

The Astley Cooper Newsletter

July 2019

A year is a long time in the life of the school though the academic year always goes by too quickly.

Earlier in the year, we made a formal application to join the Herts for Learning Multi-Academy Trust (HfL MAT). After careful consideration, we withdrew our application earlier this term. The main reasons we did not proceed were because the HfL MAT contained nine primary schools and the Chief Executive Officer of the MAT, who was a very experienced secondary school Principal, resigned to take up another headship in London at the beginning of the summer term. There would have been limited opportunities for us to work collaboratively with other secondary schools.

The decision to become an academy or part of a MAT is important for any school and is not to be taken lightly. It has to be the right time and the right partnership that will be in the long-term best interest of the whole school community. We will continue to be an outward looking school and see what other opportunities might be open to us in the future.

Thank you to the parents who responded to our initial survey about joining the MAT.

As is customary at this time of year, we say goodbye to a number of staff: part-time English teacher Mrs Bird and Mrs Leinster in Science have already left us; Teaching Assistants Miss Greenaway and Mrs Traynor leave with our best wishes as does Miss Gant who has successfully completed her training year with us and is moving on to a post as an English teacher and Inclusion Co-ordinator at a school in St Albans. Media teacher Mr Kilmore leaves us to become a Sixth Form Media teacher at an independent school in Elstree. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Harman who has been a great support to the Art department this year.

Although she will still be with us in the first week of term in September, Mrs Dixon has resigned from her position as our Post 16 Support Administrator in order to start training as an English teacher at the University of Hertfordshire. Mrs Dixon has offered advice, guidance and support to innumerable sixth form students over the last five years and we wish her well for her future training and teaching career.

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It is hard to believe that Dance teacher Miss O’Riordan has only been with us for three years as she has made such an impact here as a teacher. Dance has continued to be a popular and highly successful part of our curriculum and the culture of the school. Miss O’Riordan is getting married this summer and we wish her and her husband every happiness for the future.

Mr Trenoweth, who also leaves us this week to take up an English teaching post in another Hertfordshire school, has been a significant presence in the English department since September 2012. He has always given willingly of his time, inspired countless students in creative writing, and spent many hours after school supporting individuals. No one who saw it will ever forget his magnificent performance in the staff v students’ relay race on Sports Day a few years ago. He has been a tireless supporter of school events both sporting and cultural.

We thank all our departing colleagues and wish them well for the future.

This has been a difficult year for staffing with a small number of teachers leaving before expected and therefore some classes have had a series of temporary teachers. This has been an unsatisfactory situation and one that I hope will not be repeated.

Despite these difficulties, we are ending the year on a positive note as we have recruited a number of excellent staff for the new academic year, some of whom have already started work with us: English teachers Mr Lewis and Ms Myers, maths teacher Mr Burgin, trainee maths teacher Miss Thompson, drama teacher Miss Dowell, and part-time Spanish teacher Ms Fleitas are with us already and working closely with colleagues in their respective departments. Other colleagues will be joining us on 2 September when we look forward to being fully staffed with specialist teachers for the year ahead.

The Year 11 students acquitted themselves very well during their GCSE examinations. They took advantage of the numerous opportunities for revision provided by the staff - including a number of sessions run after school and on Saturday mornings and workshops delivered by 20/20, a company specialising in providing revision for maths and English - and were well-prepared and focused throughout the lengthy examination season.

After their examinations, the Year 11 students relaxed and enjoyed themselves in some style at their Prom in the elegant surroundings of Shendish Manor on 20 June. We wish them and the Post 16 students every success for their examination results in August.

The life of a school is characterised by beginnings and endings. While we all look forward to the summer break, we are also thinking about next term and the new Year 7 joining us – 180 students should be here in September, the highest number in any year group for over 20 years.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your families have a relaxing summer holiday. Thank you for your support throughout the year.

**Mr Gaynor,
Headteacher**

The Brilliant Club

This term, 12 students from Year 7 and 8 have been selected to participate in The Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme. This is an initiative aimed at giving Most Able students an experience of university life and an understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to go to a highly selective university.

In March, students had their launch trip to Jesus College, University of Oxford.

During this visit, they had a tour of the university and sessions with staff on

applying to university and developing study skills. They also had their initial tutorial with their PhD tutor, Robin Shields.



