

# AIXEMINSTR

*Axe Valley Academy Newsletter*



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## WELCOME TO ISSUE 5

### Headteacher's Message

What a fantastic term! It has felt genuinely lovely in school across this term and it was a pleasure to invite members of our LGC in to experience the school in action.

We have had the pleasure of seeing our Year 10&11 students attack their GCSE examinations with a fierce sense of determination and pride, and they were impeccably behaved. From all of the staff at AVA - we could not be prouder of them.

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## Headteacher's Message continued

Today our term has culminated in a very beautiful and emotional Leaver's Day for our Year 11 students. We can't wait to share the photos and experiences with you all in our bumper summer edition. In this edition we have highlights from Axminster Tools, as well as a flavour of the busy and exciting term that we have had. May I remind you that polo shirts can be worn under blazers in place of a shirt and tie after half term, but please ensure that blazers are still worn correctly.

Thank you to all of the families who have donated pre-loved school uniform. Could I ask again that any donations are dropped off at school reception, where they will be gratefully used. Thank you to all of our families for their ongoing support. We can't wait to see you in the summer term for some really exciting events.

Laura Jenkins.

## KAI TO THE RESCUE

Kai Kemm (Year 7) came to the rescue during the recent wet weather. The road outside his house became heavily flooded and, rather than sit in the dry, Kai took it upon himself to direct traffic to make sure that nobody got stuck! We and his family are really proud of him and the help he gave the community that day.



## AARON'S 50 MILES IN 50 DAYS



Aaron Meeds (Year 7) managed to raise an amazing £400 for Parkinson's UK by walking fifty miles over fifty days during April and May. He even managed to complete the challenge eight days early!

The money raised will support vital research and support to sufferers of the disease.

For more information about the charity, visit [www.parkinsons.org.uk](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk)

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**



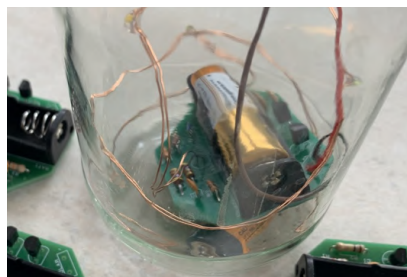
# FABULOUS STREET FOOD

The Year 11's have cooked up some tasty treats during this half-term



# PCB CIRCUITS AND PROTOTYPE PENS

Design and Technology continues to impress



Year 8 students have been making a 'sun jar' using PCB circuits, whilst the Year 7 students have been busy creating prototype ergonomic pens from acrylic.



# AXMINSTER TOOLS...



A letter from Jane Boulton, HR Director

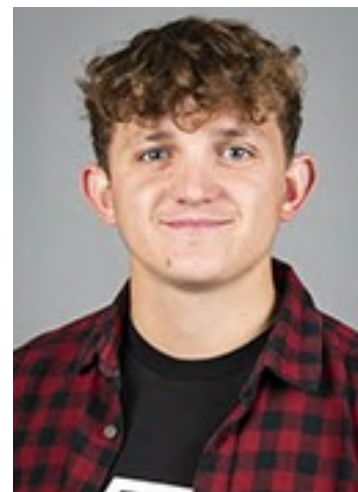
Here at Axminster Tools we incorporate all that we do in line with our values - something that may not be considered by young people when choosing a career. After all, if we can identify what is important to us when it comes to work, we are far more content in our careers.

I have been working with Axe Valley Academy for many years and when mentoring young students, it is necessary to understand what is important to them: if there is anything positive to come out of this past year it might be that we not only have a greater awareness of what is important to us in our lives, but we are also brave enough to live by these values rather than compromising them to suit others.

It certainly has been a hard year for us all and as a company we have missed not being able to support work experience and mentoring to students but we hope that the future is bright and we will be able to offer some exciting challenges. We have started to accept students requests for work experience again in the hope that we will be able to accommodate this. We are very fortunate that we are in a position to offer a variety of sectors within the company - leadership, transport, HR, engineering, accounting, marketing, warehousing, heavy goods, customer services, sales, servicing, technology and even catering! The majority of students who come to us undertake some form of project and don't just observe. This enables them to build on their skill set so that it can support them as proven evidence when applying for College or University as well as if they are looking for a job.

A talent pipeline is key for any business which was why we created a bespoke apprenticeship programme. We try to accommodate local students where we can and being the School's Enterprise Advisor this has supported this initiative. We have had some really successful apprenticeships, some leading to managers and others in unique roles which have grown and developed with business needs. Apprenticeships are important to us as they bring in a diverse and creative way of thinking and we can capture the passion of the apprentices right from the start.

