



The Astley Cooper School

Aspiration, Determination, Integrity

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Welcome to our school update. It has been a busy term so now is a good time to reflect on the successes and inform you of some of the upcoming changes.

Ofsted

Inspectors from Ofsted visited the school on November 17, and November 18. The school was rated 'good' in all five areas - quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and sixth-form provision - and the overall 'good' rating remains unchanged from the previous inspection in 2016.

We are sure you will agree that this is a fantastic outcome for the school and the community. This is a good benchmark to continue building from as the school moves in to its new facilities. This justified grading reflects the hard work of staff and students over the last four years.

In the report it says: "The positive relationships they form with school staff, including in the sixth form, are a strong feature of the day-to-day life in the school. The atmosphere in lessons and around school is calm and orderly.

"Pupils feel safe in school. While bullying is rare, regular reminders emphasise that bullying and other forms of abuse will not be tolerated.

"Leaders have continued to raise aspirations for Astley Cooper pupils and for students in the sixth form. Staff have thought carefully about the things that pupils need to know to achieve well in most subjects, including in English and mathematics.

"Leaders have paid close attention to helping pupils who need to develop their reading skills to catch up. Staff have been trained effectively to support this. The love of reading is well promoted across the school."

Breakfast Club

I am pleased to announce that from Tuesday 22 February breakfast will be available for all students free of charge from 7.45am.

School entrance

We will also be opening the back gate for students in the morning from 7.45 to 8.45 and after school from 3.15 – 3.45.

Uniform update

A reminder that term starts on 22 February and from the start of this term, hoodies are not allowed on the school site.

Curriculum update

On the following pages you will find an overview of our curriculum split in to subject areas. Students have been studying these over the last two terms. It is useful for your child to review what they have learnt as this facilitates them remembering all the great stuff they have learnt. Please talk through these with your child, even quiz them on it!

We wish you a restful half term break.

English

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied WW1 and its context in relation to the novel 'Private Peaceful'. Through this, students developed an understanding of warfare including: conscription and insubordination.	Have been studying the language of Shakespeare through 'Romeo and Juliet'. Through this, students will learn about the Elizabethan period and develop their analysis of themes, dramatic methods and character.
Year 8	Have studied 'Refugee Boy' and through this, read about what it is like to be a refugee. Students gained an understanding of culture, war, separation and relationships. Students focused on creative writing, using the text for inspiration.	Have been taught to write creatively and descriptively about their understanding of poetry. Students will be looking at poems from around the world to enable students to learn about other cultures.
Year 9	Have studied different poems under the theme of 'Conflict'. Students were then given opportunities to write creatively and descriptively about their understanding poetry.	Have been studying Non-fiction writing through Politics. Through this, students will develop their interest in politics by learning about parliament, government, dictatorship and democracy. Students have also learnt how to express their thoughts, rationalise their ideas and express their feelings and viewpoints.
Year 10	Have studied the theme of 'Power and Conflict' through the study of 15 GCSE poems. Students studied poems related to topics such as war, power, nature and cross compared poems. Students completed weekly interleaving lessons where they recapped previous literature texts focusing on guided exam practice.	Students studied a revision unit improving student's deeper understanding of 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol' focusing on themes in the texts and practicing exam questions. Students also completed weekly interleaving lessons where students will recap other literature texts focusing on their confidence in exam conditions and guided exam practice.
Year 11	Have studied English Literature in preparation for their Literature mock exams which were completed in December. Students also completed weekly interleaving lessons focusing on the Language Paper.	Students have been studying English Language Paper 1 in preparation for an English Language Paper 1 Assessment at the end of Spring Term 1. Students also completed weekly interleaving lessons focusing on Literature developing students understanding from last terms Literature mock exams.

Maths

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	<p>They have studied NUMBER skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors, multiples Fractions, decimals, percentages, BIDMAS, Rounding to a given decimal place, significant figure - Negative numbers 	<p>Continuation of ALGEBRA: Collecting like terms -Forming expressions Substitution -Expanding single brackets -Solving linear equations- Sequences – linear and non linear</p>
Year 8	<p>NUMBER skills: Prime numbers -HCF/LCM –Rounding Recap of BIDMAS RATIO & PROPORTION: Simplify ratio - Sharing into ratios -Recipe questions- Proportion ALGEBRA: Recap of year 7 skills</p>	<p>Continuation of ALGEBRA: Solving linear equations with unknowns on both sides Rearranging formulae -Sequences – term to term rule Nth term of a linear sequence</p>
Year 9	<p>NUMBER: Recap of year 8 skills Powers and roots- Laws of indices-Evaluating indices Fractional indices -Standard form ALGEBRA: Review of year 8- Substitution into complex formulae- Rearranging formulae-Expand two brackets -Expand three brackets (Higher only) -Factorise quadratic-Inequalities</p>	<p>GEOMETRY: Area & perimeter-Rectangles, triangles, parallelograms, trapezium, circles –Circumference-Surface area (cuboid, prisms)- Volume-Surface area of cylinder PROBABILITY: Two way tables-Sample space-Frequency trees-Venn diagrams</p>
Year 10	<p>NUMBER: Review of year 9-Recurring decimals-Percentages-Reverse percentage-Simple interest-Compound interest ALGEBRA: Review of year 9 -Difference of two square-Forming and solving equations-Simultaneous equations -Graphs</p>	<p>RATIO & PROPORTION review of year 9 -ratio difference-proportion problems ALGEBRA straight line graphs-sequences-real life graphs GEOMETRY perimeter, area & volume properties of shapes- interior and exterior angles-right angle triangles higher: Pythagoras' theorem, basic trigonometry graphs of trig functions</p>
Year 11	<p>Completion of topics left from last year and recap of skills from previous years</p>	<p>Targeted lessons based from December mock examinations.</p>

