques from Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and some foundational kickboxing.

The class was a massive success and was the 'talk of the academy'. The students did a fantastic job and listened well to instructions showing a mature approach to the teaching. We can't wait to put on another class next term!



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## SPORTS UPDATE



### BASKETBALL SUCCESS

In sport at Digital, alongside our fixtures and competitions, we run a number breakfast, lunchtime and after schools' clubs.

Our year 7 / 8 girls played their first basketball game this term, a 3 on 3 competition. Our girls beat Eden Girls school to qualify for the city final which will take place on 2nd May involving 11 teams from across the city.

Our second tournament was attended by several schools and supported by the City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club. It was a fantastic atmosphere with nine schools attending. Our A team (Y7) made it to the overall final, unfortunately they lost to a very strong Y8 team from Ark St. Albans. Well done to all the girls involved!



Into the summer term we will be running additional sports clubs and continuing with our exciting fixtures and tournaments.



### FOOTBALL

Well done to all our football teams this term who have competed in matches. Our year 8 boys team excelled in their football tournament at the beginning of March. Well done to team A who managed to win all of their games. A fantastic effort and brilliant representation of the academy.

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## CRAZY GOLF

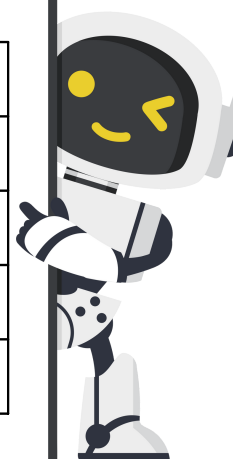
Here at BOA Digital, we like to reward excellent achievement, good attendance, and positive behaviour. And last term we did exactly that! Courtesy of The Problem Solving Company. We were able to treat our students to an unforgettable afternoon of crazy golf fun!

And let's just say, there were a few 'hole-in-ones' scored. Our students couldn't stop raving about the experience and even dubbed it as 'tee-riffic'! So keep up the fantastic work this term and who knows what surprises we have in store for you next!



## KEY DATES

8th April	Term 5
17th April	Staff training day
6th May	Bank Holiday
24th May	Half Term
3rd June	Term 6



Well done on a fantastic term everyone. Keep up the good work! And remember... turn up, try hard & be nice!

*Mr Averis*