



Autumn 2018

The Astley Cooper Newsletter

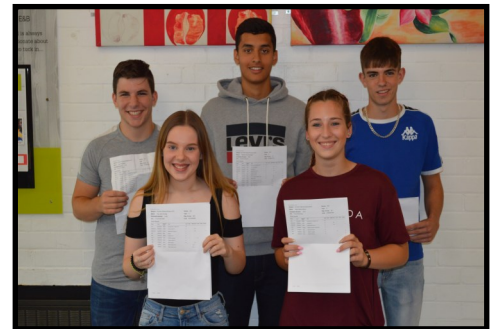
Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year 2018-19

A special welcome to our Year 7 students and their families. Nearly 130 students joined us on 4 September and we are still receiving admissions in Year 7. The year group has made a very good impression so far, are polite, very smart in their new uniforms, and enthusiastic about coming to secondary school. While still a relatively small secondary school, we now have over 200 more students than we did a few short years ago, a clear indication that parents and the local community have confidence in us.

Congratulations to our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students who received their examination results in August. You may have seen the photographs in the *Gazette* at the time. George Elson, who achieved 5s and 4s- equivalent to the old B and C grades- in the majority of his subjects summed up what many students were feeling on the day when he said, 'I didn't expect to do as well I have.' I am pleased to say that George is staying on to take the innovative Work-Based Learning Programme - now in its second year - and is spending two days a week at school and three days in the Sales and Marketing department at SWR, where he hopes to start an apprenticeship.

Our Open Evening on 4 October was an extremely busy event. For the second year running, we had two Headteacher talks in the hall in order to accommodate the increased numbers of families showing an interest in our school. This year I was joined on stage by four students -Ashton Stuart in Year 8, Rayne Marsh, George Elson and Amy Dorling in Year 12. The students were a credit to themselves and their families and spoke articulately about the opportunities the school had given them to take part in numerous academic, cultural and social activities. At the end of his speech, Ashton said, 'This isn't any old school - this is our school.'

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Ms Harman



Miss Gilmour



Miss Gant



Mrs Leinster



Mrs Lakhani



Mr Hurst



Mr Hall



Ms Mena

In addition to our new students, we also welcome a number of new colleagues who joined us in September - Ms Harman in Art; Miss Gilmour and Miss Gant in English; Mrs Leinster and Ms Mena in Science.

Our staff has been further strengthened by the appointment of a new part-time SENDCo, Mrs Lakhani, who is working with our other SENDCo Mrs Ockenden, and two highly experienced colleagues, Mr Hall and Mr Hurst, who are both working in the maths department.

Mr Hurst taught at Sir Frederic Osborne School and The Grange School in Aylesbury, where he was second in maths and a Head of Year.

Mr Hall has taught in a number of schools and was the Head of English and maths at Adeyfield for the last ten years. In addition to his role as a maths teacher here, he is also the Head of Year 8, working closely with our Key Stage 3 Leader Mrs Goodchild.

We start the new school year with a fresh sense of purpose and commitment and hope that all our students from Year 7 to Year 13 have an enjoyable and successful year.

Mr Gaynor, Headteacher

Sunshine Tour Hickstead Championship



Congratulations to Chloe Meacock in 7AG who competed in a showing jumping competition at Hickstead All England Showground near Brighton on Saturday 15 September. Chloe has been riding since she was five years old and regularly competes and represents her Pony Club at weekends. She came eleventh out of sixty competitors in the show jumping competition – a wonderful achievement.

Chloe said *'It was an amazing experience to be able to compete at Hickstead with my pony Pink Champayne. I was really pleased with the result I got.'*

ARES Combat



Congratulations to Alex Heywood 7RP who recently competed in a boxing competition. Alex is a Junior Instructor at Ares Combat and takes part in Kung Fu, as well as other martial arts. Alex said *'You shouldn't have fighting as your first option, Ares Combat is about learning how to protect and look after yourself.'*



Headteacher's Commendations



September 2018

Annabelle Britton 7SLD
Aimee Greenaway 8JBo
Martina Despotovic 9KW
Diana Stefan 10TB
Akshay Patel 11SE
Isis Duarte Mendes 12ELG
Charlotte Searle 13GH



