

The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Friday 19th October 2018 - Issue 1



Competitors setting off for the 5K race at The Minster Challenge on Sunday 7th October

Headteacher's message

There have been lots of positives for us to celebrate this half term.

Ready to Learn has quickly established itself as a reliable and highly effective system for dealing with low level disruption in the classroom. I have always said though that this was never its main objective here. We want it to be used as a tool with which to challenge students in order to raise engagement levels in the classroom. This is already starting to happen in several areas of the school.

The Year 11s have come back on the whole in a very positive frame of mind. There is a nice culture developing amongst the year group and many of the students are developing a very positive attitude towards their work. The mentoring scheme is now underway and this I believe will also add to the good feeling in the year group.

Lessons in all year groups are purposeful and productive and I am enjoying popping into classrooms and experiencing first-hand the positive relationships underpinning the learning. The school feels like a nice place to be and I am confident that we are all still heading in the right direction.

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely half term.

Martin Brook - Headteacher

Diary Dates

- Tue 6th November - ASPIRE Welcome Evening
- Wed 7th November - ASPIRE Book Club
- Fri 9th November - Powderham Castle Concert visit
- Thu 15th November - ASPIRE Skills 4 Success
- Thu 15th November - Remembrance Concert
- Wed 21st November - Advanced Maths Workshop
- Fri 23rd November - ASPIRE Science Workshop
- Thu 29th November - Swan Lake trip
- 3, 7, 11 & 17th December - Wood Turning Workshops
- Tue 4th December - Year 9 Parents evening
- Wed 5th December - ASPIRE Book Club
- Tue 18th December - Prize Evening
- Wed 19th December - Carol Service



Celebration Assemblies



Year 7 Celebration Assembly

Year 7 have had a superb first half term. Settling into any new school is difficult and transition to secondary school is a huge challenge. The students have so many new places, people and routines to learn. It is to their enormous credit that they have accomplished this with the minimum of fuss and have very quickly settled into their learning. They are already part of our wider school community and it was wonderful to see them taking part in events like the Open Day and the re-dedication of the Silent Soldier. Next half term will bring more opportunities and experiences with the first competitive sporting fixtures as well as the auditions for this year's school production.

We gathered on Wednesday for the year group's first celebration assembly which is our opportunity to recognise particular achievements during the year. Students were recognised for their contributions to their new tutor groups and for their work in English Maths and Science. I awarded my Year Leader Award to Penelope Williams and Tom Dack for their excellent work on Open Day and Mr Brook presented his Head Teacher Award to Caitlin Mitson and Fenton Garretaz for their outstanding work with the group who helped rededicate the Silent Soldier.

This was the second celebration of the week. On Monday and Tuesday evening we also went bowling to mark the end of our first half term. As we would expect the students were a pleasure to be with and represented the school really well. Mr Irvine showed up with his own bowling ball and was frankly showing off with his 175 but Travis Gigg and Kaitlin Hill were not far behind. 7WB scooped the tutor group trophy with a whopping average score of 71 - well done them. A huge thank you from all of Year 7 to Miss Coghlan for organising the trip for us.

Mr R Carr - Key Stage 3 Leader





Year 8 Celebration Assembly

Year 8 continue to blaze a trail through the school. This is the year group that broke the positives system to the point where it had to be completely redesigned this year. They have started this year off the way that they finished last year, piling up positives.

We met on Wednesday to celebrate the achievements of the term and it was great to hear about all the good work that is happening. Year 8 is another step up in work and it is very rewarding to hear how well so many of the year group are rising to that challenge. Students were recognised for their academic achievements and their contributions to tutor groups. There was particular focus on recognising students who teachers felt were showing superb engagement in their studies.

The Year Leader Award went to Innes Fitzgerald for her superb start to the year and her continued brilliant attitude towards her studies. The Head Teacher award was presented to Joel Jeffries for his contributions and hard work in class but also to the wider school community.

