



# The Astley Cooper Newsletter

December 2018

As always, this has been a long and busy term, starting in what still felt like summer weather and ending in the cold, short days of December. It has been a term packed with various special events many of which are featured in this, our last *Newsletter* of 2018.

## **Herts for Learning Multi-Academy Trust (HfL MAT)**

Thank you to those families who responded to our initial consultation about the possibility of our school joining the HfL MAT. If you were unable to access the consultation on line and would like a paper copy, please contact [admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk) or ask your child to get a copy from my PA, Mrs Dorey.

In the responses we received, there was clearly some uncertainty about what joining the HfL MAT might mean for our school. I completely understand this. I would like to reassure parents that the unique character, ethos and values of our school would remain unchanged should academy conversion take place. We would continue to function as an individual school.

We are still in the process of exploring this possibility and are doing so in the long-term best interest of our school and its community. We will continue to consult you and keep you up-to-date during every stage of the process. In addition, we will hold a meeting for parents and the community later in the process when you will have the opportunity to talk to HfL MAT representatives.

In the meantime, if you would like further information on the Herts for Learning Multi-Academy Trust, please see their website [www.hflmat.co.uk](http://www.hflmat.co.uk) or email: [info@hflmat.co.uk](mailto:info@hflmat.co.uk)



**The ACS Christmas card**



**Happy Christmas from 7AG and from Santa's Sleigh**

Miss Mena, one of our Science teachers who joined us at short notice in September, leaves us at the end of term to work in a school in Essex.

English teacher Miss Richardson starts her maternity leave in January and we wish her and family well.

We have appointed three new Cover Supervisors – Mr Busbridge (our former D&T technician), Mrs Buzzle and Miss Oliver. They will join Mrs Nethercoat and provide cover for staff when they are absent. We are very pleased to have our own staff here to provide cover when necessary rather than rely on supply agency staff.

We welcome Ms Chinn and Miss Greenaway to our Teaching Assistant team and have also welcomed our new PRE/Ethics teacher Mr Burnaby to the Humanities department. All our new colleagues have already made an excellent start to working with our young people .



Mr Busbridge



Mrs Buzzle



Miss Oliver



Mr Burnaby



Ms Chinn



Miss Greenaway

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the many events that have taken place this term. I wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Mr Gaynor**  
Headteacher

# Helping the Homeless

## Helping the homeless

I am a member of the Dacorum Volunteer Police Cadets. On Friday 7 December I attended a charity event for DENS, the local homeless charity. My goal was to raise money for the charity and sleep overnight as if I were a homeless person. To begin the event, we registered for the evening and had a briefing on how the night would run. After that there was a silent disco for people to have fun before settling down in the harsh weather for the night. Once the disco was over, we set up our sleeping and survival bags for warmth.

Throughout the night a hot refreshment area remained open. I wasn't able to get much sleep so I stayed up drinking coffee and reading to entertain myself. After all, the homeless don't have many things to do for entertainment. Overnight, I really got an experience of what it is like to struggle every day and be out in the extremely cold weather, especially around this time of the year.

Unfortunately, homeless people don't have a choice when it comes to sleeping on the streets, which is why I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to raise money for the charity and really get an insight into what it's like to be homeless. Don't get me wrong, it was difficult and it was very cold but, as I said, the homeless don't really get much choice.

As a whole, it was a challenging, tough and testing event. However, I enjoyed raising money and really just helping the homeless at this time of the year. Just by giving up one of your coffees before work and donating to charity you can help to put a smile on someone's face at Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who supported me and helped me to raise £260.00 for DENS.

**Christopher Conway 11PT**



## Swimming Success

### Swimming Success

Congratulations to Destiny Carnell (8BOR) who won the Hertfordshire silver medal for the 1km event at the East Region open water championships in Norwich on 2 December. Destiny also won silver for 200m and securing her place at the Hertfordshire County Championships.

Destiny has been training hard at her swimming club, swimming around eight hours a week, and competing most weekends to qualify for the Hertfordshire County Championships. She has now secured her place in the 2019 Championships in her favourite event, the 200m Fly. When she is not competing, Destiny is also a keen fundraiser for Cancer Research and Marie Curie, having swum 5 km in the Swimathon two years running and raising over £500. In March 2019 she plans to go a step further and swim the Swimathon's new event, the Triple 5k, and she will swim the 5k on three consecutive days, and hopes to raise even more money



(MRCphotos.co.uk)

**Mrs Ockendon  
SENDCo**





# English - Book Reviews

All students have been working hard in English this term. These are some examples of great work from our Year 7 students Chloe Meacock and Lewis Hurnell.

## Miss N Cowell Subject Leader English

### Private Peaceful Book Reviews

*Private Peaceful* is a book full of emotion. There are two characters called Thomas and Charlie Peaceful. They live in the countryside with their mother and their older brother Joe, but where's father?

Why is it called *Private Peaceful* you ask? Well, obviously that's their rank in the war. They go to war when Tommo is just seventeen years old. They go to war in the trenches of WW1. My favourite part is when Charlie and Tommo give Joe rabbit droppings, letting him think they are chocolate (how funny but disgusting!)

My least favourite part was when they went skinny dipping inside the brook under the river, because it's super-duper weird!

