



# THE ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL

As always in schools, it has been a busy year but as my first year, one that I have thoroughly enjoyed and I look forward to continuing the work we have started to make The Astley Cooper School a great school.

It has been a pleasure to meet and get to know all of your children and to start to get to know all of you. Our Year 7s have made a fantastic start to their secondary education while the other year groups have settled back into a routine after three disrupted school years. We have seen our Year 11s and Year 13s complete a full set of public examinations and we all recognise and their hard work and commitment through this process and we look forward to sharing their successes on the results this summer.

October was our first Open Evening in two years; it was a successful evening and well attended by many families new and old. In November, Ofsted came and I am incredibly proud to say we are a *Good* school. A number of trips and visits started again culminating in a whole school trip to Thorpe Park which offered everyone the opportunity to relax and have some fun. We ended the year with Sports Day, a first chance for students to compete in their new houses which resulted in triumphant win for Curie (Year 7), Nightingale (Year 8), Parks (Year 9) and Hawking (Year 10).

The building work continues and we are starting to see the shape of our new blocks and sports facilities. I look forward to being able to invite you all in to see the new building which should be completed during the next academic year. Look out for more information about our celebration and opening events closer to the time.





# THE ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL

As always at this time, we say goodbye to some colleagues. Salma Nazmi, Science Technician, has taken a new post to be near to her family and Emily Siggers, Food Studies, returns to the Private Sector. Sam Burgin, Maths teacher, Alex Moscovici, MFL teacher and Gary Chambers, Business Studies teacher, are all moving on to new teaching posts. Sharon Clyne, Science teacher, moves on to be a Lead Practitioner in a school in London and Peter Hart, Science teacher, leaves to take a Headship in Dubai. We wish them all the very best as they start their new ventures. Additionally our SENDCo is moving to a new school in September. If you have any questions or concerns about SEND provision, please email [sendco@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sendco@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk) in the first instance.

We are pleased to welcome the following excellent staff who have either joined us already or will join us in September

Santhirasageyar Benjamin – Science Teacher  
Ernest Boamong – Business Teacher  
Claire Brown – MFL Teacher  
Palrose Dehaney Murray – Science Teacher  
Charlotte Gass – PRE Teacher  
Bertrand Gonzales – Computing Teacher  
Jed Hunt – Maths Teacher  
Jess O’Leary – Dance Teacher  
Rebecca Palmer – Science Teacher  
Rosy Tyler – Drama Teacher  
Ciara Williamson – PE Teacher  
Ernest Wong – Food Studies Teacher

Michelle Conway – Science Technician  
Hollie Walker – Science Technician  
James Hobday – Production Arts Technician  
Nicola Smith – Cover Supervisor

As we move in to the next academic year, I am pleased to be introducing a House System, an exciting way to involve students in friendly competition, team spirit and supporting each other. Competitions started with our Sports Day on 21 July and will continue with other sporting events, talent shows, bake off style events, short story writing and many more.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support during my first year. I want to be able to provide your children with the best education possible to enhance their chances of being successful in the future. Your continued support with uniform, equipment and behaviour are greatly appreciated as it will allow all students to access the learning required to be successful, allow teachers to teach great lessons and avoid instances where learning is interrupted.

There have been many fantastic and enriching opportunities offered to all our students. I hope you enjoy reading the articles below that the Heads of Year have written for their own review of the year.

Have a lovely break over the summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September,

**Sam Orsborne**  
**Headteacher**

# Year 7

This year seems to have flown by but it has been so lovely to see Year 7 settle and to have some normality after such a difficult few years. They have been able to take part in some exciting events throughout this year.

In November, I organised for all of Year 7 students to go to Phasels Wood for a Team Building Day, possibly not my best decision to go in winter, freezing cold in the middle of woods but the students loved it and had plenty of fun, especially on the Cresta Run.



In February, a group of students from the Inclusion went to Cadbury World. They were very excited and enjoyed learning how to make chocolate. They also got the opportunity to taste the chocolate and to purchase lots of chocolate as well for the journey home.



# Year 7



We have had assemblies every half term to reward the Year 7 students for all of their hard work. I am proud of all the students who have received awards throughout the year and we will be having our final rewards assembly on the 22 July.

