



# ACS NEWSLETTER



## Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the midpoint of the summer term, with just 7 weeks left of the academic year, I want to share some of the excellent activities that students have been involved in. Highlights for me this half term include the Spain trip, the performing arts showcase, Year 10 work experience and the visit of Paul Hannaford. These are just a few of the examples and you will see many more in this newsletter. I also want to mention how well Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students have approached their examinations. They have all been excellent role models and credit to all of you.



As we approach the end of the year, we start to prepare for the next and I would like to remind you of the following so that you have time to restock for September.

### Equipment

The basic equipment listed below allows students to access their learning and importantly not interrupt the learning of others. Can you 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)

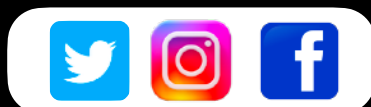
If there is any reason you cannot provide the above equipment, please contact your child's form tutor.

## What's On

- Friday 24 May - End of Term
- Monday 3 June - All students in school
- Tuesday 4 June - Performing Arts Awards Evening
- Wednesday 26 June - Year 7 Willen Lake Trip
- Thursday 27 June - Year 11 Prom
- Friday 28 June - Sunday 30 June - KS3 Manor Adventure
- Monday 1 July - Wednesday 3 July - Sixth Form Induction
- Monday 1 July - Year 9 Pathfinder Day (University of Hertfordshire)
- Monday 1 July - Year 8 Parents Evening 4pm
- Tuesday 2 July and Wednesday 3 July - Year 10 Geography Trips
- Tuesday 9 July - Musical Evening 4-6pm
- Thursday 11 July - Year 6 Transition Day
- Thursday 18 July - Sunday 21 July - Flanders Trip
- Friday 19 July - End of Term

## Letters Home

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



## Uniform

Wearing the full school uniform is an important part of our school identity and prepares students for working life where they will have to dress appropriately for the jobs they have when they leave school. Please ensure that your child leaves for school wearing their full school uniform including a blazer, school trousers or skirt, shirt, tie, school jumper (optional) and black shoes. Some students are still wearing hoodies around the school site and this is against our school rules. Leggings are not part of the school uniform, either worn on their own or under skirts.

If you have any issues with your child's uniform, please send a note with your child to explain and confirm when this will be corrected or the missing item purchased.

## Social Media

We are using Instagram and Facebook to promote the events and activities going on at school and would encourage you to follow the accounts below to see more about what the students can take part in. Our Instagram page is: [theastleycooperschool](https://www.instagram.com/theastleycooperschool) and our Facebook page is: [The Astley Cooper School](https://www.facebook.com/TheAstleyCooperSchool).

Once again, I thank you for your continuing support of The Astley Cooper School, we hope you have a good break over the half term and we look forward to seeing all students back on Monday 3 June.

Yours sincerely

Sam Orsborne



**FREE Workshops**  
For all parents/carers\*

Sessions will be held either online via MS Teams or face to face at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School HP3 BER

Life Site	Date	Time & Location
Family Life on a Budget	Wed 18th October 2023	10:30 to 12:00 pm Online
Helping your Child to Manage Anger	Wed 15th November 2023	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Anxiety & Attendance	Tues 9th January 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Parent & Carer Wellbeing	Wed 28th February 2024	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Managing Worries & Anxiety	Wed 15th May 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Moving onto Secondary School	Thurs 20th June 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online

To book your place, please contact  
Jan Nathercoat on:  
jnathercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk  
Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5 (Term time only)  
Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking.  
\*All present sessions can only be offered to parents/carers of those children/YP who attend a DFJ Health & East Partnership School




### Managing Worries & Anxiety

Date	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Time	10:00 to 11:30 am <small>Session will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams</small>

**Would you like some strategies to help manage your child's worries and anxiety?**

A free workshop for parents:

- What is anxiety?
- The signs to look out for
- Strategies to help your child to manage worries and anxiety




For more details and to book, please email:  
jnathercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk  
Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking  
Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5

## ACS House System

Parks	King	Curie	Nightingale	Hawking	Shakespeare
135342	136139	124711	141230	110984	122030

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



Further information is also available on our website.