October 2018

Rayan Khalil 7MG
Mason Cameron- Hart 8SK
Anthony Osei Yeboah 9SB
Aaron Fuhr 10AOG
Ella Pearce 11PT
Natasha Humphrey 12ELG
Rebecca Tafe 13GH

InkTober

31 days, 31 drawings

Once again students have been undertaking the InkTober drawing challenge, aiming to produce a drawing a day for the entire month. Artist Jake Parker created this initiative to improve his inking skills and develop positive drawing habits. It has since grown into a worldwide endeavour with thousands of artists taking on the challenge every year.

Students are aiming to achieve one of three goals:

- The full marathon - a drawing a day
- The half marathon - a drawing every other day
- The 5K - one drawing every week

We are looking forward to seeing how well they do, particularly over the half term holiday, by which time they should be demonstrating improved skills.

Below are some examples of the wonderful art work students have produced so far.

Miss Padam, Art teacher & EPQ Co-ordinator



Sixth Form News

Welcome to the new academic year in the Sixth Form. Our new Year 12 students have made a positive start to life as a Sixth Form student. We welcome back our Year 13 students who are fully involved with their UCAS university applications. I would like to thank all those students who represented the Sixth Form at our successful Open Evening -All the students looked smart and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

We have the following events taking place this term :

Sixth Form Assessment 1 fortnight – Monday 15 October to Friday 26 October

Students have been assessed in all of their subjects in lesson time throughout this two week period. The data will be issued to parents in November.

Year 11 into 12 Information Evening – Thursday 22 November at Adeyfield School – 7.00pm

Our Sixth Form Information Evening for Year 11 students will require some help and support from the current Sixth Form students who can talk to the Year 11s about the subjects they study. Subject staff will be asking students to help out on the evening; should they not be able to attend, please email me.

Sixth Form Parents' Evening – Thursday 15 November at Adeyfield School 4:00-7:00pm

Students will be issued with a teacher appointment sheet to get appointments with staff. This is an important evening to attend. It is particularly important for parents of Year 12 students to find out how your son/daughter has started their A Level or Work-Based Learning study programmes. If you are unable to attend, we would strongly recommend that students, as young adults, attend themselves to get feedback from their subject teachers.

