

AIXEMINSTR

Axe Valley Academy Newsletter



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WELCOME TO ISSUE 2

Headteacher's Message

I'm so excited to reveal the latest issue of our newsletter, Aixeminstra. This issue has been compiled by Mr Brown and I'm sure you'll agree it is stunning. I hope that you all thoroughly enjoy reading about the exciting term that we have had. This has been a wonderful term and yet again I could not be prouder of this school community. Our incredible students have tackled a very busy term and they have packed in everything you could possibly imagine. We have had many highlights this term but for me there are several things that have brought me real joy...

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Headteacher's Message

The streamed Christmas Concert put together by our own National Treasure Mr Jevons along with talented students and staff was incredible. Year 11 have behaved immaculately throughout their Pre Public Examinations and options intervention week and we are excited to reveal their results during their celebration assembly in the new year. For years 7-10 we have been able to celebrate achievements through celebration assemblies. We have handed out badges and certificates and subject prizes galore and it has again shown just how committed to their education our students are. We have also raised a huge amount of money for Crisis at Christmas with our Trust Charity Bike ride run by Mr Knott.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff at AVA and I know parents will join me in this. I couldn't have felt more supported and it is lovely to be able to say at the end of a tough and tiring term that their resilience, determination, kindness and hard work has meant that we have been able to achieve so much for our students.

And finally parents - THANK YOU. I have been overwhelmed with the support and positive messages that the school has received and I again feel lucky to have so many parents supporting what we are all working to achieve together. A few of you commented on something I said in the Open Evening presentation saying how much you loved it as a way of describing Axe and I think this newsletter shows us beautifully - we are small but we are mighty! So I'll finishing by saying have a peaceful Christmas break and I can't wait to see what the new year brings.

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS CYCLE RIDE

Mr Knott and Mr Irvine (our favourite history teachers) took part in a sponsored bike ride to raise money for 'Crisis at Christmas'. They made the epic wet journey from Axe Valley Academy to Holyrood and onward to Uffculme. They were welcomed at each school with socially distanced cake and coffee. The whole school made a fantastic effort with year 11 students and staff running the pitstop, baking cakes and tutors cajoling students into buying a spot on their Advent Calendar.



“..thanks to the generosity of parents, students and staff, they raised nearly £1000

Thanks to the generosity of parents, students and staff, they managed to raise a massive £966.86. They setup an online giving page which at the time of writing has raised over £4000.

You can still donate to the cause at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/uatcrisisbikeride

CELEBRATING YEAR 7

Year 7 have already made a hugely positive impression on our school. Under difficult circumstances and with a much reduced transition program they have coped amazingly with the move to secondary school.

Their enthusiasm and care for each other has wowed us all. In the classroom they have produced a fantastic first set of reports demonstrating a real drive and determination that bodes well for the future.



“ Their enthusiasm and care for each other has wowed us all!

In the second half of term we asked the students to start looking a bit beyond the boundaries of the school into the wider community with our annual Winter Foodbank Project. Students (and parent/carers) have done an brilliant job and raised an enormous amount of supplies for some of our community's most in need families.



Well done year 7 on all your work this term. Get a good rest and we look forward to seeing you in January.

Mr Carr.



YEAR 7 FOOD BANK COLLECTION

All of the Year 7 tutor groups have been collecting donations for the Seaton and Axminster food banks. The tutors were all very proud of their students efforts and felt that they truly showed that Christmas is a time for giving!



LIBRARY PHOTO CHALLENGE



Year 7 students were asked to take a photo of themselves reading their library book in an unusual place or way.

The entries included students riding horses, sitting on vans and hiding in trees!

Well done to Archie and Izzie on their brilliant winning photos.

YEAR 7 MINI JIGSAWS



As part of their Design Technology lessons, Year 7 students have been making these beautiful mini-jigsaws.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

The Axe Valley Anti-bullying Ambassadors organised a week of activities for students to think about and reflect on bullying within the school and to remember that we are all different and that we should be ourselves, accepting of one another and celebrate individuality and difference.

The activities included: 'Odd-Socks Day', where students could wear their most flamboyant socks (below) as well as 'Say Something Nice Day', where students were given a chance to send a compliment to a member of staff or fellow student to brighten their day!

*“ we should be ourselves,
accepting of one another and
celebrate individuality*



COMPUTING AT AXE VALLEY FROM MR. MEN TO PYTHON SKILLS

An update from Mr Brookman and Mr Cumming

Year 7

Our focus this term has been on using the Microsoft office package to develop a Mr Men story. Students have created their own 8 page story with their own characters.



In Creative iMedia students have focused on the tools and techniques that support the creative processes to develop digital media products.

Year 10

In Computer Science students have been learning different program concepts such as arrays and iteration along with getting an understanding of how networks are structured and how they work.

