

The Update

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter: Friday 20th July 2018 - Issue 6



Student performers at the recent Sounds of Summer Concert

Headteacher's message

Although I have only been working in my new role as the day to day headteacher since half term it already feels much longer. I can't thank everyone enough for the warm welcome I have been given. First and foremost the students have been a delight. Many of them have made a real effort to introduce themselves to me and they have already made an excellent impression. They deserve nothing but the very best and I will strive to do everything I can to provide a school that they can be even more proud of than they are already. You will see many examples of their achievements within the newsletter and I hope you will enjoy reading about them. Obviously a very small minority of students have made themselves known to me in less positive ways. My message to them is very simple, they will not be allowed to prevent other students from learning and a good start in September will be vital for them.

I would also like to thank the staff here for the way that they have responded in recent weeks. It has been an uncertain time for some of them over the last year but I hope that they can now see a bright future for the school and understand clearly the role that they need to play in our journey together. I have been extremely impressed with their attitude so far and we must never lose sight of the fact that as we aim to push the boundaries in terms of the expectations we will have around student behaviour and achievement, we must continue to place a huge emphasis on the quality of the relationships between them and our students.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to you our parents, carers and other members of the community. Communication between us will be key. I really welcome the fact that many of you have taken the trouble to introduce yourselves to me and share some of your concerns and issues with me. I relish such challenge as it will only make us stronger. I would like to remind you all that I am available every morning from around 7.15 if you want to come and see me about anything.

In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter, enjoy the summer and enjoy looking forward to good times ahead.

Martin Brook - Headteacher

Diary Dates

Fri 20th July - End of Summer Term at 1.10pm
Thur 16th August - A Level Results Day
Thur 23rd August - GCSE Results Day
Wed 5th September - Start of Autumn Term
Thur 20th September - Open Day



Activity Day



Crealy



Haldon Forest



Paint-balling



Monkey World



Surf's Up



Sports Day



Art Exhibition





ASPIRE



London Trip

Year 9 and 10 students travelled to London on the train for an intense day of meeting and experiences.

First stop was the Shard in the City, our first meeting was with management consultants, Protivity. One of their directors and a graduate on his team talked to us about being a management consultant. They particularly highlighted the skills and qualifications you need to secure a job and establish a career in the industry.

After the presentation the students went to the viewing platform at the top of the tower to get a full view of London, a stark contrast to their normal view of the Devon countryside!



Next we walked through Borough Market and popped into the Tate Modern on our way to the Houses of Parliament. We were given a tour of both the Lords and the Commons and were able to watch proceedings from the public gallery. The students then worked with one of the Political educators on a workshop on laws and debating. They held a mock passing of a bill, starting with a green paper, then to white paper, it had a first and second reading then was returned back to the commons for ratification. The students fully engaged with the task in hand with some outlandish ideas and justifications. They made convincing arguments and demonstrated their potential as budding politicians.



Primary Arts Carousel

Year 5 and 6 ASPIRE students visited Axe Valley to work on a series of Arts activities with our specialist teachers Mr Petty, Mr Selby and Mr Jevons.

Their first challenge was to master a life drawing technique with chalk and charcoal on a black background using a live model (me!). Using block shading and an outline in chalk with charcoal merging the different forms their work produced some impressive almost 3D results.

For drama the students learned about stage presence and how to interpret moods and ambient conditions through acting. Their challenge was to convince their audience of different types of weather with the use of sound effects, lighting as well as their own acting interpretations.

In the Music department the students had a taster lesson on the Steel Pans. In just over an hour the class were able to play a very good rendition of La Bamba and created a carnival atmosphere to complete the action-packed day.





STEM Challenge Day

Year 9 & 10 ASPIRE students took part in the Royal Society for Chemistry's Global Experiment 'Mission Starlight' investigating how to prevent the effects of Ultra Violet Radiation on astronauts. They investigated materials for making space suits, visors for helmets, the effectiveness of liquid protection layers and particle suspensions. Our data was uploaded and shared with over 750 schools from all over the world and will contribute to scientific understanding of the distribution of UV radiation over the Earth.

From the materials we tested our discoveries have indicated that we should be sending astronauts into space in rather striking outfits of neon orange polyester/viscose mix, helmet visors made from yellow cellophane and a particularly nice Mylar 'space blanket' cape!

Primary Book Club

For the last meeting of the year Book Club got together to discuss *Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome. Despite being written in 1930 the students all related to the story and the children's experiences and especially related to looking forward to the summer holidays.

To round off the meeting the students learnt how to make origami boats and named their own fleet.





Celebration Picnic

On a hot July afternoon we gathered for an informal celebration picnic with games and refreshments, attended by all ages including parents. It was a relaxed social occasion and a chance to celebrate some of highlights of the year. In particular we wanted to acknowledge some of the primary achievements since they hadn't had the benefit of Prize Day at Axe Valley.

The students we would like to congratulate are:

Lily Coleman for her imaginative ideas, creativity and feedback at Book Club.