The book was very exquisite indeed. What I found the most exiting part was when they went on a spy mission to take a German hostage. How brave! The least exciting part was when the colonel killed a beloved dog named Bertha.

I would recommend this book to everyone, everywhere. It has a very important part of history and it highlights the mistakes we humans have made. The age group I would recommend this novel to would be the ages 10 to 120 if you could live that long.

## By Lewis Derek Hurnell 7AG

*Private Peaceful* is a very emotinal book. It is full of romance, anger, joy and jealousy. Michael Morpurgo has done an amazing job of writing the book and has won many book awards, such as the Red House Children's award. This book is a flashback of Thomas Peaceful's life.

The book is set in a small village called Iddesleigh where Thomas, Charlie and Big Joe live together with their mother. Their father was killed by a tree when he took Thomas to work with him, He saved Thomas from getting crushed by pushing him out of the way. Unfortunately, their father was killed. There is also a love triangle with a girl called Molly. But who will get her?

One of my favourite parts is when Charlie and Thomas gave Big Joe rabbit droppings to eat, pretending that they are sweets. As a consequence of this, mother made Charlie and Thomas eat some too. My least favourite part is when the boys have to go to war and go through horrific experiences.

It is an exciting book that is full of adventures and fun. The Peaceful brothers (Charlie and Thomas) end up going to war because the Colonel - the person who owns The Big House – threatens to take their house away if they don't go. Once there, they will go through the most devastating experiences, including losing friends.

*Private Peaceful* is named because the boys have the rank of Private in the army and their surname is Peaceful.



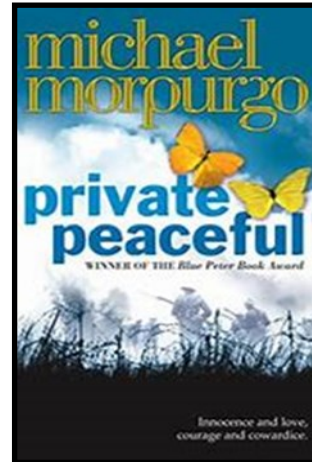
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## Book Review

Cont/

I would definitely recommend this book. It is suitable for children 10 and over. This is because it is devastating when the boys go to war and there is also romance between Molly and one of the Peaceful boys. I would rate this book 9/10 because this is a book full of inspiration but I found it upsetting when Charlie and Thomas have to leave their family to go to war.

By Chloe Meacock 7AG



## Maths Puzzle

During the Autumn term, many of our Year 7 students have been working on sequences. Here is an example of a sequencing puzzle on palindromic numbers which provoked a lively debate among our students. Perhaps something to try over a mince pie during the festive period. Answers will be gratefully received at [n.siva@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:n.siva@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk)

### Christmas Eve A Maths Starter of the Day



The word 'Eve' is a palindrome: it reads the same forward as backwards. Here is the beginning of the sequence of palindromic numbers

**1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,22,33,44**

**How many palindromic numbers are less than 100?**

**How many palindromic numbers are less than 1000?**

**How many palindromic numbers are less than 10000?**

**Is there a pattern?**



**Happy Christmas  
from the Maths Department**

# Art



## WW1 Poppy Commemoration Painting

In collaboration with visitors to the Art Department during Open Evening, Year 7 students encouraged younger students from local primary schools to contribute to a painting. The Poppy Field painting on the right was produced by the KS3 Art club to mark the end of the commemorations of the centenary of WW1

Callum Lane, Caitlin Hobbs and Marissa Lee are to be congratulated for their time and effort in the final stages, helping to bring together the separate elements to produce a striking and thought-provoking landscape image.



## Key Stage 4 Art Homework gallery



Miss Padam  
Art Department

## The Brilliant Club - Scholars' Programme

This year we have joined *The Brilliant Club*. This programme aims to raise the aspirations of students who have the potential to go to university in the future by giving them an insight into what University is like and the chance to experience university-style teaching with a PhD tutor. 14 students have been selected to take part from Year 9 and Year 10 and six students have been chosen from Year 12 and Year 13. They are:

Year 12 and 13: Rebecca Tafe, Sam Brown, Shakrist Masuphan-Boodle, Isis Mendes, Amy Dorling, and Kamila Nachajova

Year 9 and 10: Ashleigh Durham, Vale Hurt, Berti Beaman, Callum Millbank, Lewis Rose, Barbara Boadu, Charlotte Chantler, Martina Despotovic, Beth Merritt, Marlene Stringer, Alissia Rydqvist, Sam Rawlings and Jessica Lancaster

On Monday 5 November, the students visited Goldsmiths University, where they took part in sessions which covered the skills needed to go to university, the benefits university education can provide for their future and a tutorial with their PhD tutor. They also had a campus tour and opportunities to talk to current university students about what university is like.

Since then, the students have been taking part in sessions once a week in school. Their PhD tutor, Catherine MacKenzie, has come into school to deliver university-style tutorials to the students. They have been looking at the link between Diabetes and Depression, which is the topic of Catherine's PhD. Each session has required students to carry out some preparation work and the emphasis has been on students discussing their opinions and what they have found out. By the end of term, students will have drafted assignments and had one-to-one sessions with Catherine to enable them to improve their work. They will submit a final draft in January and this will be marked using university grading criteria from a first to a third class degree standard.

