



# ACS NEWSLETTER

## Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers,



It has been a really busy term for everyone at The Astley Cooper School and I am pleased to share this in our end of term newsletter. Highlights for me this half term include the Jamie's farm trip, the Winter Festival and the house competitions for Christmas card design and Christmas cup cakes. I want to mention the Year 11 and Year 13 students' fantastic attitude, hard work and commitment towards their mock exams and the contribution of so many students to the food bank collection which has been delivered to DENS.

You will also see regular updates on our social media pages including samples of the excellent work students are producing in the classroom.

A number of you will already have received positive postcards where your child has been identified as consistently contributing well to school life and learning. We aim for every member of the teaching staff to identify 5 students each week and share this positive feedback with parents.

Additionally, our green ticket winners for this half term - who both win a pair of Beats studio buds - are Cleo L (Year 11) and Dave C (Year 10). Well done to all those students who were awarded a green ticket for their hard work in lessons.

## What's On

Friday 5 January - INSET day

Students return to school for 8.30am on Monday 8 January

Monday 15 January - Year 11 Targeted Parents Evening (invite TBC)

Tuesday 23 January - Year 13 Geography trip to London

Tuesday 23 January - Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 31 January - Year 9 Parents Evening

Friday 2 February - Year 11 trip to Poetry Live

Friday 9 February - Sixth Form Discovery Day

School finishes Friday 16 February at 3.15pm

Students return to school for 8.30am on Monday 26 February

## Letters Home

Click [HERE](#) to find the most recent letters we have sent home to parents.

## Year 10 Work Experience 2024

During the summer term, we are planning that all year 10 students will complete a full week of work experience. This was hugely successful last year and gave the students a valuable insight into the world of work. We are keen to hear from anyone in the Astley Cooper community who may be able to offer a placement to one or more of our year 10's. Please can I ask you to consider if the company or business you work for is in a position to offer work experience. If this is a possibility, please contact Mr Stevenson at [jack.stevenson@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jack.stevenson@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)



I am pleased to announce a number of new teachers joining our team after the Christmas break: Ms Astor (D & T teacher and Careers Co-ordinator), Ms Msanide (Science teacher and Head of Year 9), Miss Khan (English teacher and Attendance Lead) and Mr Territt (Science teacher). I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Protheroe for her commitment and hard work during her time at our school and wish her every success at her new school. We also wish all the very best to our Receptionist Ms Palmer, who retires after 10 years service to the school.

### Equipment

When students return to school on Monday 8 January, please support them to arrive with the correct equipment to access their learning and, importantly, not interrupt the learning of others. Please ensure your child arrives at school with a school bag containing:

- a pencil case
- at least 2 pens and 2 pencils
- a ruler and a rubber
- PE/dance kit on the appropriate day
- their school planner
- a calculator (KS4)

If there is any reason you cannot provide the above equipment, please contact your child's form tutor.

I finish by wishing you all a good break over the festive period and we look forward to seeing your children back in school on Monday 8 January.

Yours sincerely

Sam Orsborne



Parks	King	Curie	Nightingale	Hawking	Shakespeare
61163	64253	59772	66493	52927	55670



# ACS House System

Thank you to everyone who submitted a design !



**1st Place**

Alex R Year 9



**2nd Place**

Jake C Year 9



**3rd Place**

Sasha R Year 8



## House Christmas Cupcake Decorating Competition

We had several entries for the Christmas Cupcake Decorating competition this year which displayed a range of decorating techniques.

In Year 10, first place was given to Jessica T from 10S and Isabella B from 10K was in second place.