Following this, Robin came into school from April - June to work with students each week. They were taught in a university format, with weekly tutorials and preparation work for each tutorial. The focus of these tutorials was 'What makes a great Prime Minister' (an apt topic for the current political climate). Students looked at the premierships of Post-WW2 British Prime Ministers from Clement Attlee to Margaret Thatcher. As part of this process, students were asked to complete a 1,500 word essay on this topic. They were graded using university grading criteria from a 1st down to a 3rd class degree.

I am pleased to confirm that all students completed this successfully, with a number achieving far beyond expectations for their age. Naomi McGrory (Year 8) achieved a 1st; Cody Bolton (Year 8), Abby Hailey (Year 8) Kiera Brown (Year 7), Zak Choudhury (Year 7) and Rayan Khalil (Year 7) all achieved 2:1s; Tegan Butt (Year 8), Mya Roper (Year 8) and Delia Mironescu (Year 8) achieved 2:2s; Adam Reilley (Year 8) achieved a 3rd and Grace Sells (Year 7) achieved a pass.

Following their successful completion of the programme, students were invited to attend their Graduation Ceremony at Royal Holloway, University of London on Monday 15 July. This coincided with the degree ceremony for current graduating Royal Holloway students so they got a chance to see many students walking around campus in their caps and gowns. During the day, our students were involved in a campus tour and several sessions aimed at raising their awareness of applying to, and attending, university. The day culminated in their own graduation from the programme. Both Mr Daddow and I were really proud to see Tegan Butt and Kiera Brown having the confidence to stand up in front of students from other schools to deliver speeches on what they have gained from the programme. It was a fantastic day of celebrations and was lovely to see the students feeling so proud of their successes.

On the next page, you will find an excerpt from Tegan Butt's reflections on her involvement in the programme.

The initiative will continue to run next year.

A massive well done to all students who were involved.

Miss Welsh

Associate Assistant Headteacher

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The Brilliant Club

Good morning/afternoon everybody, my name is Tegan Elizabeth Butt . Over the past couple of months I have been working on an essay in which we have been answering the question: '*What makes a great Prime Minister ?*' This whole programme has genuinely been one of my greatest achievements in my time at The Astley Cooper School. My favourite part of this whole experience has definitely been the knowledge that comes with all of our hard work. Throughout my time working on this essay, I have learned how to persevere and keep on going no matter what stands in your way of achievement. The amount of worry I had lurking in my mind was immense. However, I had so many supportive friends, family and teachers to support me along the way and I couldn't thank them enough for it.

I have learned about the vast difference between a university style essay and grading system compared to my standard style of essay writing. My advice for any future scholars is to always get your essay read over by either your tutor or a teacher who is there to help run the programme within your school this way you will always know that you're on track.

Overall, this experience has taught me so much about not only university but about myself as well, it truly has been a privilege to take part in the Scholars Programme. I am so proud of us all. Thank you.

Tegan Butt
Year 8



**The
Scholars
Programme**



Barcelona Trip

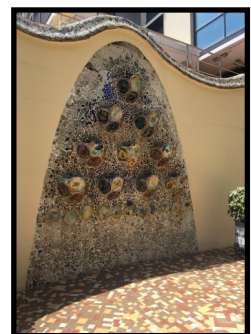
The recent trip to Barcelona was a great success. Students took part in a variety of activities and enjoyed the hot weather that Barcelona had on offer that week.

Students discovered the amazing buildings designed by the famous architect Gaudi. We also visited the Monserrat Monastery set in the beautiful mountains and learned about its history.

The Flamenco show gave us a real taste of authentic Spanish culture and was enjoyed by all.

A trip to the beach was probably the highlight for some as they could finally relax on the sand and have fun in the sea. I would like to thank Miss McIntyre and Mr Burnaby for joining me on this trip.

Mrs Babouri
MfL Teacher



Mathematics



On Monday 29 April, some of our Year 8 Mathematicians competed in the Maths Challenge Heats, hosted by Herts for Learning. Our students competed against a number of schools from Hertfordshire.

This is a county competition which combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. We were fortunate to have two brilliant teams of four to compete on different rounds requiring different skills and strategies.

This year, the rounds included:

Round 1: General Maths questions

Round 2: Memory Round

Round 3: Estimation Round

Round 4: General Maths questions



A huge well done to our young Mathematicians: Nadah Benballah, Delia Mironescu, Crystal Close, Cody Bolton, Sam Ansell and Zachary Minter.

Are you ready to **take on the challenge** and answer some of the questions our Year 8s had to complete? Take a look at these and see if you can rise to the challenge. Good luck.

