

# NEWSLETTER

The Axe Valley Community College

October 2009

## Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer holiday, although this seems like a distant memory now. I am pleased with the way our students have started the term, especially our new Year 7s who settled quickly and made a very positive impression (please read the beautiful poem by Misti Lekimenju in 7AS on her experiences). We are delighted with the performance of our Year 11s last year. 70.5% of the year group achieved 5A\*-C which is well above the college's previous best of 62% in 2006 and well above the targets set by the local authority. These excellent results came from expecting the very best of all our students and not accepting excuses as to why students were not achieving in line with their potential. I would like to congratulate the students and their parents / carers on this fine achievement and I would also like to thank teachers and support staff at every level for the outstanding contribution they made to this success. I am also delighted that we now have record numbers in our Sixth Form which has grown from 95 in 2008 to 125 this year. This reflects the growing confidence students and parents / carers have in the Sixth Form and its ability to provide a high quality education. While the A level results were an improvement on last year we still have considerable scope for raising standards further. This year we remain 100% focused on driving improvement at every level of the college and especially in the Sixth Form.

The introduction of our new uniform standard has been very successful. The vast majority of students look superb and I am delighted with the positive response we have had. I would like to thank parents and students for their support in this area. Already many visitors to the college have commented on the exemplary appearance of our students.

At some point in the year we are likely to be inspected by Ofsted. From September this year Ofsted have introduced a new inspection process that has 'raised the bar' for schools in terms of the criteria for being a 'good' or better school. This is a challenge we welcome. The inspection could take place at any time and we will only be given two days notice. The Senior Leadership Team and Governors are finalising our self-evaluation against the Ofsted criteria and in the next newsletter I will say more about the judgements we have reached.

## Axe Valley Students Support the Tour— 18 September 2009



## **Axe Valley Students Support the Tour**

On Friday 18 September the Tour Of Britain Cycle race passed through East Devon. The race started in North Devon and travelled to Yeovil via Crediton, Cullompton, Honiton, Seaton and Axminster. To help cheer on the cyclists the College had an early lunch. Some 600 students lined the pavements along both sides of Chard Street and watched the spectacle. It started when a local cyclist peddled past the College and was amazed to be cheered down the street! However, it was not a long wait before a group of police motor-cyclists displayed their riding skills by speeding up the road, this was followed by the Peleton of over eighty riders. Students waved the green and white flag of Devon and cheered the cyclists. Finally, they saw a convoy of support cars in a variety of colours racing to keep up with the riders.

*Mr J Mythen, Deputy Head*

## **Nutritional Standards in the College Canteen**

Over a numbers of years the Government has been introducing standards to improve the quality and nutritional content of school meals. The final phase of this programme will be implemented at the Axe Valley after the Autumn half term.

There are many concerns over nutrition related health issues affecting teenagers with studies showing high levels of obesity in young people and deficiencies in many nutrients including calcium, iron and zinc.

Devon Catering Services, who run the canteen at Axe Valley, have been busy working on an exciting new range of recipes and improving some old favourites. All the ingredients have been nutritionally analysed and menus put together to produce balanced and appetising meals.

The Canteen will be introducing new 'Meal Deals' after half term giving students a wide range of choices. Students will be able to purchase a choice of meals for a set price. Look out for further details of the huge range exciting new 'Meal Deals' that will be available in November. Students will get a great deal and a great meal.

## **Uniform Review**

A review of the uniform for Axe Valley students is currently underway with plans to involve Parents, Students, Staff and Governors.

A uniform contributes to the ethos of the school and sets an appropriate tone. Most schools in England have a school uniform and believe it supports effective teaching and learning. The DCSF encourage uniforms in schools where they can 'help instil pride, support positive behaviour and discipline and promote good relations between different groups of pupils'.

Here at the Axe Valley we believe that uniforms should be comfortable, offer value for money and be smart. We believe that the blazer worn with a shirt and tie is important and will form part of the new College uniform.

We would welcome the views of our Parents and plan to form a small parent group to help with the uniform review. If you are interested in joining this group and working with students and staff on continuing to raise standards of smartness please contact Jacky Lomax on 01297-32146.