The Y8 winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Bobbie D 8C

2<sup>nd</sup> Bella H 8K

3<sup>rd</sup> Jeannie T 8H

Well done to all the students who entered ☺

Miss G Hodges





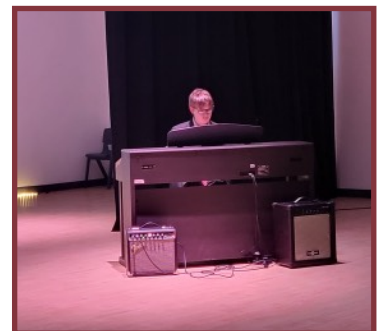
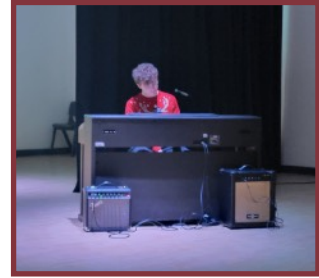
# Winter Festival

On Tuesday 12 December, we held our annual Winter Festival in the new hall. We saw performances from Dance, Drama and Music from students of all year groups. We had our largest audience to date and all thoroughly enjoyed getting into the festive spirit at the end with a sing song.

Well done to all the performers and thank you for your ongoing support.

The Performing Arts team would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas break and a Happy 2024.

Mrs Harley



# Jamie's Farm



On the 16 October Ms Hobson, Mrs Biswell and Ms Oliver accompanied 12 pupils to Jamie's Farm in Bath where we embarked on a week long adventure with the team there.

When we arrived we were welcomed by some friendly dogs, the team leaders and the lovely smell of manure! Our rooms were based in the gorgeous barn and farmhouse, where we made ourselves at home and began our experience with the animals on the farm.

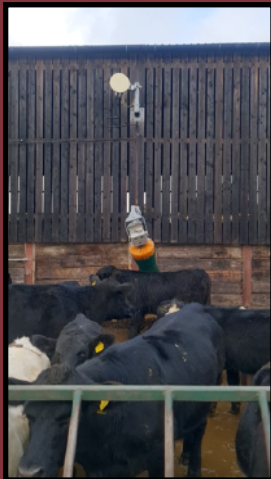
Each morning we worked with the farmers to feed, clean and groom the animals. This included working with the horses, feeding the cows, goats and pigs, letting the geese out and cleaning the chicken coups. The bonus here was we got to collect their eggs which we would take back to kitchen to have for breakfast.

In teams, we would take turns to make breakfast, lunch and dinner for everyone and we would always sit together for our meals to appreciate all the hard work put into making them. Each evening, we would go on a long walk, come rain or shine, and a highlight was walking in the rain through a river and knee sliding down a huge hill.

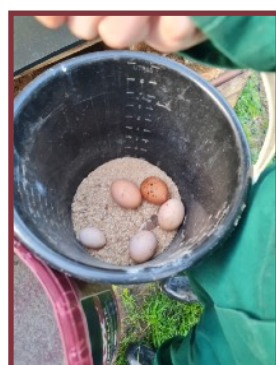
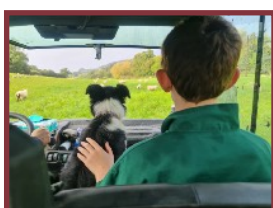
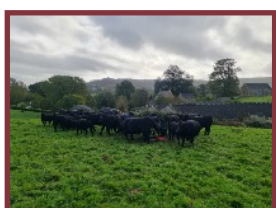
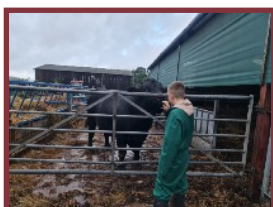
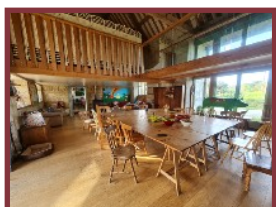
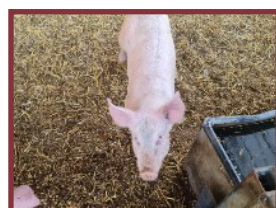
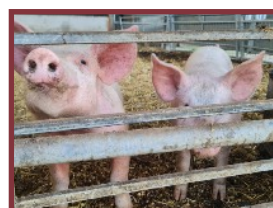
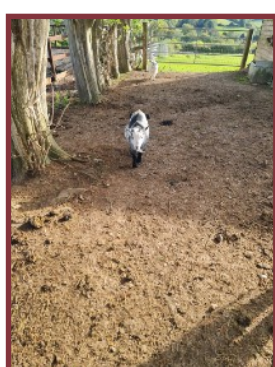
We would get involved in lots of other activities on the farm, such as apple pressing (the juice was so lovely to have with dinner!), gardening and working in the greenhouses, vegetable picking, herding the sheep, wood chopping, and some arts and crafts.