In March, I took 30 students to Orbital Trampoline Park as a reward. I had to pick the students who attended through a raffle system because there was so many students that met the positive criteria. We also had a reward trip to Hollywood Bowl for the student's positive attitude, good attendance and excellent work ethic.



I would like to wish students in Year 7 a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing them flourish in Year 8. Thank you for all for your support throughout the year.

**Mrs Julie Goodchild**  
**Head of Year 7**

# Year 8

As we reach the end of the year, I believe it is important to celebrate the successes that the students in Year 8 have achieved since September. Since becoming the Head of Year 8 in April, these past few months seem to have flown by. It is so wonderful to see the growth and maturity that the students have accomplished and continue to display.

We have had assemblies every half term this year to reward and recognise the Year 8 students for all their hard work and perseverance. I am so proud of all the students who have received awards throughout the year with hopefully many more to come. We had our final rewards assembly on the 21\_July.

As a result of the continuous improvement throughout the year group I decided to invite 30 students on a reward trip to Wyeboston Lakes, to celebrate their achievements and excellent behaviour. All the students were very excited, as was I! We all enjoyed jumping in the water, running across the inflatables and having our *Mama Mia* moment, riding on the jet skis and jumping across the waves. I am hoping that we can enjoy many more trips like this. There were smiles all round for the entire day.



Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year and I hope all the students in Year 8 have a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing them thrive and prosper in Year 9 as their Head of Year.

**Mr Craig Hardy**  
**Head of Year 8**



# Year 9

This time last year, when I reflected on the year we had as a Year 8 cohort, most of our time had been spent with remote learning and restrictions in place for Covid. At the end of year assembly, I shared with the students my admiration for their courage and resilience that they all demonstrated through the challenges of remote learning.

This year, as Year 9, we have been able to get back to what we know school life should be. It has been a fantastic year with rewards trips through our inter-form competitions, a trip to the University of Hertfordshire, visiting the Ben Kinsella knife crime exhibition and our whole school Thorpe Park reward trip.

It has been a joy to watch dance performances at the Old Town Hall where some of the Year 9s took part. Holly Keady, Avielle Noray, Evie Butt, Lexi Young and Emily Singletary, all danced and performed beautifully.

In sports, Enare Abang, Max Field, Finley Taylor, Damjan Mitrov, Tobias Edwards, Olamide Ajala, Keira Reavley, Vanessa Sarkodie, Summer Beaton, Benedetta Acheampong and Alana Bishop displayed their sporting abilities at the District Sports Day. Olamide won bronze in the 100m track event and Keira won bronze in the 200m track event. Well done to both girls being placed in the finals.



An exciting opportunity from Countryside Partnerships and Make Space for Girls took place this month where sixteen of our Year 9 girls took part in a series of workshops alongside designers of the built environment, to produce a design manifesto for the Spencer's Park development. Word soon spread how amazing the students were on this project and BBC Three Counties radio conducted a live interview with Olivia Biggs and Weronika Sekula. The interview later on that day aired on Hearts Radio and an article featured in Hemel Today news. I was extremely proud and impressed with all 16 students, their focus, energy and commitment to the project, had been recognised by all our visitors; and they spoke very highly of you all. Well done to, Georgie Backhouse, Andreea

Cojocar, Kayleigh Andrews, Eve Logan, Tilly-Grace Blake, Weronika Sekula, Kara Hutchinson, Caitlin Allen, Neeve Kemble, Nicola Prabakaran, Evie Elson, Alesia Balut, Sofia Nelidovskaja, Chloe Marr, Lexi Scarborough and Olivia Biggs.

Year 9 is an exciting and important year. It is the year where we finish KS3 and get ready for KS4. Our preference evening in March was a huge success. The evening gave our students the opportunity to take control of their education by speaking with teachers to make informed choices about future subjects and career paths. Making the right curriculum choices in Year 9 is an important part of the transitional journey. I have thoroughly enjoyed guiding the students through that process and seeing so many of them become excited about the preferences that they have chosen for their GCSE's.

Through our Year 9 journey, it has been a privilege to see the cohort settle and mature in to wonderful young people. We celebrated our end of term with a Celebration Assembly and it has been wonderful to recognise the achievements of so many students including our 'Student Of The Year.' It is always a difficult task to choose one student for this award, there are a number of students who I feel have had an outstanding year.