## **PTFA 100 Club**

Unfortunately the June draw was omitted last term. Winners of the draw were:-

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | £25 – Mrs Sarah Trott |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | £15 - Sarah Moore     |

We have had a very successful 2008/2009 100 club. The club was started in September 2008 and to date we have given out £475 in prizes and have raised £460 for PTFA funds.

**PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE BY JOINING THE 100 CLUB FOR 2009/2010.**

We have already had some application forms for the new academic year but we require more!! Forms were sent out at the end of last term. If you have misplaced your copy, further forms can be obtained from reception. As well as new members, all existing members (apart from those making payments by standing orders) need to reapply by filling in an application form. Membership is open to anyone wanting to support the college aged 16 or over including parents/carers, staff, friends and former students. Membership is £12 for the year. Application forms were given out to new Year 7 parents/carers at the open evening but if you do not have a form then please obtain one from reception. Let us hope we get enough entries to make it another successful year. Good luck to all those who enter.

## **PTFA needs you!**

The PTFA is currently looking for new recruits. The Association provides invaluable support to the College and is a great way for parents/carers to play an active role in College life. Please come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 13 October 7.30—8.30pm (reception area).

## **Non Uniform Day—Friday 16 October**

There will be a non uniform day on Friday 16 October. Students will be required to pay £1 for the privilege and will receive a raffle ticket. First Prize is £1,500 cash, Second Prize is £1,000 cash and Third Prize is a Holiday at Redrock Apartments, Dawlish Warren (value £600). Be sure to pay your £1 to qualify for a ticket! *Mrs M Lowe, Main Office.*

## Poems about moving from primary to secondary school

During Year 6 Induction Day in June we invited our new students to take part in a competition. The challenge was to describe the experience of moving from primary to secondary school. There were some superb entries but the winner was a poem by Misti Lekimenju (7AS), which is printed below for you to enjoy. The runner up was Tilly Gonzalez (7FP).

### Last Day:First Day

Stepping out of Year 6 my step not so quick. It's the very last day!

My bag bugling full of memories,  
I stop and pause, look back at my primary playmates,  
Tears brimming at the rims, my pupils large,  
Goodbye Sofia, Sally and Sam, Year 7 calls you to a  
Faraway School,  
Softly blinking now I let the tears fall, thank you  
Axminster Community Primary School, those days with you  
were the best of all!  
I wipe my tears on my sleeve,  
I smear the good luck wishes,  
Funny little sentences,  
Humourous doodles,  
I smile at the smudges I made of Sam's best writing,  
I'll treasure this shirt forever, I tell my smiling mum,  
And she's baked me a cake with all the names of my class-  
mates on!

Year 7, it's the day to start! To start High School!  
Mum says, it's just like moving house, only with lots of kids,  
I step into Year 7, my step not so quick, I'm so nervous I think  
I'll be  
sick!  
It's so busy that first day, like a colony of Bees!  
I'm fidgety and nervy, Oh, in what room shall I be, and is that  
teacher looking at me?  
By lunchtime my butterflies have settled, the School canteen is  
a hub  
of a place, I see a girl with a familiar face,  
We walk to our new lessons, French, English and History,  
We get indigestion with all what's to take in,  
We wonder back to class like a gaggle of geese,  
Learning at the Axe Valley Community College is going to be a  
feast!  
It's no lonely, scary or frightening at all,  
But friendly, helpful, exciting, with lots of new things to learn  
and  
friends to make,  
Stepping out from my first day, my step is quick,  
My bag is full of new stuff and memories to make.

*By Misti Lekimenju Age 11 7S*

### Transformation

Primary seemed to last for ever -  
Playing in the sun -  
But change will come for every one  
And now those days are gone.

Anticipation drove me crazy  
Sleepless scared and sweating

Transformation wasn't easy with all those  
Dreams that I was getting.

Nervous and shaky on the first day  
Arriving in the car  
Anticipation and not knowing -  
Safety of my village school seemed  
So very far.