# KS3 News

## Year 7 Postcards and Green Tickets

Mr Stevenson and Mrs Goodchild have visited lessons and handed out green tickets and postcards to students to reward their hard work, excellent behaviour and contribution to lessons.

The atmosphere in the Year 7 lessons has been great. Students have been calm and focused, engaged with the work and have been responding well to teacher instructions and questions.

Well done to everyone that has received an award!



Thank you to all year 8 for continuing to work hard and look smart in their uniform.

As a year group, we have been continuing to celebrate all those who have been demonstrating respect, responsibility and resilience.

In February we held a rewards breakfast for 20 pupils who had the most house points for that half term. Well done to Alana H who had the most house points from January until the February half term.

Just before the Easter holidays, we celebrated all those pupils who are doing the right thing all of the time. We invited 48 pupils who have had 0 behaviour points (from the February half term until the Easter Holidays) along to a celebration of watching a film with popcorn and sweets.

A special shout out to Keira L who had the most house points from February half term until Easter.

This half term we have also celebrated all those who have been doing the right thing. The top four house points from each form were invited along to a rewards breakfast.

As Head of Year 8, it has been amazing to celebrate all of our year group's achievements.

Mrs Noquet and the Year 8 Tutor Team.

Five pupils from Year 8 and seven pupils from Year 9 left Astley Cooper to take part in The Berkhamsted and Hemel Rotary Club Technology Tournament. The event took place in the impressive oak panelled hall in the old foundlings' hospital at Ashlyn's School in Berkhamsted.

There were nine competing schools from the county and our three teams settled down to their tables amidst an atmosphere of excited chatter and anticipation.

The problem this year was that each group of four had to find a way to get a survivor's pack across a crocodile infested river to an earthquake ravaged village on the other side. They were given some materials and a zip wire connecting each side of the river.

The teams were judged on their communication skills, ability to work as a team, technical knowledge and problem-solving abilities.

The Astley Cooper teams all made impressive electronic systems which were praised and commented on by the judges as they all solved the problem set. They came home having had a very enjoyable day and each received a certificate of participation.

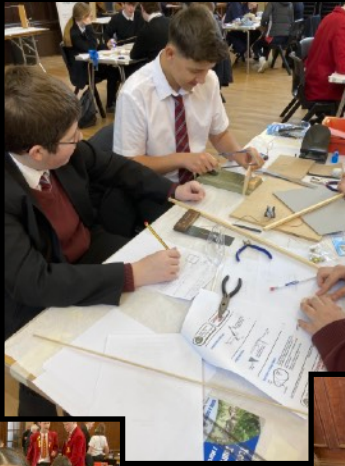
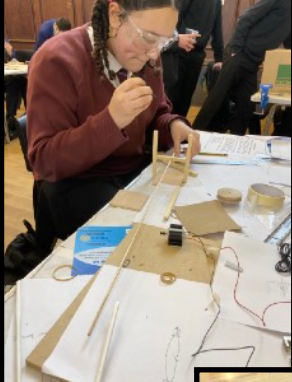
Well done!

Ms Astor

Y8 Ethan M, Gracie L, Bethanie H, Sorayah H, Edward T  
Y9 Jake C, Maddison B-T, Willow S, Bobby T, Evie M, Ianis A, Lilly-Rose R



