



# The Astley Cooper Newsletter

July 2021

As we reach the end of another challenging year for everyone, we will probably have mixed feelings about the easing of restrictions. However, the start-stop-start nature of this school year has been frustrating for our community as it has been for schools and families across the country.

Despite the difficulties - and the changes to the school day, the staggered start and finish times, and the year group bubbles - staff have worked hard to ensure that our students have been well taught and supported as individuals. We have also managed to provide a number of the extra-curricular activities that enrich our students' experience, of school life – activities that we were unable to offer last year at the beginning of the pandemic. I hope that you will enjoy reading about these activities and events in this bumper summer *Newsletter*.

It is appropriate that we have a starfish as the illustration at the top of this page. Not only does it represent the summer but it is also a reminder of the famous starfish story. In that story, a child is on the beach surrounded by hundreds of starfish. The child picks one up and throws it back into the sea. An adult comes along and tells them that throwing one starfish into the sea makes no difference. The child replies, 'It made a difference to that one.'

The moral of the story is clear: we can all make a difference.

A number of staff who have made a difference at Astley Cooper are leaving at the end of this academic year. Teaching Assistants Miss Kempson and Mrs O'Connor, who have been with us for a year, are both leaving to start their teacher training. Mrs O'Connor will return to us as a trainee Art teacher in the autumn. Business teacher Ms Nowak, who has also been with us since September, leaves us to return to the commercial sector. Ms Nowak's knowledge of working in the corporate world informed her teaching in a way that brought her subject vividly to life for our students.

Our Attendance Co-ordinator Mrs Allen, who has worked here for five years and has done an excellent job under particularly difficult circumstances in the last 16 months, is retiring and looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren.

Science teacher Miss Bowen has worked at Astley Cooper for 12 years. Miss Bowen initially came here as a supply teacher, decided to join the staff, and became the Subject Leader in Science from 2012-15. She has seen the science department grow and flourish in her time here and has been a committed and loyal member of staff.

Our School Business and Personnel manager, Mrs Catterall, is retiring at the end of August after working at Astley Cooper for 16 years. Mrs Catterall has been a key member of the Senior Leadership Team. In addition to her skills in managing a budget and ensuring the financial stability of the school, Mrs Catterall has also led our response to the pandemic, liaising with Hertfordshire County Council, the Department for Education and the Health and Safety executive. She organised the rigorous testing programme we had to put in place in March this year and has worked closely with our Facilities Manager Paul Biswell in leading the school's work on the plans for the new building, which is due to be completed in the next two years.

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After 24 years of loyal service to the school, in a variety of roles, Mrs Brown is also retiring this summer. Mrs Brown worked as a receptionist and a Teaching Assistant at the school before training to become a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and qualifying in 2010. For a number of years, Mrs Brown has taught science and maths to small groups of students and has shown great commitment to the dozens of young people in her care. She is always well prepared and ready for her classes who appreciate the safe and nurturing learning environment she creates.

We appreciate the difference that all these colleagues have made to our school and wish Mrs Allen, Mrs Catterall and Mrs Brown a retirement full of happiness.

Finally . . .

Thank you to all the families who have supported our work in the 10 years that I have been the school's headteacher. My time at Astley Cooper has been the most rewarding professional experience in a long teaching career.

I wish you and all our students well for the future. It has been a privilege to serve you.

**Mr Gaynor**  
**Headteacher**

### ***New Staff Member***

Mr Austin is a recently appointed cover supervisor who joined the school in May 2021 after having served over 35 years in the Royal Air Force as a logistics officer. In the Royal Air Force Mr Austin was a Squadron Leader and in November 2020 he qualified for a second clasp to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, but was unable to be presented with his award because of Covid regulations regarding social distancing.

In June 2021, while employed by Astley Cooper School, Mr Austin was invited to attend an Honours and Awards Ceremony at Royal Air Force High Wycombe and the school was delighted to release him to attend.

Squadron Leader Austin had been awarded his actual Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in November 2000 after 15 years' service. He subsequently was awarded a first clasp to the medal after a further 10 years' service in November 2010 and this second clasp was awarded in November 2020 after a total of 35 years.

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was instituted by King George V in 1919 and is awarded to members of the armed forces in recognition of their long and distinguished service.



It has been an extremely exciting year for Business in our school. It is the first time that we have introduced a BTEC vocational qualification in Business. Vocational qualifications are those which prepare students for future studies and for work. BTEC offers a combination of theoretical studies and practical knowledge, applied to real businesses.

60 students in Year 10 and seven students in Year 12 (Sixth Form) completed the first year of their respective studies: BTEC Award in Enterprise and BTEC Extended Certificate in Business Level 3. They have one more exciting year ahead of them.

In their first year, students wrote practical assignments about selected real companies. In their work, they used information collected from various websites and provided directly by these businesses.

The two real businesses which supported us in delivering our first BTEC assignments (coursework) were SWR (Steel Wire Rope) Group and London Institute of Banking and Finance. In addition, students in Year 12 wrote about M&S, Nintendo, Apple, Google and Airlite.

Students completed some amazing work, which resulted in the BTEC examining board rewarding their efforts. Well done to all the students for their hard work.

## **Examples of students' work:**

Amna Shahzad, Year 12, Distinction, wrote about how innovation makes Nintendo successful.

### **What is Nintendo known for**

Nintendo is the company that has created many of our favourite childhood games. Nintendo is known for using its selective creative process to innovate games that 'stick out for the crowd'. One of these games; that changed Nintendo as a company was their Super Mario Brothers series. Super Mario was first introduced in September of 1985, and has since been the ultimate success for Nintendo. Mario is a mascot that Nintendo features within its games and its brand. The Mario franchise has possessed such a huge success for Nintendo; that alongside their innovative game console releases, at least one Super Mario game has been released.

The Super Mario franchise is the best-selling game franchise of all time, with more than 670.97 million copies of games sold, including 354.04 million for the Super Mario games alone. Mario has become one of the highest-grossing media franchises of all time. Super Mario has now become a worldwide name and since its release, Nintendo has introduced more games with the same format. Nintendo has released titles like "Mario Kart" and "Super Mario Odyssey" and many other games that represent the Mario franchise.





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Karolina Nguyen, Y10 Distinction, created PEST analysis for SWR.

## PEST (external factors)

To examine external factors, SWR uses PEST which describes political, economic, social and technological factors.

### - Political

- > The main political factor is Covid-19. A major lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic has heavily affected many businesses, including SWR. Many employees had to self-isolate or work from home. This became a huge staffing problem. Showrooms were also unfortunately closed for customers. In addition, they had to introduce social distancing in their work office. This had significantly affected the work and made it way challenging to operate. However, SWR was able to increase their sales thanks to the customers who were interested in improvement work.



- > Another notable political factor is Brexit. The UK has recently left the European Union, EU. However, the UK government managed to secure a Trade agreement with the EU, which allows trading goods between the UK and EU without paying any tariffs. This is very important for SWR, since they will not need to increase their prices and therefore customers will not be affected. This also means that SWR will most likely keep the amount of sales or even increase it. On the other hand, borders' checks and declarations for the goods traded between the UK and EU have been introduced. SWR will unfortunately need to pay more for the administration, and there might be border delays and issues. This should not heavily affect SWR, since they have been preparing for this for the past year.