Round 1 **Question 3**

Amelia has 3 brothers and 5 sisters.

Her brother David has S Sisters and B brothers

What is the value of SXB ?

Round 4 **Question 2**

Multiply together:

- **The number of factors of 24**
- **The number of two-digit multiples of 36**
- **The number of prime numbers between 40 and 50**

(Answers can be found at the end of the newsletter.)

English

We have received this wonderful certificate for all our effort and enthusiasm for reading and our participation in the 200 million minutes reading challenge.

7RP managed to accumulate the most reading minutes. Well done 7RP. A special mention also goes to Amalia Seeby and Maria Sandu for their continued effort in collecting bookmarks to record minutes.

It has been another busy term for the English department: the students are working hard to produce some beautiful work while Year 7 and 8 are taking part in a sponsored Readathon.



This term, Year 7 and 8 have been looking at myths during literacy and each student has produced a poetry piece based on Medusa. Here are some examples:

Lewis Peck 7MG

*Medusa, Medusa, as evil as can be,
When you look in her serpent eyes
You can no longer see.*

*She must feel happy for what she has
done,
But when her rivals come
She will be undone.*

*He is on his way there to challenge the
beast,
Not she is killed with a blade as sharp as
razor teeth.
Off with her head, it is their midnight feast.*



Rayan Khalil 7MG

*On my way to kill her,
The one and only Medusa.
Will she turn me to stone?
Well, my end will be unknown.*

*I see something, coming nearer and nearer,
It is Medusa and I very much fear her.
I will have to slay her, soon enough,
But after all, she is very tough.*

Kaela Wardle 7MG

*Oh Medusa, Medusa,
Where will I find my Medusa?
Slimy snakes hang from your shaky head.
You shall never find love,
Love is a smoke of fumes of sight that you
shall never have.
You lock yourself from everyone,
I wonder why.*

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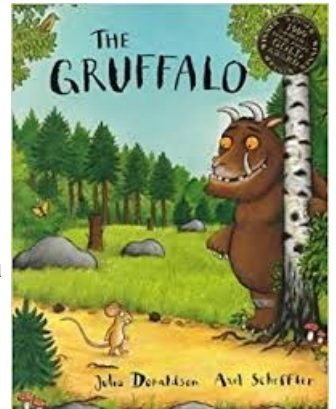
English

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While all this wonderful, creative learning is happening, Year 7 and 8 have also been asking family and friends to sponsor them in a Readathon organised by *Read for Good*, which helps to buy more books for schools.

As Julia Donaldson (*The Gruffalo*) says: 'Reading is like flying – it can carry you to different worlds. So hurray for *Read for Good*, which helps launch so many children on that exciting journey'. As a school we want all students to find a good book to get lost in and enjoy reading for the creativity it brings.

Miss Gilmour
English Teacher



Learning Resource Centre

For the first time, Year 7 students participated in Literacy Dash. This event provided the opportunity for students to test their knowledge of popular book titles against their peers in fast fire question rounds, while simultaneously challenging their ability to complete energetic laps of a uniquely designed obstacle course. The obstacle course consisted of dressing up, crawling through tunnels and balancing an egg on a spoon among other unusual criteria. The heroic students overcame these struggles in a bid to celebrate the joy of reading by raising funds for two worthy charities. The amount raised by the event was divided between the English Department's charity *Read for Good* and for the purchase of new books for our school library.

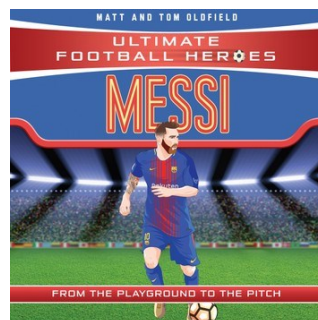
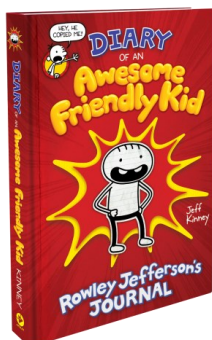
Miss Bishop
Learning Resource Centre Manager



Recommended Reads

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid

by Jeff Kinney



Messi (Ultimate Football Heroes)

By Matt Oldfield and Tom Oldfield

Mountfitchet Castle Trip

The Humanities Department were lucky for a second year running to have perfect weather for the Mountfitchet Castle Trip. Year 7 were treated to a fantastic day out exploring the recreated castle and Norman village.