All students who pass will be invited to a Graduation Ceremony at Exeter College, Oxford University in February with a chance to explore this campus and get further insight into university life.

The students have been fantastic and Catherine has commented on how hard-working they have been, with many making thoughtful and intelligent contributions to tutorials.

The programme will run with Year 7 and 8 students in the Spring Term.

## Remembrance

As you will no doubt be aware, this year marks 100 years since the end of World War One. To commemorate this, we have been doing some work with students on the importance of Remembrance in relation to WW1.

Mr Bowsher delivered a poignant and moving assembly to students about the role of his own relatives in WW1 and Miss Padam worked with students to create Remembrance displays.

**Miss Welsh**

**Associate Assistant Headteacher/**

**Subject Leader Humanities**





# Remembrance

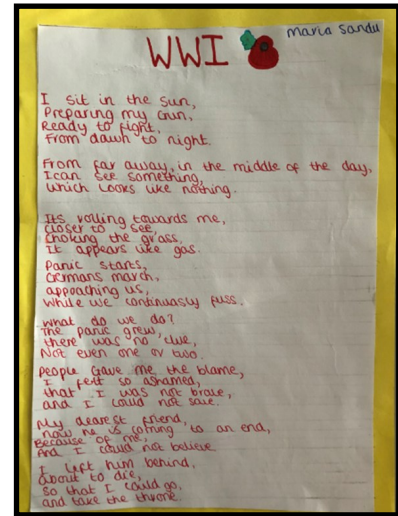
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By Maria Sandu, Year 7

By Rayan Khalil, Year 7



By Sanjanique Gumbwa and  
Grace Killick, Year 7



## Science

It has been a very busy time in Science with more classes and more experiments. In Biology, we have dissected hearts, lungs and kidneys and observed a multitude of cells under the microscope. In Chemistry, we have extracted metals and created gases, investigated the concentration of acids using titration and learnt about the chemistry of fireworks. In Physics, we have investigated Newtonian laws and the densities of different materials.

### Making Sugar Crystals

Why not make some festive edible crystals?

All you need is

- Three cups of sugar
- One cup of boiling water
- Food colouring
- Flavouring
- Clean glass/plastic jar
- Cotton string or wooden skewer

How?

- Dissolve sugar in the boiling water
- Add colour and flavouring
- Allow to cool and then pour into your jar
- Place the wooden skewer or cotton string into the middle of the jar, tied to a pencil/pen
- Place the jar in an area where it will not be disturbed, you might want to cover it with a paper towel
- Leave it a few days and you will see crystals forming. If you see crystals forming at the top of the jar then remove them or it will compete with your crystals.
- Remove and enjoy.



We would like to wish all of our students and their families a very happy Christmas.

**Mr Baker**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher/**  
**Subject Leader Science**



# Tea Party at Buckingham Palace

## Never Such Innocence – Tea Party at Buckingham Palace and an ACS published artist

In 2016, I entered one of our former students, Jessica Rizova, into a competition to produce some artwork on Remembrance and World War One through for the *Never Such Innocence* charity.

Jessica was awarded Second Place in this international competition and she won a prize of £125 for herself and the school. We went to the Houses of Parliament for the awards ceremony.



In summer 2018, the charity contacted me to let me know that they were producing a book of all of the competition winners from the past four years in order to mark the Centenary of WW1 and they wanted to know if they could use Jessica's drawing on the front cover of the book as they really loved it. I managed to get in touch with Jessica, who has moved back to Bulgaria with her family and is studying Fashion Design at University. Jessica gave her permission for her drawing to be used but sadly could not come back for the ceremony.

On 7 November 2018, I attended the prize giving ceremony on Jessica's behalf. This was held at Buckingham Palace. The ceremony was held in the room where people are awarded with honours from the Queen. There were some incredible performances of poetry and songs from prize-winning students and messages from well-known figures, including the Prime Minister and Admiral Tim Laurence. Following this, we were served afternoon tea and had a chance to tour the state rooms at the Palace. This was an incredible day and I felt very proud to be there representing one of our students and very privileged to have the opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace.

On the right is the front cover of the book with Jessica's artwork on the cover. This can be purchased online. If you would like to find out more about the *Never Such Innocence* charity, the work they have done and the tributes school children have made to mark the Centenary, then you can do so by following this link:

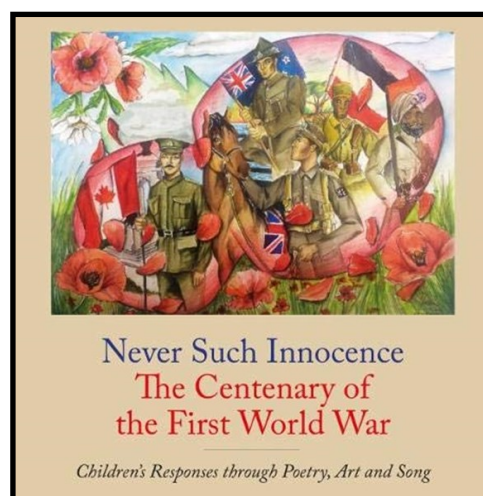
<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/>

Congratulations to Jessica on what is an incredible achievement. We wish her every success as she pursues her ambitions to become a fashion designer.