Crystal Close, Y10 Distinction, delivered an analysis of internal factors influencing the success of SWR. This is what she concluded:

In my opinion, the internal factors of: unforeseen human resource costs, effective planning and financing and customer satisfaction are the most important for an enterprise to be successful. If businesses do not effectively plan for uncontrollable instances occurring, then the enterprise will not be organised and will have an increased risk in collapsing overall. In addition to this is the planning and financing, again if not done successfully can be vital to a company as the lack of organisation can result in money being spent without reason and plans not being accomplishable. Customer satisfaction may possibly be the most important factor as consumers are the people purchasing an enterprise's available goods and services; without them, sales and profit will fall drastically and the company will most likely collapse. As it is demonstrated with SWR, focusing on these factors and understanding staff and customer opinions and feelings, it can majorly assist in a business succeeding.

Zach Minter, Y10 Distinction, discussed the use of market research by SWR.

SWR has collected its primary research in a multitude of different ways including a survey where they asked customers various different questions about their enterprise to find out what was good about it and what can be improved on. The survey was constructed in a way that SWR would be able to measure the level of customer satisfaction regarding different aspects of their business in order for them to be able to improve areas where there was a possible situation of having a lower number of satisfied customers than with other enterprises, therefore they can take these responses into careful consideration and figure out a way to increase the number of satisfied customers. This course of action will allow SWR to further succeed as an enterprise and gain the upper hand over their competitors.

There are many more excellent examples of students' work. I wanted to congratulate all the students for their achievement. I would also like to thank Jason Lee, the CEO of SWR for his support and involvement and Mr Lally for his leadership and encouragement.

**Ms Nowak**  
**Business Teacher**

## Year 13

Year 13 Leavers took place from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 May; the first two days saw our Year 13 students participating in enrichment days. There were several workshops during these two days that gave students valuable life skills to help them when they are living out in the wider world. These included vehicle maintenance, camping skills and DIY. We also hired Chef Craig from Aspens catering company to come to school to speak to our students about cooking on a budget, food hygiene and demonstrate a recipe. Students were issued a booklet with lots of information to take away.

Wednesday 26 May was Year 13's last day in school. We hired a mini golf course and an inflatable obstacle course that the students got fully involved with before a leavers' lunch and a final assembly. Students received awards from their subject teachers before finishing off the assembly with a video montage of photos from their time at Astley Cooper.

Year 13 Results day is on **Tuesday 10 August**. School will be open from 10.00 to collect your results. Staff will be on hand to help with any issues and to help you with clearing, should you need it.

We would like to congratulate all our Year 13 students and wish them the very best of luck for the future.

## Year 12

Year 12 students have seen the first year of their sixth form studies to be a turbulent time. However; I would like to congratulate them on their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

In PSHE, students are currently in the process of working their way through the Post 18 Next Steps programme, which supports the students through their university application via UCAS.

We have also set up a focused study programme to support students with their independent learning. Each student has received a learning journal and has a dedicated member of the Sixth Form team who will meet weekly to discuss and reflect on their learning and learning goals.

## Year 11 into 12 Induction Day

Over a two-week period from Monday 21 June to Thursday 1 July, we welcomed Year 11 students for their Sixth Form Induction. On the first day students listened to an induction assembly, took part in study skills sessions, which was then followed by team building activities and a quiz. The next day students arrived in school for their allocated subject induction lessons. They received more information about the course and were taught the start of the Year 12 content.

The attendance throughout the week was excellent; it was great to see so many Year 11s back in school dressed smartly with a positive attitude for the start of their Sixth Form studies. The induction sessions were fantastic and a really useful process for the students to help prepare them for September.





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This day was a great opportunity for the students to see what life as a sixth former is like, to ensure that they have chosen the correct subjects and to make sure that they are prepared for a positive start in September.

## Year 11 into 12 information

### Transition work and Registration

Students have all been invited to the Sixth Form Google Classroom; this is where the Sixth Form team post important information throughout the year. In September, the registration and code of conduct form will be issued to students via Google Forms.

All students who have applied to study in Sixth Form will need to ensure that they complete the transition work for each subject they wish to study and return these to school to their subject teacher in September. Teachers explained these in the last induction session and work can be found in each subject's Google Classroom.

If any student's situation has changed for next year and you would like to apply to join our Sixth Form, please speak to Miss East on results day or on Monday 6 September when school starts.

### Results Day

**Thursday 12 August** is GCSE results day; there will be a number of staff at school to help students with their results. All students who applied for the Sixth Form must meet with either Miss East or Mr Lally on the day before you leave.

Year 12 will then be required in on Friday 3 September. Students should meet in the Sixth Form area. Please be on time and in the correct dress code. Lessons for all Sixth Form students start on Monday 6 September.

*\*Year 13 students are able to collect their timetables from 12:30pm on Friday 3 September ready for starting lessons on Monday 6 September*

For all information and to keep up to date with events in the Sixth Form, please follow our twitter page **@ACS\_SixthForm**.

I would like to wish our Sixth Form students a lovely summer break. We look forward to seeing you all prepared for a new year in September.

**Miss East**  
Head of Sixth Form

**Mrs Houchin**  
Post 16 Pastoral Support Administrator



We have been running the Brilliant Club programme with students since 2018. Sadly, our placements have been delayed and cancelled several times since March 2020 so we have been delighted that we have finally been able to run a Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 placement this half-term.

The programme aims to widen access to university for outstanding students in non-selective state schools. 12 students in Year 10, six students in Year 9 and six students in Year 8 were selected to take part, with the aim of encouraging them to think about going to university in the future.

Students participated in a virtual launch in May. As part of this session, the students participated in a study skills session. They were given information, advice and guidance about applying to university and what university life is like. Key Stage Four students were given a taste of life at Queens College, University of Cambridge. Key Stage Three students were given an insight into life at Leeds University. Both groups had the chance to meet and ask questions of current students.

From May to June, the students were involved in weekly tutorials with their tutors. Year 10 have been working with Kelly Hatley, developing their creative writing and critical analysis skills by looking at the horror-comedy genre. Year 8 and 9 have been working with Katie Faulkner following an art history course looking at power, personality and portraiture. The students were asked to complete an assignment on their topic area and have received individual support and feedback on their written work. This assignment was marked using degree level criteria and mark schemes.

The tutors came into school in July to feedback to students on their assignments and let them know whether they had passed. Their graduation ceremonies took place in school after this. These were a great opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reflect on what they had learned during the process. Many have commented that it has given them the confidence and self-belief to think they could go to university in the future.