# Year 9



This student is very hard working. Courteous and polite at all times. Incredibly bright and is an asset to have in the year group. A joy to teach and is a valued friend amongst his peers. No doubt, this student will go on to be very successful in Key Stage 4. The Student Of The Year 2022 goes to Freddie Beresford! Well done.

I wish all my students a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing them return as Year 10 students.

**Miss Debbie Collins**  
Head of Year 9

# Year 10

Year 10, a huge thank you.

Thank you for making me smile when things have been difficult, thank you for making my life difficult on occasions and thank you for making the effort every day to adhere to the school rules. For showing, aspiration, determination, and integrity.

Some other highlights for me this year: The Macbeth performance – the performance was original and as an audience you were captivated, and you were so engaged in the play and the activities – I think though that might have been because of one of the actors.



The Band – Here at Last - they did certainly cause a stir; you behaved well and asked some interesting questions – well some of you.

The netball team being trained by Sasha Corbain – watching some of you take part in that was very rewarding.

The Performing Arts evening, the attitude of the audience was outstanding, and the band had some fantastic feedback.

Watching some of you perform your speeches, for some of you this was a terrifying experience, you proved to yourselves that you can achieve great things when you put your mind to it.

The pretend fight on the field – hilarious

Your amazing attitude to your mock examinations.

Your mature and beautifully delivered assemblies to the other year groups in the school.

The Culture Day was a massive achievement – the fashion show was nothing short of spectacular and you as audience members were responsive and respectful towards all the performers.

There is one student who has amazed me this year; she has not been in school, in fact last inset day I had to announce to the staff body that we did not know what the outcome would be for this student.

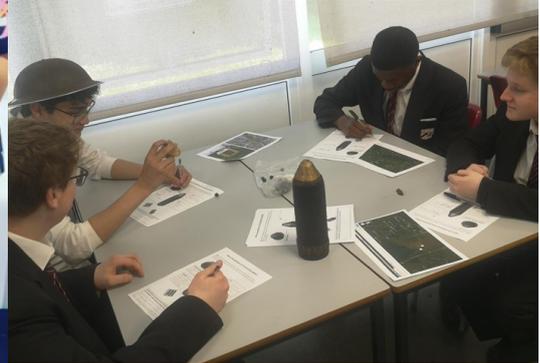
Frankie, through some very dark moments you have shown so many students and members of staff how to be truly courageous and positive. You are a true inspiration, Frankie.



So Year 10, I hope that you have a lovely summer, please take time for yourself and your families and I look forward to welcoming you back in September, as Year 11.

**Miss Megan Roberts**  
**Head of Year 10**

# Year 10



# Year 11

Year 11 are currently having a well earned break after an intense examination period. The Year Group did themselves proud during the exams, and whatever results they get on the 25 August, I truly believe many of them will be able to say they could do not have done more.

In order to celebrate their time at the school, we organised a number of events. The Leavers assembly and shirt signing was the first, with students able to see how far they had come, with a video of the students in Year 7 the highlight. This was followed by the spectacular Prom at Shendish Manor, with an array of entrances (including one with a Stormtrooper), and students able to dance the night away and let their hair down following exams.



The final part of the trilogy was a trip to Southend on Sea, where students could enjoy Adventure Island and some Essex sea air.

On top of this, students who are joining the Sixth Form have had their induction, where they have sampled lessons, take part in team building activities, and have also had leadership training and self defence classes. Our aim for Sixth Form is to make them role models in the school, and this is part of our investment in the students.

It has been a pleasure working with Year 11, and I wish you all a wonderful extended summer, and I look forward to seeing you all on the 25 August.

**Mr Simon Hall**  
**Head of Year 11**



# Sixth Form

## Year 13

Thursday 26 May was Year 13s last day in school, after an leaver's assembly celebrating their success over the last two years, students received awards from their subject teachers before finishing off the assembly with a video montage of photos from their time here at Astley Cooper. We took the students into London to Puttshack, where students competed against each other in mini golf before going to Zizzi for their leavers lunch.

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

Year 13 Results day is on **Thursday 18 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.

