



# The Astley Cooper Newsletter

December 2020

This time last year, I wrote, '*The beginning of the academic year in September probably seems like a long time ago now. The longest term of the year usually feels like it encompasses the three seasons from summer to winter and this autumn was no exception.*'

While that is true at the end of the Autumn Term in every school year, who would have thought a year ago that we would have had a term where year groups started and finished the school day at different times, no longer mixed with other year groups because they had to stay in their own 'bubble', students and staff walked the corridors in face coverings, teachers no longer had their own classrooms, there were no assemblies, performances, trips or visits and staff meetings were held on Microsoft Teams. An extraordinary year.

As the year ends, we can as a school take some satisfaction in the fact that our student numbers are growing and that we have an outstanding group of staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the term to do their very best for the young people in our care. This is always a long, challenging term, but the students have generally adapted very well to the restraints forced upon us by Covid-19.

Two staff leave us at the end of term: Humanities teacher Mr Fanning and our part-time SENDCo Mrs Ockendon. Parents with older children in the school might remember that we were in an improvement partnership with Roundwood Park School in Harpenden. Mrs Ockendon was the SENDCo at Roundwood Park and joined us to work closely with our SENDCo in the newly created Inclusion and Achievement Centre. A former Ofsted inspector, Mrs Ockendon has had a long and distinguished career in teaching. We are grateful that she spent part of that career here and wish her a long and fulfilling retirement.

Despite the fact that we have not been able to hold our usual educational and cultural events this term, you will see from the range of features in this *Newsletter* that students and staff have not been idle. We hope that you enjoy our talented students' work and, under the clear guidance given by the Science department, even try your hand at making your own Snow Globe.

On behalf of our Governing Body and all the staff, I would like to thank you for your support this term - a term like no other - and wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

**Mr Gaynor**  
**Headteacher**



*Year 10 students Delia Mironescu, Aimee Greenaway, Alex Christie & Lily Harper*



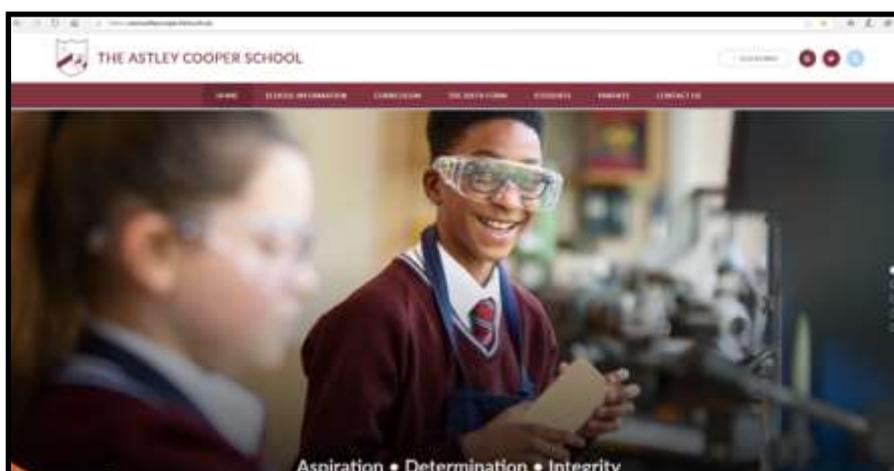
## The Astley Cooper School Website

In January 2019 the school website was redeveloped and had a much needed overhaul. This included a redesign, new graphics, pictures and plenty of new content. During 2020 the website has proven to be an invaluable communication tool which now has direct links to Facebook and Twitter. We use the website as a portal with our online Parents' Evening system as well as presenting our own virtual Open Evenings.



There is a wealth of information about the curriculum, policies, the Sixth Form, news, contacts and so much more. Find out more by going to:

[www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)



**Dr. Ryde**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



## English Key Stage Three

### Year 7

The Year 7s have been studying *Private Peaceful* told from the perspective of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved school friend Molly. Students produced creative writing inspired by a scene in the book.