**Miss Welsh**

**Associate Assistant Headteacher/**

**Subject Leader Humanities**



The cover of *Never Such Innocence's* published book with Jessica's stunning artwork on the front cover

# Youth Speaks Competition

## Youth Speaks – a public speaking competition for young people

Congratulations to our Year 7 team who took part in the Dacorum Area Heat of the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition on the evening of 20 November at Cuthbert Mayne Catholic School.

This is a competition in which teams of three, made up of a chairperson, speaker and vote of thanks, have ten minutes to talk about a topic of their choice. Our team – Year 7 students William Roast (7SLD), Kyah Welch (7MG) and Marc Nyberg (7VL) – spoke about family life in a warm, engaging and humorous speech entitled *Siblings – a blessing or a curse?*

Our team was the youngest in the Intermediate category (11-14) and were competing against seven Year 9 teams from Ashlyns, Kings Langley and John F Kennedy. They willingly gave up many hours to write their speeches and prepare for the competition and did very well on the evening, receiving a number of compliments from members of the Rotary Club.

It was a memorable way to end their first term at secondary school and we are proud of them.



## Sixth Form Senior Team

Congratulations to our new Sixth Form Senior Team who formally applied for these prestigious posts. Each of these students already makes a valuable contribution to the school's culture and I look forward to working with them in a more formal capacity in the coming months.

### Head Girls

Amy Dorling

Rayne Marsh

### Head Boy

George Brand

### Community Ambassador

Charlie Webster

**Mr Gaynor,  
Headteacher**



## Victoria & Albert Careers event



### Victoria & Albert Museum Careers event

On Friday 23 November over 45 students headed to London to visit the V&A to listen to career talks from professionals on how they got into their career and where they are today. Students attended three talks and had time to look around the museum and take part in activities linked to creative jobs in fashion and problem solving.

One student wrote for her evaluations of the day:

*'This experience was thrilling educational event that gave me an insight to my future and next time I will come early to listen to more talks.'*

*'Listening to the talk about Architecture and John sharing his success and failures gave me hope that I could be the same'.*

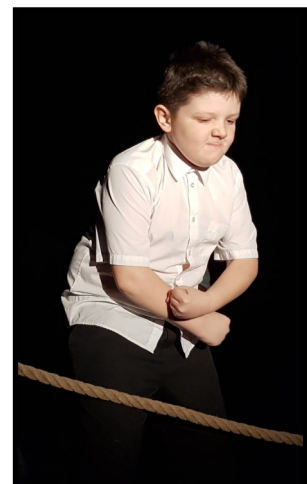
**Miss McIntyre**

**Subject Leader Drama & PSHE Co-ordinator**

## Drama Club

### ***Ernie's Incredible Illucinations***

On Friday 6 February, the KS3 Drama Club performed *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*. The Year 7 and 8s have worked tremendously hard and I would like to thank them for all of their hard work over the last three months. Well done to everyone who took part - you were all amazing.



**Miss Hayes**  
**Trainee Drama Teacher**



## Interact Club



### Interact Club

This term has been busy for the club: the Key Stage 3 Halloween Disco, a whole school Movie Night, The Rotary Club Santa Sleigh event and a non school uniform day.

Over 60 students attended the disco on the last term of the half term, all in fancy dress and ready to dance the evening away.

We had over 50 students attend the movie night to watch *Home Alone* on Friday 7 December.

The annual Santa Sleigh event took place on Monday 10 December. It was a cold evening to be walking around Grovehill but a very enjoyable event. Mr Trenoweth dressed up as Santa and we raised £409.

Our next event is the Quiz Night on Friday 1 February at 6.00pm

**Miss McIntyre**  
**Subject Leader Drama & Interact Co-ordinator**

## Technology Club

### Audio & Lighting Technology Club

Audio and Lighting Technology Club is held every Wednesday lunchtime for Years 7 & 8. The club gives these students the opportunity to start learning various extra curricular skills related to lighting and audio within a live performance application related to theatre or live music scenarios.

The sessions each week are split between learning basic theory through discussion and being more hands on with the technology available at the school within practical sessions. Attending the club has allowed students to be part of upcoming performances and shows put on by the performing arts, dance and music departments, as the student tech team. During these whole school events, the students can really start to use the knowledge they have gained from the weekly sessions and apply this to real life performances.

#### Student Testimonies:

Adam (Year 8) – *'It gives me something to do at lunch and has allowed me to make friends with likeminded people who enjoy learning about lighting tech and audio.'*

Alisha (Year 7) – *'I like learning about lighting and audio technology and being trusted to use the equipment. It is also fun because I met some new people.'*



**Mr Featherstone**  
**Production Arts Technician**

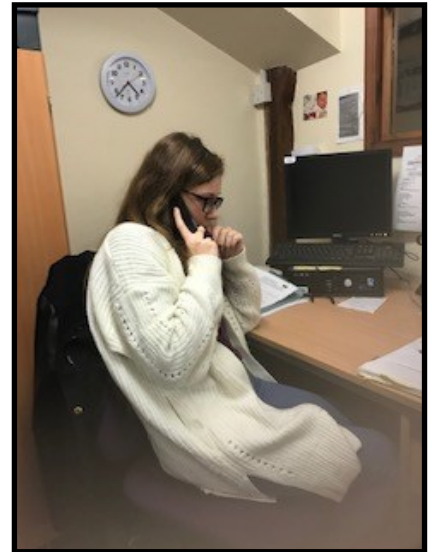
# Work Based Learning

## In at the deep end

For some young people the transformation from child to adult can be a very comfortable and gradual process. Not so for the students on the ACS Work-Based Learning course. (WBL) They get thrown in at the deep end of the adult world just six weeks after the summer holidays.