## Year 12

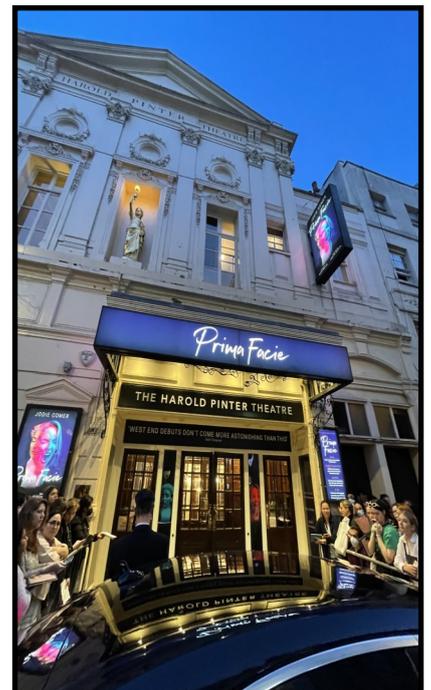
Year 12 students have seen the first year of their sixth form studies to be a rather turbulent time however; I would like to congratulate them on their hard work and commitment throughout the year. In PSHE, students are currently in the process of working their way through the Post 18 Next Steps programme, 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 member of the Sixth Form team who they will be meeting weekly to discuss and reflect on their learning and learning goals.

## Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 14 July we were fortunate enough to be offered free tickets to take a group of Sixth Form students to see Prima Facie starring Jodie Comer at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London. This was a one woman play about a young barrister who loves to win. She has worked her way up from working class origins to be at the top of her game; defending; cross examining and lighting up the shadows of doubt in any case. An unexpected event forces her to confront the lines where the patriarchal power of the law, burden of proof and morals diverge.

The play explored the themes of consent, the criminal justice system and the female experience. The play has teamed up with the Schools Consent Project who delivered a workshop to our Year 12 students this term about the legal definition of consent and key sexual offences. The aim of the play is to normalise conversations amongst young people, to empower them to identify and communicate their boundaries and to respect them.



# Sixth Form

## Year 11 into 12 Induction Day

Over a two-week period we welcomed in Year 11 students to our 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. Following this students arrived in school for their allocated subject induction lessons where 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, a really useful process for the students and has helped prepare them for September.

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.



# Sixth Form

## Year 11 into 12 information

### Transition work and Registration

Students have all been invited to the Sixth Form Google Classroom; here 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 an in the Sixth Form subject will need to ensure that they complete the transition work for each subject they wish to study and return these school to their subject teacher in September. Teachers explained these in the last induction session and work can be found in each subjects Google Classroom.

If any students in Year 11 have had their situation change for next year and would like to apply to join our Sixth Form, please speak to Mrs Ollerenshaw-East or Mr Hall on results day or on Monday 5 September when school starts.

### Results Day

**Thursday 25 August** is GCSE results day; there will be a number of staff around to help students with their results. All students who applied for the sixth form must meet with a member of the sixth form team on the day before you leave.

Year 12 will then be required in on Monday 5 September, until 12:30pm. Students should meet in the Sixth Form area. Please be on time and in the correct dress code. Lessons for all Sixth Form will start on Tuesday 6 September.

***\*Year 13 students are able to collect their timetables from 12:30pm on Monday 5 September ready for starting lessons on Tuesday 6 September***

Our Sixth Form is continuing to grow and I am excited to be welcoming nearly 80 students in Year 12 in September. I would also like to welcome Mr Hall who will be Head of Year 12 and Mrs Houchin who will be Head of Year 13. I would like to wish our Sixth Form students a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all prepared for a new year in September.