#### THE VILLAGE TIMES

##### Yellow Aeroplane Spotted Three Children Claim To Have Talked To The Pilot

A yellow aeroplane was seen landing near the brook and taking off two minutes later last night. Several people ran to the scene, seeing three children by the spot where the plane took off. The children claim to have given the pilot directions and to have been given a bag of mint humbugs by said pilot. The children in question were Tommo and Charlie Peaceful, accompanied by Molly. Tommo Peaceful said to *The Village Times*: "We were going home after being at the brook, when Molly heard a rumbling- we all thought it was the Colonel's car. I looked up 'coz I heard something in the sky.

It was a big yellow thing, maybe a bird, it sound like a mob of bees but then I realised it was a plane. We all looked up and watched the big yellow thing flying around. I was very surprised because none of us had ever seen an aeroplane before. The big yellow plane landed right next to us without turning the engine off. He yelled to us he asked if the church was Lapford church. We told him it was St James. He laughed and claimed he was very lost. He then handed my brother Charlie a bag of 20 mint humbugs. We almost got hit by the plane as he flew away."

The children's parents say that the children are very lucky to have been given the chance to have seen an aeroplane- they are rare in England, despite the murmurs and whispers of war between our ally France and their opposer Germany. The plane was photographed by the only camera man in Iddesleigh, Mr James Barnes. The photograph is seen below.

Joe Johnson- reporter



Contd/



**Year 8**

Year 8 have been studying 'Sherlock Holmes' short stories by Arthur Conan-Doyle and in particular the mystery of '*The Speckled Band*'. They took on the role of Sherlock Holmes and wrote to the Chief Inspector of Scotland Yard to inform him of their findings.

**Carly Bradding**

As you are aware, I was completely baffled when entering Stoke Moran. My associate, Dr Watson, picked up something rather peculiar which Helen Stoner had informed me of. Miss Stoner had mentioned her sister bellowing out 'Speckled band!' just before her untimely death.

My first thought was to figure out what had caused Dr Roylott's rage and temper as I was rather wary of it and feel there might be something behind it. The bell rope, ventilator and safe were very suspicious which has led me to believe Dr Roylott is a culprit.

**Adam Hindawi**

I am writing to you to inform you of some peculiar clues that have been ascertained over this case. At this point in time, there have been a few clues that suggest that Dr Roylott is a malignant individual and that this crime did not occur naturally.

I have discovered clues including a weird whistling sound occurring from a random ventilator connected to Dr Roylott's room. This has triggered me to think that the whistling is coming from Dr Roylott or from a mystical creature bellowing in the ventilator.

**Ryan Spearman**

After my inspections of Stoke Moran, I have found a few peculiar objects including a bell rope that does not work and a ventilator that also does not work. They are placed right next to each other. I do not believe this was just a coincidence; I will take closer inspection of this later.

Upon closer inspection of Dr Roylott's room, I have found many clues such as a safe with a very small bowl of milk. This would be too small for the animals we know he has. This makes me believe he has secret animals he wants no-one to know about. I have theorised many different small animals it could be. A domestic cat, snake, mouse or rat. These are some of my theories. Just theories.

**Andreea Cojocaru**

At the time, there were very few clues which would suggest that Ms Stoner's sister's death was not accidental, and that she was in fact murdered. Now interestingly, the case has become quite dark. I have found clues such as a ventilator which does not ventilate and a bell rope which does not ring. This has led me to believe that this can be a way of entry to something small that may have caused her death. However, there are still certain things that I have yet to investigate.

My initial thought before I looked over the room was that the clanging sound that Ms Stoner claimed to have heard was caused by a metal pole on the blocked windows falling or being taken out of place. Upon closer inspection, I found out that the metal poles were bolted and would likely be immovable. The clanging sound was undoubtedly caused by something else. There are other such objects that I have thought of to create such sound, but I have yet to confirm this.



## Year 9

The Year 9s have been studying a variety of 19<sup>th</sup> Century literature and now have started their study of *A Christmas Carol*. Students have gained a true understanding of the time period and have produced creative writing inspired by this.