The students had to find out as much as they could about life in the Middle Ages from all the displays and they took to this with great enthusiasm. They could be found in every corner painstakingly recording their findings. They were able to climb up into the towers, take a turn in the town jail, and look round the Lord's house.

For some, the treat will have been seeing all of the rescued animals and having the opportunity to feed them. The students were most surprised by the confidence of the goats in getting as much food as possible from them.

By far the greatest experience for the children was firing the catapult. The students studied how castles were attacked and defended and relished the chance to see one of the weapons in action. Thankfully, however, they were not allowed to fire rocks, but they were able to launch water balloons. They would need something to aim at and the students duly offered themselves up for the chance to get soaked through in the heat.

Soon brightly coloured water balloons were arching through the sky, bursting on the heads of Astley Cooper's finest and the excited shouts of an entire year group showed that it was another successful year.

The Mountfitchet Castle team were effusive in their praise for our students, commenting on their behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day, and are looking forward to seeing us again next year.

Mr Bowsher
History Teacher



Drama

The Year 8 Drama Club created and devised a performance targeted at Year 6 students on Transition Day and moving to secondary school. The students performed at Maple Grove School in June and during the Transition Day at our school. There was an opportunity at the end for Year 6 students to ask Year 8 questions about school life.

Miss McIntyre
Subject Leader Drama



Science

Year 10 students have been attempting some of the James Dyson Engineering challenges in their recent science lessons. These challenges combine creativity with revision of key physics principles and involve students using basic materials to design various structures. The 'marble run' challenge required the students to build a structure made entirely of cardboard to create a run that takes a marble 60 seconds to complete. The students had to remember that gravitational potential energy is affected by mass and height, and that the speed of the marble is affected by the friction and the gradient of the slope. The marble moves very quickly as a result of gravitational pull and reducing its speed was a major challenge. The students also attempted to make a boat out of cardboard, sticky tape and polystyrene that would support 500g without sinking. Here, the key principles of pressure and buoyancy had to be considered. The final challenge was to create a model of C60, the Buckminster Fullerine. This is a molecule made entirely of carbon atoms joined together in hexagons and pentagons. It is so hard it can dent diamond and it also has huge potential in the fight against cancer. The raw materials for this task were jelly sweets and spaghetti pieces which represented the carbon atoms and covalent bonds respectively. The students worked extremely well on these challenges, using imagination, patience and their own scientific knowledge.

These activities will have embedded previous study and were an enjoyable way to end the school year.

Miss S A Bowen
Science Teacher



World Autism Awareness week

The SEND Department at Astley Cooper would like to thank everyone who took part in World Autism Awareness Week from 1- 5 April.

The focus of the week was to raise awareness of autism and to fundraise in support of the National Autistic Society.

Several fundraising events were held at the school, including a bake sale and sponsored swimming gala. We have received many encouraging and positive responses from students and staff who attended these events.

A grand total of £1050 was raised by staff and students . A special thank-you to Raul Cozma in Year 8 who raised the highest amount of sponsorship money.

The National Autistic Society have expressed their gratitude for the generous contribution our school has made to support their organisation.

Mrs Lakhani
SENDCo

Mrs Ockendon
SENDCo



Interact Club

This year the Interact Club have worked to raise money for Save the Children, with a non uniform day held in December raising over £500 for the charity. The club's local charity was the National Animal Welfare Trust, based in Watford. This charity supports animals and re-homes them into the community. As a club, we run a number of events throughout the year to raise a sum of over £950 for the club.

Events will take place next year and the Club will be looking for new members aged between 12-19 years old. This is an amazing opportunity to do something for the school and local community.