The course, soon to be renamed the Pre-Apprenticeship Course, is designed to take raw post-GCSE students and transform them into well-oiled machines ready to take on the world of work. The core of the course is a three day-a-week, six month, work experience placement. There are a whole range of super generous employers in Hemel Hempstead who are helping us and our young people get their foot on the first rung of the ladder of life. From manufacturing and property management to retail and care work, there are lots of opportunities for the students to get their teeth into.

Now half way through their placements, the students' transformations are well underway. A fine example of this is Harriett Juster, who is 'quaver' of the month at her work placement with the Dacorum Music School (DMS) in Hemel Hempstead. 'Harriet has settled right in with the rest of the team since she started in November and made a serious impact on the school's admin,' said the Head of DMS, Nyree O'Brien.



The music school offers individual instrumental tuition to thousands of children from around the borough as well as bands and choirs for beginners up to top drawer performers. Self-confessed shy girl Harriet is working in the office on the front line dealing with hundreds of parents and teachers on the phone and in person. Everyone who knows Harriet agrees the experience has certainly brought her out of her shell.

Conversely, bright young thing Jake Ashpole left his shell long ago. He is a black belt in karate and is driven by a strong desire for a career in sales. His placement employer, the steel wire manufacturer SWR, were very impressed with his communications skills and mature outlook at his interview. However, beneath his confident personable demeanour lies a dark secret. Jake has always struggled with maths. Despite this, he has been trusted with the responsibility of producing quotes and invoices for customers. 'It's a challenge,' says Jake, 'but I'm getting a lot of support at school and at work and I'm determined to smash it.' What a man!

The WBL team are now looking for new employers to offer placements to students for next year. If any parents have their own businesses or have friends and relations who do and would like to help transform our teenagers into adults with great careers we'd love to hear from you. Please contact me on [e.hodges@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:e.hodges@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk).

**Mrs Hodges**  
**Work Based Learning Co-ordinator**



## Headteacher's Commendations



### November 2018

Alfie Redican 7AG  
Jamion Jacob 8JRO  
Yasmin Sharpley 9SB  
Horia Cimpeanu 10SF  
Sophie Clarke 11MR  
Sam Brown 12ELG  
Paul McQuade 13GH



### December 2018

Madeline Arnold 7RP  
Crystal Close 8JRO  
Chelsea Hollis 9INC  
Christelle Mensah 10TB  
Steven Armitage 11GHU  
Rayne Marsh 12ELG  
Kamila Nachajova 13GH