But then an evolution!  
Scared transformed to good -  
I got on really well there, just like  
Mum always said I would.

All these opportunities with friends and  
Work and play -  
Transformation isn't easy but it's the only way.

Tadpoles change to frogs  
Frogs change into princes  
You have to feel it for yourself  
Nothing else convinces.

Caterpillars find their wings  
And live a life that's free  
And like this little poem written on  
What used to be a tree.

Transformation comes to all of us  
It's just the same for you and me! *By Tilly Gonzalez*

### Netball News

The Year 9 girls netball team played in a friendly tournament away at Honiton last Thursday 17 September and beat Honiton and Sidmouth and lost to Colyton. They played really well. Player of the match went to Daisy Stringer.

The Year 7 girls netball team played their first tournament away at Kings School Tuesday 22 September and beat Exmouth and lost narrowly to Honiton. The girls have made massive progress in the last two weeks. Player of the match went to Josie Hunt.

*Mrs Crowley, PE Department*

### Diary Reminders

08 10 09—Target Setting Evening  
09 10 09—Target Setting Day  
14 10 09—HPV Vaccinations—Years 8, 10, 11, 12, 13  
15 10 09—Full Governors Meeting  
19 10 09—School Photos—Years 7 and 10  
22 10 09—Staff Training Day  
23 10 09—Half Term  
02 11 09—Return to School

## Business and Enterprise Community Plan

As part of our exciting new Business and Enterprise Community Plan, we are hoping to establish a programme of adult community education. We recently wrote to local businesses asking them what their training requirements are and from those responses have put together a programme which can be seen by visiting our College website at [www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk](http://www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk) and then going to the community section and on to the adult education courses section. We are also keen to help adults who are either not currently working or who are working fewer than sixteen hours a week to get back into employment and we are running some courses designed specifically to help them. Examples include: Improve Your Maths, Improve Your English and Improve Your IT Skills. If you are interested in finding out more about the courses or if you would like to deliver a course, please contact Bridget Bennett on 01297 32146 or email her on [bbennett@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:bbennett@axevalley.devon.sch.uk). (See list attached on page 8).

## The Axe Valley Community College Fantasy Football League 2009/10

Do you think you know more about football than Alex Ferguson? Have a better tactic brain than Rafa Benitez? Can spend less money than Mark Hughes? Well maybe the College has something to offer you!! It is that time of year again where the PE dept at the college are organising the fantasy football league. For those of you who are not sure what this means, it comprises of you picking 11 premier league footballers who will score points each time they play a premier league football match. These points are then put together to give your team a total number of points. Depending on the points you score will determine your league position. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils, staff and parents to compete against each other to see who really is the best football manager at the College. It is easy to get involved in as well, just pick up an entry form from either the PE dept, or one of the Sixth form helpers (Josh French, Sam Turner, Nathan Womersley), fill in the attached form and bring in £5 to Reception, then you are away. We are hoping that this season will be the best ever, so GET INVOLVED. *Mr J Scott, PE Department*

## Jobs for the Girls—Years 9—11

**Exeter's alternative careers fair for girls aged 12-16 Tuesday 6 October 2009—4.00 pm to 8.00 pm The Maynard School Exeter**

Not into Nursing? Steering clear of childcare? Prefer pathology, plumbing or the police? Fancy yourself as a fire-fighter, fishery scientist or flight engineer?

If conventional women's careers do not do it for you, be sure to visit Exeter's only careers fair dedicated to girls who want to defy stereotypes and stand out from the crowd!

For more information and registration, please email [development@maynard.co.uk](mailto:development@maynard.co.uk).

## Reminders when writing cheques for College

1. All cheques for College must be made payable to Devon County Council with your son/daughter's name and reason for cheque on the reverse.
2. Please put all payments (with any forms) in an envelope with your son/daughter's name and tutor group on the front.
3. Hand all payments into Reception (for the attention of Mrs Lowe).