Mr R Carr - Key Stage 3 Leader



Year 9 Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to all year 9 prize winners in Friday's assembly. Once again, it is lovely to reward outstanding effort and commitment to their studies and it was also nice to hear from the tutor team about how personable, kind and helpful their students had been.

A big well done to Hannah Peach who won the Year Leader Award. She was chosen for an unwavering commitment to her studies and extra curricular involvement. Sammy D'Albertanson won the Head Teacher Award for his involvement in the Skate Park community project. It's great to see him being involved in helping shape something so positive in our local community.

Mr G Horn - Key Stage 4 Leader





Year 10 Celebration Assembly

On top of celebrating our usual awards in this week's celebration assembly, we were also pleased to invite Marie Driver to the assembly to receive a presentation from Year 10 students. The students wanted to raise some money for her son Ben, who was recently admitted to hospital. He ended up staying for 10 days and Marie never left his side. The students raised some money for the family to enjoy a meal together. It was a lovely tribute from a great group of students.

Winner of the Year Leader Award was Amber Coombes who was instrumental in organising the above collection and also for being the driving force behind setting up the first ever Girl's Rugby Team at Axe Valley Academy.

Winner of the Head Teacher Award was Ashley Roberts for being consistently outstanding. He is a student that always does things the right way. He works hard, a pleasure to teach and is a student that staff only have good things to say about.

It was also fantastic to see some of our newer students being rewarded. Orlando Hurtado received a Science award, Nell Wallbridge a Tutor Award and Ella Wilkie an award for Maths.

Congratulations to all the other prize winners.

Mr Horn - Key Stage 4 Leader





Year 11 Celebration Assembly

It was really lovely to be able to celebrate a settled and productive start to year 11. The year group have come back from the summer with a renewed motivation and it is a pleasure to visit them in their classrooms. On Thursday, it was a joy to announce some very deserving tutor awards given to students for their tenacity and conscientiousness. The year leader award went to someone who donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust and the head teacher award celebrated a student who is consistently excellent in everything he does.

It was encouraging to see many different names winning the awards for English, Maths and Science. More and more year 11 students are raising the bar and producing some really excellent work across the curriculum.

Keep it up year 11, I can't wait to see what you achieve next!

Ms E Sloman - Year 11 Leader



Competitions

English Extracurricular Activities

The English department are offering several exciting opportunities to develop literary skills, participate in national competitions and prepare for future careers.

Every Wednesday lunchtime students gather to debate current affairs - covering everything from Brexit and mental health to vegetarianism and school uniform. This is not only a lively forum for all year groups to share and develop opinions, but it also increases confidence in public speaking in preparation for our entry into the national 'Youth Speaks' competition. It has been fabulous to see co-operation between students across year groups and their appreciation and respect for others' views.

In addition, for budding authors, script-writers and journalists, we are running regular writing competitions for years 7, 8 and 9. These have specific criteria which must be met in order to win - so read the instructions carefully! The deadline for our first competition is fast approaching and we have had some excellent entries so far. Good luck!

Mrs Brown—English

Year 7 October Writing Competition 200 Words



Success Criteria.

- ✓ Appearance
- ✓ Body Language
- ✓ Emotions
- ✓ Lifestyle
- ✓ The words *fractious*, *furtive* and *flickered*.

Task:

Create the protagonist for a new series of detective stories. Describe your character as they travel to work.



Send your entry to Mrs Brown
wbrown@axevalley.devon.sch.uk
by Monday 29th October.
(The first day back after half term.)

Year 8 October Writing Competition 200 Words



Success Criteria.

- ✓ First person, past tense, narrative.
- ✓ One moment in time.
- ✓ A sentence beginning with a verb.
- ✓ A semicolon.
- ✓ The adjectives *clandestine*, *crimson* and *callous*.

Describe a Gothic setting.
You may use this image as inspiration or use your imagination.

Send your entry to Mrs Brown
wbrown@axevalley.devon.sch.uk
by 29th October.
(The first day back after half term.)