Congratulations to the following students for their work on the programme:

**Year 10:** Oliver MacDonald, Mia Brumfield, Anna Garvey, Alex Matei, Felicity Carnell, Jacob Waggah, Chloe Rushton, Josh Mitchell, Sam Ansell, Libbi Brown, Meghann Mitchell, Leah Wiseman

**Year 9:** Maria Sandu, Maria Makaza, Piper Cheshire, Jack Sambucci, Bobbi Jones, Sola Famurewa

**Year 8:** Olivia Biggs, Tammy-Faith O'Hara, Catherine Gill, Pulitha Wijesinghe, Andreea Cojocar, Krystal Pietra

Please go to the website link : [Brilliant Club](#) to read some of the creative writing pieces from Year 10 students. I am sure you will agree that they have produced excellent work which clearly shows their humour and imagination. Enjoy.

**Miss Welsh**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher**

# A Short History of Astley Cooper

## ***As Astley Cooper is about to begin the next phase of its development***

with the appointment of a new headteacher and the beginning of a multi-million pound building programme that will considerably improve the site and its facilities, it feels timely to have a brief look back at the school's history.



Astley Cooper - or Grove Hill as it was then - was the last secondary school built in Hemel Hempstead. It took its first intake in September 1965 and opened in 1967 in St Agnells Lane as Grove Hill Technical Grammar School.

Technical Grammar Schools were for children who had passed the 11+ and wanted to study the sciences, mathematics and engineering. Cavendish was also a Technical Grammar School in the 1960s.

In 1970, five years after the creation of comprehensive schools under Harold Wilson's Labour Government, Cavendish and Grove Hill Technical Grammar schools became comprehensive.

In September 1984, Highfield School (about 200 students) in Fletcher Way and Grove Hill (about 800 students) merged and worked across two sites as The Astley Cooper School, named after Sir Astley Cooper (1768-1841), a surgeon and anatomist who lived in the village of Hemel Hempstead. From September 1986, the whole school moved to the St Agnells Lane site.

Wolfgang Slessenger, a Cambridge graduate and maths teacher, who had been the headteacher of Grove Hill since it opened, retired at the end of the spring term in 1987. He had been the headteacher of the school, in its various incarnations, for 22 years.

Mr Slessenger was followed by Mel Ingman, who was the headteacher for 13 years, from April 1987 to May 2000. Anne Smithers became the next headteacher and was at the school for 11 years. I joined the school, initially as the interim headteacher, in September 2011.

I am proud to have been part of Astley Cooper's vibrant community for the last 10 years. The school's new headteacher, Sam Orsborne, is looking forward to introducing himself to you in September, as the next stage of the school's long history begins.

***Edward Gaynor  
Headteacher***





## Herts for Learning Maths Competition

In May, some of our students took part in the Herts for Learning Maths Competition.

This event allows our students to experience a wide range of questions and problems, from across the mathematics curriculum appropriate to their year group. It enables them to work in an online environment alongside high attainers from other schools in the county.

This year, we were fortunate to have two groups of Year 7 students and two groups of Year 8 students who competed on Thursday 6 May and Wednesday 17 May respectively.

We are extremely proud of our students and their involvement in the competition and we would like to congratulate the following students:



### Year 7

Zoe Wright, Johnathan Bishop, Matthew Shelock, Soli Histrov, Jacob Pietras, Ella Reeves, Siena Anchant-Tejani, Nina Nachajova

### Year 8

Finlay Taylor, Olivia Biggs, Charlie Clowes, Hyed Haq, Angel Curston, Pulitha Wijesinghe, Adam Hindawi, Catherine Gill

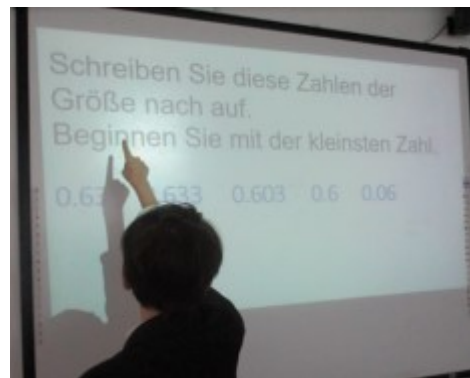
## Languages Week

For languages week, our students solved GCSE maths problems in different languages. Students had to identify the key words to be able to answer the questions breaking down the barrier of language.



Round 2148 to the nearest 100. (Norwegian)

Write these numbers in order of size. Begin with the smallest number. (German)



Some of our students learnt to write numbers 1 to 10 in one of the longest surviving classical languages in the world – Tamil.



## STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related MOVIES

The following is a list of recommended STEM related movies - where you can see the use of Mathematics in the real world.

### Queen of Katwe

**IMDb Synopsis:** A Ugandan girl sees her world rapidly change after being introduced to the game of chess.

**Why?** This relatively unknown Disney movie about 10-year-old Phiona and her incredible rise to become a chess master might be a favourite for many.

### Moneyball (PG-13)

**IMDb Synopsis:** Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane's successful attempt to assemble a baseball team on a lean budget by employing computer-generated analysis to acquire new players.

**Why?** You won't find a movie that demonstrates the tremendous role that mathematics plays in professional sports better than *Moneyball*. Showing the full movie will give your children a better idea of how mathematics applies to the real world as well as possible career paths, such as becoming a Major League Baseball scout, which requires a deep understanding of applied mathematics.

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## Stand and Deliver (PG)

**MDb Synopsis:** Jaime Escalante is a mathematics teacher in a school in a Hispanic neighbourhood. Convinced that his students have potential, he adopts unconventional teaching methods to help gang members and no-hopers pass the rigorous Advanced Placement exam in calculus.

## The Martian (PG-13)

**IMDb Synopsis:** An astronaut becomes stranded on Mars after his team assume him dead, and must rely on his ingenuity to find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

**Why?** The Martian is probably the best STEM movie ever. There are countless scenes where Matt Damon has to use mathematics and mathematical reasoning to overcome challenges and advance his quest for survival. If you are looking to show your children that maths can take you places then *The Martian* is your best choice.



## Maths beyond GCSE

This series of videos features students who have studied A level maths. They share their experiences of studying maths at A level, and why maths was a vital step in their journey to university and pursuing their chosen career path.

[Experiences of advanced maths | AMSP](#)

Time for some crosswords

## Algebra keywords crossword

$A = \pi r^2$

$\chi$

$y$

$B$   
 $I$   
 $D$   
 $M$   
 $A$   
 $S$

ACROSS

2 Unknown numbers are written as letters

4 the name for the general term of a sequence

9 This is the first thing you need to do in the order of operations

11 a mathematical rule expressed in symbols

12 show that something is true

13 the 4th order of operation

DOWN

1 the 3rd order of operations

3 the mathematical name for  $8x \cdot 2y$

5  $7n$ ,  $8x$  and  $9y$  are all different T \_\_\_\_\_

6 work out the value of

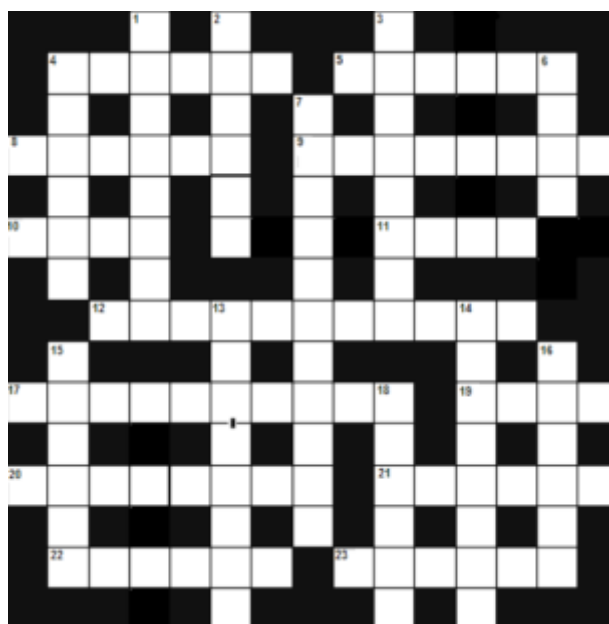
7 The mathematical name for  $3n \cdot 2=5$