Science

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Year 7 have studied how movement occurs in the body including learning about muscles and the skeleton before learning about cells and how they function.	Students have learnt about properties of metals, non-metals and the reactivity series. Acids, alkalis and how they interact. They have also learn about the impact changes have in an ecosystem and how plants reproduce. Finally they have learnt about energy costs and how energy transfers.
Year 8	Year 8 have studied the mechanics of breathing and its importance, followed by the process of digestion and how enzymes work. Students studied both magnets and electromagnets	Students have learnt about different types of chemical reactions and about combustion. They have also learnt about the fundamental biological processes of Respiration and Photosynthesis as well as how simple machines work and the energy transfers that occur.
Year 9	Year 9 have studied the electromagnetic spectrum and the properties of waves. The composition of the early atmosphere and how to test for hydrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide and chlorine. Students then went on to study communities of organisms	Students have began to start learning about cells in more detail than previously including how to view them under a microscope and how they divide. Students will then learn about the uses of stem cells and microorganisms.
Year 10	Year 10 have studied the structure of particles and how they are bonded. They have learnt about electrical components and how we can rearrange equations to calculate voltage, current, resistance and power.	Students have learnt about density and the structure of atoms. Students have also looked at endothermic and exothermic reactions and their reaction profiles
Year 11	Year 11 have studied the properties of waves including longitudinal and transverse waves. They have learnt how humans can use different resources from the earth and how the early atmosphere is different from present day.	Students have learnt about the carbon cycle and how organisms fit to specific niches in their ecosystems. In addition they have learnt about Flemings' left hand rule and the similarities between magnets and electromagnets.

History

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have finished studying the Battle of Hastings.	Have been studying castles.
Year 8	Have finished studying early modern England.	Have been studying pre-colonial Africa and empires.
Year 9	Have been studying the Holocaust.	Have been studying the Second World War.
Year 10	Have been studying industrial medicine and the Cold War crises.	Have been studying modern medicine and the attempts to reduce tensions in the Cold War.
Year 11	Have nearly finished studying the rise of Hitler.	Have been studying the nature of Nazi control and Hitler's dictatorship.

Design Technology

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have learnt drawing skills including Single and Two point perspective, rendering and computer aided drawing.	Developing designing skills to create a wooden game.
Year 8	Used their creativity skills to design a moneybox using both traditional drawing and computer aided design methods.	Building up their practical skills by making their moneybox from a range of materials.
Year 9	Used their research skills to develop and make a clock that represents a different country	Developing knowledge and understanding of electronics and components.
Year 10	Researched lamp designers and designed a low voltage lamp in their chosen designer's style.	Developing an understanding of Energy storage and generation, developments in modern and smart materials.
Year 11	Complete the research and design section of their final NEA coursework.	Developing and model and evaluate their final design for their NEA coursework.

Geography

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Last term year 7's started with a unit on Geographical skills, this included map work and locating different countries and continents. They then moved onto a unit looking at rivers and flooding	This term year 7 have been looking at their first human geography unit on global development. Investigating the difference between rich and poor nation and why this gap happens.
Year 8	Last term year 8's started with a unit on Tectonics looking at volcanos and earthquakes. They then moved onto a unit looking at Ecosystems and the Tropical Rainforest	This term year 8 have been looking at their first human geography unit on urbanisation. This focuses on understanding how and why towns and cities around the world build up and become more developed.
Year 9	Last term year 9's started with a unit on global issues. They then moved onto a unit looking at coastal landscapes	Year 9 have continued their work on coasts this term but will focus now on marine ecosystems. This looks at habitats and ecosystems found in water like coral reefs and mangroves.
Year 10	Year 10 started their GCSE course looking with Unit 1 – Changing landscapes of the UK, in this students look at Rocks, Rivers and Coasts	Year 10 started the new term looking at unit 2 – weather hazards and climate change. They investigated what climate change is, its effects and it correlation to more extreme weather patterns around the world. For example Hurricane Sandy that impacted the USA and Cuba
Year 11	Year 11 started the year looking at the human Geography section with Unit 4 – Changing cities. They then completed their fieldwork element of the course, visiting the River Wye.	Year 11 have completed the human section of the course this term looking at resource management. They have investigated the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy and why more countries are making a shift towards more renewable sources.