Yasmin Pheby for being our most committed Book Club reader.

Daniel Dallaway for his excellent debating skills and enthusiasm.

Reece O'Mahony, Maya Palka and Elizabeth Carley for their excellent RESPECT printing.

Guy Harrison for his music appreciation and impressively remembering the names of the composers at the Powderham castle concerts.

Eva Jefferies and Eryn Newcombe for their excellent life drawings in chalk and charcoal.

Christopher Parker for his amusing portrayal of drinking beer in a thunderstorm.

Jonas Hawkins for getting into the groove whilst playing the steel pans.

All of our primary participants have made ASPIRE such a joy, both students as well as parents who have been so supportive. Thank you all again for celebrating with us and we hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to starting all over again with a new programme in September.

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



Sixth Form Update

The Year 12's have been really busy during the last few weeks completing their PPE's followed immediately by work experience. Students are already busy preparing themselves for their final year and in many cases this has been reinforced by the starting and in some cases the completion of UCAS personal statements along with days out attending University open days. Work experience plays a major role in providing our students with the opportunity to gain experience in a work place enabling them to make informed decisions about their future career pathways. Students gained experience in hospitals, vets, Law firms, engineering firms and with make-up technicians and travelled as far as Norway, Bristol and Salisbury. It is important for all 6th formers to keep looking for opportunities that will enhance their career prospects and help them to stand out at interview.

It was great to see our 6th formers assisting staff on Sports Day in the officiating, judging and scoring roles which significantly contributes to the smooth running and success of these days. At the end of the day the staff even let the 6th form relay team come home first as a way of a thank you for their wonderful effort during the day.



Every year we are asked as an Academy to award The Reading List Foundation Scholarship to a student who has excelled in their academic studies over the past 16 two year period. This year the scholarship was awarded to a student who was relentless in her drive and ambition to achieve the best results she was capable of. Staff agreed that Megan Williams should be the recipient of the scholarship. (pictured receiving her award from Mr Owen Year 12 & 13 Leader)

On Tuesday lunchtime our 6th form charity organisers were raising the awareness of Endometriosis and raising funds by a Soak the teacher event. It happened to be the first lunchtime when the sun failed to appear and gave our students such pleasure in pouring the cold water over staff members. In twenty minutes Martha Budden and Erin Crowther supported by others raised a fabulous total of £60 a big thank you to all especially the staff and all that spent money. Mr Brook was happy to oversee the event and came suitably prepared.

I hope all of you have great summer and I look forward to celebrating many more successes with you next year.

Mr Owen Year 12 & 13 Leader



Anyone in Year 11 in 2020 – New York trip



Would your son/daughter be interested in visiting New York 13 – 17th February 2020. Empire State building, Times Square, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero.

A parents evening will be held in September but please contact Mr Owen if you have any questions regarding this trip.



Year 11 Prom



Twitter Update



Sixth Form Charity Fundraising

The teachers who weren't even allowed to share Mr Brooks umbrella. Thank you to the students for organising this for such a worthy cause.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

On the weekend of 30th June we had this year's bronze practise expedition. The qualifying expedition will be the weekend of the 29th September 2018. Keep an eye out for our [#AxeAcademy](#) DofE Twitter page which will go live in September.



Year 7 making planets-fridge magnets as part of their Space topic.



Community Page

AXE VALLEY ACADEMY



12K MINSTER CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 7TH 10AM

5K FUN RUN starts 10.15am

1 MILE KIDS RUN starts 10.30am

MUD MUD AND MORE MUD!!

SIGN UP NOW - WWW.AXEVALLEY.DEVON.SCH.UK

FASHION SHOW

Ticket Price £6.00

The ideal place of wine or fruit price. Must be bought in advance.

An exciting evening of fashion & fun hosted by Travelling Trends

A ladies night out with a difference! As well as a live CATWALK SHOW, there is ample time to try on & buy this season's High Street & Branded fashions. All at bargain prices!!

Wednesday
17th October 2018
Doors open 7pm
for 7.30pm Show

Axe Valley Academy
Chard Street, Axminster

Tickets available at:
Axe Valley Academy Reception
& Archway Bookshop, Axminster

Proceeds to Axe Valley PTFA for Creative Arts Department at the school

www.travellingtrends.com



EAST DEVON SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAYS

Completely free activities for the whole family to enjoy!

- SPORTS PLAY
- CIRCUS SKILLS
- SMOOTHIE BIKE
- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- BUSH CRAFT
- AND MORE!

2018 dates, 10am to 1pm

- Mon 30th Jul Broadhembury, school field
- Tues 31st Jul Tipton St John, playing field
- Wed 1st Aug Seaton, Elizabeth rd, playing field
- Tues 7th Aug Culyton, playing field
- Wed 8th Aug Cuddy's field, Lyngstone
- Mon 13th Aug Littleham, Parish hall
- Tues 14th Aug Phymtree, Parish hall
- Wed 15th Aug Upottery Manor, Rooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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