

The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Friday 2nd February 2018 - Issue 3



Year 11 Leader, Ms Sloman addressing students at their PPE results Assembly

Headteacher's message

As ever, there's a huge variety of events and activities to report on as we near the halfway point in the school year. The pages that follow include articles on academic achievement, sporting success, charity fundraising and volunteering and a fantastic range of trips and visits.

Our Year 13 students are completing their pre-public examinations and our Year 11 students are fully engaged in their countdown revision. The new mentoring programme is now well established and I have been really impressed to see so many students engaging in lunchtime and after school intervention work to close any knowledge gaps. I am so grateful to the staff body for volunteering their time so freely to support the young people in this way.

We are working on a project to reduce missed learning opportunities through improving punctuality and I am confident that with a renewed focus on ensuring that every lesson always begins on time, we can continue to make the marginal gains that will help support young people in the long term. It is often the case that as the year goes on, standards can start to slip and I am very keen to ensure that we maintain high expectations in regards to uniform and presentation. A positive attitude to learning begins with a desire to squeeze as much out of every day as possible, and having pride in the quality of work that is produced in every lesson.

Thank you for continuing to support the school in our efforts to keep raising standards.

Steven Green - Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wed 7th Feb - Year 7 Bowling Trip
Thur 8th Feb - ASPIRE visit to Bristol University
12th to 16th Feb - Half Term
Wed 21st Feb - ASPIRE Book Club
Thur 22nd Feb - Chinese Workshop
Fri 23rd Feb - Double Elephant Printing Workshop
Wed 28th Feb - Year 8 Options Evening
Thur 1st March - Careers Fair
Wed 7th Mar - Exeter University Languages event
Fri 9th Mar - Concert at Powderham Castle
Fri 9th March - Theatre visit Woman in Black
Wed 14th Mar - Big Bang Science Fair at NEC
15 to 16th Mar - Bristol Arts Residential
Thur 22nd Mar - Visit to Exeter Law Courts
Fri 30th Mar - Start of Easter Holidays



Student Update



Love Joess in the Canteen

On the 9th January the canteen opened a new dining room that has been refitted and decorated to provide students with an additional alternative to the usual canteen service. They are now serving the delicious Love Joe's products that include a range of chicken based dishes.

The students are delighted with the new range of choices including marinated chicken burritos, chicken skewers and chicken wraps in a variety of flavours all served with fresh salad, coleslaw and a choice of sauces. All the products are carefully designed to be packed with flavour as well as to be presented to students in a way that is appealing and to encourage them to have a balanced diet.

Art

Year 9 have been working hard in Art studying the work of Salvador Dali. Featured is an outstanding artwork in chalk and charcoal by Chelsea White, inspired by the melting objects in his paintings.

Mr Petty - Art Department





Year 8 Ecosystem Project

In December, my Year 8 Geography groups handed in their Ecosystem projects and I was amazed by the wonderful pieces of art that had been created. Their brief was to create a piece of Ecosystem art and to think outside the box. Many did quite the opposite and thought very much inside the box – especially the shoe box as you can see from the photographs.

The work has been used in a display in C8 so make sure you have a look next time you are in the C Block. Thanks to all the students for their fantastic effort with this project and remember “Geography Rocks”!

Mr Horn - Year Leader & Geography Teacher



Production News

Rehearsals for our next school show are now underway. We will be performing "Annie" on 16th, 17th & 18th July.

Mr Jevons and I were impressed with the quality of students' auditions which made casting a very difficult process but we are looking forward to working with everyone over the coming months to achieve another roaring success.

Mr Selby - Drama Teacher

Annie

is coming soon!

German Exchange

In November, a group of Year 9 and 10 students took part in the German Exchange visit to Kirchweyhe (near Bremen). As a member of staff new to the school, I was delighted with the students' enthusiasm, willingness and bravery in putting their German language skills to good use. The students were active participants in a variety of lessons in the school (KGS Kirchweyhe) and some of our students were identified by the German teachers as being extremely competent in various subject areas, including Physics and Maths.