# Design and Technology



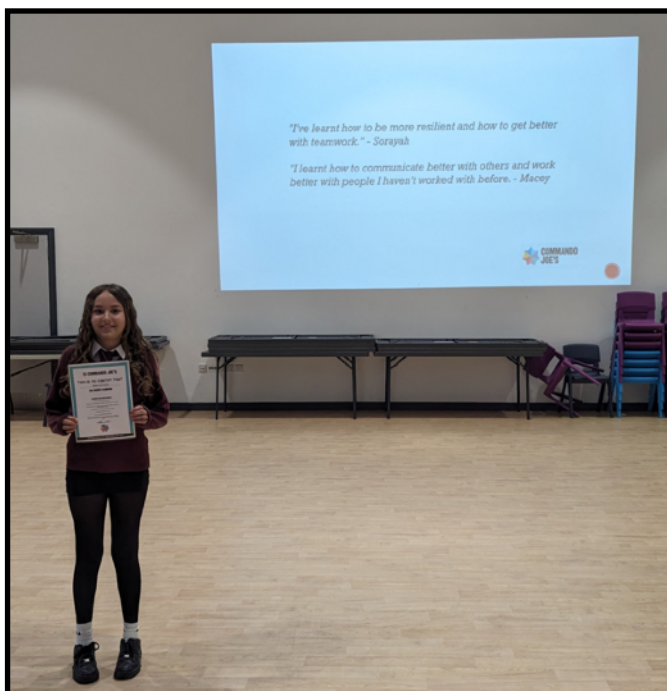
# Year 8 Operation Blackout

Over the last twelve weeks, the students have been working through different weekly missions to develop communication and leadership skills, work with others, and develop themselves. They have faced various challenges where they had a problem to solve and work as a team to navigate the mission successfully.

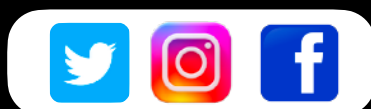
All the students showed great resilience and teamwork throughout, striving to meet all the challenges they faced head-on, as a team, leaving no one behind.

I could not be prouder of all they have achieved and how far they have come!

Mrs Chrysanthou



<b>R</b>	Resilience
<b>E</b>	Empathy
<b>S</b>	Self-Awareness
<b>P</b>	Passion
<b>E</b>	Excellence
<b>C</b>	Communication
<b>T</b>	Teamwork



# Performing Arts Department

*"Top notch"*

## Dance Show 23rd April 2024

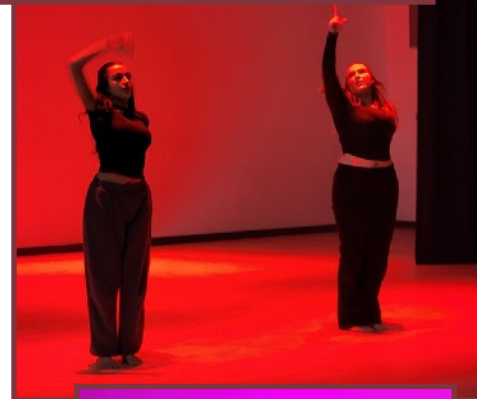
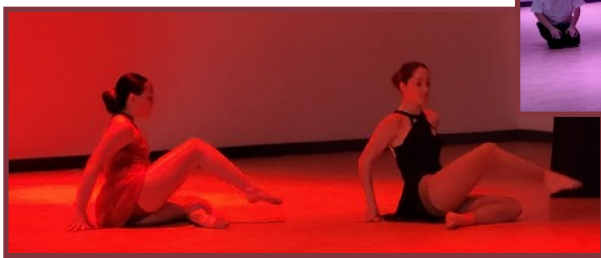
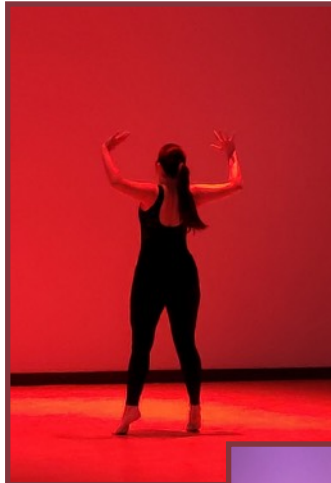
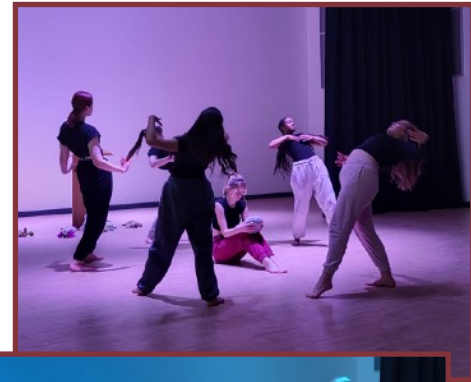
These are just a few of the rave reviews we received for our first Dance Show in the new school hall!

This year's dance show was made up of dances from exam classes, clubs and students who have choreographed and auditioned their performances. The students performed to Yr 5 & 6 from Maple Grove primary school in the morning and then the general public in the evening.