Miss East, Head of Sixth Form



Term Dates

Autumn 2018

29 Oct - 2 Nov	Half term
30 November	Occasional Day
21 December	Term ends

Spring 2019

7 January	Term Begins
18 - 22 February	Half Term
5 April	Term ends

Summer 2019

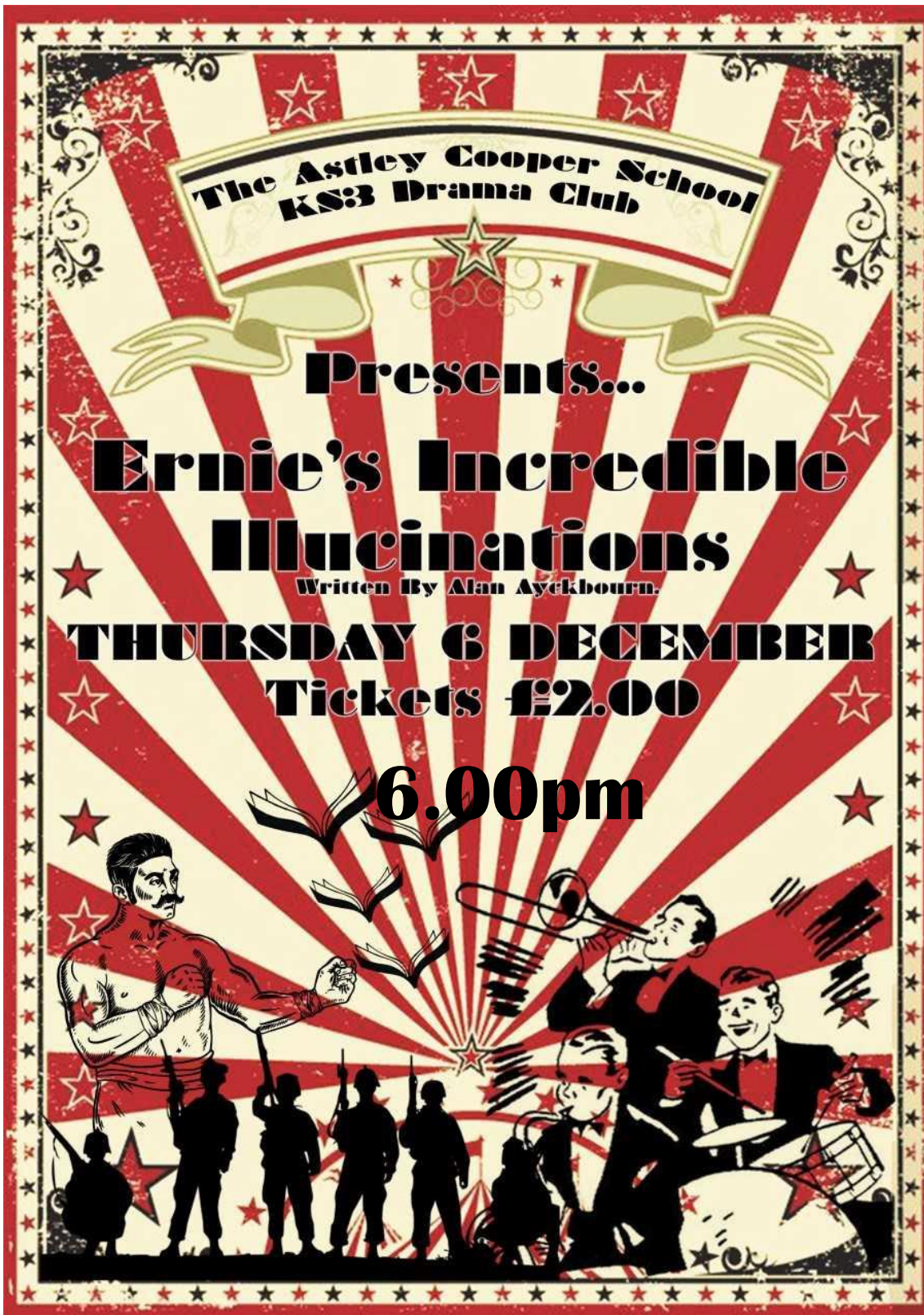
23 April	Term begins
6 May	May Day
27 May - 31 May	Half term
19 July	Term ends
22 July	INSET
23 July	INSET
24 July	INSET

Drama

Members of the Key Stage 3 Drama Club have started rehearsals of the play *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* by Alan Ayckbourn

We have over 40 children involved in the club and there will be a performance taking place on Thursday 6 December at 6.00pm. Please see poster below

Miss McIntyre, Subject Leader Drama & PSHE Co-ordinator



Teacher Training

Astley Cooper School is a member of the Alban Federation partnership for teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults (51 in 2018/19), either straight from University with their degrees, or people who are changing careers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status. All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and this year the application window is scheduled to open on 9 October 2018 for courses starting in September 2019. Courses are available in both Primary and Secondary programmes, with salaries or bursaries available for suitably qualified candidates in many subjects.

Further details can be obtained from the school by contacting me or directly from the Alban Federation team via afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Mr Daddow, Assistant Headteacher



Child Care Survey

Herts County Council would like your feedback on the childcare options available to you and your family. If you're a parent or carer of a child between the ages of 0-14 years then we would like to hear from you .

Please could we ask you to complete the following survey by Friday 30 November 2018:

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/JHFVII/>

Your response will be incorporated into this year's childcare sufficiency report that the council is required to produce on an annual basis. The report helps us to :

- Establish the sufficiency of places across Hertfordshire
- Support the sustainability of places
- Support the development of places where needed

Mr Daddow, Assistant Headteacher



Student Safety

We would ask that parent/carers do not drive on to the school site to drop off or pick up students unless you have an appointment to see a member of staff.

Thank you for not parking on the yellow lines outside the school gates following the recent accident and our message home. Please do not stop on the zigzag areas outside the school and arrange to drop off or meet your child at a safe point further along St Agnells Lane.