English and German students engaged in a number of discussions, sharing thoughts, ideas and opinions about the different school systems, Christmas traditions and Brexit. If given the choice, most English students would have voted to remain in the EU with all German students stating they would definitely have voted to remain.

There was a mixed response about the preference for either the German or the English school systems, with the topics of school uniform and Sitzenbleiben being hotly debated!

A range of activities took place throughout the week both locally and further afield in Bremen and Hamburg:

- Kaffee und Kuchen (Traditional coffee and cake)
- A tour of the medieval town hall
- A visit to the Christmas markets
- A chocolate museum in Hamburg
- The Hamburg Dungeon
- Laser Tag
- A musical performance at a local school

Students formed strong relationships with partners and other German friends and many have been in frequent contact since returning home. We are all looking forward to our visitors returning to England and coming to Axe Valley Academy at the end of April.

Congratulations must go to all students who took part. They were an absolute pleasure to be with and their impeccable behaviour was commented upon by other passengers on the plane when we landed at Bristol when coming home.

Vielen Dank und bis zum nächsten Mal!

Mrs Sheen - Languages Teacher



Christmas Concert



The Christmas Concert was held in the Minster Church and as always was well attended by students, staff, parents and the community. As well as the favourite carols sung by everyone, the School Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Rock School all performed a wide variety of Christmas songs. Both the Year 8 and the Year 10 Steel bands also played and there were a variety of solo performances.

Holly Smith's rendition of Come Unto Him (from Handel's Messiah) was a highlight as was Emanuel sung by Caitlin Lindsay accompanied by Katie Burnett on the flute.

Well done to all that took part in the fabulous performances that set the mood for the festive season.

Thanks to students and staff that gave readings, to staff that accompanied students and to the ladies of the PTFA who provided refreshments.

Mr Jevons - Subject Leader
for Music



Fundraising

Vector Learning Trust raises over £2500 to help the homeless

This Christmas, Axe Valley Academy and Holyrood Academy joined forces to raise an amazing total to help take care of those in need during the Christmas week.

Each tutor group was challenged to raise the £26.08 it takes to secure a place for one person to be looked after during the Christmas week through the Crisis at Christmas appeal. Many tutor groups far exceeded this target with creative fundraising events such as sponsored crutch walking, sponge the teacher, gunge the sixth former, silences, cake sales, car washes and crossbar challenges to name but a few.

Both schools were alive with excitement and Christmas goodwill and it was amazing to see the commitment of our students to helping others.



The staff got involved too, with a group of teachers from both schools cycling overnight to raise awareness of homelessness, some individuals covered a massive 200km in what was a gruelling but rewarding experience.

Dave MacCormick, Vice Principal, said 'I was absolutely delighted to pay such a fantastic amount of money into Crisis' account this Christmas and help so many people. The students at both schools worked incredibly hard to raise money to help those less fortunate and many gave their time and money generously to make a difference. We are so proud of what they achieved. The teachers who endured a mammoth overnight bike ride also deserve huge

credit. They all stepped out of their comfort zones to teach our students a really important lesson about putting others first.'

Christmas Food Bank Challenge

An enormous thank you to everyone involved in the Foodbank Challenge. Your generosity resulted in the Foodbank in Seaton being stocked for the next 3 months!!

In addition to the food collected in class, Greg Horn and the Year 9's also donated a massive £200 which the ASDAN team spent in Tesco topping up on cleaning products and Christmas crackers.

The team were a credit to the school when they delivered all the items to the Foodbank in Seaton before Christmas. They showed maturity and sympathy as they interacted with the Foodbank crisis management team.

Thank you again one and all.

Mrs Rutherford - Learning Support Co-ordinator



Sixth Form Update

Now Christmas is a distant memory members of our 6th Form are focused on sitting their PPE's in Year 13, with mock result day taking place on Monday 19th February and Year 12's investigating opportunities for work experience taking place in July.