Miss McIntyre
Interact Coordinator

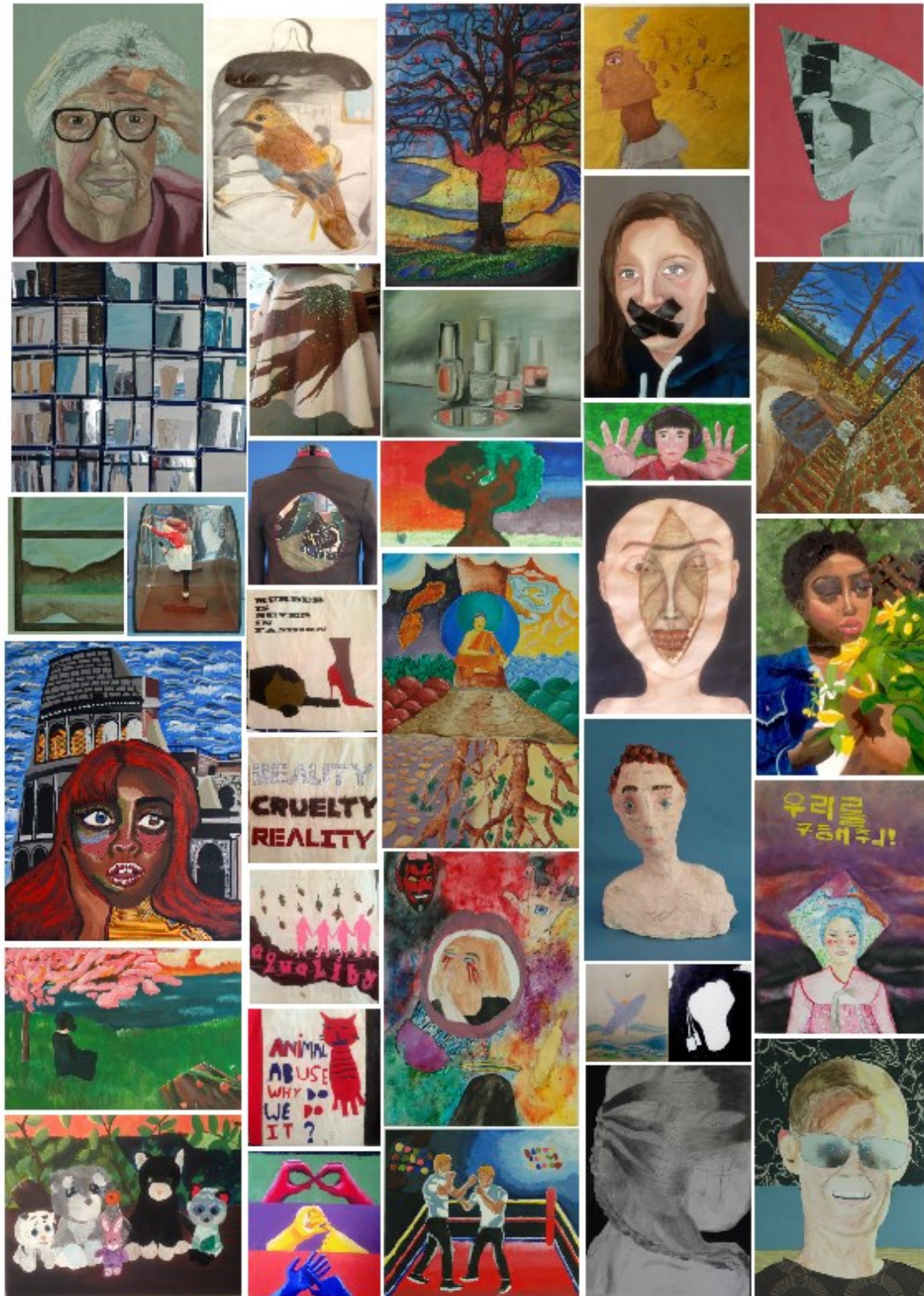


Save the Children®



Art

Year 11 GCSE ART 2019



POP ART CAKES

Pop Art was an exciting art movement celebrating life after the war years in Britain and America during the 1950s and 60s. The Pop artists found inspiration from the popular culture around them and explored this in their artwork. The Year 8 art students have created exciting ceramic Pop Art themed cakes with vivid glazed colours and stylized shapes all inspired by famous Pop Art artists like Roy Lichtenstein, Claus Oldenburg, and Wayne Thiebaud.

Keep a look out for the delicious looking Pop Art cakes on display around school. Well done to all the Year 8 pupils for your hard work, patience and creativity.



Sixth Form

Year 13 students have taken their external summer examinations. All students were fantastic throughout their exams and did themselves proud with their dedication and commitment to their revision.

Thursday 20 June was the Leavers' Assembly and BBQ for all Year 13 students to celebrate and reflect on their time at Astley Cooper. Students gathered in the school hall for a slideshow of memories over the last seven years before watching video messages from staff. Students received awards from their subject teachers before ending the assembly with a video montage of photos from their time here. They finished the day with a BBQ in the Sixth Form Centre. We would like to thank the students for organising the BBQ and cooking the food.

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

Results day is on **Thursday 15 August**. The school will be open from 10.00am. Please collect your results from the hall. Staff will be on hand to help with any issues and with clearing, should you need it.