### Piper Cheshire

#### Jane Eyre

After a strict telling off from her aunt, Jane trudged into her favourite room in the sizeable house, the library. It was stacked high with books of all sizes and genres. Every font imaginable was probably in that room. This was the only room she felt she could be herself. The only room where she ever felt free from all her troubles and worries. The only room where she could escape the torture of living there. It was quiet and peaceful that was until a strong force opened the heavy door Jane had only recently closed.

It was her spiteful cousin who thought he had the world in his palms. He looked at her like dirt on the bottom of his shoe. He never showed respect because he believed with a strong passion that he was better than her. He raised his voice to say, 'How dare you make my mother mad she shouldn't even be looking after you.' And with a swift motion he pulled a book out and off the shelf and aimed it right at Jane. Just as it was about to hit her, he dropped the book making a loud bang and continued the motion with an aggressive slap to the face

### Eva Mutavchieva

#### Oliver Twist

Oliver was a meagre boy with messy, flaxen hair. Fairly short with a coarse grey jacket that just about passed his shaking knees, and wide olive eyes that were filling with painful tears about to drop down his face. Holding his bowl out, a bundle of shivers growing in his stomach as he realises that he had made a massive mistake. What was he going to do?

### Rosie Sexton

#### Oliver Twist and the Workhouse

The walls were chalk stained with blood, the cream ceilings threatened to fall down at any moment. In the middle of the dark room sat a shrivelled man with a pale and repulsive face, and matted flaxen hair. In the corner sat three hungry-eyed boys all with pipes in their mouth just praying for something to eat.

The man could hear movement coming from behind the door. At this point, he clenched his fist knowing that he would have to use it if absolutely necessary. The oldest boy knew something was going on and went to the window and he stood dead still not knowing what he was seeing.

### Brooke Lane

#### Victorian Teacher

Miss Smith, she gracefully pondered around the classroom with her nose up high. She was holding a ruler, pointing at students' work complaining at anything she could. Miss Smith spoke with pride, as she towered over the children, intimidating them. She would humiliate any person or thing that she could. No one would dare to speak back to her, otherwise she would punish you with long written work after school. You could feel her tension as she walked along the corridors on her way to the classroom. She was a towering thin lady that had small glasses for reading. Her hair was always up in a tight bun which made her face look stern. Miss Smith would look at you and you would run away with fear.



# Pre-Apprenticeship Programme

## Ethan paints the town

Covid has turned the world of work upside down for everyone. It is also proving to be a major challenge for the students on the Astley Cooper Pre-Apprenticeship Programme. Work experience makes up half the course and it is vital for transforming the students from raw teenagers to productive work ready adults. Sadly, the restrictions imposed in most workplaces to protect everyone from the virus have effectively shut the door on many of the opportunities our past students have enjoyed.



Ethan for example desperately wants to be a painter and decorator, but there is not much work experience going. Every job in a private house potentially bursts a Corona bubble. So, until the vaccines are rolled out across the country, rolling emulsion on the walls in people's homes is right out too. Despondent, Ethan was just about to hang up his overalls to spend more time with his books when Markyate School called in with a DIY SOS that saved the day.

The village school was halfway through an extensive spruce up by site manager Mr Woolsey when Covid hit. The school was left with a patchwork quilt of flakey 1960s retro and modern cool designs. Hearing we had a few hands going spare they offered an opportunity to renovate one of their larger rooms. Delighted with the chance to shine Ethan started to get organised.

With his colleague Kayleigh, whose dance classes have been suspended by the virus, and Mr O'Brien the programme Co-Ordinator, who up to now didn't know one end of a paint brush from the other, Ethan launched operation 'Do up the dinner hall'.

Ethan said 'When we arrived and surveyed the scene, we all thought we might have bitten off more than we could chew. The walls were full of holes and old plaster was flaking away when we touched it. It was going to need a lot of work and we weren't sure if we could do it properly even with the help of YouTube. Then we saw the smiley faces of the tiny children and we decided we would give it our best shot regardless. I'm glad we did, because it looks great now.'

'The results were amazing,' agreed Headteacher Mrs. Johnson. 'There are plenty more jobs for Ethan and Kayleigh to do that will make the environment for our children much brighter and of course will give them both the important experience they need.'