8 make an expression into its shortest form

10 The sign that means one side is exactly the same as the other



## CHALLENGE – This is a more challenging crossword



### Across clues

4. Line segments between two points on a curve (6)
5. French mathematician with a famous triangle (6)
8. Collections of points whose coordinates are a continuous function of an independent variable (6)
9. Part of plane (8)
10. Shape with points (4)
11. Ellipse (4)
12. Part of a fraction (11)
17. Second decimal place shows these (10)
19. Set of two (4)
20. + (4, 4)
21. Divide into two parts (6)
22.  $1/360$  of a circle? (6)
23. Middle (6)

### Down clues

1. Mathematical opposite (8)
2. Does a sum using 20 across? (4, 2)
3. An example of a conic section (8)
4. Enumerates (6)
6. One-dimensional object (4)
7. The same distance from two or more places (11)
13. Possible description of a circle (3-5)
14. Hypotenuse, adjacent or \_\_\_\_ (8)
15. Greek mathematician, famous for geometry (6)
16. Shape which has area  $\pi r^2$  (6)
18. Part of a set (6)

**Answers on page 26**

Despite the year we have had, we are extremely proud of all our students and their effort in lessons.

Enjoy the summer holidays.

**Miss Fernando**  
**Acting Subject Leader Maths**

At Astley Cooper the Year 7 scientists were keen to see the partial Solar Eclipse on Thursday 10 June. Many were able to take to the field armed with pieces of paper with tiny holes pierced through them. They were not disappointed and could clearly see the sun's face being slowly covered.

This was a partial eclipse but if you want to see the next total Solar Eclipse from the UK then put this date in your diary: 23 September 2090.

**Mr Hart**  
**Science Teacher**



In Science the Year 8 students were getting their hands stuck in to dissecting some chicken wings when studying the topic of movement. They looked at the structures of the bones, muscles, ligaments and tendons and how they all connect and work together to make the wing move.



The Year 10 scientists were getting creative studying neurones and making their own cells out of plasticine. They managed to make some amazing sensory, motor and relay neurones during one of their GCSE lessons.

**Miss White**  
**Subject Leader Science**

# Sports Day

Sports Day was a little different this year due to Covid as year groups participated in their bubbles. There was still a huge buzz for each year group and the atmosphere generated sounded like the whole school was out on the field together. Every form group did themselves proud, ably supported by their fantastic Form Tutors organising them and cheering them on. Lots of fantastic individual performances and some great teamwork was on show in events such as the relay and the hugely popular tug of war.

Thank you to all students and staff who helped make the day such a huge success. I am already looking forward to next year.

The Form winners were :

Year 7 - 7KFA

Year 8 - 8PHA

Year 9 - 9MG

Year 10 - 10JDO

More photos and details including students that have broken Athletics school records can be found on the brand new PE Website. This can be accessed through [@link](#) on the main Astley Cooper Website.



**Mr Gatenby**  
**Subject Leader PE**





# Sports Day



The PE department now has its own website, which has recently been updated with photos and results from Sports Day. From September, this will be our main communication portal. We strongly encourage parents/carers and students to regularly check the website for information such as PE activities, kit requirements, fixtures and clubs. We will also post other sporting announcements and achievements

<https://www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Physical+Education&pid=192>



## The Astley Cooper School - Physical Education

PE helps students acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to participate successfully in a range of sporting activities. Students learn to work in a variety of different ways: individually, in small groups and in teams.

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

**Mr Gatenby**  
**Subject Leader PE**

## Year 10 Performing Art assessments

On Wednesday 30 June Year 10 Dance, Drama and Production Arts students were assessed on their performance or design skills for their BTEC Component 2. The students worked hard at rehearsing their practical pieces and developing their design skills.



## Year 7 Drama club

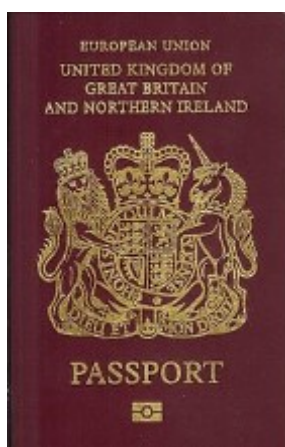
Drama club started after May half -term with sixteen students who are developing practical skills, characterisation and role play.

The students devised a Theatre in Education performance on the theme of 'Transition' for Year 6 students preparing them for life at Astley Cooper School. Their final performance was recorded and sent to the local primary schools.

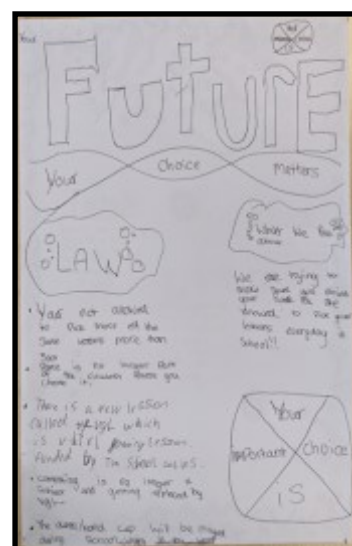
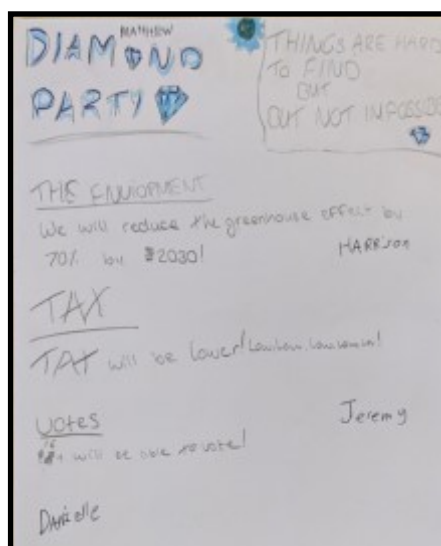
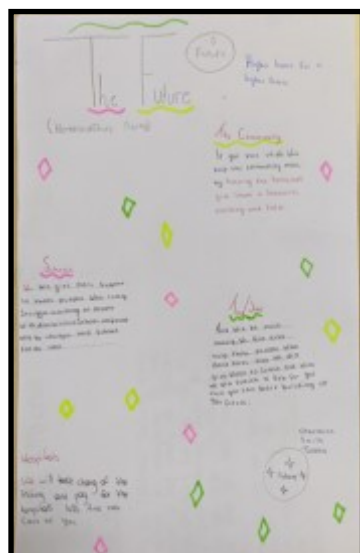
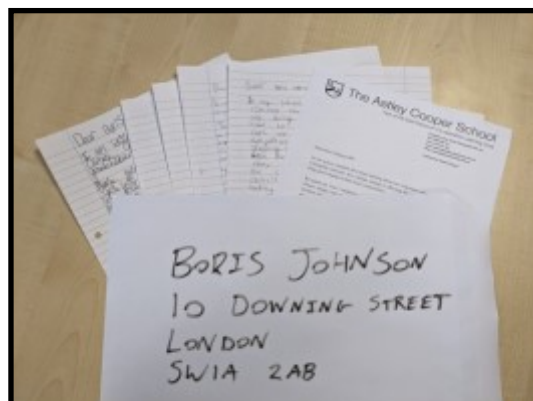
**Mrs Keane**  
**Subject Leader Drama**