UCAS Fair – University of Bedfordshire

On Friday 21 June all Year 12 students went to The University of Bedfordshire for the annual UCAS fair. This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 to start thinking about life Post 18. Students were able to speak to student ambassadors at over 100 universities including Russell Group Universities and local Universities such as University of Hertfordshire and gather information on university life and what courses are on offer. Students could also have a try at an interactive stall for courses such as Nursing, Sport and Criminology.

All our students found this day informative and enjoyable and are now using this information to help them with starting their UCAS applications during their PSHE sessions.



UCAS

Sixth Form

Year 11 into 12 Induction Day

Friday 28 June was our Sixth Form Induction Day for our Year 11 into 12 students. This day was a great opportunity for the students to see what life as a Sixth Former is like, ensure that they have chosen the correct subjects and to make sure that they are prepared for a positive start in September.



Students had an induction assembly before going to their taster subject lessons to find out about their course. Students also registered and had their photos taken for their Sixth Form lanyards ready for September. It was good to see so many Year 11s back for induction day all looking incredibly smart. There was a wonderful positive and happy atmosphere in and around the Sixth Form Centre during the day.

Bridging tasks and Registration

All students that registered on induction day received a code of conduct pack with all of our expectations of Sixth Form students as well as the dress code. This will need to be read and signed by both the student and parents. Please bring this with you on the first day in September.

If any students in Year 11 have a change of situation for next year and would like to apply to join our Sixth Form, please speak to Miss East on results day or on Tuesday 3 September when school starts.

All students who have applied to study A-Levels will need to ensure that they complete the bridging task for each subject they wish to study and return these to their subject teacher in September. Bridging tasks can be found on the website under the Sixth Form menu.



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Sixth Form

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Thursday 22 August is GCSE results day. School is open from 10.00am and there will be a number of staff around to support students. All students who applied for the Sixth Form must meet Miss East, Mr Lally or Mr O'Brien on results day.

For all information and to keep up to date with events in the Sixth Form, please follow our twitter page **@ACS_SixthForm**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Sixth Form students a lovely summer break. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Miss East
Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Dixon/ Mrs Houchin
Post 16 Pastoral Support Administrator

Key Dates

Year 12 only – Tuesday 3 September 2019

All students to meet in the Sixth Form Area at 8.25am. Please be on time and in the correct dress code. Students will only be required in school for P1, 2 and 3. There will be a welcome assembly, form group activities and timetable meetings.

Wednesday 4 September – ACS lessons start and, for students studying a subject at Adeyfield, lessons also start on this day.

Monday 9 September – Longdean lessons start for any student studying a subject there.

**Year 13 students are able to collect their timetables from 12.20pm on Tuesday 3 September ready for starting lessons on Wednesday 4 September*

PSHE



Pre-Apprenticeship Programme

Hertfordshire business leaders have named The Astley Cooper School top for Education in Employment in the County. The school's Pre-Apprenticeship Programme, that teaches Year 12 students all they need to know to be great employees, received the honour at the Chamber of Commerce annual awards ceremony held in St Albans Cathedral on Thursday 13 June. The Inspiring Herts Gala attended by a thousand business luminaires from companies across the region celebrates the contribution they make to the county's economy.

Astley Cooper proudly carried off the Education in Employment Award that recognises the pioneering work some educational institutions do to turn out work-ready young people who are equipped with the skills to dive right into the adult world. The judges singled out the Astley Cooper Programme for 'its progressive approach to vocational education, its impressive business contacts and the clear impression that everyone involved goes above and beyond to change the lives of the young people on the course.'

The Pre-Apprenticeship Programme is unique in the South of England. It combines classroom study for three BTECs in work related skills with a six-month two day a week work placement. The aim is to help the students win high quality apprenticeships and boost them into a great career. This year's graduates have secured apprenticeships in Human Resources, Business Administration, Plumbing, Hospitality and Social Care.

The course depends on the generosity of the school's partners from the local business community who are prepared to dedicate resources and staff to helping our young people reach their goals. These civic minded heroes include SWR, Quantum Care, Atlas Copco, The Marlowes, RSK, APEX 360, The Willow Foundation, Osborne, Dacorum Music School, Robert Dyas and Phoenix Property Services.

Assistant Headteacher at The Astley Cooper School, Thomas Lally, who received the award on behalf of the school, said:

'The course is inspirational. We have seen it transform the lives of our young people. I want to pay tribute to all the businesses that have helped us build the programme and to our staff who have made it such a success.'

