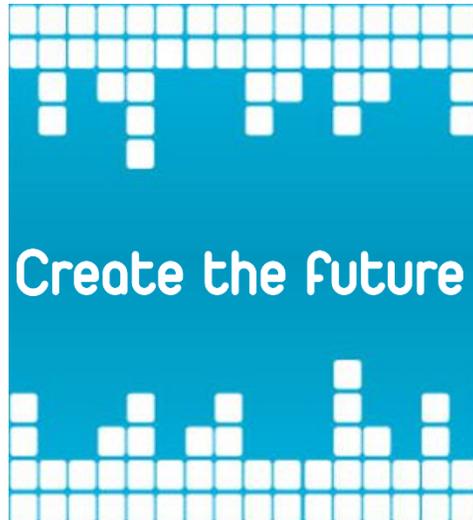




WORKING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURS


 Create the Future

JULY 2014 NOTICES

Letter from Principal, Shaun McInerney

Dear parents,

When we set out in September 2013 to create an excellent school we knew it would take creativity, determination and tremendous hard work. As this year draws to a close it is time to reflect on the successes that we have had together that have laid the foundations for our growth to 300 students in September. We are thrilled with the focus and dedication our students have shown this year as they have risen to the challenge of learning in new and exciting ways. We are creating the future together as we promised and this is being done through the teamwork and tenacity of our students and staff.

We are creating digital entrepreneurs, and this was evident last week with a team of Year 10 students (Adam Galloway, Jordan Kabymela and Charlie Curran Jones) winning the Festival of Business, Young Entrepreneur prize. The £200 prize for the school will be used as investment capital for other student ideas that are emerging. Two of our Sixth Form teams are through to the finals of the national Nominet Business ideas competition and we wish them well in this.

We are creating a talented pool of future employees for the sector through our Studio digital projects and we are creating digital leaders of the future through our community leadership projects with FACT, Girl Geeks, St James' in the City and local primary schools and elders groups. We are really pleased that our students are helping us become a thriving hub for digital technology by sharing their skills. We are proud that our students are swiftly becoming the finest ambassadors of our school. We are also creating a group of like-minded parents who have been very supportive of us in our first year and I would like to thank all of you who have been adding to the richness of our students' experiences through the work that you do and the support you give your own children. This has led to some really interesting projects such as our Mindfulness project that has helped build inner resources in our students.

Already I am looking forward to welcoming our existing students back to The Studio on Tuesday 2nd September at 9am. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued support, plead for a special effort with attendance in our new school year and wish you all a joyful and restful summer.

Shaun McInerney, Principal

Starting dates and times for the new Studio School year:

Year 10: 11am - Monday 1st September
 Year 12: 1.30pm - Monday 1st September
 Year 11: 9am - Tuesday 2nd September
 Year 13: 9am - Tuesday 2nd September

Young Rewired State

28th July – 1st August

Sign up at:

www.youngrewiredstate.org/festival-of-code

Parents Group

Our parent group is going from strength to strength and the meeting this term gave many sensible suggestions to improve communication through our website. We will be adding a parent's section and publishing school communications there. We are also planning email, text and Twitter alerts to help you stay aware of essential updates. You can read the latest parent group's report in this newsletter.

Stay In Touch

You can now follow our Principal Mr McInerney on Twitter - @LPSPPrincipal.

And you can keep up to date with all Studio news by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

[Facebook.com/TheStudioLiverpool](https://www.facebook.com/TheStudioLiverpool)

[Twitter.com/LpoolStudio](https://twitter.com/LpoolStudio)

[Instagram.com/LpoolStudio](https://www.instagram.com/LpoolStudio)

U-Explore Seminar – Andy Pickles



This term our year 10 and 12 students attended an inspiring seminar from the CEO of U-Explore and ex 80's pop star, Andy Pickles.

U-Explore is a careers portal that encourages young people to tailor their job opportunities and manage their own digital footprints. The portal also allows each student to create their own personal profile, selecting potential career options and any plans to progress to further education, an apprenticeship or employment.



Andy spoke about his own personal journey, from being a member of 80's band Jive Bunny to becoming a successful digital entrepreneur. He emphasised the importance of managing your own personal online brand, asking the question 'What will Google say about you?'

U-Explore is being used at The Studio as a tracking tool for individual student experiences and plans for the future. The portal allows students to enter details of relevant activities they have participated in, from industry seminars in school to extra-curricular projects and interests.

Giving our students the opportunity to curate their own portfolio and focus on their unique qualities and skills is a great way to keep up with the needs of all our students.

Andy wrapped up his seminar with some wise words for our students;
 "I am a big believer in taking inspiration from other people's stories, getting out there and having conversations. There are phenomenal opportunities ahead for students at The Studio, and U-Explore will allow you to reflect on these experiences."

Student Showcase

Staff and students from The Studio celebrated the finale of the annual project based learning programme with a games showcase celebration for parents and partners.

18 student development teams exhibited their finished games, ranging from a variety of 2D platformers to a top-down adventure game. Located across the ground floor of The Studio, each development team were assigned a booth to use to showcase their product. Teams created their own branded merchandise, including business cards, cakes and character masks, and offered prizes for anyone that could beat their game's high score.

Student team Pizza Llama even ordered pizza for showcase guests, to promote their game 'Extreme Ping Pong.'