It has been an interesting year for PSHE. As a result of the pandemic, we were unable to organise in-person workshops and external speakers for our learners. Nevertheless, we tried our best to ensure all members of our school community could participate with exciting guests and interactive, real-world experiences.

In Year 7, students learned about climate change and the devastating impact this is having on the environment exhibiting fantastic cross-curricular knowledge. Students wrote letters to the Prime Minister expressing their views. We posted the letters and received an official reply from 10 Downing Street.



This term Year 7 students started learning about Citizenship including British Values and UK Politics. As part of their learning, students created their own political parties including slogans, logos, manifestos, and advertisements. Matthew Shelock 7SW, Harrison Stride 7CKE, Jeremy Laryea 7CKE and Danielle O'Connor 7CKE created The Diamond Party which promises to reduce the greenhouse effect by 70% before 2030. The Future Party, whose slogan is *Your Choice Matters*, was established by Thomas Payne 7SW1 and Mayson Stanbridge 7SW1. Their manifesto included pledges to give young people more power to decide their own curriculum, and to move the World Cup to take place during term time.

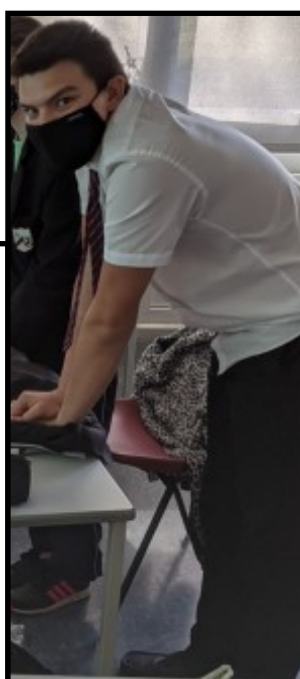


Year 8 students undertook a research project into the world of work. After learning about the qualifications, experience and skills necessary for different career paths, they presented these to their classmates.

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Years 9 and 10 were invited to submit questions to the Member of Parliament for Hemel Hempstead, Sir Mike Penning MP. I put the questions to him and students watched the recording of our chat. Some really great questions were asked and our fantastic students had a first taste of holding their representatives to account.

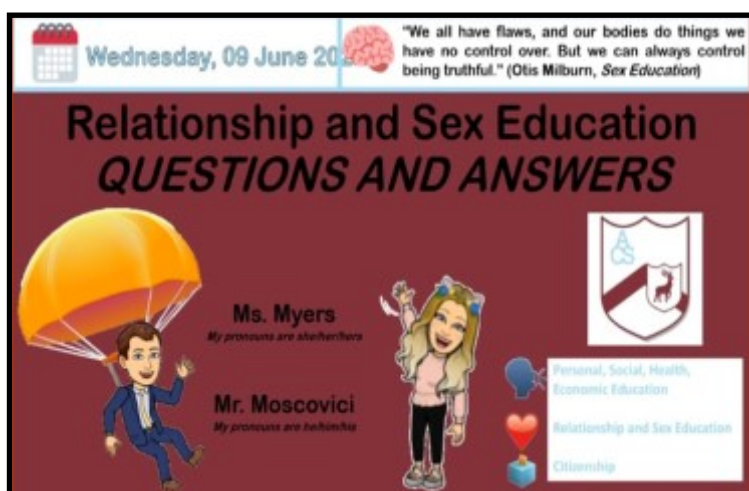


Year 10 students also had first aid training provided by nurse Kerry Nelson from Buckinghamshire College. Due to COVID guidelines, this was done virtually. Head of Year 10 Mr Hall and I were impressed by how well the year group engaged with this life-saving session, notwithstanding it being conducted through Google Meet. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr Hall for his full commitment to the first aid training which included him playing the role of someone in need of assistance, and Bartek Wrzosek 10LDi practicing CPR on his schoolbag.



All students in Years 10 and 11 were also treated to question and answer sessions with Ms Myers and me. We visited these year groups during form time to answer questions about sex and relationships. Again, we were delighted to see how maturely the students reacted to this sensitive topic. We had some insightful and important conversations about health, reproduction, mutual respect, consent, and regular screening for STIs. I wholeheartedly thank the students for their participation and Ms Myers for her commitment.

**Mr Moscovici**  
Spanish Teacher &  
PSHE Co-Ordinator



# LGBT+ Inclusion

May 17 was International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. We hosted our second annual Design a Poster competition. There were brilliant entries from all year groups. The contest was judged by our fantastic librarian, Mrs Animashaun. All the entries are currently on display in the library for the entire school to enjoy. The top three entries were:



1<sup>st</sup> Place—

Helena Zamanpour Asl 7SWi

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Maisie Deane 10LDi



3<sup>rd</sup> Place-

Danielle O'Connor 7CKe



We are proud to announce a brand-new page on the school website dedicated to LGBT+ Inclusion. Please take a look.

<https://www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=LGBT%2B+Inclusion&pid=308>

Students in all year groups had an assembly in April to remind them about the LGBT+ Staff Allies Programme. This programme involves members of staff identifying themselves as 'allies' who can be approached to talk to in confidence about gender or romantic orientation. Ms Collier worked incredibly hard on creating a video to further explain this initiative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijAe7CemLT4&feature=youtu.be>

We also celebrated LGBT+ History Month. In form time, Year 7 students watched a BBC documentary on Section 28, and discussed influential LGBT+ role models such as Olympian Nicola Adams OBE. I would like to thank history teacher Ms Welsh for working with me to produce the resources.