Mr O'Brien
Pre - Apprenticeship Coordinator



PE department

The much anticipated school Sports Day took place on Tuesday 18 June. The rain just about stayed away to ensure students from all year groups participated in a range of keenly contested events in good spirits. As usual the tug of war was the biggest hit with students and spectators. All the races on the track were cheered on enthusiastically by the students who were desperate for their form groups to achieve success. The winners were:



7MG



8CMc



9KW



10AOG

On Friday 28 June a coach full of loud and excited students set off from school for the annual residential trip to Norfolk . Over the weekend, students took part in a variety of activities including high ropes, caving and problem solving as well as water sports such as canoeing and giant stand- up paddle boarding. The weather was extremely hot all weekend and so most students (and teachers!) were happy to fall into the lake to cool off. All of us had an enjoyable but tiring weekend and many completed challenges which they did not think they could do. We are already looking forward to next year.

Mr Gatenby
Subject Leader PE



District Sports Day

Wednesday 3 July was our District Sports Day. We took a number of students across all year groups to compete against all the schools in Dacorum at Jarman Park Athletics track. Despite the hot weather, the students all performed very well. A number of personal bests and school records were broken. The medal winners were as follows:

Year 8

Mason Cameron-Hart	Shot Put Gold
Naomi McGrory	Shot Put Gold
Josh Ford	Long Jump Bronze

Year 9

Dylan Kocel	Long Jump Silver
Abbie Hawkins	Discus Silver
Cameron Lane	Shot Put Bronze

Mr Gatenby
Subject Leader PE

Year 10/11

David Sarkodie	100m Bronze
Jaden Baker	Javelin Bronze
Jade - Ella Mitchell	Javelin Bronze
Casey Evans	200m Bronze
Casey Evans	Shot Put Bronze



Wimbledon

It was Day Three of Wimbledon, the action was hotting up and the temperature was starting to soar just in time for the Astley Cooper posse to roll into town. A dozen students were given the once in a life time chance to view the stars of world tennis in the flesh and sample the atmosphere at one of the most iconic tournaments in the world of sport.

The young people got to see a variety of matches on the outside courts while they waited for the main events. First up was the three-hour epic battle on Court 2 between the Swiss Stan Wawrinka and Riley Opelka the giant American, with a massive serve, standing tall at 6ft 11in. The advantage flowed back and forth throughout the match that went down to the wire. Sadly, our chosen hero Stanley was pipped at the post by eight games to six in the final set despite our whole group loudly cheering his every shot.

The whole team took turns with the two Centre Court tickets we were privileged to have received thanks to the Wimbledon raffle. The highlight of the action was the British main hope in the Men's Singles, Kyle Edmund. Unfortunately, he too succumbed to the blistering sunshine against the Spanish player, Fernando Verduco. Returning home on the train across London it was clear that the hot and tired but happy students had had a smashing day, one they will never forget.

Mrs Lee-Dell
PE Teacher



Headteacher's Commendations



May 2019

Abigail Monk 7MG

Alex Christie 8CMC

Rosie Wallace 9AW

Matthew Smith Kennedy 10AOG

Tiago Baia 11SE

Kamila Nachajova 12ELG



June 2019

Amalia Seeby 7VL

Alexandra Matei 8SK

Mercedes Bradding 9AW

Casey Evans 10AOG

Natasha Humphrey 12ELG



Awards Evening

Students of the Year

Abigail Monk - Year 7

Naomi McGrory - Year 8

Jessica Lancaster – Year 9

Diana Stefan - Year 10

Stephen Armitage -Year 11

Samuel Brown – Year 12

Katie Hollis - Year 13

Governors' Awards

Natasha Humphrey - Governors' Attendance Award

Ceridwen Gulmohamed - Governors' Community Award

Destiny Carnell - Governors' PE Award

Attendance

Attendance

Since our last *Newsletter*, I have had a number of interviews with Year 11 and Year 13 students for their college and University applications. These interviews demonstrated the importance of attendance and punctuality and raised how a student's attendance can have an impact on gaining a college or university place.