Year 9 October Writing Competition 500 words maximum.

Success Criteria.

- ✓ 5 paragraphs.
- ✓ Third person, past tense, narrative.
- ✓ One sentence of dialogue.
- ✓ The words *shuddered*, *sentimental* and *serendipity*.
- ✓ A cyclical structure. (The beginning links to the end.)

Lost

Write a short story explaining how this shoe came to be lost.



Send your entry to Mrs Brown
wbrown@axevalley.devon.sch.uk
by Monday 29th October.
(The first day back after half term.)

ASPIRE

ASPIRE Applications

In previous years ASPIRE membership has been through nomination from teachers and consideration of participation during the previous year. This year we have changed our approach and have invited students to apply for membership by telling us what their aspirations are and sharing with us their ideas of what they would like to do.

The response has been overwhelming, we are bowled over by the enthusiasm and creativity of the students. It has also shown us that we have a wonderful opportunity to expand these young people's horizons and show them that there is a huge world of exciting possibilities that they can aspire towards beyond school and help them develop the skills and passion that can make a huge difference to their future lives and prospects.

Our very first event this term will be a Welcome Evening with Mr Brook and Miss Coghlan on Tuesday 6th November in the Main Hall at 5.30pm. All ASPIRE Parents and students are invited, please let Miss Coghlan know if you are planning to attend so we can arrange for the appropriate refreshments.



ASPIRE Events this term

Welcome Evening—Tuesday 6th November 5.30pm

Book Club—Wednesday 7th November 3.30pm - 5pm

Classical Concert at Powderham Castle
Friday 9th November 12.15pm - 5pm

Skills for Success Workshop—Leadership
Thursday 15th November 3.30pm - 5pm

Advanced Maths Workshop
Wednesday 21st November 3.30pm to 5pm

Science Workshop—Barn Owls
Friday 23rd November 2pm to 3.45pm



Swan Lake at the Bristol Hippodrome Theatre
Thursday 29th November 11.30am to 7pm

Wood turning workshops on 3, 11, 13 & 17 December
3.30 to 5.30pm

Book Club—Wednesday 5th December 3.30pm to 5pm



Lastly I would just like to say a little personal thank you from me for the support and enthusiasm from everyone involved with ASPIRE, particularly the amazing students who never ceased to surprise and delight me with their brilliant minds and caring nature. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege and I wish them all the best for their bright futures.



Mrs K Pemberton - ASPIRE Co-ordinator

Sixth Form Update

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 13 RESULTS DAY

Memories of the summer holiday are fading and life in the Axe Valley Academy 6th Form has started on a really positive note. We have celebrated the examination achievements of last year's Year 13 with over 45% of students going to university. Several gained places at top Russell Group universities and others earned apprenticeships and employment in the local area. All are to be congratulated on their perseverance and commitment to their studies and we wish them well for their futures. Please remember to return especially on Presentation Evening to share your progress with us.

September seemed quiet without a new cohort of Year 12's but the Year 13's have been focussed on returning to their studies and working towards securing the necessary subject knowledge to be prepared for PPE exams that will be upon us shortly in November. At the same time it is really pleasing to report that four students have completed their UCAS applications and submitted them by the first deadline set.

This hasn't stopped the 6th Form led by Student Voice President, Will House, and Vice President Katie Richards, from organising cakes sales and planning for the year ahead. They rose to the challenge of organising a MacMillan coffee morning for the whole school and raised a fantastic total of £200, a figure all participants can be very proud of. Many students have been actively 'giving back' to the school and the local community by volunteering their assistance in lessons and at local visitor attractions, ensuring the 6th Form still have a key role in academy life.

On Sunday 14th October a group of Year 13 students took part in the annual Royal Marine Commando Challenge on Woodbury Common raising awareness and funds for the Devon Air Ambulance, Royal Marines Benevolent Society and for the Woodbury Common Conservation Fund. All the students enjoyed the challenge of the assault course and attempting all the obstacles but weren't too keen on being told there would be no transport to take them back to Bicton. The group have raised £400 to date which is a fantastic achievement – well done and thank you to all of you.