**Mr Moscivici**  
Spanish Teacher &  
PSHE Co-Ordinator

## Why Do We Celebrate LGBT+ History Month?

- Historically, LGBT+ people have experienced prejudice, hatred, and sometimes even violence just for being who they are.
- For example:



Holocaust victims  
Germany 1941-1945



Admiral Duncan Pub Bombing  
London 1999





Students in Year 7 have been studying the topic *Mi Casa (My House)*. For homework, our Year 7 linguists had to describe their bedroom in Spanish and prepositions. Find below some fabulous extracts from Jessica Taylor (7SE) and Gloria Acheampong (7CKe)

Homework:  
Vivo en la casa. Mi dormitorio es arriba a la derecha de mi hermana dormitona. Mi dormitorio es grande. En mi dormitorio hay ~~un~~ un armario, dos camas, una ventana, una estantería, una pólter, un ordenador y una almohada. En las paredes hay un dos pósters y a lado de hay ~~es~~ una cama. Debajo de una cama hay zapatos y ropa. Mi gusta ~~mi~~ armario porque es grande y bonito. A la izquierda de mi armario hay ~~otra~~ <sup>otra</sup> cama. Es mi hermana y es mucho peo. La póster es vieja y ~~la~~ <sup>la</sup> cama no cómodo. En el suelo, la almohada es bonito y bastante grande. No tengo animales y ~~un~~ una televisión, una silla, una mesa, una lámpara y una televisión en mi dormitorio. Mi gusta mi dormitorio porque ~~es~~ es bonito pero también

Homework: Write a paragraph. Describe your bedroom.  
Te voy a describir mi dormitorio. Hay un armario al lado de la ventana. Hay una lámpara ~~entre~~ entre la puerta y la cama. A la derecha del cama hay una mesa. Encima ~~de la~~ <sup>de</sup> la mesa hay un ordenador. Mi dormitorio es muy cómoda y bonita. Me gusta mucho porque vivo en eso con mi dos hermanas.

While you may think all houses are the same, there are big differences between British and Spanish homes. This is why it is important to learn about describing where you live in Spanish. What do you think about these statements? ¿verdad o falso?

- Bins are not collected from your house in Spain
- Only 15% of British people live in flats compared to 67% in Spain
- In Spain it is very rare for a house to have carpets
- 13% of British people live in London compared to only 6% of Spanish people who live in Madrid

**Mr Moscivici**  
**MFL Teacher**



# Languages week

In the week of June 21, we celebrated our inaugural Astley Cooper Languages Week. This was a week-long festival of languages designed to celebrate our multi-lingual students and staff, and to re-emphasise the importance of language learning.

As part of these festivities we hosted a viewing of French film *Le Prince Oublié* (The Forgotten Prince). We were delighted that so many students gave positive feedback of the film.

All students were invited to take part in a design competition. As part of the competition entrants had to create a 3D model of a landmark from a non-English-speaking country.



**1<sup>ST</sup> Place – Finleigh Grant 9AC**



**2<sup>ND</sup> Place – Sonny Scourfield 7JNo**



**3<sup>RD</sup> Place -Ana Sofia Draghici 7AMo**

On quiz day all forms were treated to a special languages quiz. Teachers were recorded speaking different languages with students guessing which teacher was speaking and what language. The MFL department extends our congratulations to Ms Gilmour's form for getting the highest score in the school! They won a bag of Mexican candy to share. If you would like to see the quiz and hear some teachers speaking other languages, please click below;

[https://astleycooperhertssch-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/a\\_moscovici\\_astleycooper\\_herts\\_sch\\_uk/EZau4MM-pM5IndridDhT3-QBD\\_VVpm7ukk4VNIHmV75SiA?e=p6ZFbA](https://astleycooperhertssch-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/a_moscovici_astleycooper_herts_sch_uk/EZau4MM-pM5IndridDhT3-QBD_VVpm7ukk4VNIHmV75SiA?e=p6ZFbA)

# Languages week

Mr Moscovici delivered a special assembly, acknowledging that most people in the world speak some English and as technological advancements mean our phones can translate for us, Mr Moscovici queried why we should still learn languages. As part of the assembly students found out about untranslatable concepts and how the language you speak shapes the way you experience the world.

For example, did you know that...

- If you speak Kuuk Thayorre, you will always know which direction north is
- German people see the Grim Reaper as a man, but Spanish people see the Grim Reaper as a woman. This is because *Der Tod* is masculine, but *La muerte* is feminine
- Spanish speakers struggle to remember details of a crime they have witnessed compared to English speakers
- If rain is mentioned in a book, it is usually translated into 'sun' in Swahili
- The Pirahã language of northwest Brazil has no words for numbers
- In Italian there are three different words for blue. In Inuit there are at least 40 different words for snow
- In the Inuit translation of the Bible, the expression "Lamb of God" was translated as "Seal of God" because Inuit people had never seen a lamb before

Students were also fortunate to have a staff that is committed to language learning. Every single subject and teacher got involved. We had a language of the day every day and students answered the registers in these languages. Why not ask your child how to say hello in one of these languages to see if they can remember?

Monday: Italian (salve)

Tuesday: Polish (cześć)

Wednesday: Mandarin (你好) (*nǐ hǎo*)

Thursday: Russian (Привет) (*privyet*)

Friday: Romanian (Bună ziua)



In every lesson of the week students learned about how languages link to their learning. In KS3 Maths, students learned numbers in Tamil, and in KS4 students tried answering GCSE questions in other languages.

Cont/



# Languages Week

In Art students created pieces inspired by music in foreign languages, while in Computer Science they compared spoken human languages with computer languages. Mr Elliott labelled all of the tools in the Technology Work Shop in other languages. History students learned how English has evolved and changed over time, and in Geography students also learned how to have basic conversations in the countries they have been studying this year. PRE treated its learners to how the Norse gods got their names in the different Scandinavian languages. PSHE taught a lesson about racism through the medium of Italian, and Science studied how the brain processes language.

Production Arts took the event by storm with some lovely lessons. In Music, learners analysed foreign music, in Dance the warm up was to Spanish music, and in Drama students examined an extract from *Small*



**Mrs Babouri**  
Subject Leader MFL

**Mr Moscivici**  
MFL Teacher



Monday, June 28, 2021


### Sub-Heading: Languages Week Task

**"Bajo la luna" (Under the Moon) by Douglas Wright**

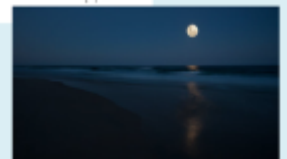
Todos callados, (Everyone is quiet.)  
 bajo la luna; (under the moon.)  
 el bosque, el lago, (the forest, the lake.)  
 el cerro, el monte, (the hill, the mountain.)  
 bajo la luna, (under the moon.)  
 todos callados. (everyone is quiet.)

1. After listening to the audio try to repeat the poem in Spanish with your shoulder partner. Each person should take a line of the poem. Be ready to share with the class!
2. Write down what you think the poem is about. Are there any language devices? Why have they been used?