Many thanks. *Mrs Lowe, Main Office*

## Examination Invigilators

Examination Invigilators are needed. If you are interested, please contact the College. *Mrs S Higgs/Mrs B White*

## School stationery and equipment

A reminder to Students that school stationery and equipment are available for sale, at cost, from the library. *Mrs H*

## Counselling Service

As many of you know we have, as part of our Student Services team, a school counsellor for students at the college. This is a confidential service and students can be referred in several ways; either by Heads of Year, Tutors, School Nurse, their G.P., Teachers or other staff at the college. Parents and carers are also able to refer, and students can refer themselves by asking a member of staff or, confidentially, through the post-box in the Student Office or by texting 07896835066. Sometimes students feel that one or two sessions are enough, or they can see the counsellor for longer-term if appropriate, although there may be a waiting list for appointments. At the moment the counsellor is in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

It is important to emphasise that counselling is voluntary and that the student must want to come to counselling even if they have been referred by someone else. Unless any parent/carer specifically objects to their child/ren seeing the counsellor it will be assumed by the school that consent is given. *Ms C de Wolf, School Counsellor*

## The East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

*A Partnership between East & Mid Devon District Councils, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Devon County Council, Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon & Cornwall Probation Service, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.*



Exmouth Police Station,  
North Street,  
Exmouth,  
EX8 1JZ.  
Tel 01395 273802  
Email [gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk)

October 2009

Dear Parent or Carer,

Once again I am writing to you all concerning our Autumnal Safety Campaign which is about Halloween on 31<sup>st</sup> October, Bonfire night on 5<sup>th</sup> November and the days leading up to them. Thanks to the excellent cooperation between local retailers, police and parents, I am pleased to say that over the last 6 years, reports of anti social behaviour in East Devon at this time of the year have shown no increase.

There are nevertheless still incidents involving the throwing of eggs and flour and problems concerning both loud fireworks and the misuse of them, which continue to cause alarm and distress to some members of the community. Some older people are too frightened to report these activities and again it cannot be emphasised too strongly how much fear even one or two incidents can cause. Therefore please could you continue to advise your children that this type of activity is anti social if used to cause alarm to people.

Trick or treat under adult supervision is of course acceptable but I would still ask you to be sure of your children's whereabouts and to advise them not to take part in anti social behaviour, such as igniting loud fireworks or throwing eggs and flour. This can cause much nuisance and a great deal of worry to other people, animals and also damage to property.

Police patrols will again be increased in the run up to late October / early November but I hope that once more, issues of anti social behaviour that can cause problems for people in the community will continue to show no increase.

Yours sincerely

*Gerry Moore*

**Gerry Moore**  
**Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator.**

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES—October 2009 to December 2009**

|                  | LUNCH TIME  |  | AFTER SCHOOL    |  |
|------------------|---|--|-----------------|--|
|                  | Indoors   | Outdoors   | SCHOOL STAFF    | SPORTS CENTRE                              |
| <b>Monday</b>    | - Social Sports (all years)<br>- Dance Mats (Years 7-9) | - Netball (Years 9,10,11)<br>- Football Social League (Years 7-9)                          |                 | Trampolining (6-7pm)<br>Archery (7.45-9pm) |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | - Badminton (all years)<br>- Dance (all years)          | - Rugby (all years)  | <b>Fixtures</b> |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | -Basketball (Year 7 only)<br>- Table tennis (all years) | - Fitness in Axes (Years 10,11)<br>- Football Social League (Year 10+)<br>- Running Club * | <b>Fixtures</b> | Table Tennis (4-5pm)<br>Badminton (6-7pm)  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | - Trampolining (Years 8, 9)<br>- Table tennis           | - Netball (Years 7, 8)<br>- Football Social League (Year 10+)                              | <b>Fixtures</b> |  |
| <b>FRI</b>       | Dance Mats (Years 10-13)                                | - Football social League (Years 7-9)   |                 | <b>Dance Mats and Wii Games (4-5pm)</b>    |