If you want to learn more about apprenticeships within the business, you can visit our website [AxminsterTools.com](http://AxminsterTools.com) - click on our careers page, scroll down to the 'apprenticeship title' and click 'to learn more' - you can hear our MD's views on our scheme.



Max (right) joined our apprenticeship program in 2017 from Axe Valley. He has now successfully completed his apprenticeship, reaching a Level 4 in IT Software, Web and Telecoms within the Technology and Business Change department. We have continued to invest in his training and he is now undertaking a Windows Server administration course.

*What are your favourite memories of school?*

"I absolutely loved my time at Axe Valley, but for me the best memories I have are definitely participating in school sports (Sports Day was my favourite day of the year!) and going on the brilliant trips which we were offered. From skiing down the slopes in Austria to canoeing down the River Ardeche - these trips were amazing and I recommend everyone take these opportunities when they can!

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*What were the steps you took after school that led you to where you are now?*

When my time at Sixth Form was ending, I was still totally unsure on what I wanted to do. I had applied to university and had that as an option but I wasn't 100% sure it was going to be for me. After doing my work experience at Axminster Tools and having such a rewarding time, I emailed the HR department to see if they had any apprenticeship opportunities. I was lucky enough that they had an opportunity within the then IT department. This was not something I had ever considered before but I was lucky enough that AVA let me go and spend some more time at Axminster Tools within the IT department on Tuesday afternoons for six weeks. On my final afternoon, the manager of the department offered me the apprenticeship and I haven't looked back since! From joining Axminster Tools, I did three years at Exeter College learning both Level 3 and then a Level 4 (HNC) which was 1 day a week. I continued to work the other 4 days as normal. I now work full time at HQ in Axminster.

*What made you decide this career path?*

If I'm totally honest, in school I never imagined myself pursuing a career in IT. I had worked out that university wasn't for me and really enjoyed my work experience at Axminster Tools. After spending time with the team and finding out what the department does for Axminster Tools I was very intrigued and wanted to learn more which I was lucky enough to be given the chance to do.

*What are the challenges you are facing in your job?*

It sounds like a cliché but my favourite part of my job is that no day is the same. I am constantly facing new challenges and different issues that I personally have never experienced before. Every day is a school day and I am constantly learning. During the apprenticeship it was hard to keep a balance of Work and College work. It is important as an apprentice that College work gets done as well as your normal work and setting priorities and planning your work is essential.

*What advice would you give yourself as a 15 year old now?*

If I knew the career I was going to end up in, I definitely would have picked IT as an A level! Haha. But in all seriousness, don't panic. Enjoy your last few years at school the best you can and take the opportunities that are given to you. The work experience week can be very important, try not to do it where you currently may be undertaking part time work, do something out of your comfort zone that you've never done before and you might just love it!

*What are your career ambitions for the future?*

I would like to gain as many qualifications as possible to make my c.v. look as strong as possible with many skills in different areas of IT. I'm very happy at Axminster Tools and would love to progress through the company as best as I possibly can which I will work hard to do. I am constantly looking for new opportunities within the company to get involved in and this should leave me in good stead for my own personal development and progressing through the company."

As a business we really value where we are based and the talent that this area can offer and are really excited about our future and what young people can bring to us.

Jane Boulton,  
HR Director.



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR 7&8

Throwing, jumping, planting, smiling and a lot of learning





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SUCCESS

Congratulations to Mollie Purrington who has achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award!

The next event is the year 10 Bronze practice expedition from Friday 25th to Saturday 26th June 2021.



## YEAR 7&8 UPDATE

Celebrating another fantastic half-term!

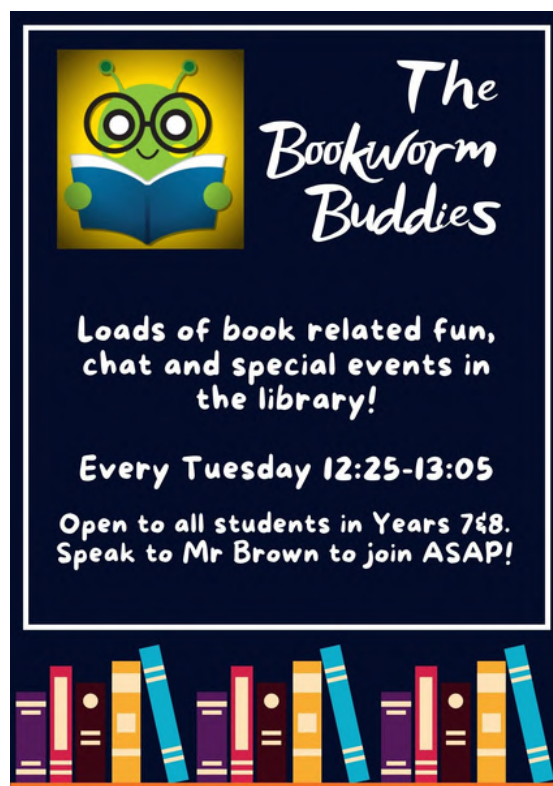
The most under-rated word in the English language - normal. Isn't normal wonderful ! We have had a very productive, occasionally sun shiny, hard working, fun filled, NORMAL half term. It's been absolutely lovely to see the hard working people of Year 7&8 get an opportunity to really settle into their time in school with some consistency in their education and social lives. As hard as the teachers worked to produce good quality work and the amazing lengths that students and parents went to during most of the Easter term, the value of normality and consistency in education has never been clearer.

