

The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Friday 30th June 2017 - Issue 9



Headteacher's message

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many people to our Grand Opening last week. The event for me was further evidence of how the Academy sits at the very centre of our community here in Axminster. The students who took part across the course of the evening were a real credit to us and the open rehearsal for We Will Rock You built a genuine anticipation for what is going to be a fantastic school performance this year. If you haven't already done so, you can buy tickets for the performance, which runs between 10th-12th July, from our main reception.

We have reached that point again where the summer exam series is over for another year. I have nothing but admiration for our students who have prepared so well for their exams and I look forward with huge expectation for the August results. My thanks go to all of our parents and our wonderful exams team who, alongside our committed staff have really gone the extra mile to help the young people to do their very best.

We welcomed our new Year 7 cohort for September this week as the culmination of a transition programme that has been ongoing for nearly a year and next week we look forward to meeting the current Year 5 students who will become the new Axe Valley students in 2018.

You will see from the pages of this edition of the newsletter that there is a huge amount going on across the school and I would like to pay particular tribute to our athletes who acquitted themselves so well at the East Devon Championships this week. There is still so much to look forward to over the last three weeks of this term and I know that the varied programme of events will fit well with the requirement to continue pushing for academic excellence right up to the end of term.

Steven Green - Headteacher

Diary Dates - June 2017

Mon 3rd July - REACH visit to Trill Farm
Tue 4th July - Sports Day
Wed 5th July - Year 12 Induction Day
5th & 7th July - REACH Celebration Days
Thur 6th July - Year 11 Prom
Thur 6th July - Year 5 Information Evening
Fri 7th July - Year 5 Taster Day
Tue 11th July - Years 7 & 8 Prize Day
Tue 11th July - Year 7 Parents Evening
Wed 12th July - Years 9, 10 & 12 Prize Day
10th, 11th & 12th July - We Will Rock You - School Production
13th to 21st July - Ardeche Trip
Fri 14th July - Art Exhibition Preview Evening
17th & 18th July - Art Exhibition open to the public
19th and 20th July - Activity Days
Fri 21st July - End of Summer Term at 1.10pm





Axe Valley Academy

production of...

SCHOOLS

WILL ROCK YOU

THE MUSICAL * QUEEN * Ben Elton

Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th
and Wednesday 12th

July 2017

7:30pm

(doors open from 7:10pm)

NUMBERED SEATS

Ticket price:

Adult: £7.00 Child:/Concession: £4.00

presented by permission of www.schoolswillrockyou.com

Friday 14th July, evening - invitation only.

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th July - 10am - 2:30 pm

Open to the public in the main hall.

EXHIBITION

FINE ART
PHOTOGRAPHY
PRODUCT DESIGN
TEXTILES

Student Update

Stand Up To Bullying Day - 21st June 2017

Stand Up To Bullying Day is run by the Diana Award and sponsored by the Vodafone Foundation to raise awareness of bullying issues across all ages, communities and walks of life.

www.standuptobullying.co.uk

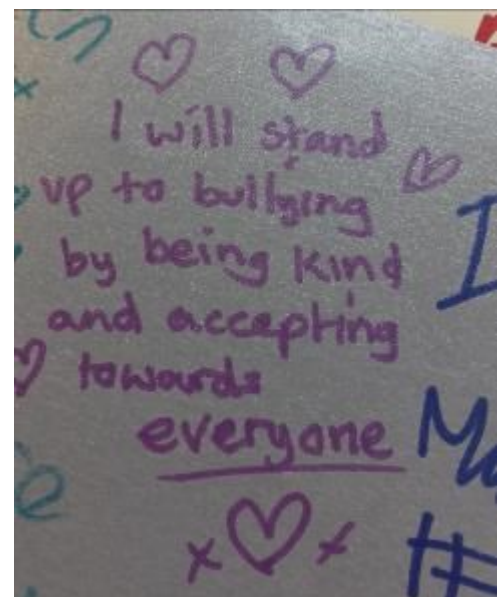
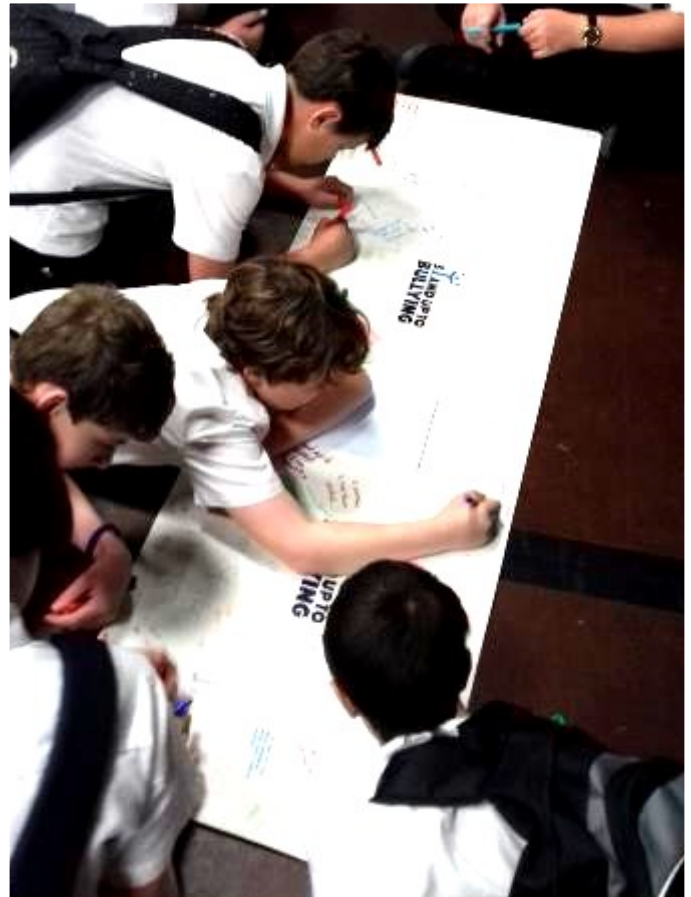
#standuptobullying