In Creative iMedia, students have been working hard developing the skills and theory to support the creation of the elements needed to create web pages and web sites.

Year 8

Our Year 8 students took on the challenge of creating a TV Advert for a fictional water park called 'Aquastranza' using a new piece of software to amazing ends!

Year 9

In Computer Science students have learnt a whole new language called binary, developed our Python skills where we created a version of the game Mastermind and learned about different types of storage technologies and why there are used in different scenarios.

Year 11

In Computer Science, students have been studying tirelessly for their exams.

In Creative iMedia, students have been steadily improving their theory practice paper scores, preparing for their examination in January.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Do you have a desire to make a real difference for the benefit of students at Axe Valley Academy?

The AVA Local Governing Committee are seeking two new Parent Governors. They must be parents or carers of students attending Axe Valley Academy.

For more information on how to apply, please email Jill Larcombe: larcombej@uffculmeschool.net

PARENTS



GREETINGS FROM CHAIR OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE

An Introduction from Jill Larcombe

As a Director of Uffculme Academy Trust I was pleased to welcome Axe Valley Academy to the Trust in September 2019 and since then I have realised what a great school it is. In September I joined the Local Governing Committee to support and develop governance at AVA and was privileged to be elected as chair. Jerry Walden has kindly agreed to support me as Vice-chair. I have been a school governor for 22 years, 20 of them with Uffculme School.

I am also a clerk to governors in two other school federations and I clerk the Board of Devon Association of Governance. My experience and interest in school governance has enable me to become a Local Leader of Governance and I am working my way through a Leading Governance training programme organised by the Confederation of School Trusts.

When I am not involved in school governance, I am a bookkeeper and Parish Council clerk. Becoming a grandmother three years ago emphasised for me how important it is that every child has access to a school that provides a good education, opportunities for extra-curricular activities and where staff care about their students. AVA has a good team of governors and a talented leadership team. Together we will be working hard to ensure that every child at AVA receives a great education.

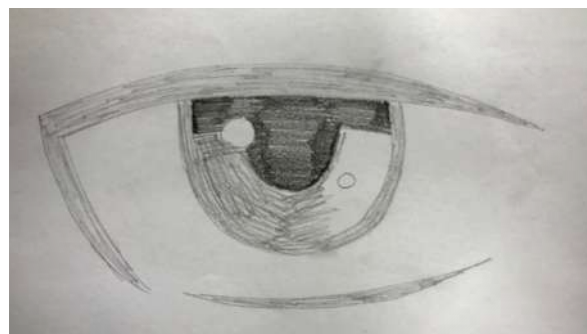
Jill Larcombe
Chair of the Local Governing Committee

LIBRARY UPDATE

It's all about the Manga

The library at AVA has had a very exciting term. As well as encouraging reading for pleasure for all students, it has also set up a new Manga Club. Manga is one of the most popular genres of book in the library and the demand for a Manga Club was very high. This term the group has focused on illustration and design, with pupils starting to learn how to draw manga characters, whilst discussing their favourite books and films.

It's also been a great opportunity for the students to forge new friendships and encourage each other's reading over a cup of tea. Bliss!



CELEBRATING YEAR 8

You could make an argument that of all the years affected by lockdown, Year 8 were one of the groups that had it toughest. They had really only just got over transition and got into the stride of being secondary school students and they suddenly found themselves in year 8! Given that, I think they have coped admirably.

“ ..many have actually moved their grade predictions forward..”



They have worked really hard this term and the results of that determination are clear in the latest reports where not only have the vast majority of them managed to get back on track with their predicted grades, but many have actually moved those predictions forward. We are, of course, working hard to support students who are taking a little longer than others to catch their grades back up.

As well as congratulating year 8 on their resilience and hard work, I also wanted to thank them for their patience this term. They have been unable to take part in all of the extra curricular activities and sports team that many of them love.



It's great to see some of these clubs reappearing after the holidays and I look forward to seeing year 8 throw themselves back into that with all their normal enthusiasm and energy.

Mr Carr.



VIRTUAL RUNNING AND REDUCING RISKS

PE Update from Mr Owen

As we all look forward to the festive break and spending safe, quality with our families it is only right that we celebrate the stand out achievements of students participating in PE. A has been a term that confronted us with many challenges both on and off the pitches and in the classroom. A big thank you goes out to both students and parents for your support in coming to school well prepared and motivated to participate in our COVID restricted curriculum offer. Strict National Governing Body guidelines have been followed and we have still managed to deliver a broad range of activities.

I would like to say well done to all our CNAT Sport science groups who have adapted well to studying their course both online and in the classroom. Our Year 11 group will be sitting the RO41 Reducing the risk of sports injuries examination in January and, as a department, we look forward to celebrating excellent deserved results with them. The year 9 and 10 groups are persevering with their respective courses looking forward to less restrictive rules in the practical elements of the course allowing them a deeper understanding of theoretical topics.