Mrs Ollerenshaw-East  
Head of Sixth Form

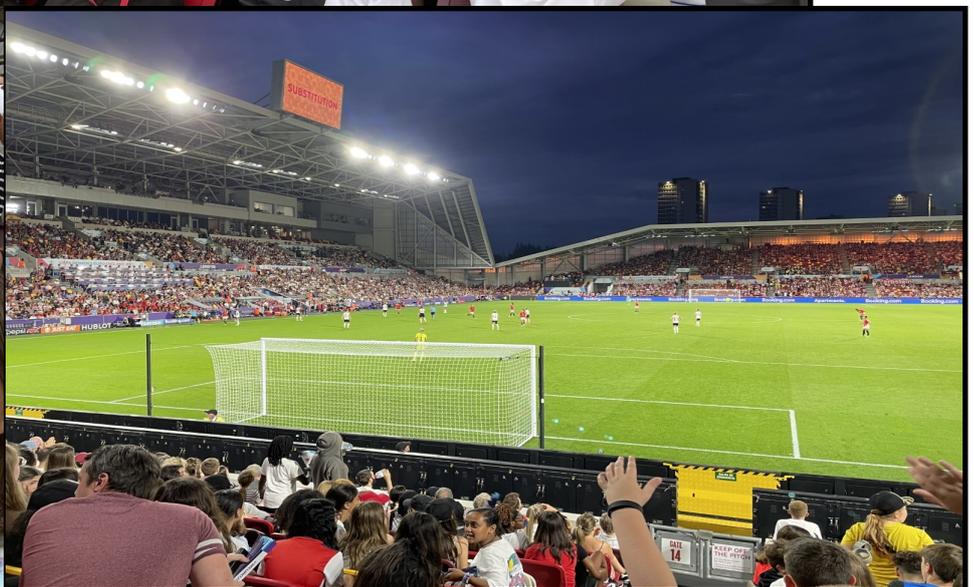
Mrs Houchin  
Post 16 Pastoral Support Administrator



# PE Reward Trip

As a reward for their hard work and commitment to their sports teams throughout the sporting season, the PE department took 49 sports students to the group stage match, Germany v Spain at the Women's Euros tournament at Brentford Community Stadium. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, singing and clapping on the team they had chosen to support for the evening. Germany came away as winners on the night with a 2-0 win. You can follow the Women's Euros on BBC channels; England's Women have made it through to the Semi-Final which will be held on Tuesday 26 July with the final on Sunday 31 July. Make sure to tune in and support the team!

**Mrs Charlotte Ollerenshaw-East**  
PE Teacher

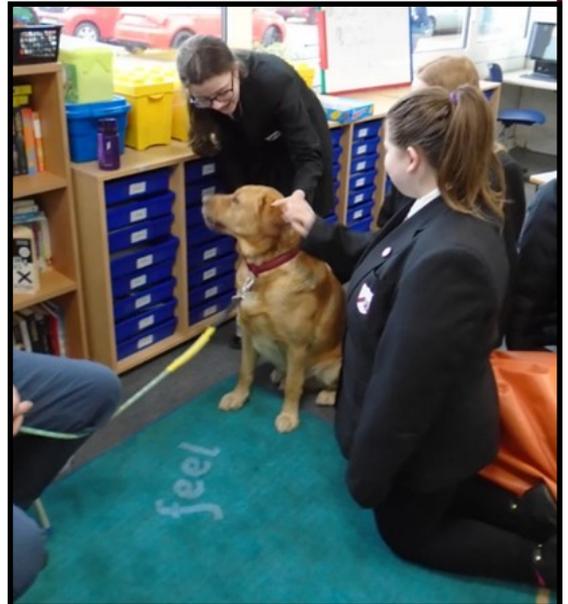


# Inclusion & Achievement Department

The Inclusion and Achievement department were very pleased to welcome some visitors earlier in the term. Incredible Eggs provided duckling eggs that were to hatch in school for our students to observe, look after and enjoy. The experience was very successful. The department have never had so many visitors. The ducklings were named Chief, Mango, Kevin, Dave and Princess Peach.



We are pleased to introduce Monty our therapy dog. Monty comes to the Achievement and Inclusion Department every Wednesday for two hours. Monty is available for some of our students, who can meet him, sit with him and some even read to Monty – he is a fan of the classics.



Gaddesden Place  
Riding for the Disabled



Over the past few months, students have been able to experience Horse Riding at RDA Stables in Gaddesden Row. This has been a very positive experience for our students.

# Inclusion & Achievement Department

On 22 April a travelling farm visited the school and set up camp outside Inclusion. All students and staff had the opportunity to come and meet the animals and speak to the handlers. This was a great experience for all our staff and students who thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



We would like to thank everyone who supported our events and made students' school experiences varied and engaging.

We wish all our students a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

**Mrs Nicki Fraser**  
**Achievement and Inclusion**