The students excelled through their amazing performances, professionalism, and immaculate behaviour. We are super proud of every one of them!

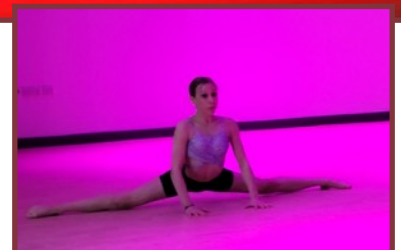
Mrs Harley

*"Lots of happy students"*



*"High quality"*

*"A fun evening"*



# MFL Department

The students have enjoyed a variety of activities and visits. They have learnt about the amazing culture that Andalucía offers with its rich and diverse history created by different religions over the centuries.

Our students, and teachers alike had the opportunity to learn a few Flamenco dance moves with a professional dancer in an authentic Flamenco venue. They learned about the origins of Flamenco and were treated to a little show at the end of their lesson.

We also managed to find time to relax in holiday mode, either by the pool or the beach, where everyone was able to let loose and have some fun.

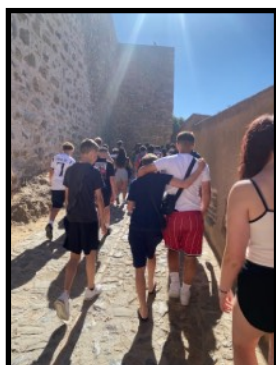
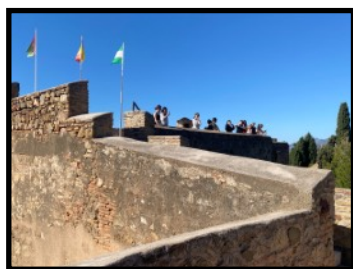
Seeing our students interacting and looking out for each other has been nice!

We have enjoyed magnificent views from Alcazaba Castle and the village of Mijas, famous for its whitewashed houses scattered throughout the hills.

La Ronda, two hours away from Malaga did not disappoint in offering majestic views. The bravest of us chose to walk down to the bottom of the gorge and back up a steep hill to enjoy the best views. The reward was priceless.

On Thursday evening, we were joined by a rather large and loud group of Spanish students. Friendships were quickly made under absolute chaos in the hotel pool, but fun was had by all.

Ms Babouri, Mr O'Grady, Ms Cordardo, Mr Ouston





## PE Department

### Year 10 Plate Cup Final

On the 25th of April the Year, 10 boys faced Tring in the cup final. They gave it their all and battled hard until the final whistle but Tring proved too strong in the end. Goal scorers were Kaden and Prestyn and the man of the match was Dave. C. Reaching the final was an amazing achievement and they should be proud of their efforts both in the final and throughout the season.



### Year 12 BTEC

On 29th April, Mr Gardner and Miss Patel took the Year 12 BTEC Sport students to The Emirates to support them with their Sports Coaching and Leadership module. At the stadium, the students took part in their staff training and got to go behind the scenes at the ground. The students also got to meet and work with The Arsenal BTEC Students to share and develop their coaching ideas as well as being taught a range of different football-based sessions.



# Maths Department

## Class teach class



Students from 8x/ma1 had the opportunity to teach students from two other year 8 classes, in small groups. In preparation for this lesson, the students had two hours in a computer room to prepare their PowerPoint and resources. One of the students even brought his laptop, keyboard and mouse to deliver his work. It was a fantastic experience to enable the students to work in groups collaboratively and plan together. Students feedback was positive and they would want more sessions like these.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge



On April 25, 2024, ninety two Years 7 and 8 students completed the UKMT Junior Challenge; a sixty-minute exam testing mathematical reasoning, precision, and fluency. Designed to encourage critical thinking, the questions ranged from easy to hard. Those earning Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificates enjoyed a celebratory breakfast the morning afterwards. Their dedication underscores their commitment to academic excellence and problem-solving.



## Would you like to attempt some of the questions?

Here's the link to access this year's paper:

<https://ukmt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/JMC-2024-Question-Paper-4.pdf>

Link to the solutions:

<https://ukmt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/JMC-2024-Extended-Solutions-1.pdf>

## Junior Kangaroo Challenge

Congratulations to Rishi (8C).