Food Studies

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied Food Safety and Hygiene.	Have been participating in a variety of practical lessons where they demonstrated a range of basic skills
Year 8	Have studied the main nutrients and built on their knowledge of Healthy eating and the Eatwell Guide.	Students participated in a variety of practical lessons where demonstrated a range of skills including how to use electrical equipment safely
Year 9	Students have built on their knowledge of nutrients and healthy eating and applied this knowledge to design meals for teenagers.	They have participated in a variety of practical lessons where they demonstrated a range of more complex skills.
Year 10	Have built up a range of practical skills and studied Food Hygiene and safety in detail.	Have participated in two food competitions and have preparing for their first Mock exam.
Year 11	Have been practising a variety of chosen dishes suitable for the practical exam	Will be completing a practice Controlled Assessment task and completing two mock practical exams.

Dance

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied basic Contemporary technique	Have studied abstract dance; Using a Kandinsky painting as a stimulus.
Year 8	Have studied Contemporary technique	Have studied the Brazilian art form; Capoeira
Year 9	Have studied Street Dance	Have studied the South African traditional dance; Gumboot
Year 10	Have studied Component 1; Zoonation, All That Jazz and Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake	Have completing coursework for completion of Component 1.
Year 11	Have completed a mock exam for Component 3; Responding To a Brief.	Have completed their final response to the brief for Component 3.

Music

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied Ukulele skills and performance techniques leading to live in class performances.	Have studied Keyboard Skills 1 leading to Grade 1 standard pieces and repertoire
Year 8	Have studied rhythmic structures and sequences through performance, composition and appraising leading to a live class performance of their pieces.	Have been studying keyboard skills 2 Leading to grade 2 standard pieces repertoire.
Year 9	Have studied the 12 bar blues and a variety of video game music leading to live in class performances.	Have been studying keyboard skills 3 Leading to Grade 3 standard pieces repertoire.
Year 10	Have studied Rock Music, Minimalism, The Blues, Film Music and Video Game music leading to the completion of their coursework.	Have been studying professional and commercial skills for the music industry and applying/developing individual musical skills and techniques leading to the completion of their coursework.
Year 11	Have studied professional and commercial skills for the music industry and applying/developing individual musical skills and techniques leading to the completion of their coursework.	Have been exploring stylistically accurate cover versions, Creating original music using existing stylistic frameworks and traits and using DAW and associated hardware to create an original piece of music from a given starting point.

Art and Design

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied drawing techniques, Rembrandt and German Expressionist portraits.	Studying how to express emotion through tone and mark making. Colour theory.
Year 8	Have studied Alien character design and conducted research.	Sculpting techniques and processes.
Year 9	Have finished studying hand drawings. Started studying cultural patterns	Designing and making a headdress.
Year 10	Have explored the theme, I, Me, Mine, studying J King, developing drawing and painting skills.	Investigating work by Peter Blake and other artists, developing personal ideas.
Year 11	Have started their second coursework project, Apart and/or Together.	Further refine ideas and development of artwork through experimenting. Produce final piece.

Physical Education

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have studied Football, Rugby, Healthy Lifestyles, Swimming and Netball	Have studied Gymnastics and Swimming
Year 8	Have studied Football, Rugby, Healthy Lifestyles, Swimming and Netball	Have studied Gymnastics and Swimming
Year 9	Football, Healthy Lifestyles, Netball and Swimming	Gymnastics and Swimming
Year 10	BTEC Sport – Fitness for Sport and Exercise GCSE PE – Structure and function of Cardio – Respiratory system	BTEC Sport – Practical Performance in Sport GCSE PE – Physical Training
Year 11	GCSE PE - Sports Psychology and performance analysis	GCSE PE – Commercialisation of Sport

Drama

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have explored traditional pantomime stories and the use of song.	Have explored <i>The Lion King</i> musical and creating and musical theatre performance.
Year 8	Have explored pantomimes, understanding stereotypes and the use of song.	Have been exploring <i>The Greatest Showman</i> musical, the use of multi role script and movement devices.
Year 9	Have explored various genres in theatre such as comedy, adventure and action.	Have analysed <i>The Woman in Black</i> and explored character development.
Year 10	Have worked on Component 1: Exploring the performing Arts. Completed workshops and creative tasks.	Working on Component 2: Exploring and developing performance skills and techniques.
Year 11	Have completed the Mock exam on Component 3 (Responding to a brief). Have explored the key requirements for responding to a brief.	Completing the BTEC Tech exam on Component 3 (Responding to a brief) .

Spanish

Year group	Last term	This term
Year 7	Have finished the topic of self-introduction and basic grammar.	Have been studying school subjects with use of adjectives and opinions.
Year 8	Have finished studying daily routines.	Have been studying hobbies, activities and opinions with justifications.
Year 9	Have finished studying different genres of movies and music.	Have been studying past, present and future tenses through school topic
Year 10	Have finished studying the holiday topic, which includes weathers, activities, countries and transports.	Have been studying the school topic, which includes rules, uniform, descriptions and verb tenses.
Year 11	Have finished cities and towns as well as how to ask for refund and exchange in shops.	Have been studying the body, illnesses, food diet and exercise and giving advice. Issues facing young people