

WORKING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURS

December 2015 NOTICES

Dear parents and carers,

Letter from Principal, Shaun McInerney

As this newsletter shows we have had another productive term!

For many of our students the highlight of this term have been trips to international gaming expos, Eurogamer and Insomnia at the NEC in Birmingham. We have also had trips to CERN in Geneva, the World War One battlefields of Belgium and showcased our work for thousands at the Skills Show in Birmingham.

So a busy term outside The Studio, but also within. We have established 55 positions for students to develop their leadership skills through Studio Ambassador and Manifesto roles. We now have a Student Leadership team consisting of Daniel Parker and Redd Dring (Lead Ambassadors), Adam Galloway (Sector Skills Ambassador) and Flavio Sansa (Manifesto Chair). Students have been trained in the principles of appreciative leadership and this is an approach we are building on within the school. We are looking forward to the projects they will develop over the coming year.

We hosted Ashoka last week as we have been nominated as Changemaker school for the work we do in developing committed, compassionate and empathetic young leaders. This is demonstrated through our continued engagement with the charity Special Effect who visited this week to share the cutting edge technology that helps people with disabilities gain a better quality of life through technology.

There are now 40 Studio schools around the country and we actively support many of them by sharing practice in this pioneering model of education. We were privileged to be invited to Buckingham Palace in November to attend a Studio School Trust Conference and two of our students were chosen to present for HRH the Duke of York who is the patron of the Studio Schools Trust.

The Studio is a unique school that is a privilege to lead. We continue to be approached by young people how wished they had known about us earlier. Please do spread the word in your own networks so that we can continue to attract and develop the next generation of digital entrepreneurs in the North West. Please also encourage any prospective students to come along to our open evenings in advance of our March admissions deadline. The next Open Evening is on Wednesday 13th January 2016, 5.30 – 7.30pm.

I wish you a peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2016,

Shaun McInerney
Principal @LPSPPrincipal

Parent Advisory Group

We remain committed to working with our parent community and encourage you to get involved in our Parent Advisory Group. The next meetings are on Tuesday 22nd February 5.30 – 6.30pm and Tuesday 24th May 5.30 – 6.30pm. Please email Steph Gibson s.gibson@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk to register your interest.

Start of Spring Term

The first day back at The Studio for all students is Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 9am.

Parents Evening

One of the suggestions from the Parent Advisory group last year was to have an opportunity for parents to meet directly with teachers. While coaches remain the first point of contact for you, I'm sure you will find it useful to have subject specific guidance as the Summer exams and the mocks in February approach. We are going to do this on the following dates:

Year 10 and 12:

Monday 11th January 2016, 3-8pm

Year 11 and 13:

Tuesday 19th January 2016, 3-8pm

Aardvark Swift Careers Talk

On Friday 27th November specialist games industry careers agency Aardvark Swift visited The Studio to talk about pathways into industry as part of their Get In The Game tour.

Two members of the development team from Boss Alien also attended to share an insight into the work that they do and how they secured a job within the games industry. Topics included improving portfolios, networking and engaging with influencers through social media.

Students gained an insight into the recruitment process for graduates and received advice and guidance tailored to their specific career ambitions.



Exploring Switzerland & CERN

Students made an international trip to Switzerland this term to explore the science and innovation exhibition at CERN.

CERN's main function is to provide the particle accelerators and other infrastructure needed for high-energy physics research. The group visited the cryogenetic testing facility at the laboratory and explored a variety of cutting edge technologies that are used at the centre.

Students had a fantastic time and also had the opportunity to visit the Palais des Nations UN building, St Peter's Cathedral in Geneva and the Jet d'eau.

Supporting Special Effect: The Gamer's Charity



Earlier this term The Studio welcomed the gamer's charity Special Effect into school to explore assistive technologies and how we can support the work they are doing further.

The charity's Director Dr Mick Donegan spoke to students about the importance of making games accessible and how they can modify their own games to benefit a wider audience. This ranges from altering controller inputs to including varying play speeds that can be accessed through the in-game menu.

The charity also hosted a tech demo to showcase a piece of eye-gaze technology, inviting students to get involved and explore the technology in more detail.

During the visit we handed over the money raised last year during the Street Fighter II Tournament and would like to thank everyone that donated and took part. We raised £70 for Special Effect and are already looking forward to our next fundraiser!