It has been a busy half term with Year 13 students applying for University places meeting the recent UCAS deadline and at the same time continuing to study for exams. The courses applied for range from Law to Games Development all requiring personal statements of the highest quality written by students with the support and guidance of Mr Knott. It has been a very productive process with the majority receiving offers from their preferred choice of University and some even receiving unconditional offers. Well done to you all.

On Wednesday 31st January a group of students travelled to the National Apprenticeship Show taking place at Westpoint Arena in Exeter.

Students were able to visit various companies, the Armed services and County Council information stalls to ask questions regarding future employment opportunities.

It was clear by some of the reactions witnessed that it was a very positive experience but for others it has provided more to consider and reflect upon.

Congratulations go to Sam Morton for being selected by an interview process to represent the local Rotary Club on the leadership course (RYLA) taking place at Oakhampton in July. A big thank you to Jim Reaney (Rotary Club) for this opportunity and his help in the interview process.



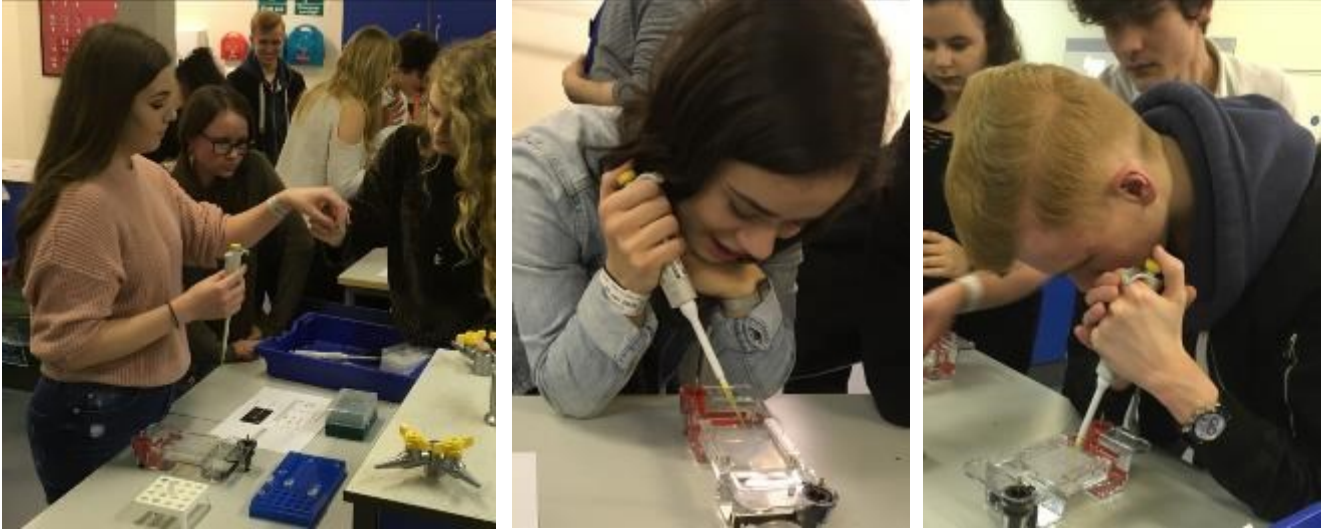
Well done to Amelia Speers and Will House who have been selected as the Academy's representatives to attend the Lessons from Auschwitz programme 2018. The Academy and local area will be interested to hear your presentations about your experience.

To all the 6th Form students who volunteer in lessons mentoring other students, giving their assistance to organise students when injections are being administered, those students who have refereed and coached at football tournaments it is very much appreciated by all in the Academy and wider community. Thank you.

Finally I would like to inform all Year 13 parents that following mock results day on Tuesday 20th there will be an '**Exam Success**' parents evening to present and share strategies to support students in the lead up to their exams.

Mr D Owen - Sixth Form Leader

Science Workshop



A Question of Taste - DNA Workshop

On Wednesday 24th January, Mrs Bishop and Mrs Jenkins accompanied the Year 12 and 13 A level Biology students to a DNA workshop at "We The Curious" in Bristol. Over 2,500 students take part in this popular PCR workshop for Post 16 students each year.