Since September, all students have started their PE lessons with a timed run; their times recorded as part of our school entry in the Devon Schools Virtual competition. The following students demonstrated their resilience and effort during the timed run and we want to congratulate you along with everyone else you will receive a certificate shortly:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Emma Kerr	Fletcher Davis	Abigail Reed	Owen Andrews	Isabella Betterton
Lillymay Gribble	Brody Rendell	Mali Glover	Joshua Marlow	Keeley Hutchings
Ruby Stevens	Jenson Mitchell	Jessica Rockett	Daniel Riley	Isla Manville
Grace Squire	Christian Dixon	Maisie Exell	George Somers	Evie Rodgers
Summar-Louize	Lucas McGahey	Rebecca Peperell	George Cawley	Molly Bolton
McQuire	Adam Somers	Willow Tulloch	Caleb Marais	Charlotte Mitchell
Lily-Anne Smith	Charlie Foxwell	Lilly Rattew	Jake Baker	Faith Phillips
Phoebe Croad	Ethan Pyle	Paige Hill Letten	Tyler-Jay Dibling	Talia Hutchings
Myia	Matthew Reed	Diamond Dixon	Joel Jefferies	Jasmine Rowe
Hiscox	Holly Seward	Kaitlin Hill	Innes FitzGerald	Gemma Cleal
Emily Watkinson	Cassie Miller	Harry McMahon	Zoe Moore	Peter Johns
Ella Hall	Taliah Marais	Jack Pulman	Lucy Grimes	Samuel
Olivia Pyle	Eva Jefferies	Kai Martin	Raine Kirk	d'Albertanson
Luke Hill	Isabella	Kyran Paynter	Erin Haslegrave	Mohammed Temori
Edan Wellman	Wickenden	Joseph Morgan	Connie Singlewood-	Corbin Cox
Louis Manley	Gabriella Price	Owen Dibling	Shaw	Joseph North
Theo Dibling	Lexi Eglon	Oliver Manley	Lydia Trigg	Jenson Deanus
George Manning	Chloe Board	Benjamin	Kayla Froom	Bobby Harwood
Alexander Dixon	Olivia Terry	Morgan	Lydia-Rose Josko	Archie Woollacott
Finlay Highfield	Megan Cole	Harvey Dyer	Luca Mae	Johnathon Seward
Frederick McMahon		Joshua Kingham	Radford	Flynn Parsons
Henry Cloud				
Michael Johns				

We look forward to celebrating more sporting success from our students in 2021. Have a fabulous festive period and see you all in the New Year.

THE AVA VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT

Mr Jevons explains...

The annual school Carol Service at St Mary's is one of the things I really look forward to. This year was due to be my 27th and I was really saddened not to be able to present this in the usual way. However, the Music Department is always up for a challenge and so decided to create a virtual one of some kind. After many hours of recording singers and instrumentalists separately and then filming them we finally came up with a version for the school to watch. It has been a great pleasure working with everyone on this. Several students wrote their own songs and made the Christmas message speak to our hearts - particularly relevant in these challenging times.



Wishing you all a Holy and Peaceful Christmas

Mr Jevons

BATTLE OF THE CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Raising money for charity, two jumpers at a time



Every year Mr Brookman dazzles us with his vast array of beautiful (some may not agree with this wording) Christmas jumpers. But this year, Miss Coghlan issued a challenge to him to find out who has the worst set of Christmas jumpers!