Axe Valley Academy has a team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who decided that to raise awareness of bullying and to mark Stand Up To Bullying day they would try to get every member of the Academy to write a pledge to help tackle bullying.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week, every student and member of staff at the Academy was invited to the new Black Box Theatre to write a pledge. Those pledges are going to be displayed around the school to remind everyone to always Stand Up to Bullying.

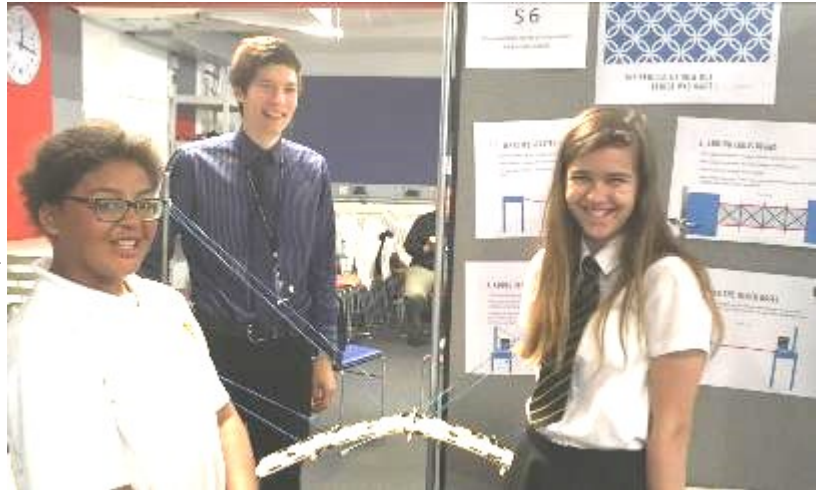
Ellie King (Year 9), one of the leading Anti Bullying Ambassador's said:

"I believe it's important to keep raising awareness of bullying and how it affects people. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team help people who are being teased or bullied and make them realise that there are people who can help them. We aim to change bullying types of behaviour and stop it from happening. We think that as a team it's really important to prevent bullying from happening and keep raising awareness. This project has been superb, we have collected over 650 pledges and we still have a few more students and staff to catch up with this week."



Big Bang Science and Engineering Fair

Year 8 and 9 students recently visited Exeter University for the Big Bang Science and Engineering Fair at Exeter University. The Sports Hall and huge marquee were filled with exhibitors for a variety of related industries from Civil engineers, Astro-physicists, medical research scientist as well as the armed forces. The students were able to talk to professionals as well as try out physical challenges.



Tyesha Augustin (Year 7) and Helga Hofrats (Year 9) under the guidance of their teacher Mr Chapman entered a STEM project that they have been working on this term into the Big Bang Schools Competition. The judges were impressed with their presentation and complimented their detailed research and efforts.



The students all attended a space workshop where they were challenged to create rockets, hover-craft and aeroplanes with circular wings. It was a fantastic day and the students commented:

"I enjoyed learning about aero-dynamics and how the future of travel could unfold"

"It was fun to learn about building bridges and weight distribution"

"I enjoyed competing in the show and I liked talking to the engineers"

"The Space Dome was brilliant, it made me feel like I was actually in space!"