We appreciate your support.

Mrs Catterall, Business & Personnel Manager





The Interact Club is hosting a number of events this term: A Halloween disco for Years 7 & 8, and a Christmas Movie Night. We aim to raise money for the local chosen charity **'The National Animal Welfare Trust.'**

'The animals in the rehoming centres rely entirely on the generosity of their supporters and the enthusiasm of our dedicated fundraisers. They don't receive any government funding, so without external support they wouldn't be able to continue the work they do rescuing and rehoming homeless and abandoned animals.'

Our chosen international charity is **'Save the Children'**

'Save the Children stand side by side with children in the toughest places to be a child. They do whatever it takes to make sure children survive, get protection when they're in danger, and have the chance to learn.'

Miss McIntyre, Subject Leader Drama & PSHE Co-ordinator



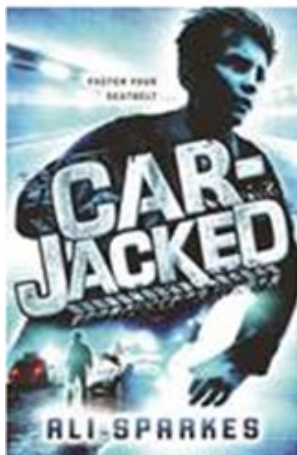
National Animal Welfare Trust

Charity No 1090499

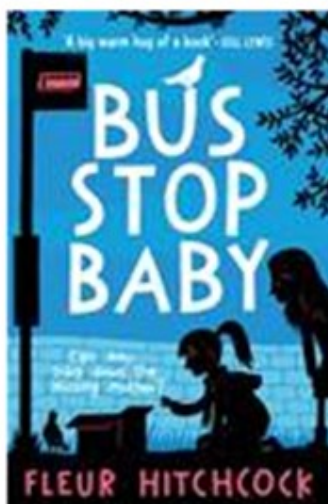
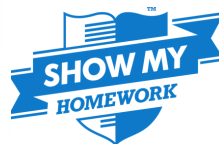


Save the Children®

Student Top Reads



Car-Jacked
by Ali Sparkes



Bus Stop Baby
by Fleur Hitchcock.

Interact Movie Night

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Friday 7 December
5.00pm-7.00pm
£2.00

Tuck shop
will be available for
refreshments!

PEERS IN SCHOOLS – LORD BALFE



Lord Balfe with Sixth Form students from Astley Cooper and Adeyfield School.

**The Lord Speaker's
Peers in Schools Outreach Programme
Visit to The Astley Cooper School
from Lord Balfe
on 19 October 2018**

The Astley Cooper School hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday 19 October to encourage students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process. Lord Balfe met GCSE, Sixth Form, and Politics students to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords, followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at the Houses of Parliament generally.

Headteacher Edward Gaynor said, 'Lord Balfe has had an extraordinary career in politics as a Labour MP, an MEP, and a Conservative MP who worked as David Cameron's trade union envoy. He was made a life peer in 2013. His insights into politics and his experience of working with many of the key politicians over the last forty years were fascinating.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives, but thanks to Lord Balfe's presentation they have had a thorough insight into the workings of Westminster.'

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's *Peers in Schools* outreach programme, which was established across the UK in 2007 and has so far involved around 90,000 young people. Members of the House of Lords visit schools, academies and colleges to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum.

The Dacorum Careers Fair

On Wednesday October 24 our Year 11 and Year 12 (Work- Based Learners) were invited to the Dacorum Careers Fair. Coaches were provided for our students and staff to attend the fair at Shendish Manor in Apsley where over 50 organisations exhibited. The fair was very busy with two other schools also attending during our one hour slot. The exhibitors represented some of the many organisations found in Hertfordshire and included Hollywood Bowl, Dacorum Borough Council, SWR Ltd, Hightown Housing Association, Everyone Active, Machins Solicitors, Epsom, Aubrey Park Hotel, GSK, Computacenter, Warner Bros., Watford Football Club, Henkel, Osborne and many more.

