

The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Thursday 29th March 2018 - Issue 4



Axe Valley Academy Choir singing at the Spring Concert yesterday

Headteacher's message

Who would have thought that we'd have three days of school closure in March in Devon due to snow? Although it still doesn't feel particularly spring-like, despite the interruptions we come to the end of what has been a very successful term. Whilst our year 11 and 13 students in particular have been fully involved in their revision and pre-public examinations, the whole school has been fully committed to making good progress, in every lesson, every day.

We have done a great deal of work over the past year or so to try to ensure that we recognise the contribution of students who make no fuss, but who do the right things day in and day out. The development of ClassCharts and our commitment to rewarding effort and achievement has meant that our students are being recognised for their contributions more than ever before. It is great to see so many of our students wearing their bronze, silver, gold and even platinum badges with such pride. We have also this term started to promote the students' academic, social and sporting achievements more widely on social media. If you don't already, please do start to follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

The pages of this newsletter are of course full of those extra special things that make Axe Valley such a varied and interesting place to study. Events such as our Spring concert or our Sport Relief week, where we raised over £1,200 for good causes are bound to grab the headlines. However, I want to pay tribute to our average student, the student who is here on time, every day, willing and ready to learn with an enthusiasm for making the most of every opportunity.

I look forward to a summer term of continued success, where we continue to be the sort of community that celebrates the achievements of everyone, so that no one goes unnoticed.

I trust that you all have a great Easter break.

Steven Green - Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 16th Apr - Start of Summer Term
Wed 25th Apr - Big Bang Science Fair in Exeter
Fri 27th Apr - MET Office Science Camp
Fri 4th May - Talk the Talk ASPIRE workshop
Mon 7th May - Bank Holiday
Wed 9th May - ASPIRE Book Club
Thu 10th May - Year 10 Parent's Evening
Fri 11th May - Year 8 STEM Competition
14th to 18th May - Year 10 Work Experience
Wed 23rd May - Oxford University Visit
Thu 24th May - Year 7 Exeter University Visit
28th May to 1st June - Half term
30th May to 2nd Jun - ASPIRE French trip



Celebration Assemblies



Year 7

It was a real pleasure as always to be part of the Year 7 end of term Celebration Assembly. This is a year group which continues to show huge promise and have made a superb start to their time at the school.

The year group have performed brilliantly in the rewards and recognitions system and it was a delight to give out so many Gold and Platinum certificates. It is a testament to their positive attitude and work ethic that teachers are recognising their efforts in such quantities.

The ever competitive Tutor Group awards for Attendance and Positive points were shared in a closely fought contest between 7RW and 7STP. We did however also make note that not only had all 4 tutors again picked up more 2000 positive points each this term but they also made up the top 4 tutor groups in the school.

The Head of Year award was presented to Morgan Locke for his excellent attitude to his studies and kindness to others. The Headteacher award was given to Sky Bromfield for her excellent study skills including perseverance (the theme of this term's awards) positive attitude and behaviour. Sky has also still not picked up a single negative point during her two terms at school. Congratulations to both of them.

Congratulations Year 7 on another great term.
Mr R Carr - Year 7 Leader





Year 8

Our second term's assembly was full of excellent achievements and outstanding participation. Particular mention should go to Tia Parfitt and Issy Simpson who both achieved an astonishing three achievement awards each.

The Year Leader award for Year 8 went to Cody Patch who has had a very successful time of late showing that determination and perseverance pay off.

Issy Simpson received the Head teacher award for achieving numerous badges: silver, gold and platinum.

Our award winners are:

8EB - Roberta Allis and Owen Enticott

8ED - Theo Souttar Stone and Amy Zwickl

8DF - Sammie D'Albertanson and Yasmyn Gibbs

8SD - Freya Ellis and Hollie Jackson

8SS - Katherine Burns and Cameron Bujniewicz

Year Leader award Coby Patch

Head Teacher award Issy Smpson

There were so many award winners this time that we have run out of badges! More will be arriving soon.

Mrs J Osborne - Year 8 Leader



Year 9

Congratulations to all Year 9 for helping run the Sport Relief fundraising events last week. The ambassadors were well supported by Year 9 students throughout the week and I was proud to see my year group coming together to support each other.

