



## THE ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL

This term has seen the commencement of the building works for our new school as well as a number of activities for students to engage in learning both in and outside of the classroom. I'm pleased to be able to share a summary of the activities each year group have been completing and an update on the building progress.

The new leisure centre is due to be completed in April 2023 with the new teaching block completed shortly after in June 2023 (artists impression below). Demolition of the old building started in February and should be completed by the time students return to school on April 19 2022 after the Easter break.

Can I take the opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year, especially with the two recent disruptions to school and wish you all a good break over Easter.

Sam Orsborne

Headteacher





# The building work





# Year 7

The Year 7 students have made an amazing start to Secondary School. I cannot believe that we are two thirds of the way through the school year already. The students have settled in so well and there is a lovely community spirit amongst them.

At the start of January, I gave them a challenge; I had thirty places available for students to go to Orbital Trampoline Park as a reward trip.

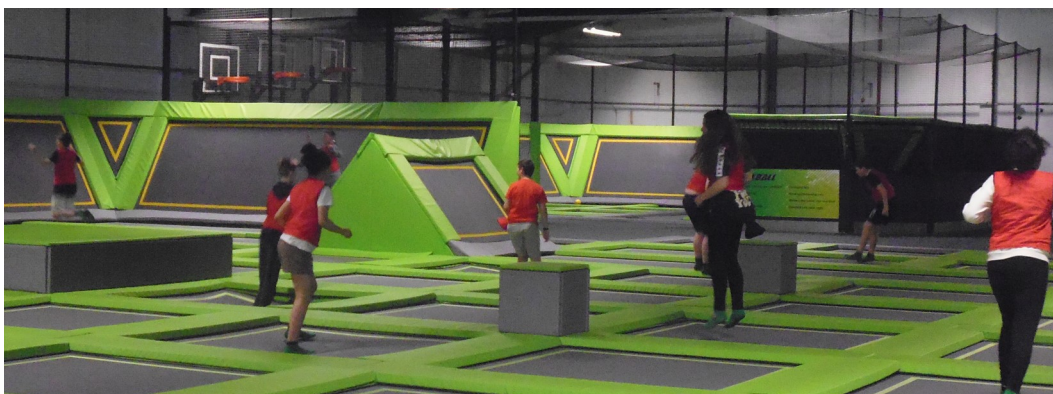
All of the students had a chance to attend, as it was a fresh start from January. I took the data from January up until 11 March. This was for various reasons; achievement points, attendance, excellent work, tutor nominations and doing the right thing. I must say there were so many students who came into those categories that I had to pick them on the wheel of names (raffle).

I am so proud of the year group and their positive work ethic.

I wish you and your families a lovely Easter.

Julie Goodchild

Head of Year 7



# Year 8

Year 8 have been working with motivational speaker, Cameron Parker for a total of three days since the start of the year. The programme was a little more spread out than anticipated due to various Covid complications ! Under Cameron's direction the students have focused on increasing motivation, developing a growth mind-set, raising aspiration, reducing stress, resilience, and confidence.

It has been fantastic to share hot chocolate with over 100 year 8 students as a thank you for always doing the right thing in school. After Easter 30 of these students will be invited on a rewards trip to a water park near Milton Keynes.

It has been a pleasure to work as Head of Year 8 since September and I have enjoyed getting to know the students and working with some fantastically supportive families. I know Mr Hardy will do an amazing job when he takes over the role after the Easter holidays.

Have a lovely break !

Mr Stevenson

Assistant Headteacher





# Year 9

We launched a new initiative for Year 9 in January to raise teamwork and standards amongst each form group. Students set out to win the inter form competition by the end of each half term. Each form have competed through a series of events and have been working hard to meet the following set criteria:

- Star of the Week
- Secret Student
- Postcard home
- 100% attendance for the week.
- Showing resilience
- Ninja Numeracy
- Zero behaviour points
- Top 30 student in the year group with the highest achievement points.



Congratulations to 9LFO and 9PHA who have been our Inter Form competition winners so far. 9LFO enjoyed an afternoon to Glow In One - indoor mini golf. 9PHA had a fun afternoon at Laser Tag. Keep up the hard work Year 9's!

In January we welcomed Billy's Wish, an anti-knife crime education charity that has been set up following the tragic death of Billy Dove. A young, innocent man who was stabbed in Hemel town centre in the early hours of 6 November 2011. The charity has developed an education programme for secondary schools which focuses on choices, consequences, and facts about knife crime. Following on from this, in February, Detective Fiona Peters from Hertfordshire Constabulary presented to the Yr9s on "Lives not Knives"



# Year 9

Thank you to all parents who attended our Year 9 Preference evening on Thursday 24 March. We hope you found the evening informative and helpful in guiding your child through their next chapter of their school journey.

## **Year 9 upcoming events:**

29 April - Ben Kensilla Exhibition in Islington.

12 May - University of Hertfordshire visit

25 May - Inter Form competition reward trip.

30 June - Virtual Parents Evening

20 July - Thorpe Park.

Miss Collins

Head of Year 9





# Year 10

As we are about to embark on the Summer term for our year 10 students, they have shown an enormous amount of aspiration, integrity and determination since September. The realisation of Year 11 looming and the increase in assessments has dawned on the students, they have shown perseverance and resilience through some quite stressful times academically.

The boys have played several football games and have had a mixed bag of results. Watching them play indicated that there is a sense of passion for football and when the team support one another, they all produced promising skills and this culminated in winning some games.

The girls also have their own football team and have relished the opportunity to play against other local schools. The girls won their most recent game and have showed flair and determination whilst playing.