The morning was very successful albeit very busy. Thank you to the sponsors of the event which include The Careers Enterprise Company, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Dacorum Borough Council.

Dr. M. Ryde, Associate Assistant Headteacher



THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Hertfordshire
Local Enterprise Partnership
PERFECTLY PLACED FOR BUSINESS



Attendance

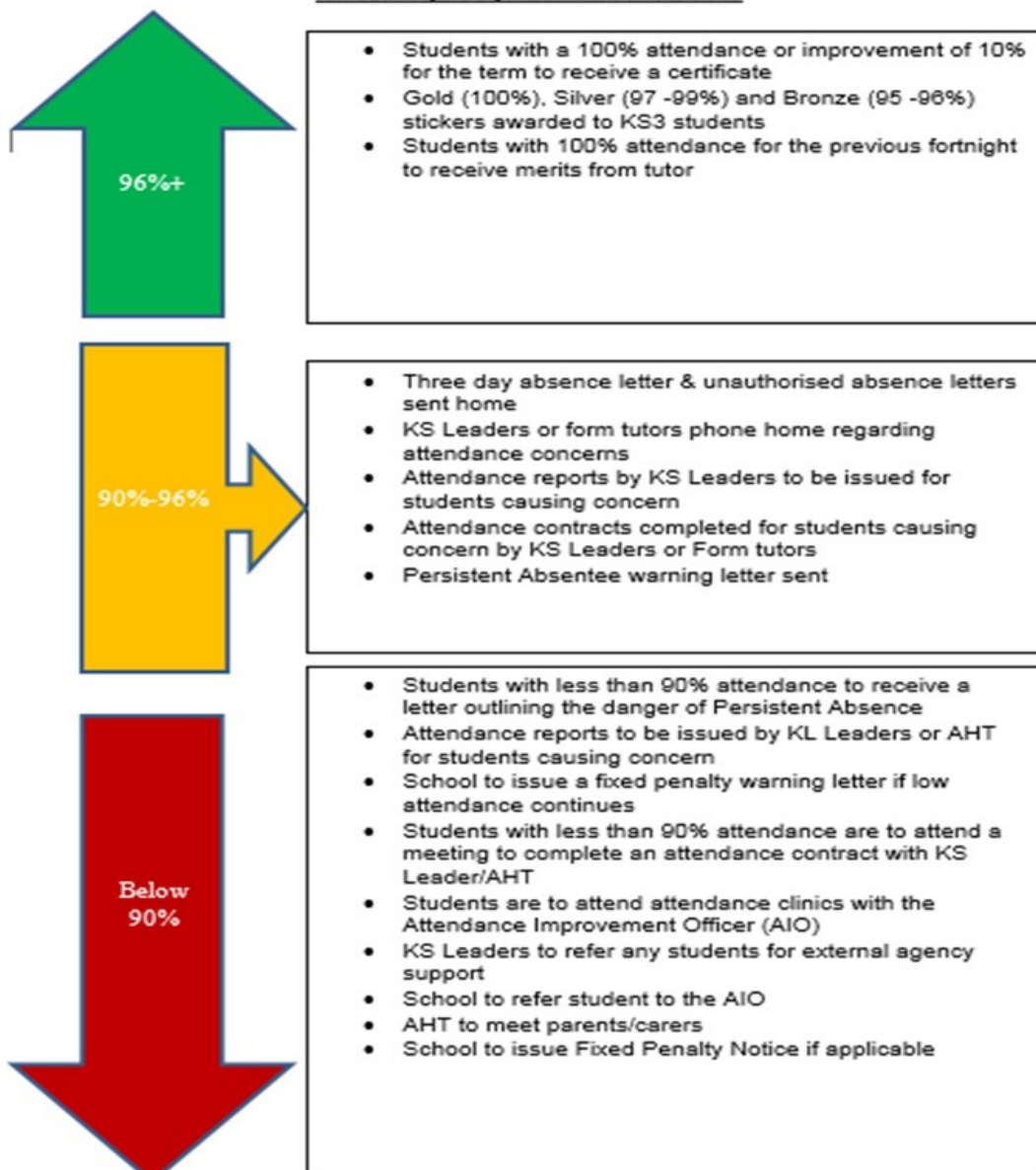
As you know, I am now responsible for attendance at Astley Cooper. As stated in previous newsletters, the expectation is students should have an attendance above 96%. 186 students had 100% attendance this half term -well done to them. The Astley Cooper Attendance Chart and expectations are below, outlining the steps taken to improve attendance as well as celebrating those of you who have achieved this target. The school's attendance policy has recently been updated and you can find this on our school website. If you have any concerns or queries about attendance, please contact me or Mrs Allen - the Attendance Co-ordinator - at the school.