Many of the tutor awards this term go to the ambassadors that helped run the activities. The Year Leader Award went Ben Price. Ben excels in many aspects of school and has recently shown himself to be a leader when it came to organising the sponsored run. He is a keen runner, taking part in many Park Runs and seeing his 5KM time coming down close to 20 minutes. He has been working hard in Army Cadets where he has recently gained a Level 1 BTEC for his Citizenship and Leadership qualities. Well done Ben.

The Head Teacher award goes to Megan Connell who always approaches school with a sense of purpose, positivity and passion. She attended a recent trip to Exeter University where she represented the Academy well and showed a keen interest in the workshops being delivered. In her tutor group, she is always helpful and totally reliable.

Happy Easter

Mr G Horn - Year 9 Leader





Year 10

Once again it was my pleasure to recognise and reward so many of our Year 10 students for their achievements this term. As a year group Year 10 are working hard in lessons and making the most of any opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular enrichment activities. The biggest extra-curricular achievement by far this term was the success of the Girls U15 Handball Team who were Runners up in the Devon Finals! (missing out on First place by just one goal on goal difference).

Congratulations to Min Dack who received the Year Leader Award for the amazing progress she has made and to Henry Dare who is leading the way in exceeding his target Grades and picking up the Headteacher Award.

They are a fantastic year group and I am very much looking forward to them having an enjoyable and rewarding Summer term before their final step into Year 11.

Mr T Davies - Year 10 Leader





Year 11

Congratulations to the following award winners:

11MI - Sophie Wallis and Charlie Cilia-Herbert

11DP - Kate Scott and Jordan Darby

11WB - Katie Rorstad

11NFL - Rea Meaker and David Carr

11NB - Will Hellier

Year Leader Award - Katie Burnett

Headteacher award - Fredyryk Bogdanski



Sixth Form Update

New York Visit

Thirty five students from Axe Valley and Holyrood Sixth Forms travelled to New York City for a once in a lifetime trip in February! This amazing group of students, along with Mr Owen, Mr McCormick, Mrs Johnson (Holyrood), Mrs Seib (Holyrood) and Mrs Duffy (Holyrood) flew from London Heathrow to JFK on Friday 9th February and after getting their bearings, settled into their accommodation for the night.

Bright and early on Saturday the group went to the 'Top of the Rock' viewing platform atop the Rockefeller Centre and saw stunning views of the Manhattan skyline. After some retail therapy on 5th Avenue, we travelled across to Brooklyn to the Barclays Centre to see the Brooklyn Nets take on the New Orleans Pelicans in an NBA basketball match. This experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

On Sunday the students travelled to Ground Zero to see the 9/11 memorial which was a sobering but informative experience for all involved. Afterwards, we took a ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island where the group were able to learn about immigration into the USA. On Sunday evening, the group had their evening meal in a fantastic place called Ellen's Stardust Diner, where the waiters and waitresses were aspiring singers and actors! Some of the group went to a Broadway Show on Sunday night - Kinky Boots - which was brilliant.

On our final day in the Big Apple, two of our group (Charlie Prill and Rui Duarte) even won tickets to attend the filming of Good Morning America - what an experience! Later that day, we took a trip to the top of the Empire State Building, went ice skating in Central Park, enjoyed a walk to Grand Central Station and spent some final time shopping before flying home overnight.



Year 12's have watched the follow up Learn to Live presentation which was hosted by Nick and Keith from the Fire Brigade and Bob a local police officer. Their message was to reinforce students' road safety awareness both as drivers and passengers of vehicles and as pedestrians to be prepared to ask difficult questions in the name of safety.

UCAS Convention at Westpoint

Last week Year 12 visited the UCAS convention at Westpoint to find out about university, apprenticeships and employment. Students were keen to find out entry requirements for both university and apprenticeships and ask questions about life at those universities offering their preferred courses. Other stalls offered information about apprenticeships and the different level of entry and where students could find opportunities to gain work based experience.

