

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another fantastic half term at BOA Digital Technologies Academy. The students have been working extremely hard on various projects, some of which you'll see featured in today's newsletter.

We pride ourselves here at BOA on giving a well-rounded education. Students get the opportunity to explore, including visiting libraries, getting creative in professional workshops, and watching theatre shows.

I'm very excited to see what 2024 will bring for our students. Thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy some of our highlights...

Mr Averis



BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY TRIP

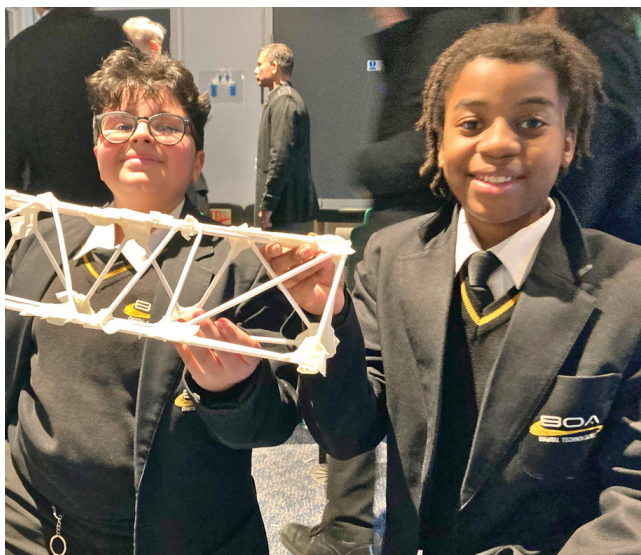
In December, we had a great time taking a group of students on a tour of the Library of Birmingham in Centenary Square. From the second they stepped foot in the library, they were mesmerized by the wide selection of books and the sheer number of different genres they could explore. We were so glad to be able to share this experience with them, and we can't wait to go back again soon!

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THINK TANK

With BOA Digital Technologies being in the centre of Birmingham, we've been avidly watching the construction of HS2 so when we were invited to take part in a workshop run by Balfour Beatty Vinci, one of the HS2 construction partners, our students jumped at the chance. On Thursday 30th November, 26 students accompanied by Miss Farrah and Mrs Mackie, made their way to the Think Tank to be greeted by Ellis and his team.

They gave the students the task of designing a tunnel from paper straws. The only constraints were that it had to be 40 cm long and 10cm wide and had to support a 1-kilogram mass. Students were split into small teams to complete the challenge. Some teams spent some time thinking about the strongest shapes for their design while others just jumped straight in.



All teams were able to demonstrate the digital skills of teamwork, independence and innovation. There were also great leadership skills on display to complete the task within the allocated time. It was a closely fought contest for the best tunnel that met the design brief, Omar and Aaron's team were just pipped by Teon, Jaiden and Gabriel to take first place.

All students were a credit to the academy and enjoyed the design task. It was great to see students apply their learning to a real-life situation and create a partnership with a local employer.

FUN FACT

The train used in the Harry Potter films can be accessed in real life and is still currently running. The line goes through beautiful sceneries in the Scottish Highlands

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PROFESSIONAL TECH PROJECT

This term students have been presented with an exciting opportunity to participate in a 'Live Brief' tech project. Run by an industry expert, the students were challenged to create a brand name, logo, packaging, and website landing page for an RFID wallet, set to be launched next year. A key aspect of the brief was to come up with a unique brand name that can be registered as a domain name in the future. A difficult task in itself, the students have embraced the challenge and successfully produced brand names that have gone on to be the basis for some imaginative designs.

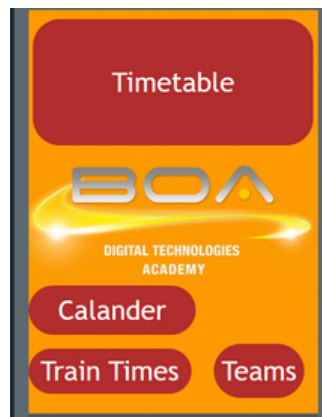
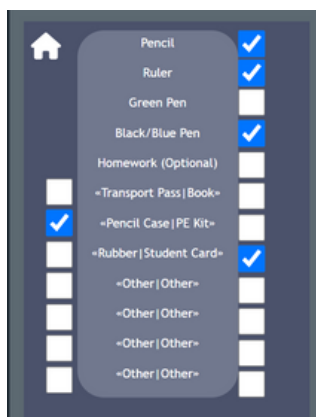
Working with Ai software and subsequently combining the Ai generated imagery with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop students have each designed a logo and brand, which they have go on to apply to packaging and a landing page built in Wix Studio.