Mr Lally, Assistant Headteacher

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The Astley Cooper Attendance Chart





Attendance continued

All parents and students are asked to support our expectations relating to attendance and punctuality:

Attendance

Please observe the following procedures with regard to absence from school:

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone the school before 8.25am, selecting the attendance option. An answer phone is available out of office hours to leave details on; please leave your name, your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence repeating your child's name at the end of the message. This process needs to be repeated on each day of absence as it is a legal requirement you inform the school of any absences.

If you fail to inform the school of your child's absence, a 'Truancy Call' message will be sent to your mobile/home number asking you to make contact with the school immediately. This can be done by replying to the text message or contacting our absence line on 01442 394141.

If we do not receive a call or message from you explaining your child's absence, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Please give plenty of notice for any planned absence. We would appreciate all dental and non-urgent medical appointments being made out of school hours. If you have an appointment within the school day, please ask the receptionist to provide you with a dated appointment card for our records.

Leave of absence for holiday purposes will **not** be authorised. This follows The Department for Education regulations which have been in place for the past three years.

Punctuality

We understand that adverse circumstances will occasionally prevent students from arriving on time at school, but ask that all parents help their children to adhere to the school rules regarding punctuality:

students should arrive at school on time and be in their form rooms by 8.25am.

Students arriving late after 8.50am should sign in at the Attendance Office and explain their lateness and inform their Form Tutor at the next registration.

The morning register closes at 9.00am and afternoon register closes at 2.15pm. By law, we have to mark students arriving after this without an acceptable reason as unauthorised absence

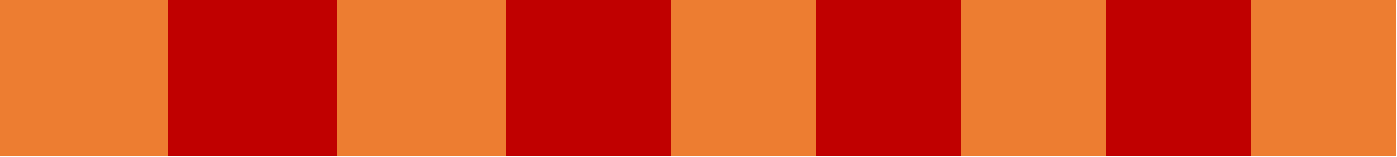
Students who are persistently late or absent from school will be brought to the attention of their Key Stage Leader and Rebecca Porzio, Attendance Improvement Officer.

Fixed Penalty Notice

The Astley Cooper School operates The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulation 2007.

If a pupil has at least 15 sessions (half day=1 session) unauthorised absence in the current and/or previous term, including leave of absence where permission has been denied, the Headteacher can apply for the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. A fine of £60.00 (per parent) is issued if paid within 21 days or £120.00 if paid within 28 days.

If your child has ongoing poor attendance and they have unauthorised absences of 15 or more sessions across the current and/or previous term, this will also initiate a request to Herts County Council for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued.



Quiz Night

Rotary  **Club of Hemel Hempstead**
(Registered Charity No. 1041296)



Quiz Night



On Saturday 17th November 2018

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

John F Kennedy School,
Hollybush Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2PH

In aid of Rotary Charities

Ticket Price £12.50 includes
Food Platter & Nibbles
Tables of eight maximum

Cash Bar Heads and Tails Raffle

For Tickets contact:
Peter Cross - Tel: 01442 258224

Email: peterc@crossg.com

It would be appreciated if you could advise of any specific dietary requirements in advance