The Pre-Apprenticeship Programme is recruiting now for 2021. You can see a video about the course on the Sixth Form virtual Open Evening page [www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk).



**Mr O'Brien**  
**Pre-Apprenticeship Programme Co-ordinator**

# Sixth Form News

After a long period of time out of school we welcomed our new Year 12 students, who have all made a positive start as a Sixth Form student. We also welcomed back our Year 13 students who worked incredibly hard during lockdown to continue their studies by attending online lessons and completing independent work. Students are now fully involved with their UCAS University applications. I am pleased to say that we have students who are applying for Oxford University as well as other top Russell Group Universities and several students who have already started to receive offers.

It's a very exciting time to be a student within our Sixth form with more subject opportunities being given each year. We have been able to offer new and exciting subjects such as Travel and Tourism and Business. Starting in September we will be offering Psychology here in the Sixth Form.

We are also pleased to announce that we have invested in Google Chromebooks for each student to use in the Sixth Form. This initiative will roll out from January 2021. The students' Chromebooks will be used in all subjects across the school and will be using Chromebooks for research or producing work. They will also facilitate lessons to be even more engaging and let the students extend effective learning beyond the classroom. Chromebooks and G Suite for Education will enable all our students to have anytime access to information wherever they are.

## Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

This term saw our Sixth Form virtual Open Evening go live on our school's website. Usually we have a packed out hall with Year 11 students listening to what options are available to them Post 16. This year we are looking at receiving the highest number of Sixth Form applications we have ever had and it has been pleasing to speak to so many Year 11 students about their subject choices next year.

All the information videos and subject options can be found under the Sixth Form page of the school's website. Should any students have any questions about their options Post 16: please email - [6thformOE@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:6thformOE@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk) and we will be able to support them.

## Sixth Form Student team

This year we have launched ambassador roles for our students in the Sixth Form with certain duties and expectations linked to each role. Our Head students and senior student roles are for Year 13 students to apply for and the Ambassador roles are for Year 12 students to apply for.

We are pleased to announce our student team for this academic year is:

Head Girls - Jess Mitchell and Ellie Cooper  
Head Boy - Shaun Arthur  
Senior student - Georgina Armit

Year 12 Ambassadors  
Luke Turner  
Alfie Ayres  
Charlie Francis-Wemyss  
Casey Evans

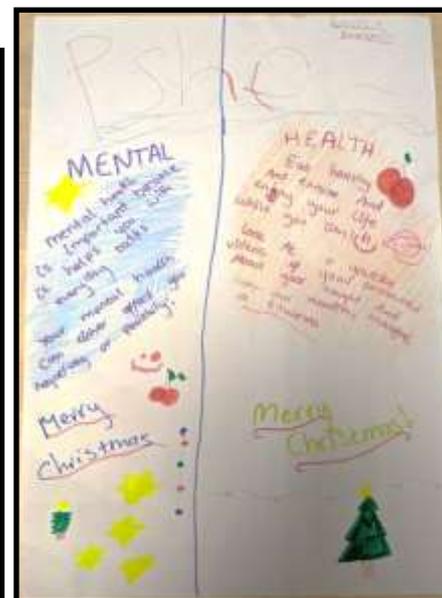
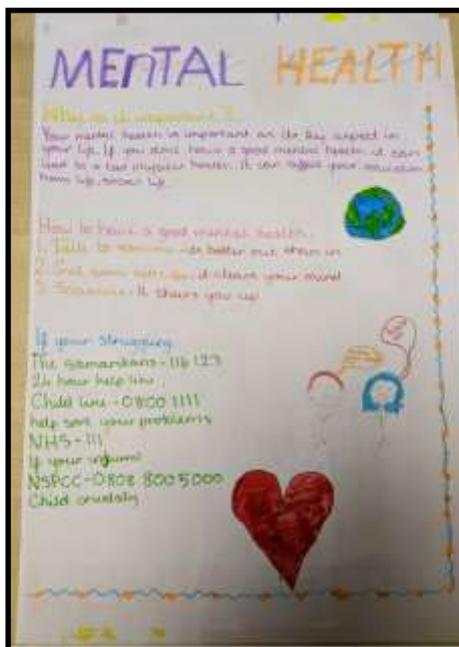
We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

**Miss East**  
**Head of Sixth Form**



## Mental Health Matters

Year 7s have spent this term learning about physical health, mental health, and personal hygiene. There have been some fantastic posters produced to show other students and staff why their mental health matters so much, and what they can do to stay mentally healthy. Below are some great posters by Shylo Museka, Telisha Bongeba, Faith Taylor, Ronnie Eldridge, Kaitlyn Lewis, Ella Reeves, Maja Szymanska, Summer Leigh, and Haleigh Robertson.