Touring the classrooms, it has been a real pleasure to see Year 7&8s showing real enthusiasm for their learning and maintaining really good behaviour for learning - a guaranteed recipe for success. Generally behaviour since the last lockdown has improved further, with far fewer negative points being awarded and even more positives. A sign of the really positive attitude so many of the students came back to school with. Well done!

As you know, April was a beautiful month for everyone except ducks with almost no rain and loads of warm sunny days. The end of the month was perfect for summer sports and clubs and it was really heartening to see so many KS2 students throwing themselves into the opportunities they were given. Hopefully all your training will pay off and we will see fixtures back soon.

Sadly for me I am now handing over Year 7&8 to Mr Horn so I can concentrate on working with primary schools to make sure that next year's Year 7s settle quickly into our community. I have really enjoyed working with both year groups and their parents and look forward to seeing you do brilliantly in the remainder of your time in school.

Mr Carr



# ATHLETICS IS ON THE WAY

The latest PE news from Mr Owen

The end of another half-term approaches and with it we say farewell and good luck to our Year 11s. I have included some pictures of happier days below when restrictions were not even thought about. At present our Year 11 CNAT group are in the process of completing their final pieces of work and we look forward to celebrating their success with them at results day in August.



The weather has played a major part in this half-term activity but students have concentrated on honing their athletic skills and techniques in preparation for Sports Day on July 14th. It has been great to see so many students attending extra-curricular clubs but I would still like to see every student taking the opportunity to participate in at least one club every week.



After half-term with the weather improving we aim to provide a full range of extra-curricular activities for students to come and enjoy. We as a department would like as many students present at clubs to help build the successful sports teams we know the Axe Valley Academy can produce.



Students who received Active Devon medals for their great running performances: Kai, Harry, Innes, Holly, Abi, Jack, Louis, Luke, Eden (Emma Kerr not in picture).

## HALF-TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

Football fun for all!  
Monday 31st May 9am-3pm

If you are interested contact Dan Murnane  
on 07845 498057 /  
dmcoaching2010@gmail.com



# LITERACY CLUB NEWS

## Fan fiction and civil rights over a nice hot cup of tea

Mr Wilson and Mr Brown have been running two after-school literacy clubs this term.

Mr Wilson's club has been reading 'Coraline', by Neil Gaiman. The students have loved the book and have written a wonderful piece of fan-fiction (below) about Coraline's mother.

Mr Brown's group have been reading 'Ghost Boys', by JP Rhodes. The subject matter of the book led the group to learn about Emmett Till, which in turn led to learning about the Civil Rights Movement in the US - quite a journey of learning!



### 'Coraline's Mother' - a fan-fiction prequel

*Angela buttoned up her pyjamas. They were old-fashioned pyjamas, with faded roses scattered around and mostly petite pearl buttons, but when two had fallen off they'd been replaced by big, black round buttons. They stood out, for sure, but Angela liked them – they made the pyjamas special and only hers.*

*That night, Angela jumped into bed, excited about moving to the New House tomorrow. She squeezed her eyes tight shut, to force herself to sleep, because as everyone knows, the sooner you fall asleep the sooner the morning comes. She wasn't to sleep soundly, however.*

*With only a streak of moonlight cutting across the foot of the bed, Angela sat up. There was a noise like wind in a tunnel filling the room. Her bedroom door was wide open.*

*Angela climbed out of bed and pushed her feet into her slippers. She walked to the door. It did not lead into the hall anymore. There was a purple corridor, twisting into darkness. Angela swallowed hard and stepped in.*

*Ghostly shapes circled around her as she walked, and the whistling wind continued. It wasn't far to the other end, but it was far enough.*