His score on the recent Junior Maths Challenge 2024 has earned him a place in the Junior Kangaroo 2024 follow-on round. This is a huge achievement and we are all proud of you.

The date of the Junior Kangaroo 2024 is June 11th 2024. We wish you all the best of luck in the follow-on-round!



## HFL Education Annual Year 8 Maths Challenge

On Monday 29 April, we had three teams of year 8 students entering the HFL Annual Challenge. It is an informal, friendly inter-school competition, designed to challenge young mathematicians. They require excellent communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills, as well as mathematical skills and insight. Each challenge is divided into four equally weighted rounds:

Round 1: General maths questions

Round 2: Memory round

Round 3: Estimation round


Round 4: More general Maths questions

Success in the challenges relies on much more than mere mathematical calculation.

**WELL DONE** to Rishi C, Kamen A, Milli B, Reagan B, Lenny R, Emily N, Lia F, Emily B, Sameeha O and Maciej G for representing the school.

Can you solve the problem?

**Round 1** **Question 1**



Here is some information about four numbers.

- They are all integers.
- The lowest number is 5.
- The median is one more than the mode.
- The mean is one more than the median.

What are the four numbers?

© Maths For Learning

### Looking for activities to do as a family?

At National Numeracy, you can apply for a FREE Family Maths Toolkit.

In the Family Maths resource set, you will find over 200 'everyday maths' activities for children and their families to do together.

**Access the Family Maths resources for free by filling in the form below:**

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/free-family-maths-toolkit#form>



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



Further information is also available on our website.



# MOVIE TIME

Here are a few great Maths Movies for all ages:

## **1.) Queen of Katwe (PG)**

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

## **2.) Stand and Deliver (PG)**

IMDb 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.

## **3.) A Beautiful Mind (PG-13)**

IMDb Synopsis: After John Nash, a brilliant but asocial mathematician, accepts secret work in cryptography, his life takes a turn for the nightmarish.

## **4.) Flatland (G)**

IMDb Synopsis: Based on Edwin Abbott's classic novella "Flatland", this is an animated film about geometric characters living in a two-dimensional world. When a young girl named "Hex" decides to "think outside the box" (in a world where such thought is forbidden), her life becomes in danger and it is up to her grandfather to save her life.

## **5.) The Man Who Knew Infinity (PG-13)**

IMDb Synopsis: The story of the life and academic career of the pioneer Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, and his friendship with his mentor, Professor G.H. Hardy.

## **6.) 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.

## **7.) 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.

## **8.) Hidden Figures (PG)**

IMDb Synopsis: The story of a team of female African American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

## **9.) The Imitation Game (PG-13)**

IMDb Synopsis: During World War II, the English mathematical genius Alan Turing tries to crack the German Enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians while attempting to come to terms with his troubled private life.

## **10.) Donald in Mathmagic Land**

IMDb Synopsis: Donald Duck goes on an adventure in which it is explained how mathematics can be useful in real life. Through this journey it is shown how numbers are more than graphs and charts, they are geometry, music, and magical living things.

**My personal favourites: Hidden Figures and The Imitation Game (both can be found on either Prime or Netflix)**

Miss Fernando



# Year 11

Forty of our hardworking Year 11 students attended a revision boot camp at the PGL activity centre in Liddington. The three-day weekend trip was focused on intensive revision for their upcoming GCSE exams in Maths and English, but the students also had the chance to take part in some exciting outdoor activities.

The students arrived at the PGL centre on the first day and immediately got stuck into revision sessions, working closely with their teachers to make sure they were fully prepared for their exams. They covered key topics, practised past papers, and received valuable feedback to help them improve.

In the afternoon, the students had the chance to let off some steam and have fun. They took part in activities like archery, the vertical climbing challenge, and raft building. Our students thoroughly impressed our staff with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination to succeed.

Deputy Headteacher Mr Tilbury said: "I am incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and the maturity and focus they showed during the revision bootcamp. They worked incredibly hard in the study sessions but also embraced the outdoor activities with real gusto. This trip has given them a fantastic boost as they prepare for their GCSEs. Well done to everyone involved!"

The revision boot camp was a resounding success, and the students returned to school feeling more confident and motivated than ever. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming exams!