## Show Racism the Red Card

As a School we raised £332 for Wear Red Day. This campaign supports Show Racism the Red Card which funds anti-racist educational programmes.

**Mr Moscovici**  
Spanish Teacher & PHSE Co-ordinator



## Year 12 and 13 Geography field trip

On Tuesday 10 November, the Year 12 and 13 Geography students braved the wilds of Great Missenden to conduct their fieldwork investigation. The students were tasked with collecting qualitative and quantitative data in order to help them complete their A Level coursework. It was a momentous day when we set out in the school minibus, as we were the only trip to take place this half term, due to Covid restrictions. The weather was fine and sunny when we got to Great Missenden, unusual for a November day, but unperturbed, we scoped out our surroundings with a walk down the high street, past the high-end shops to the newly built residential homes at the end. We discussed the demographic of the area, did a quick field sketch before mapping the land use either side of the main road. On our way, we chatted about the residential and business land use changes in the area, and the students avidly made notes for their background information section of the coursework. The students also carried out traffic surveys and pedestrian counts, monitoring the people out and about for essential journeys during lockdown, in order to evidence the demographic of the area. As we were sketching our surrounds (see below), we took in the nature of the area, and also carried out environmental quality surveys to assess our impressions of the place. All in all, it was a very pleasant day and the students enjoyed seeing their classroom based knowledge come to life as they were able to see the case study in their text book first hand. One student said, 'I really enjoyed the trip, Miss, because we didn't have to get in a river,' and another said 'It was good' High praise indeed!



**Mrs R Waters**  
**Subject Leader Humanities**



## Science in Action

Despite the pandemic and being unable to teach students in Science Labs, the intrepid Science department still managed to carry out experiments all over the school. Not a day goes past without seeing science teachers walking around with models of the human body, electric fans or trays of equipment.

Year 7 students have just been dissecting flowers in the Maths block, as well as carrying out experiments to see how far model seeds will travel when they are dispersed from a plant.



Year 8 are studying the Periodic Table which has necessitated some explosive reactions including that of potassium and water which literally catches fire.



## Experiment to try at home this Christmas:

### Make your own Snow Globe

#### **Materials:**

- An Empty Jar and Lid
- Water
- Glycerine
- White Glitter
- Small Animal Toys, Houses, or Trees to decorate Snow Globe



#### **Instructions:**

Glue the toys or other decorations to the inside of the lid, making sure the lid can still fit on the jar.

Fill the jar halfway with glycerine, then fill it almost to the top with water, then stir to mix.

Add a small amount of glitter. Stir with a spoon to test the 'snow' effect, and add more until you get the flurries or blizzard you like.

Gently put the lid on and screw it securely to the jar.

Wipe any water off the jar, and put some hot glue or tape around the lid.

Enjoy your snow globe!

#### **How does it work?**

Glycerine has a very high viscosity. Viscosity is how 'thick' a liquid is, how easily it pours. Honey and syrup have pretty high viscosities, water and rubbing alcohol have very low viscosities. Having a mixture of water and glycerine means the liquid inside your snow globe slows the glitter down as gravity pulls it down. This helps it look more like snow.

We hope you have an enjoyable break and we look forward to more experiments in 2021.  
Happy Christmas.

**The Astley Cooper Science Department**



## **Bookbuzz 2020 for Year 7 Students**

This year The Astley Cooper School has purchased *Bookbuzz* for all Year 7 students. This is a flagship programme created by BookTrust to support and encourage reading for pleasure in schools, and to also inspire the love of reading for pleasure.