Success has also been had by the netball team who have had several games and have enjoyed wins and suffered some defeats. This week, the team, along with some year 8 students have had a training day from Sasha Corbin, Sasha plays netball for England and is an inspirational player for the students to be coached by.



# Year 10

In other areas of school life, some students delivered an assembly to all the other year groups, the focus was on a celebration of colour and culture. We are a community school that celebrates a huge diversity of students. To have inspiring and confident young people discuss their own experiences and to educate other students was a proud moment.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Lee – Dell good luck in her new job. She has been with the cohort for four years and has been an influential and fantastic tutor. I am



going to miss her being part of the team and I know that the students will too.

Thank you for your support and I hope that you all have a wonderful Easter.

Miss Roberts





# Year 11

Year 11 have been working with great dedication in the run up to the exams, and it is worth celebrating many of the achievements of the Year Group in the Spring Term

Congratulations to those who have been completing their practical catering exams. The standard of cooking has been exceptionally high across the year group, and they have kept friends and family very well fed.

Many of the students who completed the PE Moderation have also performed well, and have ensured they are in a good position for their exams in May. Please do keep up the good work.

The attendance at interventions has also been very impressive. It has been great to see many of the year group put in work outside of school hours, and following the inspirational words of Cameron Parker, who came in to do a workshop with the students - reminding them that with extra interventions, they still have 60 hours free in a week. Please do continue to attend, and make the most of the opportunities provided.



# Year 11

Many students have taken advantage of tutoring days at the University of Hertfordshire, both for English and Maths. Students have managed to gain much from the two sessions, and have applied this to new classes.

Students also learned about how the 6th form worked during Discovery Day. It has been great to discuss with students their aspirations, and it is just a reminder that students will still be welcome to join the 6th form. Please get forms from Mrs Ollerenshaw-East or Mrs Houchin.

There will be revision sessions over Easter, and Year 11 received a timetable on 29 March. Please do come along if you feel you need more support for your examinations.

Thank you everyone for your hard work over the last few months. If there is anything you all need, please, as you have done, keep communicating and working with us.

I hope you all have a great Easter Break

Mr Hall



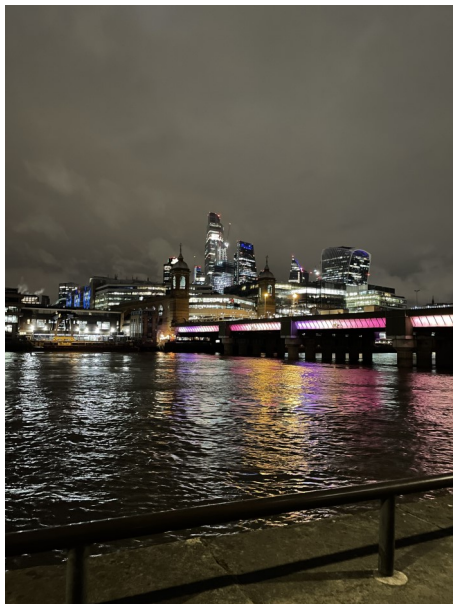


# Sixth Form

It has been a busy term for the Sixth Form students with many events and opportunities for our students. Year 12 and 13 students completed mock assessments in February. These assessments have been a good opportunity for Year 12 students to evaluate their progress on material learnt in their first term studying A-Levels and for Year 13 it has been a chance for students to reflect on their before the start of their examinations starting in May, I would like to congratulate all the students for the dedication they have shown towards revision for these assessments.

The deadline for Year 11 Sixth Form applications was at the beginning of February with a record number of applications received. Interviews will be conducted by senior members of staff between now and the end of April. Students will then receive a letter regarding the July Sixth Form Induction Day.

Year 12 will be receiving letters regarding Work Experience which will take place in July where students will be encouraged to approach businesses to find their own placements with relevance to their future interested career. This will be a good opportunity for students to develop their skills and will be useful to students when writing personal statements or applying for apprenticeships.



# Sixth Form

## UCAS Applications

Year 13 UCAS deadline was back in January and all the students that applied for University have heard back from the majority of their choices. Students need to reply to their offers by the following deadlines:

- 1 – If students have had all university offers back by Thursday 19 May, students need to respond by Thursday 9 June
- 2 – If students have had all university offers back by Thursday 14 July then students need to respond by Thursday 21 July

Can we also remind Year 13 students that they should be applying for Student Finance.



## Year 12 UCAS

In the summer term Year 12 will be starting to look at their next steps after Sixth Form during PSHE lessons. We would encourage students to start thinking about



# Sixth Form

It would also benefit students to start looking into free subject specific summer residential courses that will help them write their University application as well as give them an insight to the subject they wish to study. Several universities including The University of Hertfordshire offer placements shadowing students as well as The Sutton Trust and Nuffield offer specific programmes and courses, please see Mrs Ollerenshaw-East or Mrs Houchin if you are interested in applying.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 13's the best of luck in the Summer Exams.

Mrs Ollerenshaw-East

Mrs Houchin

Head of Sixth Form

Post 16 Pastoral Support Administrator



*'Doubt thou the stars are fire;  
Doubt that the sun doth move;  
Doubt truth to be a liar;  
But never doubt the love of a trip to a London Theatre'*

# Rewards

Mr Greany joined The Astley Cooper School in January as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for rewards and behaviour. He introduced a 'green ticket' award that members of the senior leadership team give to students in lessons identified as demonstrating the school values. All students who received a green ticket were entered into a prize draw and Oliver Ellis 10PGo and Grace Killick 10MG were the lucky students who won this term. The prize for Grace - a Samsung Galaxy Tablet was supplied by Phoenix Properties and we thank them for their contribution to rewarding students at our school.



Students will have the opportunity to collect more 'green tickets' after Easter and be included in the prize draw at the end of the summer term.