

# The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Monday 9th October 2017 - Issue 1



Runners setting off on the 5k Minster Run Challenge

## Headteacher's message

By now, everyone will have heard the news that we have had to take the tough decision to start a consultation process regarding the long term future of our sixth form. I am really keen that everybody in our community has the opportunity to share their views on this proposal and would like to remind you that there is a public meeting taking place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in our main school hall. Alternatively you can make your views known by emailing [consultation@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@axevalley.devon.sch.uk) putting 'Sixth Form Closure' in the subject line. The consultation runs until close of business on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Whilst the discussion regarding the future of the sixth form is undoubtedly important, at the beginning of a new school year our focus has to be on the progress of those students studying with us now. In my opening assemblies this year, I focused on our key theme for the year of setting high expectations for ourselves as a school community. I want to do everything possible to help raise the aspirations of our young people and I have tied this into the simple message that 'good enough is just not good enough'. What I mean by this is that it is not sufficient to do just enough to get by. I want everyone who comes to Axe Valley to achieve more than they thought possible and to support this ambition I am delighted to be launching a brand new academic mentoring programme for all of our year 11 students. 65 staff members have agreed to mentor our year 11 cohort following the principles developed through the nationally recognised 'assertive mentoring' programme. I have no doubt that this new initiative will help us to make this academic year our best year yet.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say well done to our new Year 7 group. Mr Carr is delighted with the start that you have made and it's great to see the 'positives' stacking up. It has been a fantastic start to the new school year across all year groups and I am convinced that, whatever the future brings, Axe Valley will remain at the centre of our community providing opportunities for all of our young people.

**Steven Green - Headteacher**

### Diary Dates

Tue 10th Oct - PSHE Drama - Year 8  
Wed 11th Oct - ASPIRE visit to Northcott Theatre  
Thu 19th Oct - ASPIRE Science Workshop  
23rd to 27th Oct - Half Term  
Wed 8th Nov - ASPIRE London Trip  
Fri 10th Nov - Sixth form Theatre visit  
Fri 10th Nov - ASPIRE Music Concert  
Tue 5th Dec - Sixth Form London Visit  
Wed 6th Dec - Year 9 Parent's Evening  
Tue 12th Dec - Year 11 & 13 Prize Evening  
Thu 14th Dec - Carol Service  
Fri 15th Dec - End of Autumn Term





# Year 7 Transition

## **Congratulations Year 7 on an excellent start**

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their time with us. We never underestimate what a significant challenge starting secondary school is, and we are really impressed by how well they have coped with the new environments and routines. I spend a lot of time looking in on year 7 classes and it is clear that they are completely settled here now and fully engaged in the business of learning.

Year 7 have been busy smashing records for positive awards with over 3000 separate positive incidents being recorded by teachers in the first 4 weeks. Particular congratulations to 7RW who have already accumulated 1000 points just between themselves. For context this is about what some entire year groups might normally manage in a term.

It is great to see Year 7 starting to take part in school life beyond the classroom. Clubs are now in full swing and sports fixtures will start soon. There is still time to get involved in any of these clubs and please encourage your children to go along to any they are interested in. We are even starting to see Year 7s taking leadership roles on the school council, as Anti Bullying Ambassadors, and helping run some clubs for year 6 students.

Well done to all the students that have put themselves forward for these roles.