'Battery Acid' were selected as the overall winner of the showcase, for the innovative design of their project 'The Ant Game'. The team were praised for their marketing campaign, which included Twitter, Facebook and Instagram profiles promoting the game, and a booth filled with intricate assets from the game – not to mention a stand filled with cupcakes!

Students have been working on their games for the past year during their scheduled Project Based Learning sessions. Each team were assigned an industry expert to act as their mentor, offering feedback and support throughout the design and development process.

The Studio would like to congratulate all of our student development teams for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



Winners of the student showcase: Year 10 development team Battery Acid (above)



Liverpool Girl Geeks



In partnership with Liverpool Girl Geeks, The Studio has hosted a series of events promoting women in creative industries.

Our first event Cake and Code invited tech-savvy girls to get hands on with a variety of coding challenges, accompanied by afternoon tea and cakes! The skills shown by the girls that attended the event was extraordinary, and we are hoping to be able to continue the programme next year.

The most recent event focused on Wearable Technologies, and invited interested ladies to sign up for a series of workshops and a keynote speech from digital jewellery innovators, Kiroco. The evening was a great success, with Draw and Code demonstrating their Oculus Rift, Apposing delivering a coding workshop and Science Grrl sharing her knowledge and experience of the technology industry.

IFB 2014

The Studio is proud to have been invited to participate in the International Festival of Business, a festival focusing on bringing business opportunities to Merseyside. Held in Liverpool throughout June and July, the festival has provided our students with access to great business links and opportunities at various showcases and events.

Students from year 10 and 12 attended The Skills Showcase experience at Aintree, delivering robotics demonstrations and inviting visitors to test their 2D games.

Secretary of State Vince Cable also visited The Studio as part of the IFB to celebrate great British innovation. The event featured a wide range of displays, ranging from the heavy duty surveillance vehicles manufactured by Hybrid Air Vehicles, to robotic limbs designed by prosthetic specialists Touch Bionics, to a £30 mini-computer; the Raspberry Pi.



Ideas Factory Finale and Exhibition

After weeks of voting, and over 200 registered votes, the winner of Ideas Factory 2014 has been announced! Attendees were invited to develop an idea for an educational mobile application, following the process from wireframe right through to marketing campaign.

Huge congratulations go to the team behind the mobile application Ask Us, who have been selected as the winner by public vote!

Mentored by Draw & Code, the team created a brilliant concept to help students struggling with revision and homework. Labelled as the app 'for students, by students', Ask Us features a personal profile for users, and the ability to post questions and ask for help from their peers. With a great design and intuitive interface, the application provides a great user experience.

The winner was decided by a public vote conducted at the Ideas Factory Exhibition held at FACT on Wood Street.



We would also like to give a special mention to our partners, Citrus Suite, Apposing, Draw & Code, Mando, Soop Boop and Black & Ginger who gave up their free time and expertise to come and help our young people develop these ideas.

We are truly thankful to them for mentoring the students and hope that they have inspired them to pursue a career in the digital industry.

Student of the Term – Daniel Parker

At the end of this final term, The Studio has a lot to celebrate. Our students have developed some incredible 2D games, participated in countless industry events and created some brilliant pieces of work.

One student in particular has done all of the above and more, earning the title of Student of the Term. Daniel Parker from Year 10 has been a credit to The Studio over the past term, representing the school throughout the International Festival of Business and delivering workshops to new students.

We asked Dan to give a quick insight into his school life at The Studio, and here is what he had to say.

What do you like the most about The Studio?

I like the way that the students and staff are all kind, friendly and very helpful and supportive. Also, lessons are very exciting, memorable, and always offer a fun environment to learn in.

How is learning at The Studio different?

Learning at The Studio is very independent, and you are given a lot of responsibility for your own learning. This allows a more independent approach to work, meaning you can go at your own pace, and are always challenged with more work if you have finished.

What was your biggest achievement this year?

Helping at all of the open evenings and the Printcraft/Minecraft project. I have attended a lot of events but my favourite are definitely the open evenings, as I get to use the 3D printer, our NAO robot, and show off my awesome work!

What are you most looking forward to going into Year 11?

Developing my coding skills, meeting new people, and continuing to be a student in the Studio school; the best school I have ever attended.



THE STUDIO

Term Dates 2014-2015

Autumn Term 2014

Starts: Monday 1st/Tuesday 2nd September

October Half Term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st October

Ends: Friday 19th December

Spring Term 2015

Starts: Monday 5th January

February Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Ends: Thursday 2nd April 2015

Summer Term 2015

Starts: Monday 20th April

May Day: Monday 4th May

May Half Term: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

Ends: Tuesday 21st July 2015

Studio Parents Group Update - June 26th 2014

The Studio Parents Group met this term and discussed communication, transport and technology. Domenic Jones reported back from this year's governors meetings as parent governor.

Bringing your own devices to The Studio: We discussed the emerging guidance on students bringing their own devices to The Studio and will publish this in the new school year.

Studio transport provision: We discussed changes to our transport provision for 2014-15 which will mean that parents will be invited to book a seat on the school buses in August for the following school year. The group understood the need for these changes to protect the school budget and we will try to minimise the disruption to existing students as best we can. We will issue a travel plan for students once Sixth Form enrolment has been completed in the last week of August.