Every Year 7 student was given the opportunity to select a book of their choice from a list of 17 fantastic titles. *Bookbuzz* use a panel of experts, from school librarians, teachers and children's book sellers, to shortlist these titles to ensure there is something for everyone whatever their interest or reading ability.

The students made their selection during form time and received their brand new book on Friday 4 December. Further to this, *Bookbuzz* has provided the school with two copies of each short listed title to help boost the library bookshelves, resulting in us having 34 brand new books. So, if there was another title that took the students fancy they will be able to borrow that book in the near future.



However, due to the current Covid situation we recommend that students speak to their English teacher or Form Tutor regarding the borrowing of books so that this can be conducted safely.

For further information about the *Bookbuzz* programme visit: '[www.booktrust.or.uk/bookbuzz](http://www.booktrust.or.uk/bookbuzz)'

***Student Grace reviews her book selection – 'I genuinely LOVE the book I got. I haven't stopped reading it. Best book EVER! Just finished the book, I love it. Beautiful story and amazing atmosphere. I am buying the other books in the series'.***

We hope your child enjoys their book. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Miss Gilmour**  
English Teacher & Literacy Co-ordinator

**Mrs Animashaun**  
LRC Manager/Librarian

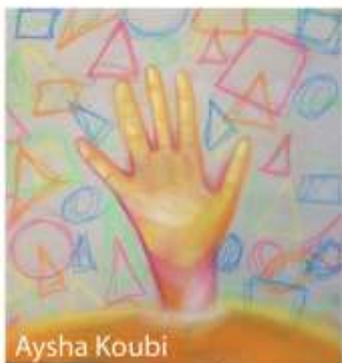


### Year 8 Pop Art project – Paper Cakes

Year 8 students have been learning about the Pop Art movement and in particular the work of Wayne Thiebaud and Claes Oldenburg who made artworks inspired by food, especially cakes. The students have studied how both artists use bold colours and lavish textures to depict cakes in an enticing and overindulgent way. They have begun designing and constructing their own interpretations from recycled card and paper. Take a look at some of the recent creations and works in progress. We can't wait to see how they turn out.



Year 9 -Expressive Hands Pictures



Aysha Koubi



Gabrielle Bennett



Marissa Jackson



Homaira Omid



Abigail Monk



Taylor Macdonald



Harry Stephens



Kiera Brown



James Mazillius



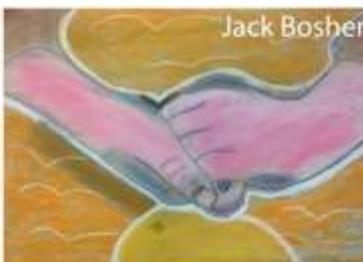
Eva Mutavchieva



Georgi Warwick



Ellis Blake



Jack Bosher



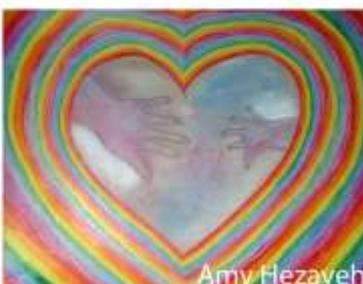
Milly Keogh



Georgia Wall



Amy Stallard



Amy Hezaveh



William Roast



Billy Whetter & Lennon Wallin-Clark



Luke Peck



Sola Famurewa



Jak Bayliss



Zak Choudhury



Lauren Wishart



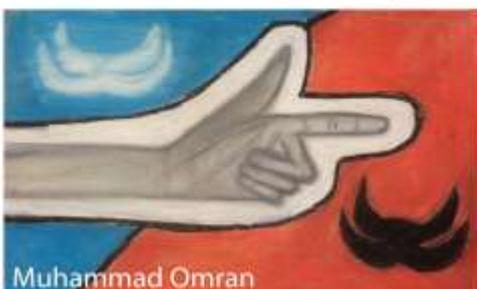
Gabriel Souza



Oliwia Burek



Rosie Sexton



Muhammad Omran



Markfrancis Obeng



Bobbi Jones

The first term has been completed under the new Covid regulations and Year 9 have conducted themselves impeccably at Astley Cooper. It has been difficult for our cohort at times as they have had to adjust to a different way of being in the school. There have been times when some students have had to self-isolate which has meant that on occasions there has been uncertainty as we all live with the new way of being educated.