Mr R Carr - Year 7 Leader

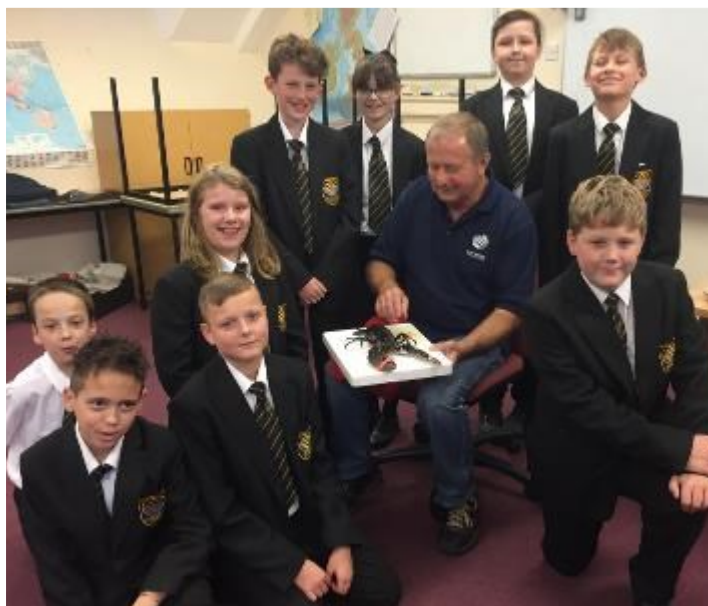


# Student Update

## Year 7 Springboard

Year 7 Springboard have been doing a project about the Invictus Games, a truly inspiring event. The students have been magnificent and produced some amazing work. They have even recorded the Invictus poem and started to write their own inspiring poems about being brave. What a terrific start to the year they have made, I am very proud of them.

On Monday, Year 7 Springboard had a very special visit from 'Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve.' The schools outreach program is aimed at educating students about the reserve and sustainable fishing. Neville who presented the session, was so enthusiastic he had us all 'hooked!' The students took part in many practical experiments and the hour was topped off by meeting 'Larry The Lobster.' I have to say Larry had to be very tolerant, as all of us got to touch him and look at him very close up. The students were a credit to the Academy and luckily Larry was being released on the way home.



Jenny Stockton—SENCo

## Year 9 Update

It has been a fantastic start back to school for our Year 9 students who have really impressed their teachers with a brilliant attitude towards their studies. They are the first group of Axe Valley students to start their GCSE's in Year 9 and we wish them luck with all of their studies.

We had an excellent visit last week from a Theatre Company that delivered a powerful performance and follow up workshop on the dangers of drinking alcohol. Our students asked some excellent questions and responded maturely to some challenging content.

Our assembly last week was about coping with pressure and we used a Year Group basketball shootout as the activity. Marx and Anna, both from 9MA were the winners, holding their nerve to shoot the winning hoops and securing the jackpot prize of £1.

Congratulations to the boys rugby team for beating Clyst Vale 50-0. You did a great job. I'd love to see a few more footballers on a Thursday lunchtime for training so we can be competitive and well trained ahead of matches after Christmas. I am currently looking into organising a Halloween party for the year group. Start thinking about your outfits - It will be fun!



Thanks to all parents for your continued support and please keep an eye on class charts and make sure they are doing their homework!

Mr Horn - Year 9 Leader





### Textiles GCSE

Year 11 Textiles students are working hard on their Component 1 Controlled Assessment. Their work is creative and skilled with students using a range of media which is experimental and courageous. The stitched portraits are of such a high standard that I hope to award some 7-9 grades after final assessment next May.

Our new Dazzle and Shine project has started really well, glitter is definitely a favourite! Well done for all the commitment to study shown so far and don't forget that T5 is available after school throughout the week and every lunch time if you want to do extra.

Mrs Stone - Technology Department

### Student Voice Research Project

Students at Axe Valley Academy broke new ground on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at their teacher's inset day by presenting results from a teaching and learning project they had been working on. Students worked independently throughout the summer term and summer holidays to find positive things in lessons so that they could share what is great about teaching and learning at Axe Valley.

*"We did a practical survey in PSHE lessons asking pupils to rank ways that help them learn, then we visited lots of classes and observed teaching and learning. Also we looked at books in a book scrutiny, assessed learning environments and finally we analysed all the results" (Tilly Robins, Y9)*

*"We did a huge amount of work for this project. We did all the work because we value our education and we want to help find ways to improve because there are always things you can do to improve" (Louise Tyne, Y10)*

Teachers were exceptionally impressed with the presentation which was professional and thought provoking. Not only did students explain their methodology but also the results, highlighted many good things they had witnessed and gave suggestions for taking the work forward. After the presentation Axe Valley staff questioned the students about teaching methods, their motivation for doing the project, how they could extend the work, and much more.





The DofE Group at the practise event last year.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

It is that time of year again when we open up recruitment for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This is mainly aimed at year 9, but if older students would like to join then just pop along to ICT8 Friday tutor time to get a form. Letters and forms will be handed out during year 9 assembly over the next few days.

The award involves spending up to 3 hours a week doing 3 different activities (1 hour a week each) chosen and organised by the students themselves. Two of these are kept up for 3 months and one for 6 months. The activities fall under the broad headings of Volunteering, Physical and Skill (but the definitions are very wide-ranging and we try to include anything they want to do).

A fourth part is the expedition and we outsource this to an approved provider.