The Axe Valley Academy 6th Form looks forward to celebrating all the achievements of its students in the coming year and sharing them with our wider community to be proud of.

Mr Owen - Sixth Form Leader



Oscar, Luke, Ethan, Will, Sam and Alfie at the Royal Marines Commando challenge

Sports Update

U16 Girls Football

Girls U16 East Devon Trophy.

In their first game against Colyton they went 1-0 down and AVA ended up winning the game 3-1. Secondly Exmouth were the opposition after going 3-0 down the girls drew the game 3-3. The final game against Honiton, AVA won comfortably 5-1.

All students involved represented the school impeccably, I'm really proud of them and the result. All played brilliantly as a team and showed great respect for all of the opposition.

Mr J Ward - PE Department



U15 Girls Rugby

The Axe Valley Academy Girls U15 Rugby Team played the Academy's first ever girl's fixture this week and took on Colyton Grammar School as their first challenge. Their opponents were well-drilled and experienced, and although our team had only a few hours training they came away with their heads held high. The girls made massive progress throughout the match showing great tenacity and determination to score tries, make tackles and support the ball carrier.

This ushers in a new chapter for our competitive team sports and is something for the academy to be really proud of. To see our Year 9 and 10 girls get stuck in after their rousing battle ritual was very special. We would also like to extend our thanks to the many spectators/helpers who turned up to cheer the team on.

This is something we want to build on, with our next match already in the diary and a tournament in the Spring to look forward to. Well done girls, you made us extremely proud.

Mr T Davies - PE Department





Year 5 & 6 High 5's Netball League

Thank you to our Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders who ran the annual High 5's netball league for the cluster primary schools in September and October. The Leaders improved in confidence and organisation throughout the weeks.

Many of the games were close which led to a friendly yet competitive environment. This did challenge the leaders who remained focused and composed under pressure. I am really proud of the leaders and all they have to offer.

The Leaders are really enjoying stepping up the challenge and here is a small quote from Yannick and Elizabeth. "The High 5's tournament was a great experience for both me, the umpires and the players involved. I think that we have all gained a lot of experience and knowledge from doing this. We have all very much enjoyed working with each other and the primary school students. We hope to get the opportunity to do this type of thing again and inspire students to be involved in sports and also when they join Axe Valley Academy they will be familiar with our school."

Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala

A huge thank you to the Sports Leaders who helped run our annual Year 5 and 6 swimming Gala on Tuesday 9th Oct.

Teams took to the water to compete in 16 events over 25mtrs, displaying amazing ability and technique throughout. The events included individual Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke followed by fun relays where swimmers listened carefully to a range of instructions demonstrated by the Sports Leaders. During the gala the Year 9 Sports Leaders timed some superb swimming. Leaders helped cheer on the teams which added to the great atmosphere on the day.

Each leader was given a different job role which ranged from complex organisation of results to swimming in the pool and retrieving lost dropped objects along with supporting and directing the swimmers in the pool.

In first place we saw All Saints Primary followed very closely by Kilmington who were the title holders last year. Congratulations to all competitors and thank you to the Sports Leaders and Flamingo Pool Lifeguards, who all contributed to an enjoyable and exciting gala.

Mrs H Oxley - Sports Coordinator



Minster Challenge



Mr Davies has for years been a highly active supporter of The Minster Challenge as well as being a veteran runner of the course. For better or for worse he had someone to drag around with him this year.

The outgoing PTFA had done an amazing job of getting the course marked and marshalled. Mrs Pemberton, Miss Lomax and the new PTFA Chair and Vice-Chair, Jo Hawkins and Caroline Jefferies, pulled the event together with extraordinary enthusiasm. They even arranged for some excellent weather to greet the good number of runners who turned-up to face the 12Km and 5Km multi-terrain runs around some of East Devon's finest scenery. Music provided by Mr Griffiths and the Year 8 & 9 students was a real bonus and the canteen also played a major part in making visitors feel very welcome, with all participants applauding the excellent organisation. Also the marshals were particularly excellent; very excitable and enthusiastic.