This full-day laboratory-based workshop explored an unusual human trait - whether you can taste a bitter chemical PTC. Using DNA extraction, PCR and gel electrophoresis, students investigated their own DNA to discover if they possess the bitter taste gene. The social and moral implications surrounding these genetic technologies were also discussed.

A good day was had by all and the staff were very impressed with our students saying they were the best group they had ever had.

Mrs Bishop—Subject Leader of Science



Sports Update

Rugby

Congratulations to the U14 School Rugby Team who finished Runners-Up in the Exeter & East Devon Plate Final against Okehampton College.

We went 5-0 up in the first 10 minutes and were then unable to get the ball down over the line with a couple strong breaks by Beck Finnemore. Okehampton then stole a try just before half time making it 5-7. The second half was evenly contested but Okehampton were the only team to score again just before the final whistle. Final score 5-12.

To help raise motivation and gain a good start I said I would take them all to 'Costa' if they scored in the first 10 minutes of the game.....that was costly!

The team comprised: Joe Richardson, Beck Finnemore, Harry Lawrence, Billy Gaits, Finley Livings, Will Grogan, Charlie England, James Lacey, Sam Seale, Miles Akeroyd, Ben Price, Jack Moore, Theo Souttar-Stone. The boys played with great spirit and I am looking forward to seeing them perform even better in the upcoming Exeter & East Devon 7s competition in March.

Mr T Davies - Year Leader & PE Teacher



U12 Girls Football

The Axe Valley Academy U12 girls football team progress undefeated to represent East Devon in the county finals in May. Axe Valley came up trumps against competitors The King's School, Exmouth College and Sidmouth College over two tournaments. The tournaments were hosted in November 2017 and January 2018 by Axe Valley.

It was the first time the U12 girls had played in competitive matches as a team. The girls truly did Axe Valley proud, their team spirit and work rate being excellent throughout. A special mention goes to Captain Kayla Froom, who scored all of the team's goals and led the team brilliantly. Ellie Carter in goal and Chirathi Nanayakkara in defence were also instrumental in ensuring only one goal was conceded during the tournaments. With three months to train as a team, we are all very excited to see how this team will continue to blossom. Bring on the Devon finals in May!

U16 Girls Football

The U16 girls football team were in action at Exmouth competing in an East Devon 7-a-side Tournament. They played four games and won all four with every member of the squad working hard till the last whistle showing their resilience and passion to do well. Members of the squad included: Sophie Sharp, Megan Wooldridge, Devon Ellis, Min Dack, Poppy Hill, Issy Coman, Amy Hoare, Jessie Holmes and Freya Hope-Board.

MVP (Most Valued Player) was awarded to Min Dack who has one cracking left foot and came away from the match with the Golden Boot Award as she scored the most goals. We await to see if we progress into Europe or another level of competition.



Mr Owen - Sixth Form Leader and PE Teacher



PE STARS

in December and January



WHO?

WHY?

Boys:

Chester Smith—Great question in Fitness
Issac Smith—Good knowledge in Fitness
Brad Bolton—Best Spotty Dog Mr Scott has ever seen
Simon Herbert—Helpfulness in lessons
Jack Moore—Progress in Hockey
Lewis Smithurst—Effort in Fitness
Morgan Locke—Effort in PE
George Summers—Great tactical Dodgeball play
Max Morgan—Commitment and effort in Football
Noah Payne—Super technique in Swimming
George Gait—Commitment and effort in PE
Will Sydenham—Commitment and effort in PE
Charlie Board—Commitment and effort in PE
Corbin Cox—Positive attitude
Ellis Hancock—Great participation and team spirit
Jack White—Effort in PE
Simon Herbert—Effort in PE
Ben Bush—Excellent team play

Brad Croton—Commitment and effort

Brad Conway—Great participation and team spirit

WHO?

WHY?