**Challenge:** draw a representation of the poem



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_dy-Hb5KqU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_dy-Hb5KqU)







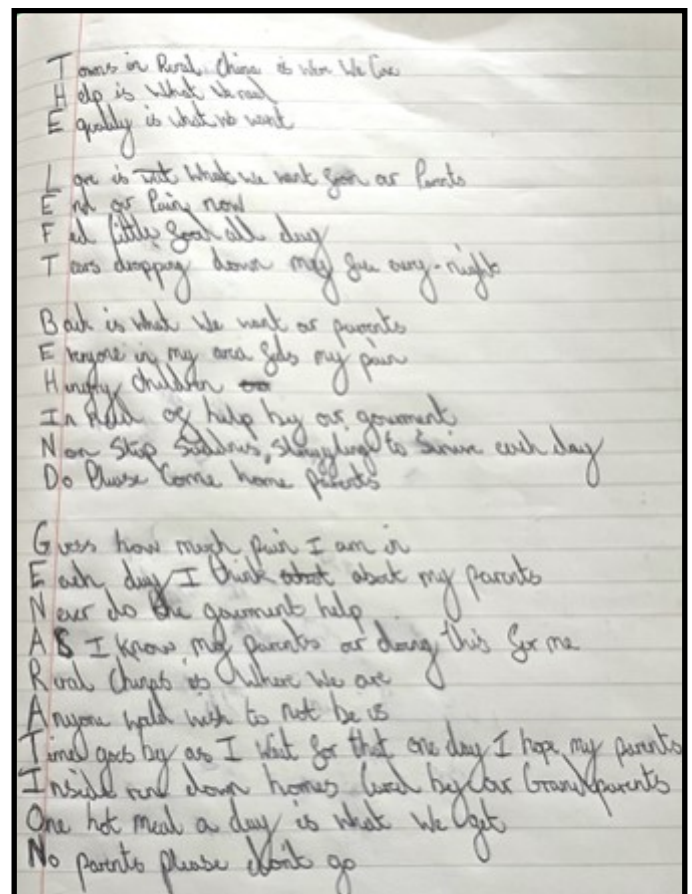
# Geography

Year 12 are currently carrying out a trampling survey around Astley Cooper, to prepare them for their coursework, to be completed in Year 13. In these photos, the students are sampling the number of species and the amount of vegetation cover in the transect at different intervals, by using a quadrat. The students are following a geographical sequence of enquiry to plan the fieldwork investigation, collect data and analyse it in order to prove or disprove their hypothesis. They looked at four areas around the school site in order to gain a balanced view of the amount of trampling around the school. It was a beautiful day when we collected the data and was an enjoyable experience for both the students and geography staff.



Year 7 are studying a unit on China, and this piece of work was based on a video that we watched about the forgotten generation of rural villages in China. It was a free choice of task, and Finley shows in his poem, the emotion of the children who are left behind in the villages by their parents, while they go to work in the cities.

**Mrs Waters**  
**Subject Leader Geography**

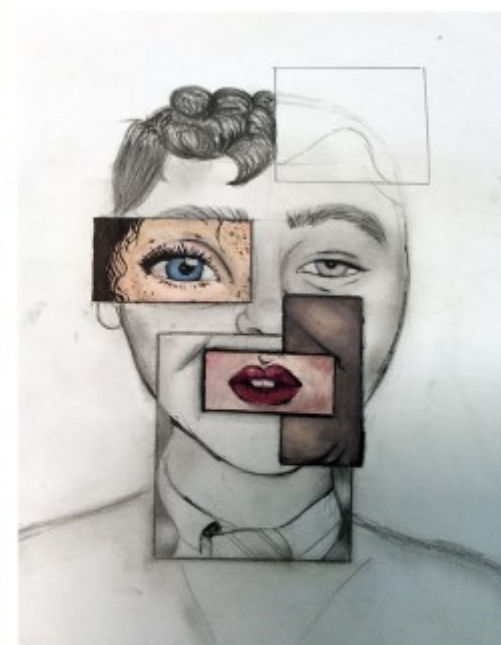
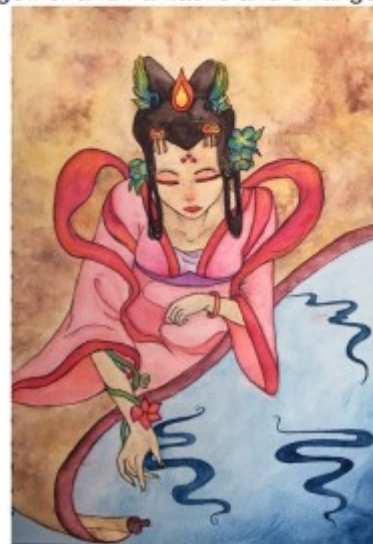


**Finley Blake 7KFa.**



# GCSE ART AND DESIGN 2021

Congratulations to our Year 11 students for persisting through these difficult times and achieving their aims in their art projects. The following works are responses to themes; Apart and/or Together and Fantastic and Strange.











# Headteacher's Commendations

## June Award

*Bethany Triggs 7KFa*

*Nathanial Pike 8HMy*

*Raymond Price 9AG*

*Krystal O'Neil 10JBo*

## July Award

*Samuel Norton 7JNo*

*Lillyrose Page 8GH*

*May Thompson 9MG*

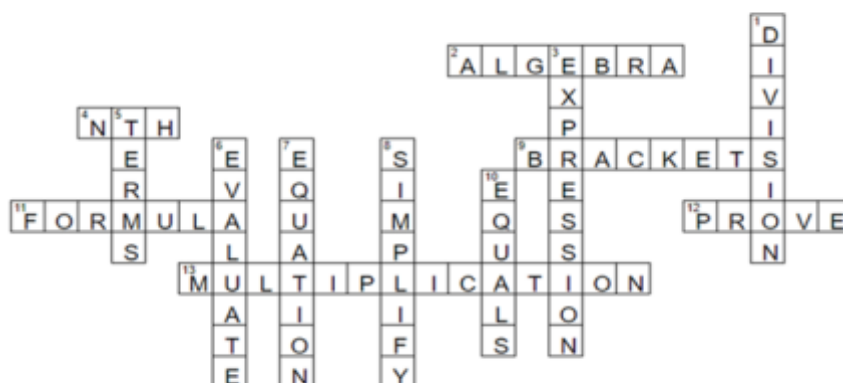
*Chloe Rushton 10JBo*

*Congratulations  
for excellent effort,  
attitude & achievement*



## Maths Answers

### Answers



### Answers

Across: CHORDS, PASCAL, CURVES, QUADRANT, STAR, OVAL, DENOMINATOR, HUNDREDTHS, PAIR, PLUS SIGN, BISECT, DEGREE, CENTRE

Down: CONVERSE, ADDS UP, PARABOLA, COUNTS, LINE, EQUIDISTANT, ONE-SIDED, OPPOSITE, EUCLID,

### Absence Line

Please can we ask parents to contact us daily if your child is absent from school due to illness, is going to be late/leaving early due to a medical appointment, or is absent from school for any other reason. Please telephone our 24 hour absence line by 8.25am on each day of absence on 01442 394141, alternatively, you can email:

[admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)

## Goodbye Key Stage 3 and hello Key Stage 4

The students of Year 9 are maturing, and it is a pleasure to see their attitude and personalities develop and change over what has been a difficult and disjointed year. Students have spent different time periods away from school and then returning; each time they have conducted themselves with integrity and dignity as we have moved through this frustrating and tough period.

Covid might have tried to ruin some of the adventures that we would have had as a year group this year, but it has taught the cohort about perseverance and resilience and supporting one another. I have been inspired by them all and they have certainly made me smile when I have felt deflated and exasperated by the trying time that we have faced.