## Student Safety

### 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. 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***





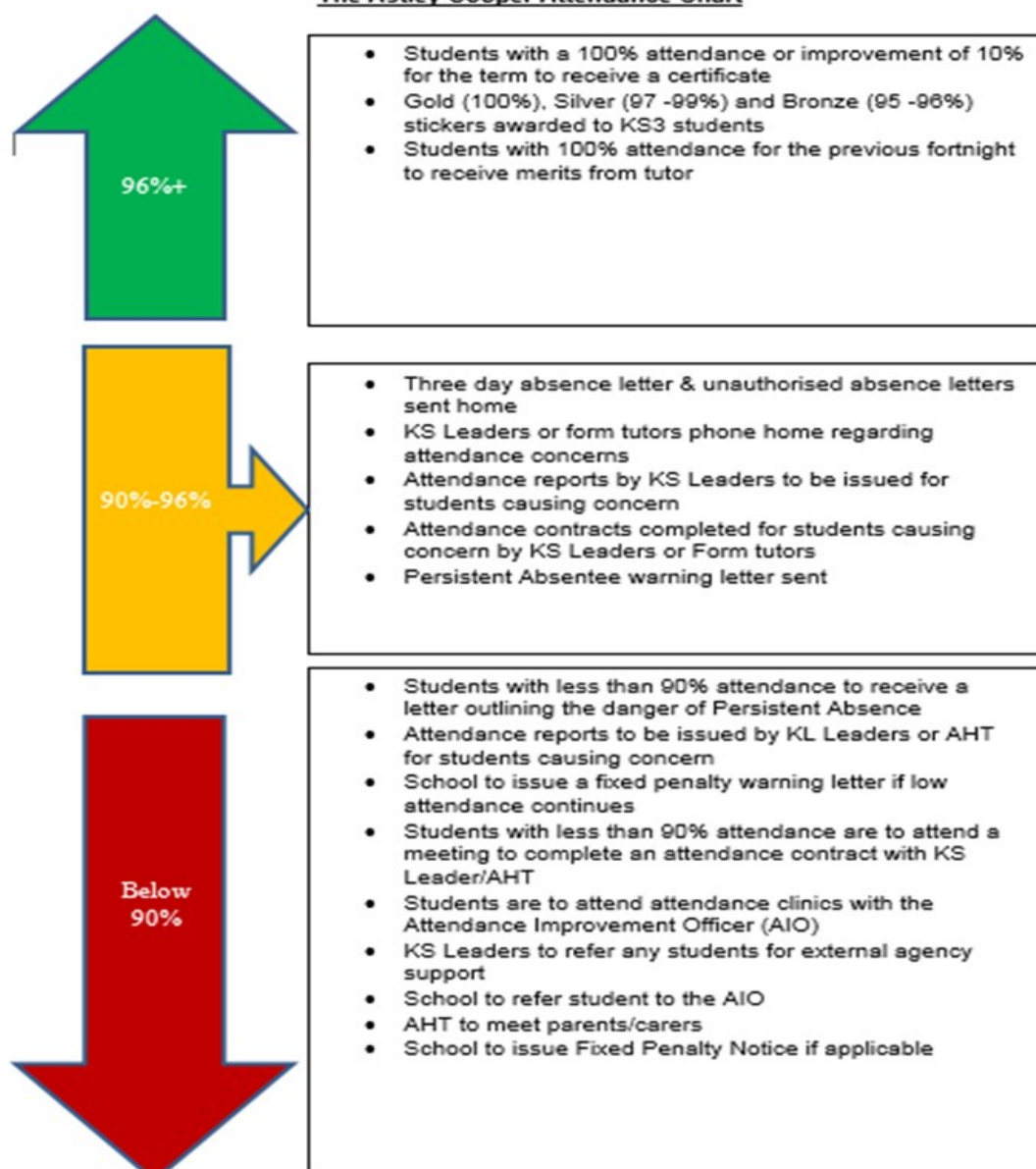
# Attendance

As you know, I am responsible for attendance at school. As stated in previous newsletters, the expectation is students' attendance should be 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**



## 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 ; 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 at school on time, 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.

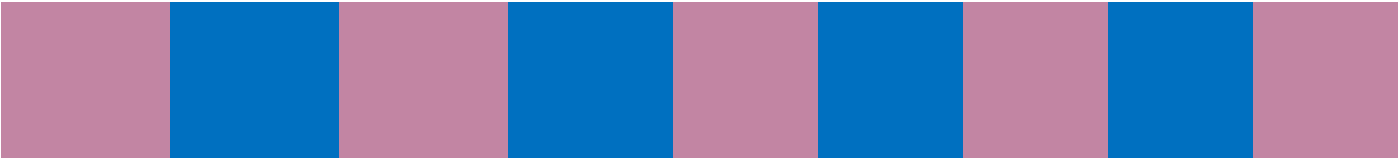
The morning register closes at 9.00am and afternoon register closes at 2.15pm. By law, we have to mark students arriving after this without an acceptable reason as unauthorised absence

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.



## STEM Returners programme running in Hertfordshire with ACE Lifts

Have you taken a career break from an engineering or a technical sector and wish to return to work? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience? If so this could be the opportunity for you! We are currently sourcing candidates for the ACE Lifts 'STEM Returners' programme, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme starting in February 2019 in Watford. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today!

For more information please visit [www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) or email [hello@stemreturners.com](mailto:hello@stemreturners.com).

More information on the programme is also available here:

<https://www.stemreturners.com/2018/11/07/engineering-returners-given-lift-watford-thanks-local-employer-ace-lifts/>

### Term Dates

#### Autumn 2018

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 29 October- 2 November | <b>Half term</b>      |
| 30 November            | <b>Occasional Day</b> |
| 21 December            | <b>Term ends</b>      |

#### Spring 2019

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 7 January        | <b>Term Begins</b> |
| 18 - 22 February | <b>Half Term</b>   |
| 5 April          | <b>Term ends</b>   |