Costs are £20 to enrol and get an online account to log activities, cover the administration costs and ultimately the cost of certificate and badge. The expedition costs are approximately £170 – which covers 3 weekends of training (6 days) which we think is pretty good value.

All this information and more is available on the letter we send home, but if you have any questions you can contact me by email [vparkes@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:vparkes@axevalley.devon.sch.uk)

Dr V Parkes - Duke of Edinburgh Manager

### **Class Charts**

We recently started using Class Charts at Axe Valley Academy.

Class Charts is an online system that teachers use to create seating plans, set homework and track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. We believe in working closely with parents and one of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that we are able to securely share this information about your child with you and so keep you up to date.



You can view all homework set via the academy website [www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk/homework](http://www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk/homework)

Last month you should have received a letter via your son/daughter with details on how parents can access this system and see up-to-date information about their child/children. If you have not yet received this letter please check with your son/daughter or alternatively contact reception on 01297 32146 so that a replacement letter can be sent out.

More details about Class Charts can be found on the web page [www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk/classcharts](http://www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk/classcharts)



# Sixth Form Update



## **CONGRATULATIONS to Year 13 on Results Day**

Life in the Axe Valley Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form has started on a really positive note. We celebrate the examination success of Year 13 in August achieving some of the best A level results recorded at the Axe Valley Academy. 50% of students going to university have won places at top Russell Group universities and all must be congratulated on their perseverance and commitment to their studies. Many students have accepted apprenticeships in local companies, engineering firms and taken the opportunity of the new nursing apprenticeship at the RD & Exeter hospital.

We wish you all every success for your future, remember to return especially on presentation evening to share your progress with us.

## **Year 12 Induction Day**

September welcomed a new enthusiastic Year 12 cohort and during the last few weeks they have been busy getting to grips with their subjects and the expectations a 6<sup>th</sup> former has. The pictures were taken on the 6<sup>th</sup> form induction day which involved an introduction to 6<sup>th</sup> form work expectations and some fun team challenges. I was pleased to meet and share with Year 12 parents, at the recent parents' information evening, what life will be like in the 6<sup>th</sup> form and to answer any questions raised. We have developed stronger links with Holyrood sharing our teaching expertise with students travelling to us and likewise our joint offer students travel on a weekly basis to Holyrood for their joint offer courses.



### **Exeter Progression Programme**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we launched the Exeter Progression programme for Year 12 students inviting two current students Issy Kershaw and Jack Rosling to speak and answer questions about their experiences last year on the programme.

Students who are eligible have the opportunity to attend and work with lecturers at Exeter University in a subject area that interests them. Exeter University is a Russell Group University that offers the students attending the programme access to lectures, visits, like minded students' advice on University life and the application process and importantly a reduced grade offer if students apply for Exeter University. An opportunity that will make you stand out and give you an experience to cherish.

Important note applications close October 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 [www.exeter.ac.uk/exeter-progression](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeter-progression)



### **Charity Events**

The Student Voice have been active already organising a staff social breakfast raising over £100.

Last week many staff and students tested their baking skills to help raise the awareness for Macmillan Nurses and raised £245 a fantastic effort with special mention to Laura Jackson, Bevan Brignall and rest of helpers who laid out cakes and prepared the common room.



### **Other events**

The pool competition has been in full swing and on Wednesday a crowded common room witnessed a fiercely contested final which could have gone either way but in the end Mr Owen narrowly beat Matt Quaile on the black ball.

The Axe Valley Academy 6<sup>th</sup> 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 D Owen - Sixth Form Leader



# Sports Update



## Girls U16 Football

The girls played really well together, showing patience, control and perseverance in all 3 games to top their group at the end of round 1. They will now progress to the finals to face 3 more teams in their bid to win the East Devon league (finals round in February).

Results were:

- 1-0 against Colyton B
- 1-0 against Exmouth
- 2-0 against Kings, Ottery

Well done to Devon Ellis for keeping a clean sheet but she was well supported by Izzy Coman and Jessie Holmes. Goal scoring honours were shared between Min Dack and Sophie Sharp, with some additional opportunities just falling short for Poppy Hill, Megan Wooldridge and Molly Clinch played some crucial link up play in mid field. A big thank you to Will House (Year12) who managed the team and is assisting at training.