A group of students who were successful in their application to Exeter progression are now entering their final days of university life experience and will soon be completing their course with a celebration presentation. Most have found the experience very informative and rewarding having access to lecturers and state of the art facilities in the fields of Medical biosciences – Engineering either in Exeter or one of its satellite campuses in the south west.

Year 12's will be returning after Easter to investigate university options as well as apprenticeships. All students will be asked to produce a CV and those wishing to apply for University a UCAS personal statement to be considered for their preferred course at the University they wish to attend.

Year 13's have been concentrating on finalising their University choices and devising their revision timetables and battleplans for their final exams. It is an intense time for students and so important for them to remain focussed on their end goal whether that is university, apprenticeship or employment. It will be the last Newsletter before some take their first exams and the 6th form team wish you all the best for your finals. Keep working right to the end, believe in yourselves as we the staff do.

Lessons from Auschwitz

Following a tradition of many schools Amelia Speers and Will House attended the Lessons from Auschwitz programme. It consisted of a seminar to discuss why it is important to remember and to listen to a survivor from the camps. A visit to Poland and the camps and a follow up day to be held in Exeter to discuss how students can be ambassadors for the foundation. Amelia and Will gave a thought provoking presentation about their experience and the impact it has had upon them.

"Towards the end of February, Amelia and I travelled to Poland at a ridiculous hour in the morning to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was an incredibly chilling and insightful visit. Despite being educated on the Holocaust previous to the trip, it doesn't quite resonate with you until you're there, in the flesh, seeing it for yourself. For me, the temperature of -24 degrees really added to the experience - I was freezing in eight layers and I could barely even imagine how I'd have felt with only a thin set of pyjamas on. A truly eye opening experience, I thoroughly recommend the visit if you're ever given the opportunity." Will House and Amelia Speers



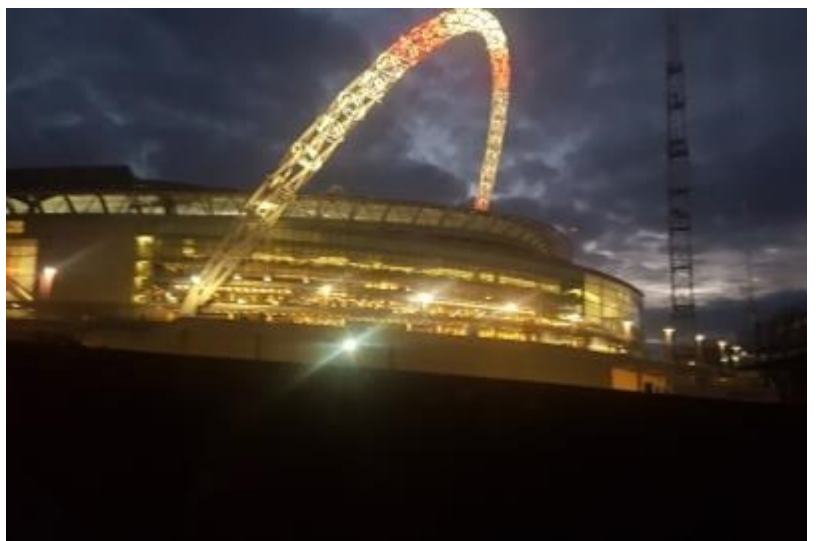
England V Italy Wembley Trip 2018

On Tuesday 27th February, a group of around 50 students and teachers set off on a rewards trip to watch England host Italy under the arch at Wembley.

After traffic delays and a quick jog to our seats we had only missed around 18 minutes of the game and were still able to see Jamie Vardy smash England into the lead. However in the second half the Italians came out with a job to do and did exactly that. With the helping hand of VAR, Italy staggered home with a draw after 90 minutes.

A great experience and all round enjoyable trip. Thanks to all the staff who accompanied the trip and Mr Owen for organising it for us all!

Will House 12FM



Student Voice

Last week we saw the annual hustings for Student Voice President with four candidates putting themselves forward for election Sam Morton, Amelia Speers, Katie Richards and William House.

All gave a presentation on three issues concerning the 6th form that they felt passionately about. Afterwards they took questions from their fellow 6th formers and staff which proved to be quite challenging but all gave thoughtful good accounts of themselves.