"I enjoyed seeing how science can be applied to the real world."



Sixth Form Update

This half-term has been dominated by examinations and students have been focussed on their revision, preparation and ultimately sitting their exams. All students are to be commended on their positive approach to both this exam period and for others the completion of coursework for BTECs during the last few weeks. Well done to all of you, along with the support from your families, for your resilience and perseverance and we all look forward to celebrating your achievements on results day 17th August. Special mention goes to Jack Bennett and Amber Hales who presented the best set of revision resources and won two prom tickets for their excellent effort.

Thursday 29th June was a joint celebration for students being the end of examinations and prom night at Hornsbury Mill. A big thank you to the Prom organising committee led by Lily and Jess who made the venue look stunning and ensured that those who attended had a night to remember.



During this busy half-term special mention goes out to James Windsor who starred as Mickey in the Axminster Drama Club youth section of Blood Brothers and by all accounts a worthy contender for best actor. It is important to wish good luck to all 6th Formers involved in the school production '**We Will Rock You**' which is looking and sounding incredible – make sure you get your tickets quickly.

Another student who deserves a mention is Callum Wood who selflessly rescued a young lady who was caught in a 'rip tide' near Seaton Harbour. Secondly Callum recently represented Devon in shot put at the South West Athletics Championship and finished a very creditable 4th place.

The Year 13's have now left and so the Year 12's take up the mantle of being senior year group. Next week Year 12 will be on work experience at various locations and we look forward to visiting and hearing how they've utilised their time.

Induction day for new year 12 students takes place on Wednesday 5th July and the Year 12 Celebration Assembly takes place Wednesday 12th July.

Good luck to all Year 13 leavers please keep in contact with the school. Year 12's, have an enjoyable summer, try and build on your experiences to make you stand out even more, remember you need to return to school prepared to hit the ground running. From all the Sixth Form team have a great summer we look forward to working with you all in September.





Ex-student gives back to Axe Valley Academy

Ex-student Thomas Lowe left Axe Valley Academy Sixth Form in 2016 after securing fantastic grades at A level. Thomas was an exceptional student who achieved an A* grade in Mathematics, and A grade in Further Mathematics and a B grade in Chemistry. We celebrate the success of our Year 11 and Year 13 students annually through our Presentation Evening in September, where parents and carers celebrate academic achievement and effort alongside the staff and their students. As a dedicated and hardworking young man who worked tirelessly to exceed his target grades Thomas had been awarded three awards. Unfortunately he had already begun his mathematics degree at Exeter University and was unable to attend the evening.

Thomas has returned to Axe Valley after completing the first year of his degree successfully in order to give back to the school through the summer term. He has been supporting in lessons and completing tuition and intervention work with students, including Year 11, in order to help them with their examinations. The staff and students alike have been delighted to have Thomas back and have been thrilled with his fantastic contribution to our school community.

As a thank you for his work this term we were able to celebrate his achievements and finally award him his Presentation Evening awards in person. He was awarded the Mary Cleare Cup for Further Mathematics where the maths department cited that he is "the outstanding Mathematics student of the last 10 years. We have never seen anyone as determined to succeed, as willing to work and as willing to help others". This has certainly been true with the huge contribution he has made back to the school this term. Dr Parkes awarded Thomas the Joy Hull Plate for Chemistry stating that he "ended reaching way above his targets and we will be eternally proud of his optimism, dedication and logical scientific mind". Mrs Collins awarded Thomas the Ruth Coghlan Award for SEN and her citation shows how proud we are of Thomas and his achievements. "He has always been an integral part of our school community and he has, along the way, grown into one of the most delightful young men we have had the pleasure to work with. Thomas has made us so very proud and we know he is destined for great things".

Mr Green wanted to thank Thomas for all that he has contributed to the school community, and on behalf of the staff wish him the very best of luck for his future.

Sports Update

Athletics

Report from 10th June: At last - a dry athletics event! It certainly helped some of our competitors at the County Championships at Exeter on Saturday.

Top achievements of the day go to:

Callum Wood (Year 12) - who won the Senior Boys Shot Put to become Devon County Champion!! Callum will now compete for Devon at the South West Championships next Saturday at Exeter Arena



Leo Weir (Year 7) - who won the Minor Boys 100m in a blistering 13.18secs and was clearly ahead of the rest of the field to become Devon County 100m Champion BUT he wasn't finished there....he then went on to jump 4m75cm in the long jump to once again take top spot and become DOUBLE County Champion. This is an AMAZING achievement and hopefully Leo will now look to attend Exeter Harriers athletics club to start refining his raw talent.