Tracy Moran - Physical Education Department

## Swimming



Year 9 student Brianna Barrand was in the papers this week after she took part in the Swim England South West Relay competition at the Plymouth Life Centre. The girl's outstanding performance saw them win their 4x100m Freestyle heat before coming home in seventh place overall in the final. They then followed up with a sixth-placed finish in the 4x100m Medley relay.

This was a really impressive performance particularly as they were competing against much larger clubs from across the region including Bristol, Exeter and Poole. Well done Brianna and her team!





# PE STARS

in September 2017



## WHO?

## WHY?

### Boys:

George Gail—Enthusiasm in Rugby & PE  
Henry Highway—Great answers in Rugby lesson  
Alfie Lee—Effort in Rugby  
Will Sydenham—Positive attitude towards learning  
Morgan Jones—Great knowledge in Rugby  
Coby Patch—Excellent Rugby skills  
Owen Enticott—Continual excellent work ethic  
Ryan Hatton—Great decision making in Rugby

## WHO?

## WHY?

### Girls:

Chloe Walters—Persistent effort in every lesson  
Ellie King—Good leadership skills in Netball  
Melissa Aryes—Excellent movement in Netball  
Rea Meaker—Good spatial awareness  
Isla Harvey—Good progress in Netball  
Year 9 girls—Excellent teamwork in Netball  
Charlotte Kew—Brilliant use of space  
Flo Paul—"Danger woman" (collecting ball!)  
Tazmin Paige—Good defending  
Naomi Chedzoy—Good technique when passing  
Faith Phillips—Excellent intercepting in Netball

Jess Hollis—Excellent officiating  
Chloe Bolton—Super kettlebells and plank  
Kelly Enticott—Excellent knowledge of the rules  
Sophie Wallis—Excellent movement in Netball  
Tazmin Paige—What a lesson! Brilliant  
Megan Wooldridge—Progress in Netball  
Elizabeth Huskins—Good progress in Netball  
Molly Jones—Good progress in Netball  
Gracie May Adamou—Good progress in Netball  
Annabel Sydenham—Good progress in Netball  
Maddie Richardson—Excellent determination in +Country  
Chelsea Hollingsworth—Excellent movement & awareness  
Charlie Thumble—Excellent handball skills  
Sophie Brennan—Excellent handball skills  
Sophie Shilton—Excellent Rugby commitment  
Amber Coombes—Excellent Rugby commitment  
Amber Banner —Excellent Rugby commitment  
Maddie Richardson —Excellent Rugby commitment  
Leaner Coalter —Excellent Rugby commitment  
Livvy Matthews—Excellent Rugby commitment

### Year 9 Rugby

Year 9 boys had a great game on 27th September beating Clyst Vale Community College convincingly and will now progress to Round 2 of the Exeter and East Devon Cup. James Lacey scored the first try and the rest of the team including, Finlay Livings, Tobias Akeroyd, Miles Akeroyd, Sam Searle, Billy Gait, Will Grogan, Yannick Barrett, Joe Richardson and Beck Finnemore had a great game.

Thanks to Bailey Livings for running the line and coaching, and thanks to Andy for preparing the pitch.

Mr T Davies—PE Department

# Minster Challenge

Heavy rain during the preceding week meant the course this year was extremely muddy. The Minster Challenge is a tough seven-and-a-half mile (about 12K), mainly off-road event, run through the countryside around Axminster and is known for being a demanding course. The minimum age for this race is 17. James Denne won the race in 47 minutes 53 seconds and the first lady back was Judy Davey coming in 19th in 1:08:39 with her daughter Jo finishing just 10 seconds later.

The 5K Fun Run was run by mostly Axe Valley students and the winner was Daniel Rowe who finished in 21 minutes and 30 seconds and Samidi Nanayakkara was the first girl back. The children's 1K race at Axminster Primary School was also a fun event and well done to all the young runners who finished the race.

A huge thank you to Jo Huscroft and Heidi Rorstad from Axe Valley PTFA for organising the event, to Santa Hoftrate for her fabulous photographs and to all the volunteers who marshalled the course and helped with everything on the day.





# ASPIRE

## New Programme for Autumn 2017

We're very excited to be launching the new programme for this term with lots of exciting visits, workshops and clubs for our gifted and talented students.

**Book Club** has already kicked off with students from Year 7 as well as Primary students including some of our new Year 5s meeting last week to discuss their favourite authors and styles of fiction. Their first book will be *The Wizards of Once* by Cressida Cowell.