In a close result the next President of the Axe Valley Academy 6th form Student Voice is Will House supported by the Vice President Katie Richards.

Mr D Owen - Sixth Form Leader



Sport Relief Fundraising

Many thanks to all staff, students and parents that supported our week of Sport Relief activities. We had some excellent events including the staff cycle challenge where we saw Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Bishop hand out cycling and fashion lessons to Mr Horn and Dr Faulkes. Mrs Wagstaff's group that organised the event raised £149.

The Basketball Challenge was organised by Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Angel's tutor group and was well attended. Basketball winners included Taylor Briggs in Year 7, Dan Brookes in Year 8 and Billy Gait in Year 9. The Sponsored Run, organised by Miss Thomas Davies' tutor group was well attended and it there was a brilliant atmosphere as runners were cheered around the course. Over £400 was raised by the run.



The whole week couldn't have happened without the leadership of the Sport Relief ambassadors: Joe Richardson, Harry Lawrence, Ben Price, Casey Gibbons, Amber Coombes, Isobel Taylor, Marx Anunciacion, Yannick Barrett, Maddie Richardson and Catlin Sloman all did a great job in promoting the events through assemblies and tutor group visits.

The total raised from all events was £1,213.50. Well done everyone!

Mr G Horn - Year 9 Leader



Sports Update



Exeter and East Devon Schools Rugby 7s

Congratulations to the boys who successfully defended their 2017 Plate Winners title by beating Colyton Grammar School in the Final 29-12! They battled hard to win this. Big thanks to Sevie Hurrell who successfully prepared the boys for the tournament.

U15 Team: Kieran Donwton, Harrison Talbot, Tyrone Clarke, Aiden Newman, Jack Moore, Dan Rowe, Tobias Akeroyd and Beck Finnemore

U14 Team: Joe Richardson, James Lacey, Billy Gait, Beck Finnemore, Tobias Akeroyd, Miles Akeroyd, Finlay Livings, Yannick Barrett, Will Grogan, Charlie England and Harry Lawrence.

Mr T Davies - Year Leader & PE Teacher



U15 Girls Devon Handball

Congratulations to the girls who participated in the Devon Finals on 22nd March in Paignton and came joint 1st Place with Kingsley School (who are pretty much the Devon squad!) but were demoted to Runners up after calculating goal difference and missing out by one goal! 2nd in Devon, winners in my book!

The girls were treated to a Winners Feast and I was also given a special treat (a parking ticket - whoops!). Huge thanks to James Windsor who has assisted with the weekly training and team management on the day.

Squad:

Amy Hoare
Ella Shepherd
Kim Wood

Jessie Holmes
Samidi Nanayakkara
Devon Ellis

Izzy Coman
Louise Tyne
Min Dack

Sophie Brennan
Olive Fitzgerald

Poppy Tooze
Jess Richards

Mr T Davies - PE Department





PE STARS

in



WHO?

WHY?

Boys:

Will Sydenham	Football—leading by example
Henry Matthews	Excellent effort / work circuits
Joel Jefferies	Excellent effort / work circuits
Chester Smith	Excellent effort / work circuits
Luca Cheffey	Basketball
Devon Ellis	Basketball
Stephen Johns	Being a caring student
Toby Massey	Excellent Gymnastics
Luca Flint	Excellent Gymnastics
Kieran Massey	Football prowess
Kyle Williams	Teamwork in football
Zak Hawkins	Teamwork in football
Josh Bargery	Effort in team challenge

WHO?

WHY?

Girls:

Hannah White	Lacrosse
Macy Meaker	Football—awesome lesson
Innes Fitzgerald	Helpful / continuous high standards
Catherine Burns	Excellent defending handball
Jorja Lawrence	Great use of space in Handball
Amber Coombes	Fab warm up in handball
Molly Jones	Fab warm up in handball
Isobel Ambrose	Excellent lesson in rain
Tamzin Powell	Fantastic goalkeeping in handball
Lesley Larcombe	Excellent effort and attitude
Livvy Matthews	Great communication
Maddie Richardson	Brilliant effort
Rachel Vigurs	Superb goals in Handball
Isabel Ambrose	Amazing lesson worked really hard

U13 Central Venue Boys Football

Over the last couple of months the Year 8 boys have been competing in a football league organised at the Kings School. Playing games against the other schools in East Devon this has been the first real test of the Year 8 squad. Finishing mid table the boys have demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm for football and must be prepared to hone their skills for a local league club. Notable performances came from Nathaniel Giles-Jones, Rowand Newman, Owen Enticott, Finn Booth and Max Patrickson but a well done to all the boys who represented the Academy.