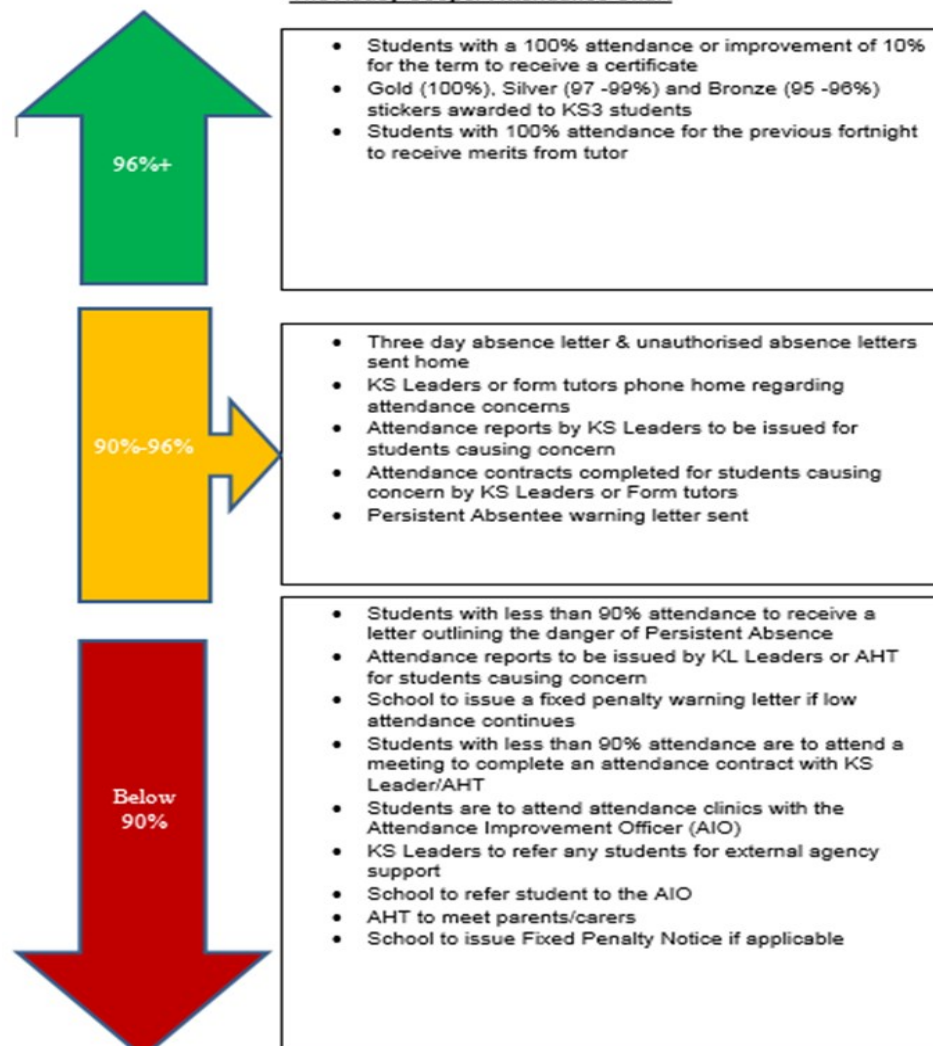
I have also met a number of local businesses as part of our award winning Pre-Apprenticeship Programme. Business leaders were discussing their expectation of students who leave school to be able to attend the workplace and be punctual.

I would like to thank all of the form representatives who have helped share our core values of Aspiration, Determination and Integrity, as well as congratulating the 224 students who have had 100% attendance this term. I hope you all enjoy the summer break.

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 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 since 2013. In exceptional circumstances the Headteacher may authorise requests for leave of absence sent to him in writing.

Home for Lunch Pass

If your child has a Home for Lunch Pass, please can we remind you they must present their pass every day when the leaving the school site for lunch. Without their pass, they will not be permitted to leave.

Please be aware, that students are not permitted to go out to the local shops. If they are caught out of school when they should not be, their lunch pass will be revoked. The pass is for the student to go home for lunch and return at 2.10pm

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 8.45am 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 Head of Year and Rebecca Porzio, (LAAO) Local Authority Attendance Officer.

Attendance continued

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.



Community



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- Access to outdoor area all day
- Carefully planned activities based on children's next steps
- Learning through play approach
- No additional or hidden fees
- Childcare vouchers, tax free childcare scheme, 2 and 3 year funding accepted
- Free settling in sessions
- Sessions 8:00-17:00
- Based in Chaulden



2 days per week - £357.50 per month
3 days per week - £536.25 per month
4 days per week - £715 per month
5 days per week - £893.75 per month



Contact Louise on 07794454115

littlepenguinschildcarehh@gmail.com