I am incredibly proud of the year group and, walking into lessons, I have the pleasure to observe well-presented and diligent young people who have all shown an enormous amount of resilience and perseverance during challenging times.

In the latter half of this term the students have been focusing on preparing an End of Term Assembly that celebrates Year 9; the assembly focuses on merits and subject certificates for excellence and determination in the wide range of curriculum subjects. Some students decided to showcase their talents for the video, while others have left some heart-warming messages for their teachers and tutors. This video will be available to watch on Google Classroom over the Festive period.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Form Tutors for maintaining calmness and positivity during form time. They are a truly remarkable team who are so supportive of the students in their form groups.

To parents and carers, thank you for the continued support that you have shown me and the tutors under some difficult circumstances. I hope that you can enjoy some time with families over Christmas.

The stars of the show are the Year 9 pupils; so, to you, I would like to thank all of you. I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 5 January 2021.

**Miss Roberts**  
Head of Year 9



# Headteacher's Commendations

## November Award

*Telisha Bongeba 7CK e*

*Thomas Wilson 8HMy*

*Maria Sandu 9AG*

*Euan Goodman 10JDo*

*Prisca Frimpong 11HH*

*Amna Shahzad 12RP*

*Alison Wall 13JHo*



*Congratulations*  
**for excellent effort,  
attitude &  
achievement**

## Apprenticeship

### Congratulations to Ben Nelson

I am delighted to announce that Ben Nelson, the newest member of our caretaking team, passed his apprenticeship Property Maintenance Operative Level 2

Ben has worked hard to achieve this and in the process has matured from a quiet, former Adeyfield Sixth Form student into an important member of the caretaking team.

I would also like to thank Rob Darling, our residential caretaker, for his time and patience in successfully mentoring Ben throughout his apprenticeship.

**Mr Biswell**  
**Facilities Manager**



**Institute for Apprenticeships  
& Technical Education**



# Bad Weather

## Bad Weather

To communicate with parents about school closures due to bad weather, the school uses a Herts County Council linked programme called Everbridge. Parents can download this app to be immediately informed of any closures. We would ask all parents to download the app using the link below;

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Thank you

**Mrs Catterall**  
**Personnel & Business Manager**



# Attendance

## Attendance

Please observe the following procedures with regard to absence from school:

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone the school before 8.25am, selecting the attendance option. An answer phone is available out of office hours to leave details on; please leave your name, your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence repeating your child's name at the end of the message. This process needs to be repeated on each day of absence as it is a legal requirement you inform the school of any absences.

If you fail to inform the school of your child's absence, a 'Truancy Call' message will be sent to your mobile/home number asking you to make contact with the school immediately. This can be done by replying to the text message or contacting our absence line on 01442 - 394141.

If we do not receive a call or message from you explaining your child's absence, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Please give plenty of notice for any planned absence. We would appreciate all dental and non-urgent medical appointments being made out of school hours. If you have an appointment within the school day, please ask the receptionist to provide you with a dated appointment card for our records.

Please apply in writing for leave of absence for holiday purposes, these will **not** be authorised - unless in exceptional circumstances. This follows The Department for Education regulations which have been in place since 2013.

Thank you.

**Mrs Allen**  
**Attendance Co-ordinator & Pastoral Support**

# Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all staff and students who participated in Christmas Jumper Day this year. We have raised around £370 for Save the Children, who run this event. This is an amazing amount of money to raise for such a great charity; this donation will change many lives for the better. We hope you enjoyed seeing everyone's traditional or whacky Christmas Jumpers, and look forward to participating next year.