We made some amazing friends in the team and everyone came away learning some really important things about themselves and lots of new skills.

We can't wait to go back next year!







Follow our social media pages for up-to-date news and information about ACS.



Further information is also available on our website.







I had the pleasure of attending an award ceremony held by Services for Young People where one of our pupils, Bailie B had been nominated for an award.

It was great to see her win this amazing award, recognising her efforts during the summer project held at the XC. We are incredibly proud of Bailie and her achievements here and hope she continues to participate and offer her amazing efforts with SfYP.

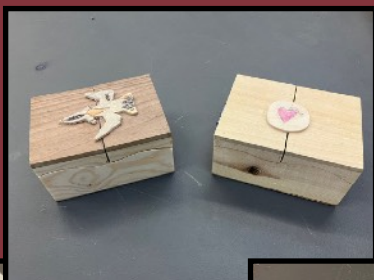
Ms Hobson

Students across all years have been working extremely hard in lessons, using a range of tools and equipment, creating some fantastic products. It has been great to see many students proud of the work they have produced. Here are some examples of the Puzzles made in Year 7 and the Boxes and Christmas cards made in Year 8.

## Design and Technology

Well done to all those who completed their products and have taken them home this term.

Miss Dareve





# Heads of Year

Y7

Well done to all the students that have received an award in the Year 7 Celebration assembly. So many students had awards for 100% attendance since September, 0 negative points, top three positive points and awards for Tutor Stars.

The students have only been at Astley Cooper for fifteen weeks and have made a really excellent start. I am proud to be their Head of Year.

Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing the students in the new year.

Mrs Goodchild



Y8

It has been a privilege to become Year 8's Head of Year. Thank you all for being welcoming and supportive whilst I have settled in.

We have had a fantastic start to the year and over the past week we have been celebrating the pupils successes.

A massive congratulations to Rishi C for having the most house points in the year group.

As part of our celebrations, 30 pupils were invited to watch a Christmas film with sweets and popcorn to celebrate them having the lowest behaviour points in the year.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Mrs Noquet and the year 8 form tutor team.



Y9

Dear Year 9 students,

It certainly has been interesting to have you as my year group for a term. I have learned a lot about you all and have had some fun in taking the time to know you. You will have a new Head of Year in January.

I wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mr Siu



# Heads of Year

A massive well done to all Year 10s for their hard work and attitude this term. You have come on so far, rising to the challenge and starting your GCSE option subjects. I am so proud of each and everyone of you.

Special shout out to all of those students who have won special awards in our end of term celebration assembly, awarding achievements like 0 negative points, 100% attendance and most positive points. A further congratulations to those students winning the highest awards, tutor star and Head of Year award. Those awards went to (and pictured below):

10C - Michael D  
10H - Jasmin W  
10K - Rosie F  
10N - Millie W  
10P - Lyra G  
10S Jessica T & Nina N



HOY award - Sofia D

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their work this term and the parents for their continued support. I am proud to be their Head of Year and I look forward to working with them after the break. I wish all students in Year 10 and their families an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break

Mr Hardy



Dear Parents , Carers and Year 11 Students,

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the students for all your continued hard work during the first term. We have had a great start to this academic year with the majority of our Year 11 students proving to be the role models we want them to be. Following our school values, "Respect, Responsibility, Resilience" , we believe that you will become successful in whichever ever path you choose to follow, and it is this that motivates you to be the best that you can be.

We have seen improvements in the behaviour, and attitude to learning of the students since returning to school in September, and we are determined that this will continue to improve as we go on throughout the year.