Girls:

Lydia Josko— A beautiful pass in Netball
Hollie Jackson—Brilliant knowledge in Badminton
Ella Downe-Parkes—Excellent team play Badminton
Rebecca Smitham—Excellent team play Badminton
Sophie Wallis—Excellent team play Badminton
Alisha Meaker—Positive attitude in Badminton
Leanne Coalter—Excellent team play Badminton
Amber Cope—Fantastic participation in Volleyball
Ellie Best—Fantastic participation in Volleyball
Eve Hoare—Brilliant Badminton & movement
Kayla Froom—wonder goals in Football
Leticia Beardsley—great attitude and team spirit
Gemma Cleal—extremely helpful
Gemma Swift—extremely helpful

U13 East Devon Indoor Sports hall Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 24th January our U13 Indoor Athletic squad competed in the above competition held at King's School, Ottery St Mary. The events ranged from sprinting, hurdling, speed bounce, standing long jump and putting the shot. The students took part in all the field events and their scores were added together to give an overall team score. There were some excellent performances from all the students both in the field and on the track.



All tried their best and were a credit to the school with notable mentions going to Evie Rodgers (for Passion) and Finn Booth (for Teamwork) who each gained a prize for their efforts.

East Devon Cross-Country Championships



Careers

CAREERS FAIR

Axe Valley Academy will be holding their next Careers Fair on Thursday 1st March. A wealth of local businesses and organisations have already signed up to attend on the day, all willing to share their knowledge of the employment market with the students, parents and members of the community.

It is a unique opportunity to learn more about the world of work, to inspire and motivate and to help map out future career paths.

Doors open at 3.30pm and close at 6.30pm. All are welcome. Enquiries telephone: 01297 630372.

If you know of an organisation that would like to be part of this exciting event please contact Anita Whipp on the above number.



National Citizen Service

We welcomed the NCS team to assembly so they could launch an amazing opportunity for all Year 11 school leavers in the summer. NCS in the South West is run by Exeter City's Community Trust and they have designed a 3 week programme aimed at 15 to 17 year olds living in England and their aims are "to make extraordinary friendships, learn the skills they don't teach you in class and create unforgettable memories."

The 3 week programme starts after the GCSE exams and week 1 involves a 5 day residential in the Brecon Beacons in Wales. Living in a festival style campsite, students will have the opportunity to take part in a range of outdoor activities. Week 2 is a 5 day residential at Bicton College where they experience a series of practical activities and workshops aimed at getting them ready for Post-16 study and independent living. The final week involves students working in teams to create a community action event.

The cost of the course is £50 but students received a £10 voucher so could have all of these amazing opportunities for just £40. All transport and food is included in the cost. They have already received information packs and lots of them were really excited to get involved.

For further details go to their website www.ncsefltrust.co.uk



ASPIRE

Exeter University Language Project

This term ASPIRE will be working with Exeter University Languages Faculty to give students a taster of a variety of languages in workshops at school culminating in a celebration day at the University.

Portuguese was the first language tackled with lecturer Carla Azevedo. The students learnt how to introduce themselves and to talk about their favourite hobbies. They also enjoyed a quiz about Portuguese and Brazilian culture.

PhD Student Edward Mills visited us last week to give a workshop on French and particularly the development of French and English dating back to Medieval times. The students looked at examples of French manuscripts and designed their own versions in similar style focusing on using the imperative form of verbs.



Wood Turning Workshops

Colwin Way and Ben Beddows from Axminster Tools and Machinery Skill Centre have been working with our students creating beautiful pens.

The students from Years 7 & 8 were shown how to use the industrial lathes and wood turning tools to convert raw blocks of wood into elegant pen barrels which they then polished and assembled.

Each of the workshops had students fully absorbed in their creations. As we walked out of the centre one of the students remarked "I am so unbelievably happy right now!". They all behaved in an exemplary way and were inspired and proud of their achievements.





Norman Lockyer Observatory Visit

On the 24th January a group visited the Norman Lockyer Observatory for a discussion about astronomy with expert David Strange.

The students were then given a tour of the famous telescopes in the Observatory buildings and visited the computer room where they learnt about comets, the aurora borealis and shooting stars.

Lastly we enjoyed the Planetarium show with detailed explanations of the size and structure of the night sky.