**\*Football social league starts week commencing 12 October**

## Sports Fixtures to December 2009

| Date:                  | Age group   | Event  | Location         | Meet time | Return Time (approx.) |
|------------------------|-------------|--|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Thursday 17 September  | U14         | Rugby and Netball Central Venue Comp.          | Honiton CC       | 3.15pm    | 6.15                  |
| Friday 18 September    | all         | Tour of Britain                                | front of school  | 1pm       |                       |
| Tuesday 22 September   | U12         | Rugby and Netball/Football Central Venue Comp. | Kings School     | 3.15pm    | 6.30pm                |
| Wednesday 23 September | Years 10-12 | East Devon Leadership Academy                  |                  |           |                       |
| Thursday 24 September  | U13         | Rugby Central Venue comp                       | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25PM    | 6.00PM                |
| Thursday 24 September  | U16         | Netball Central Venue Comp.                    | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25pm    | 6.00pm                |
| Monday 28 September    | Years 5/6   | Swimming Gala                                  | Flamingo pool    |           |                       |
| Thursday 1 October     | U16         | Rugby v Sidmouth                               | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25pm    | 5.30pm                |
| Tuesday 6 October      | U13         | East Devon 7 a side Rugby Tournament           | Sidmouth CC      | 2:00 PM   | 6pm                   |
| Wednesday 7 October    | U16         | East Devon 7 a side Rugby Tournament           | Topsham rfc      | 9am       | 4pm                   |
| Monday 12 October      | Yr1/2       | Multi skills Festival                          | Sports Hall      | all day   |                       |
| Wednesday 14 October   | U14         | E.D Netball Comp.                              | Kings School     | 3.15pm    | 6.30pm                |
| Thursday 15 October    | U12         | E.D Basketball Central Venue Comp.             | Exmouth CC       | 3.00pm    | 6.45pm                |
| Half Term              |             |  |                  |           |                       |
| Wednesday 4 November   | U12/14      | Girls Football Cup                             | Cullompton CC    | 3.00pm    | 6.45pm                |
| Monday 9 November      | All         | E.D Schools X-C Championships                  | Bicton           | all day   |                       |
| Tuesday 10 November    | U16         | Rugby v Woodroffe                              | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25pm    | 5.30pm                |
| Wednesday 11 November  | U14         | Rugby v Woodroffe                              | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25pm    | 5.30pm                |
| Thursday 12 November   | U12         | Rugby v Woodroffe                              | Axe Valley CC    | 3.25pm    | 5.30pm                |
| Saturday 14 November   | all years   | England v Argentina Rugby Trip                 | Twickenham       | 9am       | 10.00pm               |
| Tuesday 24 November    | U14         | E.D & Exeter Rugby Tournament                  | St Lukes, Exeter | all day   |                       |
| Thursday 3 December    | U13         | Mixed Badminton Central Venue comp             | Kings School     | 3.15pm    | 6.30pm                |
| Thursday 10 December   | U15         | Mixed Badminton Central Venue comp             | Exmouth CC       | 3.00pm    | 6.45pm                |

**\*Please note that changes may occur throughout the term so students should always check with teachers in charge for up to date times/dates.**

| COURSE TITLE   | LENGTH OF COURSE | COURSE COST |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Health &amp; Safety in the Workplace - Level 1</b><br>Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2009<br>9am-1pm   | Half day         | £18         |
| <b>Health &amp; Safety in the Workplace - Level 2</b><br>Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2009<br>9am-4pm   | 1 day            | £35         |
| <b>Food Safety in Catering - Level 1</b> (This is a food hygiene course)<br>Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 9am-1pm<br>Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 9am-1pm                      | Half day         | £18         |
| <b>Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering - Level 3</b><br>Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2009<br>9am-5pm  | 1 day            | £45         |
| <b>Basic First Aid for the Appointed Person</b><br>Red Cross Award<br>Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 9am-4pm<br>Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 9am-4pm                                   | 1 day            | £50         |
| <b>Community First Aid Course</b><br>This is a basic first aid course run by St John's Ambulance at their head-quarters in Axminster<br>Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2009<br>9.30am-12.30pm | 3 hours          | £18         |

All the above courses will be run in the Business Centre on the dates shown.

If you would like further information or to book a place, please contact Bridget Bennett on 01297 32146 or by email at [bbennett@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:bbennett@axevalley.devon.sch.uk).