As your new Head of Year, I would like to say congratulations to all our students for sitting their first GCSE Mock Exams in an orderly fashion and we are proud of how they approached their mock exams.

We hope you all have a well-deserved break, and we look forward to our next term.

Ms Tasher

# Sixth Form News

The end to another long and busy term in the Sixth Form.

Year 13 students have been working towards the UCAS deadlines; lots of students have already finished and sent off their applications and have received offers back from universities which is fantastic. The final UCAS deadline is 31st January for applications and references to be submitted.

Year 13 have also worked incredibly hard during the mock examination period and a mock results day will happen when they return from the Christmas break. Students will find out their results as well as get information on what would happen in August on results day with their university choices.

There are BTEC and LIBF examinations happening in January which will be counted towards the students' final grade. All students have been issued a timetable and one will be emailed out via parent mail. Students need to ensure that they are fully prepared for these exams and are revising throughout the Christmas break.

Year 12 visited the University of Hertfordshire on Friday 24 November organised by the Widening Access team. The interactive "Wayfinder Day" allowed our students to immerse themselves in the world of higher education, gaining invaluable insights into their Post-18 options. During their visit, our students had the chance to connect with current university students, take a comprehensive campus tour, and participate in interactive quizzes. They also delved into important topics like student finance and the support available at university. The day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to begin contemplating their future paths and make well-informed decisions about higher education. We are grateful to the University of Hertfordshire's Widening Access team for making this experience possible. Our students are now one step closer to embarking on their Post-18 journey with confidence.

Next term, we look forward to starting our new recruitment process for Year 11 students joining the Sixth Form with our Open Evening and Discovery Day. Letters will be emailed home with more information regarding these events.

We have the following events taking place next term that you should be aware of:

**Sixth Form Open Evening** - For Year 11 students and parents - Tuesday 23 January

**Sixth Form Discovery Day** - For Year 11 students - Friday 9 February

**Year 12 Assessment Window** - January - Dates to be confirmed in the New Year

**Year 13 Geography field trip** - Tuesday 23 January

**UCAS Deadline** - Wednesday 31 January at 6.00pm





A few reminders of our expectations as we go into a new half term.

**Uniform** - Students should be wearing smart business wear, no hoodies, trainers (including Air Max) or leggings. Students will be sent home to change if they are not in the correct dress code.

**Absence from school** - If students are not going to be in school, we need to be informed of the reason by 8:45am from a parent or guardian. Truancy calls will be sent out for any students who we can not account for in school.

**Study Periods** - It is the expectation that students are working during their study periods in either the silent study room G44, group work room G45, in the library or in the canteen which are also quiet spaces. Year 13 students have the Seminar Room to work in as a silent space. Students will have work given to them by their teachers, but should also be using this time to revise using the strategies given in form time, consolidate notes, use the reading list to find books to read or research into their topic area.

**Home study** - Students should only be going home for home study when it is their allocated time. This is also a privilege and any students who are not doing the right thing, need intervention or support in lessons, have low attendance or are consistently late to school will have this removed.

We would like to wish all our Sixth Form students and their families an enjoyable Christmas period and look forward to the New Year.

Mrs Ollerenshaw-East  
Head of Sixth Form

Miss Hunt  
Head of Year 12

Miss Smith  
Head of Year 13

## Year 13 Geography Field Trip

On Tuesday 12 December, our merry band of Year 13 students, Mr Daddow and I went to Great Missenden to carry out fieldwork in preparation for their summer exam and coursework. We studied the changing nature of Great Missenden by conducting traffic counts, pedestrian counts, environmental quality surveys and sustainability surveys at three sample sites through the village. We also investigated the experience of people who lived in the village by asking them questionnaires, which allowed the students to practice their fieldwork skills with members of the public in Great Missenden. We spent time looking at the local surroundings with a walk through the village to the local church, to view the area of outstanding natural beauty where Great Missenden is situated. The students and staff all had a great day, even though it was wet in the afternoon.