Skills for Success Workshop

The latest in our series of Skills for Success workshops was Time Management with David Lacey from Low Carbon, a renewable energy investment company.

David talked to the students about the importance of time management skills, not only in the planning of our daily and weekly schedules but also in our attention management skills. In other words being mindful of the distractions of emails, mobile phones and social media etc that cause us to procrastinate in our tasks as well as

not perform to our best ability.

He highlighted the importance of being honest about the time it takes to achieve our goals and to be efficient with our time so that we can hit a balance in our lives. The students prepared plans of their weekly routines and discussed clever ways of managing homework and tasks.

Looking ahead...

8th February	Bristol University visit
21st February	Book Club
22nd February	Chinese Workshop
23rd February	Double Elephant Printing Workshop
7th March	Exeter University visit

8th March	Primary Maths Workshop
9th March	Powderham Castle Concert
14th March	Big Bang Science Fair at NEC
15-16 March	Bristol Arts Residential
22nd March	Exeter Law Courts

Mrs K Pemberton - ASPIRE Co-ordinator

Community Page

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2018

ORGANISED BY HONITON CAMERA CLUB

www.honitoncameraclub.co.uk



Age groups: 8-11 or 12-16

SUBJECT: WILDLIFE OR PETS

Up to three entries per person, size 7 x 5 in.
either colour or black and white prints.

Each photograph must have a title and the name,
age and contact number of the entrant.

Please send your entries to
Mrs. J. Stephens, Sidbury Mill, Sidbury, Sidmouth EX10 0RE
before 31st March 2018.

Free entry - Must be your own work unaided.
No late entries can be accepted.

All entries (subject to the discretion of the judges) will be exhibited at the
Prize Giving at The Gallery, Sidbury Mill, Sidbury, on
Saturday 5th May at 2 pm

All exhibitors, with a parent/guardian are invited.
No unaccompanied children please.

PRIZES of £60, £40, £20 for the 3 winners in each group

Axe Valley Academy
invites you to

**English Poetry
and Song Recital**

Black Box Theatre
23rd February 2018 at 6pm

Tickets available on Reception



The Clock is ticking. It's nearly opening time for Sidmouth's newest Restaurant and Cakery!

The transformation at the much-loved Clock Tower Cafe is well underway and in just one week the brand new Clock Tower Cakery and Restaurant will be opening its doors.

On February 2nd, from 6pm the launch of the new Clock Tower Restaurant commences, followed on Friday the 3rd at 9.30am by The Cakery which will be offering all the traditional favourites such as fantastic cakes, super yummy and delicious scones just ready for cream and jam, coffees and teas. Breakfast and tasty lunch choices, including some fantastic new options for vegetarians and vegans. 9.30am- 4pm daily.

Owner/Director Stewart Fraser commented, "We're really passionate about our family run business and we're looking forward to seeing everyone when we open again. The Cakery will be the same, but better! Our new restaurant will really be something a bit special! It's an exciting time!"

In the evenings from 6pm Thursdays to Sundays, The Clock Tower Restaurant will be open with its casual and relaxed take on fine dining. Diners can look forward to sitting in stunning surroundings, informal & cosy atmosphere, super service with locally sourced produce and wonderful plates of food; prepared to the highest of professional standards under the charge of new Head Chef, Yves.

Some tempting dishes on the menu include Black pudding with foie gras, flambéed cognac chanterelle mushrooms; Roasted aubergine with pesto, pine nuts, couscous & salad. Sweets to live for inc; Tonka bean and vanilla crème brûlée with apricot sorbet & chilli chocolate emulsion; Black Forest fondant with black cherry compote, vanilla cream & baby white chocolate truffles.

Book an evening table, take your seat and prepare to be amazed and delighted by what this exciting new venture has to offer.



Valentine's & Opening night; sorry we're full!

Sunday 11th March - Mother's Day lunch from 12 noon, and dinner from 6pm. Available to book now.

Restaurant Bookings call 01395 515319, email info@clocktowersidmouth.co.uk,
or book online at www.clocktowersidmouth.com