Mr D Owen - PE Department

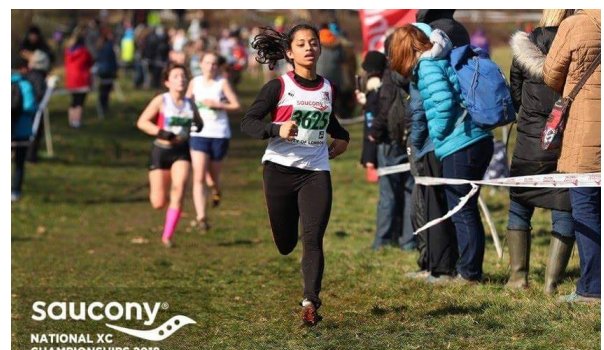
U15 Boys 6-a-side Futsal

Please congratulate the boys who represented the Academy today in good fashion, as we hosted the tournament on our fabulous AGP in good weather. Six schools attended with an 'A' and 'B' team each. Our 'A' team got to the Semi final and lost 2-0 to Kings School and our 'B' Team were overall Winners of the Plate Competition beating Cullompton 2-1. Thanks again to Will House and Alfie Matthews who helped referee the event with true skill and confidence.

Mr T Davies - PE Department

Cross Country and Sports Hall Championships

Congratulations to Year 10 student Samidi Nanayakkara who did extremely well at the National Cross Country championships at Parliament Hill in London as well as at the Regional Sports Hall Finals and has now been selected for the National Sports Hall Championships 2018 in Manchester in April.



ASPIRE

Exeter University Language Project

Aspire students visited Exeter University Humanities Department for a celebration event to round off a series of workshops on a variety of languages. At school we worked on Portuguese, French and Mandarin and in Exeter we also worked on Latin and Arabic. A particular highlight was learning to write our names in Arabic having learnt how to greet each other and a series of simple phrases. For each language we were given a taster of that country's culture and traditions as well as getting a feel for the style of learning at university through meeting the professors and student ambassadors.

The students were so inspired that some are planning to continue their studies in the future in both Mandarin and Arabic.



Double Elephant Printing Workshop

Simon and Fiona from the Double Elephant printing team visited us on the 23rd February firstly to work with our Primary ASPIRE students. Their theme was "Perseverance and Respect" which the children interpreted in many different ways firstly block printing and secondly using a collagraph technique. The results were incredible and the students were prolific being so excited with their gorgeous prints.

In the afternoon the workshop was delivered to secondary ASPIRE students who focussed on extending their GCSE topics. Again the students developed their collagraph skills and produced some fabulous work.



Residential Trip to Bristol

ASPIRE students accompanied Mr Petty to Bristol to visit a series of Banksy original artworks around the city. It was interesting to discuss the artist's motivation for each piece of work particularly in relation to the local area and his stance on social issues. The works are spread across the city and the walking tour was split across two days. The students were asked to sketch details of their environment highlighting the juxtaposition of contrasting elements.

In the evening the group visited 'Locked in a Room' where, divided into three teams, they competed to work out a series of clues and puzzles that would lead them to a set of keys to escape the room. This involved teamwork, creativity and lateral thinking and all three teams worked really hard to solve the clues. The winners were triumphant and managed to escape with just a minute to spare. It was fantastic fun and a great way to round off the day.

The next day we visited the M Shed Museum and walked around the quayside sketching and photographing before arriving at our final Banksy work "The Girl with a Pierced Eardrum". Before returning to Axe Valley we visited the SS Great Britain and saw its incredible restoration, that showed us what it would have been like on board all those years ago, not only visually, but also the sounds and smells of every aspect of life at sea.