**Current Affairs Club** has also started with their first topic discussed being the Las Vegas Massacre and the gun situation in the US compared with the UK.



Our first outing this term will be to the **Northcott Theatre** to see **Around the World in 80 Days** on October 11th. It's an imaginative and high-spirited escapade including six trains, five boats, four fights, three dances, two circus acts and an elephant!



**Kitchen Chemistry Science Workshop**—The Science Department will be working on a circus of the chemistry of food and cooking with a carousel of experiments including the chemistry of baking powder, the science of ice cream, acidic foods and energy in snacks and popping corn.



**Trip to London**—On November 8th we are planning to visit the Houses of Parliament and take a workshop on Representation and Voting in addition to visiting The Shard and meeting with a leading firm of Management Consultants to talk about careers in the City.

**Music in the Castle**—On November 10th we will be visiting Powderham Castle for a concert performed by the Alke String Quartet including pieces by Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert.

**Skills for Success, Emotional Intelligence** - On November 15th we will be talking to Wendy Knee about social skills and mindsets. Cultivating a growth mindset could be the single most important thing you ever do to help you achieve success in all areas of your life.

**Discrete Maths Workshop**—On December 4th our older students have been invited to explore this area of complex mathematical concepts.

**ASPIRE Coaching** and **Woodturning** are also on the agenda in December with dates to be confirmed.

Mrs K Pemberton - **ASPIRE Co-ordinator**

# Community Page

**MILLWEY RISE**



Our Under 13 Girls team are looking for a few more players. Please ring 07973 713263 for more details.




**MILLWEY RISE UNDER 13 GIRLS**

WE URGENTLY NEED Y7 AND Y8 PLAYERS FOR OUR TEAM, BASED IN AXMINSTER. WE PLAY SUNDAY MATCHES IN THE DEVON GIRLS LEAGUE.



For more information, please contact Emma on 07973 713263.



## Second Hand Book Sale

COLYTON TOWN HALL  
Saturday 14th October  
9.30 - 1pm

TEA COFFEE AND CAKE . RAFFLE AND GAMES  
Books Sorted, A-Z  
NON FICTION AND FICTION

Book Donations Welcome at Guide HQ  
Mon 9th October 5pm-6pm, Wed 11th October 5pm-7pm

Discover Guiding in Colyton



### October Half Term Football Holiday Camps

Cloakham Lawn Sports & Social Club, Chard Road, Axminster, EX13 5HW

Coaches: Daniel Murnane, Darren Clarke & Jack Bennett (All coaches information is on the website [www.dmc-coaching.co.uk](http://www.dmc-coaching.co.uk))

#### Schedule

Day/Date	Drop Off	Football Camp Timings	NEW Movie Club (Film)
Thursday 26th October	8.15am - 9am	9am-3.30pm	Descendants 2 (3.30pm-5.15pm)

\*\*\*Children 5-13 years old are welcome\*\*\*

#### Costs

Football Camp = £12 per day

New Movie Club = £3 extra per child, per day.

Football Camp + Movie Club = £15 per day

Skills, Games and Mini Tournaments with prizes for the star performers each day!!!

We have plans and games whatever the weather, indoors and outdoors!!!

All your child needs to bring is a packed lunch, lots of drinks, shin pads, trainers, football boots and appropriate clothing (If it is wet bring extra clothing, waterproofs, a towel and a few pairs of socks!!!)

If you are interested contact Dan Murnane on 07845 498057 / [dmc-coaching@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dmc-coaching@hotmail.co.uk)



NEW 2017-18 PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH ATTAX TRADING CARDS ARE AVAILABLE!!!

Packs will also be available to buy on the day!!! £1 per packet.



Are you, or do you know a 12-18 year old, passionate about marine biology and keen to gain valuable experience for a career in marine biology?

Join us for a 1-day summit to discover what to expect on your journey to a successful marine biology career.

As well as meeting and hearing from marine biologists, we want YOU to present at the event, by giving a brief talk, a poster, or a table top activity for your fellow YMBs!

**Tickets on sale now!**

**YMB Summit 2017**

Saturday 28th October

Plymouth, UK

What to expect:

- ✗ Talks from inspirational marine biologists
- ✗ Interactive workshops
- ✗ Meet other like-minded members
- ✗ Careers Q&A

Ticket and registration information can be found here <http://www.mba.ac.uk/ymbfb19>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Not a MBA YMB member yet? **Join now!**