The Minster Challenge will be back next year even bigger and better (but no further in distance) than before. We are looking for a bumper turnout from the students of Axe Valley Academy, for whom this event is organised to provide much needed funds for extra-curricular activities.



Mr J Daly - Teacher



Pen Recycling

Axe Valley Academy have registered as a local collection point for recycling pens in a project sponsored by Bic.

We can take biros, board pens, highlighters, permanent markers, Tippex pens - and as a bonus, we also take any Tippex containers (bottles, mice etc., of any brand) and mechanical pencils - but not wooden pencils, rulers or glue sticks.

We have collecting tubs in classrooms, and lots more available (in C4) for students to take home for friends and family, workplaces, clubs etc. The assemblies to officially launch the project with students will be soon after half term.

With so much news about the harmful effects of plastic pollution in the environment, we are thrilled to be able to divert these items to a useful purpose.

If you have any queries please contact us on recycling@axevalley.sch.uk



ASDAN Cafe

The Year 9 ASDAN pupils held a cafe at break time last Wednesday, inviting staff to come and enjoy a hot drink and a selection of biscuits. As always our staff rose to the challenge and made full use of the cafe. Mr Davies even enquired after a lunchtime menu!

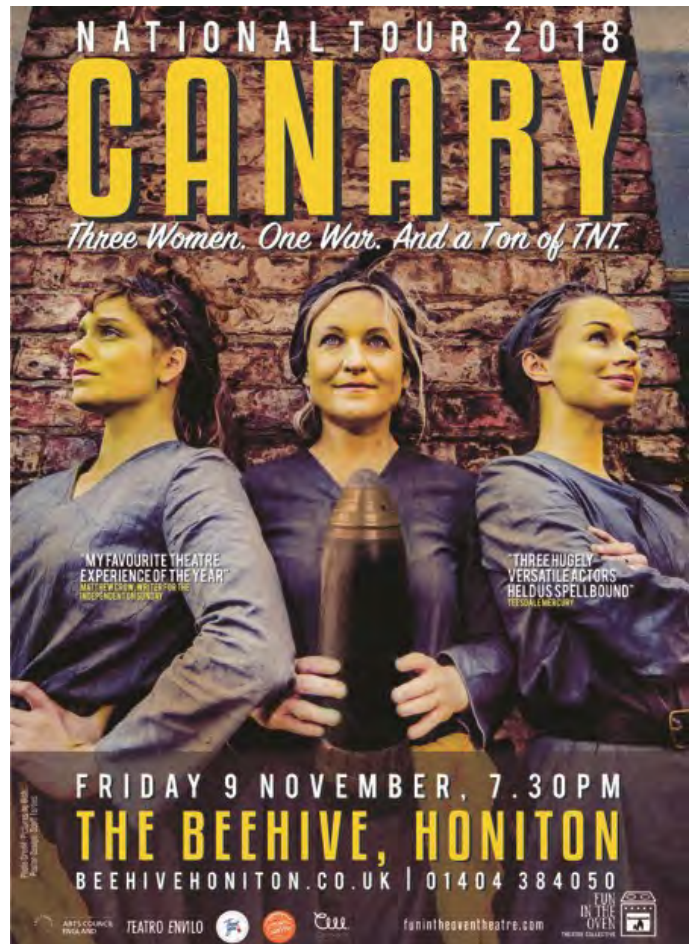
The students were fantastic and far less stressed than me. In addition to producing all the printed material for the cafe, posters, menus, order and feedback forms, they practised both front of house and kitchen skills. A very successful event.

Thank you to all who took part.

Mrs Rutherford - ASDAN Co-ordinator



Community Page



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