**Ms Myers**  
English Teacher



**HCC**

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share the following important information with you following a significant increase in coronavirus infections amongst 12-16 year olds:

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for everything you and your family are doing to play your part in the fight against coronavirus. Our schools and other education settings have worked extremely hard this term to help keep everyone safe. However, as we move into the Christmas holidays, it is of utmost importance that we continue to stay safe.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of coronavirus infections in 12-16 year olds and would therefore urge you to have a conversation with your child to make sure they understand, and are following, the Government regulations to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The actions you and your family can take to play your part are:

- Wash your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and warm water or use an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Stay at least two metres (or one metre with other measures, such as a face-covering) away from those not in your immediate household
- Wear a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms
- Do not socialise indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household and only meet in groups of up to six people outdoors

Some areas of Hertfordshire will be moving into Tier 3 restrictions as of 00:01am on Wednesday 16 December (Broxbourne, Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere). Residents in these areas will need to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, Tier 3 restrictions: [www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert)

Please remember that while your child is in school, they are in a 'bubble', which is carefully managed by the school. However outside of school hours, they should continue to follow the most up to date Government guidelines, and we encourage you to explain this to your child.

If you choose to socialise in a bubble of up to three separate households during 23-27 December, which is the period the Government proposes to relax guidelines, please enjoy this time but please also remember to do so safely by continuing to follow good hand hygiene and socially distance where possible. Coronavirus is known to linger in enclosed spaces, so keeping windows open can also reduce risk.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.

**Hertfordshire County Council**

**Rotary** **YOUNG**  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**



**Enter Now!**  
**[www.berkorotary.org](http://www.berkorotary.org)**

**THEME IS 'WILD NATURE'**

**For our national Rotary photo competition**

Berkhamsted  
**Rotary**



**Local and National prizes**  
**[www.berkorotary.org](http://www.berkorotary.org)**

Celebrating 38 years teaching performing arts in Hemel & Berkhamsted

# The Jayne Marie Dancing School



Est. 1983



**A heads up to all budding dancers!**

**January 2021 registration is open**  
We have a few spaces left in:

**Tiny Tots Ballet & Tap (Gadebridge)**  
**Baby Ballet (Woodhall Farm)**  
**Primary Tap (Berkhamsted)**  
**Primary Modern (Berkhamsted)**

Email [missjayne@jmdancingschool.com](mailto:missjayne@jmdancingschool.com) to find out more and book trial classes. Other grades & classes also available.



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# Safer Schools Newsletter

December 2020



HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY

CYP GANGS & SCHOOLS TEAM



**Welcome** from the Herts Police Gangs & Schools Team. We are a dedicated team that work with local Officers and partners to prevent youth related crime. We conduct a range of prevention and engagement work to raise awareness of knife crime, gang & criminal exploitation to keep you safe.

## Get Safe Online

With new phones and other devices allowing access to the internet on so many Christmas wish lists we thought this would be a good time to remind everyone about how to stay safe online.

Love it or hate it, chances are your child will be online gaming this Christmas. If you're like most parents, you'll have children who play games online, whether on a tablet, mobile, computer or console.

In most cases, online gaming is fun, social and harm-free. But we need to be realistic, and parents are right to

be concerned about a world they may not be familiar with. The risks range from downloading a computer virus, to bullying or even being targeted by a predator with sinister motives.

As parents, it's impossible to know what your children are doing all of the time, particularly when it comes to online gaming. In the same way you would warn your kids about the risks of riding a bike or crossing a road, it's important to educate them to online security dangers early on so you can feel comfortable knowing they are playing safely and know when to alert someone to anything suspicious.

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## Top Tips for Safe Online Gaming

- Have an open and honest talk with your kids about online gaming and the risks involved.
- Tell them never to reveal private information like their real name, email address, home address, telephone numbers, family members, financial details or school they go to.
- Explain that not everybody is who they seem or claim to be, and their motives may be suspicious.
- Tell them not to respond to bullying or other abuse, and to tell you straight away if it happens.
- Tell them to tell you straight away if someone makes inappropriate suggestions or makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Join in with their gaming sometimes, to get an idea of the games and who they're connecting with.
- Set and monitor limits for the amount of daily or weekly time your kids spend online gaming.
- Check age ratings of games to ensure your kids aren't accessing inappropriate content.
- Never give your child your payment card details as extras can be very costly.

Visit [www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children](http://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children) and click on your child's age group to find out more.