Poppy Tooze achieved a personal best and broke the school record again as well as gaining herself a creditable 4th place in Devon at the 80m Hurdles.

Will House also achieved a personal best (and more importantly faster than his brother at the same age!!) as he was also placed 4th in Devon at 400m.

Isabelle Coman (javelin) Kieran Downton (discus) Caitlin Tooze (880m) and Samidi Nanayakkara (200m) all worked hard in their events but were up against some high quality competition on the day. Continued training and remaining focussed for next season could well see these and other athletes moving forward again next year. This has already been our most successful season with regards to individual success.

Inter Area Championships: There were some excellent results from individuals - many 1st/2nd/3rd positions and records broken amongst the boys and the girls. A particular well done must go to the Year 9 girls team who rose to the challenge of improving on their 3rd place from last year by securing 2nd overall!! - Next year girls!

Exact achievements will be published next week once official results have been received and records checked.

A huge thank you to Sandie Tregale, Mandy McDonagh and Jack Ward for their support all day with overseeing the students whilst PE staff and additional helpers (well done Year 9 girls) were running the events - it can't be done without this vital support. Thank you to Jenny Stockton for holding the fort back in school.

I'm sure the achievements will help to boost the performances and atmosphere for next week's sports day.

Mrs T Moran - P.E. Department

REACH



Hair and Beauty taster workshop

Kate and Matt trainers from E-Hairdressing visited us last Tuesday to work with the students on a variety of hair and beauty skills to give them an idea of what training to work in this industry would be like.

The students were given demonstrations of fishtail braiding, beach waves styling and non-permanent colouring which they were then able to try out on the mannequins and each other. The students really enjoyed the challenges and were inspired by the hands-on creativity and the individual style they were able to demonstrate. Many thanks to the e-hairdressing team and we look forward to seeing them again soon.



Trill Farm Visit

On a beautiful sunny afternoon we were invited to meet Romy Fraser owner of Trill Farm and founder of Neals Yard Remedies. She introduced the students to the concept of organic farming and the way in which Trill is able to support specialist farmers and other related businesses.

Jake gave us a tour and talked to us about his livestock, cattle and sheep bred for their meat, and how his methods support the land as well as kindly care for healthy animals. Ash showed us his market garden and poly-tunnels and explained how his business worked selling salads, vegetables and flowers to local restaurants and markets.



ASPIRE



Visit to Oxford University

ASPIRE students and students from Holyrood Academy combined to visit Exeter College at Oxford University. Despite the rain the students were able to get an essence of the atmosphere of Oxford as they mingled with the students and professors.

Philosophy and History students gave us some insight to the realities of Oxford life and gave us a tour of the communal areas, the chapel, common room, lecture halls and seminar rooms, before we were invited to lunch in the college dining hall. After lunch the students had a taster session with one of the professors as well as a overview of the courses on offer and the academic requirements needed to secure a place.

The students left totally inspired by the passionate teaching as well as the down-to-earth attitude of the team.

Primary Arts Carousel

Year 5 and 6 students from our feeder primary school visited us last week to explore the arts and try out lessons at secondary school. With Mr Jevons the music teacher the students were introduced to the steel pans and within an hour were all able to join in playing the uplifting and catchy tune "Bamboleo". They even had the opportunity to perform in front of an audience of Year 10s who were very impressed.

In the Art Department with Mr Bowskill the students were shown the technique of paint dragging and using graduated colour overlays to create impressive landscape effects. The results were really exciting and the students had fantastic messy fun.

Lastly in the Drama Department the students worked with Mr Selby to use their ingenuity and creativity to perform a series of mime pieces of everyday situations affected by the weather. The day was extremely fun and the students worked extremely hard to produce some fantastic results.





Residential visit to Eden Project

Students were greeted with the sombre news that in their lifetime our planet will suffer a 2 or 3°C average temperature rise leading to more droughts in Southern Europe and milder, but stormy Northern Europe. Rather than be deflated by that they eagerly set about the two tasks of using the Biodome resources to start planning changes to farming habits to plan for this, and to reduce further temperature rises by demonstrating the versatility of solar power - they built a solar powered robot.



In addition they found time to learn Rainforest tribal skills and research new disease threats that climate change could bring. After all that hard work they slept in YHA eco-pods made from recycled shipping containers! The future seems safe in their hands!