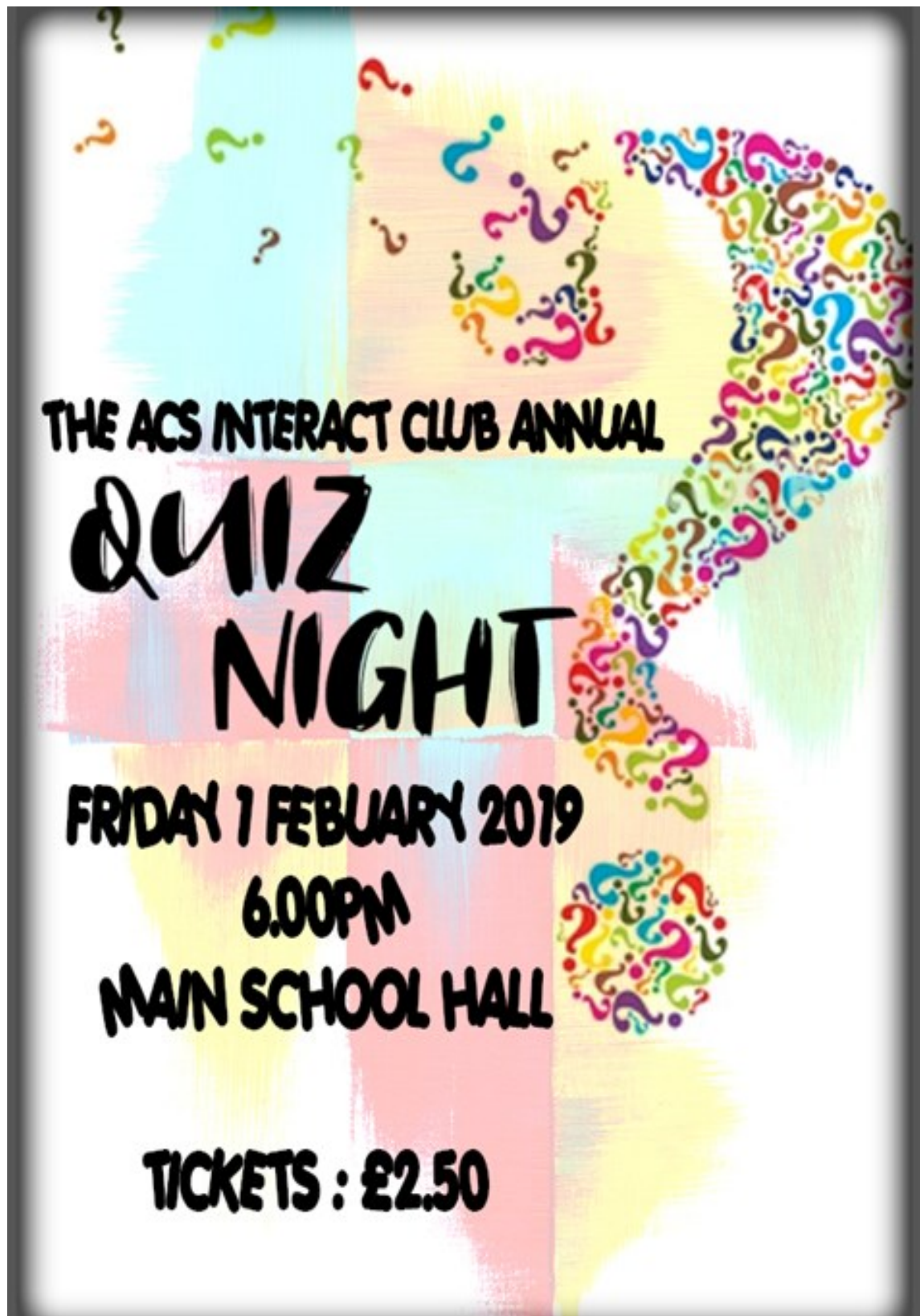
#### Summer 2019

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 23 April        | <b>Term Begins</b> |
| 6 May           | <b>May Day</b>     |
| 27 May - 31 May | <b>Half term</b>   |
| 19 July         | <b>Term ends</b>   |
| 22 July         | <b>INSET</b>       |
| 23 July         | <b>INSET</b>       |
| 24 July         | <b>INSET</b>       |



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[@PEdeptACS](https://twitter.com/PEdeptACS)





**DSPL** | Delivering Special  
Provision Locally  
*Achieving quality outcomes*



**Education Programme for Parent/Carers of  
secondary school aged young people who  
are using a CAMHS\* Clinic, Step2 or  
Counselling Service.**

\* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

This free course, held over six weeks, will provide you as  
parents/carers with skills and support to help your child and  
improve your health and wellbeing.

Learn more about young people's mental health and  
recovery, effective communication skills, family culture,  
problem-solving and looking after yourself.

**Where:** Willow Room, Hobbs Hill Wood School, Peascroft  
Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER

**When:** Wednesday's 23rd January—6th March 2019, 7-9pm  
(excluding Half Term 20/02/19)

**Who is it for:** Parents/carers of Dacorum secondary aged  
children.

**Booking required contact:**  
**Ashley Fabray, DSPL8 Administrator -**  
**fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk or 07525 917 125**

**Please state at time of booking which service your child is  
using - a CAMHS Clinic, Step2 or Counselling.**

Please contact Carers in Hertfordshire on 01992 58 69 69 or  
email [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk) if you want to discuss travel  
arrangements to enable you to attend.



## Sibling Group

### Information

The sibling group will be held every week, excluding Half Term, the dates are:

**Wednesday's - 6<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> March & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Parents meetings will take place on the first and last sessions from 1:30-2:30pm – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

There are a total of 6 sessions on a Wednesday, 4-6pm, for children between the ages of 5-12yrs, for up to 12 children for children that attend schools in the Dacorum area. As there are only 6 sessions we do expect a degree of commitment and the intention being that you will sign up and attend the 6 sessions, excluding illness etc.

The group will be run by Sarah Ellis and Sharon Lawton (family support and coaches). Both have extensive knowledge of working with children and their families where there is an additional need.

Each session will follow the same format, checking in how their last 2 weeks were, snack, activity, talking, activity. The group is designed to give young people a break and provide fun activities. Young people will also have the opportunity to meet others who have a sibling with a disability, sharing how this may feel, along with celebrating

More information is available on the website  
[www.hertsdirect.org/specialneeds](http://www.hertsdirect.org/specialneeds)







## Basic information details

Child's Surname: ..... Child's Forename: ..... Gender (Male/female)

Parents name: ..... Date of Birth:.....

Address:

.....

Telephone number: ..... Mobile number:.....

Email:.....

Emergency Contact Telephone Number and Name: .....

Relationship to the  
child:.....

Medical  
Conditions:.....

Medication: .....

Allergies (food or sensory/materials eg latex .....

School attending: .....

Diagnosis of sibling identified with special/additional need: .....

Age of sibling: .....