The assessments were an example of a splendid cohort that looked smart, acted superbly and gave their all in the assessments. I was overjoyed by way that they handled the pressure of exams and the courteous way that they acted towards all the staff that were involved in running a flawless exam period.

Sports Day was another huge success and it was wonderful to see students in a different sphere of school life as they cheered each other on, showed sportsmanship to one another and encouraged each other, even if they were not in the same form. Another success as we educate these young people about life beyond school.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a massive thank you to Mr O'Grady; he took over Mrs Lee-Dell's form whilst she was on maternity leave. Mr O'Grady has done a tremendous job in looking after the form and has fully embraced life with the Year 9 tutor team. As he joins Year 7, he will be a huge asset. I know that the students will be sad that he is no longer their Form Tutor, but we wish him all the best with his new Year 7 tutor group.

All the tutors have been exceptional this year. The support and guidance that they maintained in the many lockdowns has been incredible, I know that the students think a lot of their tutors and I cannot thank them enough for all the support and guidance that they give me. They are a remarkable team, who, like me, expect the best and this is evident in the mindset and appearance of the cohort.

Parents and carers, thank you for your understanding and help this year. The relationship that I have with you is essential to the wellbeing of the students and I am so grateful for the honest and positive relationships that we have, alongside the tutors.

Our journey continues towards Year 10. We are embarking on Key Stage 4 and the beginning of the GCSE pathway. I am so excited about September and seeing all the students back after their summer holidays.

**Miss Roberts**  
**Head of Year 9**





# Year 11 Prom



We were determined to give the Class of 2021 the end of year celebration they deserved. It was a huge relief to hear that our Prom was allowed to go ahead under the current Covid restrictions as we were using the school as our venue. After over a year of party venues being shut, it was great to see the Year 11s really enjoying themselves as DJ East pumped out dance floor fillers!

Students arrived in style and were greeted at the end of the red carpet with a choice of delicious mocktails. The hall had been transformed into a fabulous party space thanks to the hard work of many staff. Fantastic wood fired pizzas were produced out of a converted horse box to keep everyone well fed throughout the evening.

A memorable evening was enjoyed by all.

Students voted throughout the night for some light hearted awards.

The winners were as follows -

Prom Queen - Keira Marsh  
Prom King - Sam Rawlings  
Best Dancer - Anthony Osei  
Funniest - Abdi Osman  
Loudest - Rosie Wallace Connors  
Kindest - Prisca Frimpong  
Millionaire by 25 - Alfie Brandom  
Most likely to be Prime Minister - Abdi Osman

**Mr Stevenson**  
**Head of Year 11**



## Services for Young People Summer Holiday Activity Programme 2021

Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People provides free youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and wider support for young people  
[www.servicesforyoungpeople.org](http://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org)



Exciting free and local opportunities for young people aged 12-16 during the Summer school holidays

- Fun and informal workshops to help with a healthy physical and emotional lifestyle
  - Free lunch / food
- Physical activities such as: Sports, Dance and Games
  - Meet and socialise with other young people

### Contact Us

Email: [SfYP.Dacorum@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SfYP.Dacorum@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Call: 01442 454060      Text: 07860 065195

Please visit [Be HAPPY](https://www.be-happy.org.uk) - practical resources - Herts Sports Partnership ([sportinherts.org.uk](https://www.sportinherts.org.uk)) for details of other organisations delivering activities in Summer



@SfYP.Dacorum



@DacorumTeam



Services for  
Young People



# Your Opportunities in Dacorum

**Dates:** Week 1: 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Times:** 11am-3pm

**Option 1 Venue:** Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS

**Option 2 Venue:** Bennetts End Young People's Centre, Kimps Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8EN

**Dates:** Week 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Times:** 11am-3pm

**Option 1 Venue:** Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS

**Option 2 Venue:** Bennetts End Young People's Centre, Kimps Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8EN

**Dates:** Week 3: 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Times:** 11am-3pm

**Option 1 Venue:** Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS

**Option 2 Venue:** Bennetts End Young People's Centre, Kimps Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8EN

**Dates:** Week 4: 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Times:** 11am-3pm

**Option 1 Venue:** Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor XC Centre, Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS

**Option 2 Venue:** Bennetts End Young People's Centre, Kimps Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8EN

Please visit [Be HAPPY - practical resources - Herts Sports Partnership \(sportinherts.org.uk\)](https://sportinherts.org.uk) for details of other organisations delivering activities in Summer



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Services for  
Young People





SOMETHING LOUD PRESENTS.....

## PROJECT PLAY!

Dacorum Music School, Part of Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) run a Instrumental scheme called Project Play at your school. PROJECT PLAY is a great way to learn a musical instrument. You will have a weekly 20 minute group lesson on your instrument to develop your skills, and as well as the lesson, you will have the opportunity to join with the other project play groups at your school to be part of a school band.

Lessons applications are now open for the Autumn term 2021, and the instruments on offer are

- Violin
- Cello
- Flute
- Guitar
- Saxophone
- Drums

The instrumental lesson and band go hand in hand, and when signing up to PROJECT PLAY you are signing a commitment to both a weekly lesson and band. PROJECT PLAY has a termly cost of just £52 per term. The minimum sign up is one term, and you can finish project play at the end of any term. Please note: all ensembles are charged per term, not per session and there are no part term refunds (as per our Terms and Conditions).

There are a number of schemes available if you wish to apply for to help with the cost of Project Play lessons. HMS offer a 25% discount (not means tested) and HCC offer the Remission of Fees scheme. Please take a look at the link below for more details - [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission)

Places for Project Play are limited, as the scheme is funded by Arts Council England. If you wish to sign up for Project Play please fill out the application below and one of our team will be in touch to let you know your application has been successful for September.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/musicgroups/>

Regards,

Kris



Kris Banks  
Project Play Coordinator- Hertfordshire Music Service  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Dacorum Music School, North Block, The Hemel Hempstead School, Heath Lane,  
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TX.  
T: 01442 453400 E: kris.banks@hertsmusicservice.org.uk

Hertfordshire Music Service:





## Find the support you need at the Families First Portal

Families First is the name for early help in Hertfordshire. It is a way of getting extra support for your family to help you manage problems early on.

Families First is available to all Hertfordshire families with children under 18 (25 if they have a learning need or disability).

Visit the [portal](#) for more information, with direct links to:-

- 👑 Relationship Support
- 👑 Parenting advice and childcare
- 👑 Money advice
- 👑 Emotional and mental health
- 👑 Domestic abuse support
- 👑 Staying healthy
- 👑 Online Safety
- 👑 SEND Local Offer

and many other useful links



[@FamiliesFirstHerts](#)



[@FFHerts](#)

[hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst](https://hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst)

*"I am struggling to cope with everything at present, so feeling overwhelmed."*

*"I'm worried about my child's behaviour in school and at home"*

*"I'm worried about money"*

*"I need reassurance and support"*





# SUMMER 2021

WITH HERTS INCLUSIVE THEATRE

27th July - 26th August

Jam-packed inclusive, creative  
workshops for all ages

FIND OUT MORE

[www.hit-theatre.org.uk/whats-on/events](http://www.hit-theatre.org.uk/whats-on/events)