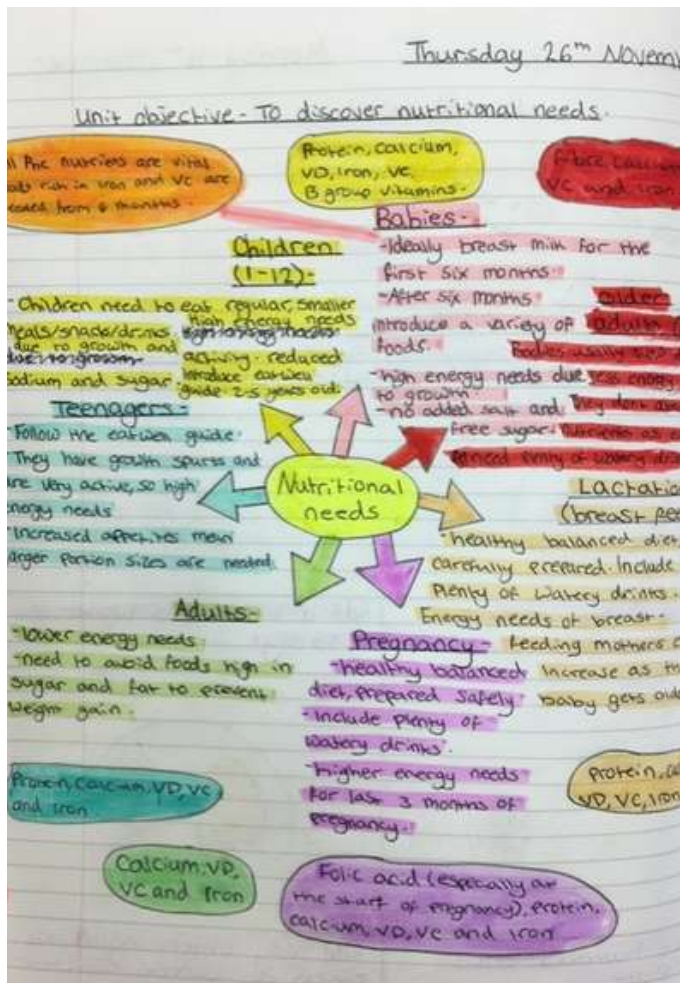
Every day from Friday 27th November they fought jumper to jumper to find out who has the worst set of Christmas jumpers. Staff, students and parents were encouraged to vote and donate some money to Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity.

The competition was won by Miss Coghlan and they raised a whopping £213!



NUTRITIONAL FACTS & FOOD PREP EXAMS

Y8 Food Tech students have been discovering what types of nutrition are appropriate for different age groups (left), while Y11 Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE students have been executing part of the NEA2 practical Demonstration of Skills exam (below). Yum!



CELEBRATING YEAR 9



“..we expect big things from them in the coming months

Celebration Assembly with year 9 has given me the opportunity to focus on all the amazing students we have within this year group. On a daily basis they are excelling as well as upholding our core values.



They are a year group that is well respected by their teachers and we expect big things from them in the coming months.

Well done for all the outstanding achievements you have made this term and have a very Happy Christmas.

Mr Horn.

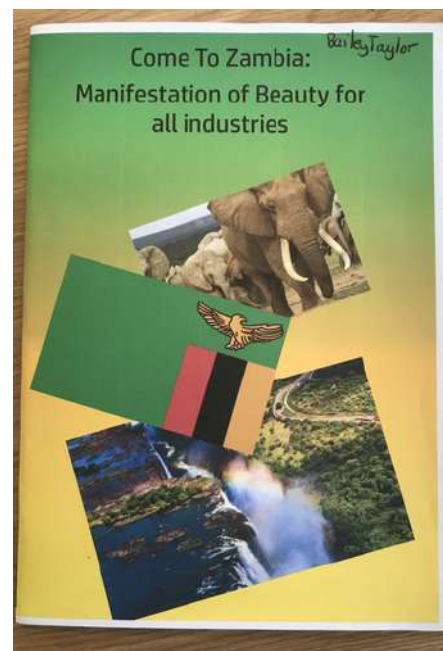
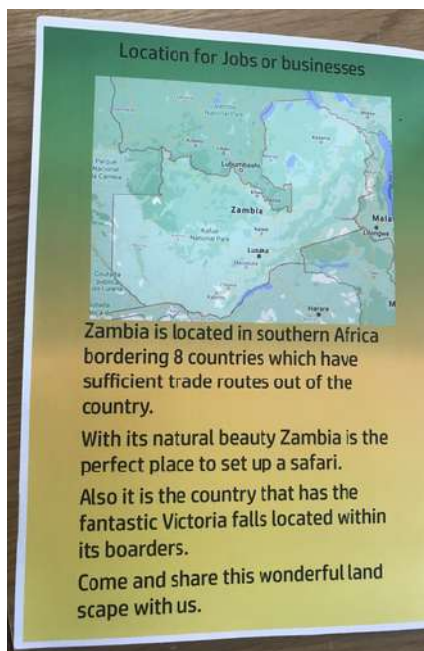


YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY

Zambia is open
for business

As part of the unit of work on
dynamic development, Y9 students
have been completing an in depth
study of Zambia.

One of their challenges was to
produce a leaflet to persuade more
foreign companies to invest in
Zambia.



CELEBRATING YEAR 10

Year 10 have taken on the challenge of working hard, thinking hard and preparing for exams (including their English Literature) this academic year. Walking around their lessons we see hard work, motivation, deep thinking and a real dedication to their GCSEs.

“

..on a daily basis they are kind, respectful and hard working



I've been hugely impressed by the way Year 10 have once again helped some of our new students settle in to life at Axe Valley.

There are so many of them that on a daily basis are kind, respectful and hard working that it makes me proud to be their year leader.

Have a very Happy Christmas!

Mr Horn.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT AVA - SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!