Are both children, (sibling and child with additional needs) aware of the condition and happy for this to be discussed? .....

I consent to my son/daughter (name) .....having their photograph taken  
(this will not appear on any websites) Signature .....date .....

I give my permission for (name of child) .....to take part in the sibling group  
(Signature of parent):



## Free Workshops for parents of children with additional needs

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2019: Managing Anxiety 7-9pm**

With an emphasis on separation anxiety: how we recognise and respond positively through solution focused strategies

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2019: Why do they do that? 10-12 noon**

Discover what lies beneath behaviour and strategies to prevent confrontation and meltdown

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2019: Understanding the needs and experiences of siblings 7-9pm**

Practical ideas for giving siblings attention, explaining difficulties and disabilities and supporting them with their feelings

**Hobbs Hill Wood School, Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8ER**  
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2JU

**Refreshments and resources provided**

Please note that these Workshops are only open to Dacorum parent/carers'

**Information and bookings: Ashley Fabray, DSPL Dacorum,**  
[fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk) or 07525 917125



## Free Sibling group

Six sessions run by Sharon Lawton and Sarah Ellis giving children the opportunity to make friends, play games, engage in some art activities and have fun whilst exploring their feelings about having a sibling with additional needs. These sessions are designed to support emotional wellbeing by teaching coping strategies allowing them to respond more positively through solution focused strategies. For children aged 5-12 years old.

**Parents meetings:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 1:30 - 2:30 – Introduction to sessions  
20<sup>th</sup> March 1:30 – 2:30 – Feedback session

**Venue:** Hobbs Hill Wood School, Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER

**Wednesdays:** 6<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> March  
4-6pm

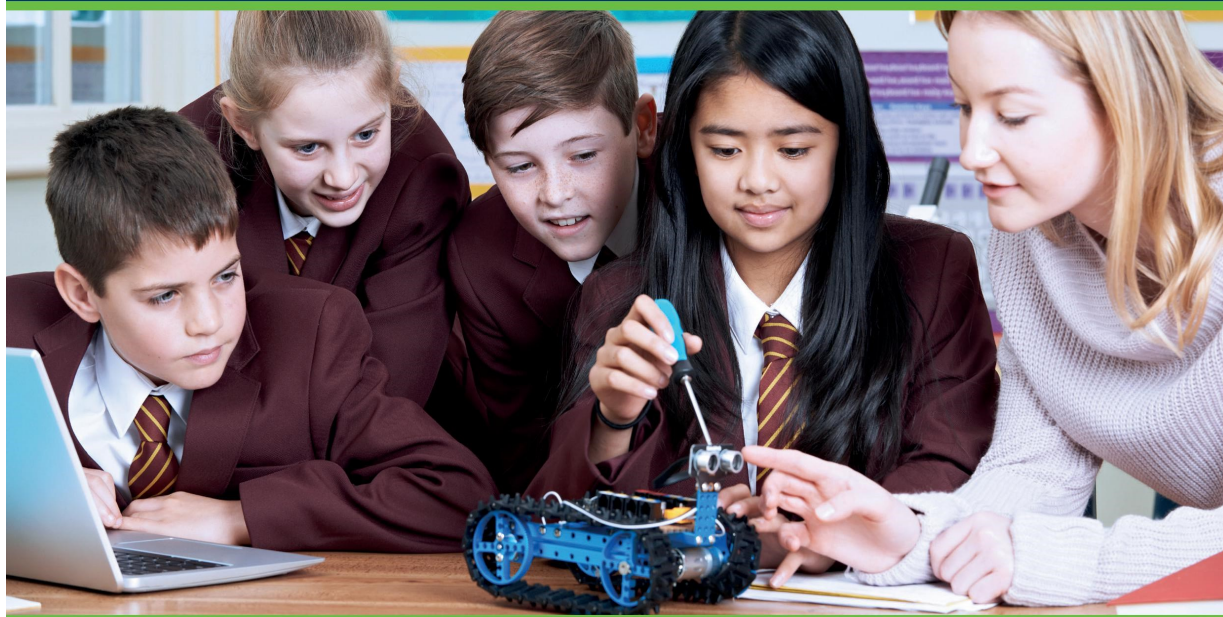
**Free parking and refreshments provided**

Please note that this course is only open to Dacorum families

**Information and bookings:**  
**Ashley Fabray - 07525 917125 Email - [fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk)**

# GET INTO TEACHING EVENTS 2018/19

## Your Future. Their Future.



Come and meet Hertfordshire Teaching School Alliances face to face at either of these events in 2018/19. You will be able to find out in workshops about **'Training to Teach and How to Apply'** and also listen to personal experiences of recent graduates in **'My School Direct Journey'**.

Teaching Schools and the University of Hertfordshire will be able to advise on next steps for your career.

Register on our website for one of these events: [teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com)



**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 9:30AM – 1PM**

Watford, South and West Herts

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 9:30AM – 1PM**

Letchworth, North and East Herts

Check out the Get Into Teaching website, read and watch video clips about eligibility, scholarships and how to apply for teacher training: [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk)

Further information is available on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/teaching-in-england>

Take a look at the [teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com) website where you can see the number of schools with teaching vacancies and where you can manage your own job applications in Hertfordshire in the future.

01438 845785  
[teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com)

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