The Studio vs. EGX

On 24th September students from The Studio attended EGX; the biggest video game event in the UK, at the NEC Arena in Birmingham.

Over 100 students from across all year groups attended the expo, which provided the opportunity to meet game developers, animation artists and other industry experts attending the event to showcase their latest games and projects.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to play test a variety of different games and the UKIE Careers Bar offered interview tips, seminars, CV advice and more to students interested in pursuing careers within the games industry. It is safe to say students and staff are already looking forward to returning next year!

Angel Solutions Support

Two students from The Studio in Liverpool have been invited to share office space with a local software development company that specialises in creating software for education providers.

Adam G and Jordan K from Year 12 met Director, James Burch and CEO, Andy Kent of Angel Solutions at the Accelerate conference in Liverpool last month. The entrepreneurs were so impressed with Adam and Jordan's technical knowledge that they were offered access to office space. The support of Angel Solutions has provided an incredible opportunity for both students to further develop their skills and knowledge and will continue throughout the remainder of the school year.



BAFTA Success for Jack

Congratulations are in order for Jack Mills in year 13! During the summer break Jack was recognised at the YGD BAFTA ceremony in London for the creation of *Utopia of Rhythm*, his original platform game that incorporates pitfalls and obstacles with music and tempo.

As part of his award package Jack has toured the Google offices, met the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and has more exciting opportunities lined up. Jack developed the BAFTA-winning game during Creative Media lessons at The Studio and we are incredibly proud of his phenomenal achievement.



Accelerate Conference

On Friday 9th October students from The Studio attended Accelerate Britain, a conference promoting entrepreneurship at the ACC in Liverpool.

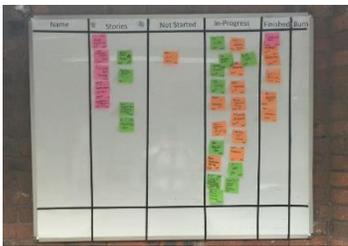
A group of Year 12 and Year 13 students were invited to attend the annual event which is hosted for businesses and investors. A series of workshops were available to attend throughout the day titled: Performance, Passion, Power and Accelerate and students were welcomed to the conference by an opening key note from Dr. Steve Peters, a Consultant Psychiatrist working with England Football and Sky ProCycling. Speakers throughout the day included Dan Germain, Head of Brand and Creative at Innocent Drinks, Kathryn Parsons, co-founder of Decoded and English fashion designer Wayne Hemingway.

Bringing Industry into the Classroom

At The Studio our students develop their skills in many different ways. Our Industry Readiness model helps students to secure their future career ambitions and ensures that they have a broad base of skills in preparation for a career in a dynamic sector. Whilst in the classroom, our learning coaches implement a series of industry standard techniques and methodologies to prepare our students for industry.

The latest addition to the computing classroom at The Studio is an Agile Sprint Board, implemented by our Computer Science coach Andy Johnson. He said:

“A sprint board is a vital element of the development methodology known as Agile. Before becoming a teacher I worked as a .net developer for a number of years and Agile was one of the main methodologies that we utilised. I was keen to bring Agile into my classroom at The Studio to afford my students the opportunity to give it a go themselves.”



Beginner



Apprentice



Expert



Coach



Industry Apprenticeship

A Sixth Form Graduate from The Studio has secured an apprenticeship with creative design agency Citrus Suite.

Immediately after leaving The Studio Christian Pask was offered an apprenticeship at Citrus Suite in response to his impressive portfolio of industry skills. Citrus Suite are a creative design studio who have developed a series of award winning mobile apps for global clients including Penguin Books US and Public Health England. Chris Morland, CEO at Citrus Suite hired Christian before he had even received his A Level results. He said:

“We’re really happy to have found someone from The Studio who can easily transition into a real-life working studio. We’re not in a position to take someone one who is completely raw, but Christian’s already got the skills and he’s more than capable of producing good work.”

THE STUDIO

Term Dates 2016

Start of Spring Term: Tuesday 5th January 2016
 Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2016
 Bank Holiday: Friday 25th March 2016
 Bank Holiday: Monday 28th March 2016
 End of Spring Term: Friday 1st April 2016

Start of Summer Term: Monday 18th April 2016
 Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2016
 Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2016
 End of Summer Term: Thursday 21st July 2016



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