Although by no means an easy project, the students have all impressed with their imagination and willingness to apply themselves using software that they are very unfamiliar with. The selected winning entry will go on to be worked up by an industry professional and the student responsible will have the chance to work alongside fine tuning their design to a commercial standard before it is applied to the product in advance of the launch in early 2024.



BOA APPS

Our year 7 students are nearing the end of their app design project and have produced some fantastic work this far. The functionality of these digital planners are brilliant and students have really allowed their creativity to shine through. This project will conclude on the last day of term with a competition where students will pitch their apps to a panel of judges. We will also be expecting some very special guests soon, university lecturers from BCU who specialise in media and video game design.



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ROMEO & JULIET



At BOA Digital, the importance of high-quality teaching and learning is at the centre of everything we do. We aim to deliver an innovative curriculum by exposing students to a wide range of learning experiences. This term, students have taken part in a range of activities including debates, drama activities and digital animation.

In English, Year 8 students have been creating their own alternative ending to Romeo and Juliet and have written and performed their own scripts. Miss Blissett and Miss Turner were especially impressed with the number of props and costumes pupils resourced from home!

The teaching and learning team have also been focusing on the importance of 'challenge' this term and making sure that students are thinking deeply and maximising their learning potential. We have been using TIF in lessons to help us do this. Does your child know what TIF stands for? Can they tell you where they have used TIF in a lesson?



PHOTOGRAPHY

We have had an exciting autumn term here at Boa Digital! Miss Mason took six of our wonderful students to Edgbaston reservoir where they collectively worked on a project, named 'pride of place'. The aim was to take photos of interesting sites in Birmingham in order for others to see the amazing buildings we have to offer. Keep a look out, we think this could be the start of a fantastic partnership with 'pride of place' offering opportunities for more students in the future. Above is a photograph one of our students took of the stunning reservoir. Well done to all involved!



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PETER PAN THE MUSICAL

On Wednesday 6th December we took the whole of year 7 to see Peter Pan at The Old Rep. This was a wonderful experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a great experience for all year 7 pupils, having the opportunity to see a live theatre production by BOA students.

BOA'S GOT TALENT!

Over the last few weeks our students have been rehearsing for their performances on BOA's Got Talent. It has been amazing to see the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by all students involved, regardless of whether they made it into the final show.

Here at Digital, we understand that resilience is so important, and our students have certainly shown this during the entire process. The show was outstanding and thoroughly enjoyed by all and in the words of our CEO Mrs Tague, 'You really are all winners'... Well done!



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BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM TAKE HOME SECOND PLACE AT TOURNAMENT



Our Y7 boys football team had an incredible time at last week's Small Heath Leadership Academy tournament, winning two matches and drawing one in the group stage. After a nail-biting semi-final, where we beat Small Heath 1-0, we marched on to the final against Cockshut Hill School. Even though we couldn't get that elusive goal, the boys' determination and hard work was a sight to behold. But, in the end, we lost in the penalty shootout 3-1. Even so, the boys should be proud of their achievement of coming second in the tournament! Wearing their medals with pride, they showed exemplary sportsmanship and were a credit to our school.

MEET OUR GIRLS TEAM

Introducing our girls football team! They've worked incredibly hard this term, honing their skills both on the field and in training. The girls, along with their teachers for support, have also travelled across Birmingham to represent the school in matches. They even experienced playing outdoors for the first time this year. They've had some fantastic wins and should be very proud of themselves. We can't wait to see what they can achieve next term!



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CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

It has been busy in the Art department this term, with plenty of innovation, creativity and drive being demonstrated by students.

Year 8 have been studying one point perspective, learning about how this can be used by artists to create the illusion of depth and distance. Students have responded by creating one point perspective graffiti words.

Year 7 have been learning about colour theory and applying this knowledge within their abstract still life compositions. Year 8 also wrapped up their digital graphic communication project, where they had to use the principles of design to create a school poster.

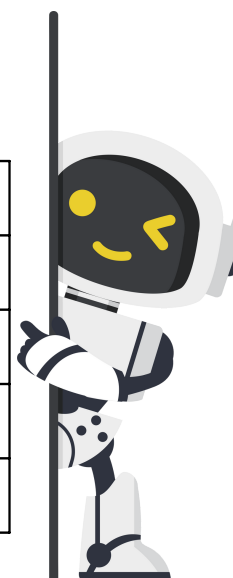
We also had many creative entries to the Christmas card competition. Thank you to all the students who entered.

Well done to runner up Thomas for his wonderful snow scene entry. The winning design was an intricate collage by Oliver in year 8. What skill and dedication it must have taken to create. Well done Oliver!



KEY DATES

8th January	Term 3
12th January	Coding Q&A Session
17th January	Year 8 settling in parents evening
12th February	Half Term
19th February	Term 4



From all of us here at BOA Digital, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

Mr Averis