*Angela emerged into the hall of her own house. At least, at first glance, it seemed to be her house. But the walls sloped, and the floor went downhill. Angela crept down the hall. Her parents weren't in their bed. She went downstairs. Nothing but a dripping tap for the new owners to inherit.*

*In the garden, the trees and flowers swayed, but Angela could feel no wind.*

*Angela walked towards the old recreation ground. Something drew her to the well – she hadn't said goodbye to it after all.*

*She felt, rather than heard, a voice from the well. It said, "Come here at once," but in a kindly tone of voice.*

*The beldam crept over the edge of the wall around the well. It was spidery, like a false widow, but huge. From its head waved thick, snake-like hair; a Medusa. It was hideous, wet and dripping.*

*"Who dares enter my domain," it whispered fiercely.*

*Angela's eyes widened.*

*"Who are you?" she managed to say.*

*"Just a lonely, ancient beast. All I need is someone to love and care for. Perhaps you can help me."*

*Angela took a step back. "I'm not afraid of you!" she said.*

*The beldam emerged fully from the well. It reared up on two of its eight legs, facing Angela directly. The snake-hair swirled in the air, like it was formed of separate animals. The six others started to fold into each other and merge, making two human-like arms. The legs it stood upon thickened out. The hair settled down and thinned into long, black, straight strands. Its face became human-like – it became Angela's face. The beldam had transformed into a copy, a parody, of Angela, but the eyes were missing. Otherwise it was a near-mirror image, but a distorted one. The beldam reached forward to Angela. One by one, it plucked off those oversize black buttons and held them to its eye sockets. One finger transformed into a needle and thread appeared. The beldam sewed those two black buttons in place of eyes and levelled them at Angela.*

## PRIZE WINNING PHOTO!



Eleanor Young in 7EB has won a local competition. She entered the attached photo for Seaton Tramway wild arts competition and won an arts supplies hamper, an arts lesson and a family ticket to the Tramway. Well done Eleanor!

## TOP NOTCH DUTCH APPLE CAKE

Tom Lee, Toby Herbert and Mrs Stockton had great fun learning how to make Dutch Apple Cake. It looks delicious, but is it as good as a Dorset one?!

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VIOLIN TEACHER

Leonie Kuenzle is an experienced violinist who is now offering violin lessons at AVA. She has played in orchestras and ensembles and also has experience of performing as a solo artist.



She makes her lessons fun and engaging, yet also ensures that students develop all the correct technical skills.

If you would like to know more, you can email her at:

[leonie.kuenzle@gmail.com](mailto:leonie.kuenzle@gmail.com)





# YEAR 11 ART - PERFECT PORTRAITS



Kirstyn Huxford



Paris Davis



Inga Pakula



Demi Howard



Jasmine Macaulay



Eve Hoare

As Year 11 put the finishing touches on their art portfolios it is a good time to reflect on their hard work and the progress made by so many of them - despite the at times trying circumstances. The Art department will be displaying work by all of this year's leavers in the end of year exhibition. Look out for dates (to be announced) on the school website, Twitter and Facebook.

Mr Petty



# LIBRARY NEWS

## Author visits galore!

The library has had a very busy and exciting half-term. Our Year 7&8 book group, the 'Bookworm Buddies', are a growing group of students who share a love of reading. They were very privileged to have three virtual author visits over the last few weeks.

The first visit was from Cat Weldon, author of 'How to be a Viking'. She gave the group lots of fascinating Viking Facts and told us how her creative process works.

The second was from Catherine Bruton, author of 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria'. She inspired the group by explaining why she writes about global issues, how she got her books made into movies and also who her favourite authors are.

The final visit was from Tom Palmer, author of 'Armistice Runner' and 'Arctic Star'. He gave a fascinating insight into how he writes, how to research and how to get your work published!

[catweldon.co.uk](http://catweldon.co.uk)  
[catherinebruton.com](http://catherinebruton.com)  
[tompalmer.co.uk](http://tompalmer.co.uk)

## New stock - awards season!

The library is always filling its bookcases with the latest and best YA fiction. Spring is the season for book awards and the library has all the nominees and winners of both the CILIP Carnegie and the YA Book Award.

[carnegiegreenaway.org.uk](http://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk)  
[thebookseller.com](http://thebookseller.com)

As always, books can be reserved online - just send Mr Brown an email if you need a hand getting started.

[mbrown@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mbrown@axevalley.devon.sch.uk)  
<https://axevalley.slls.online/>





# GOVERNOR VISIT UPDATE

## A positive message from our new Parent Governor

As one of the new Parent Governors to join the AVA Local Governing Committee (LGC), I was pleased to finally be able to visit AVA with the latest change in the Covid-19 restrictions. Having not been able to visit the school during the pandemic, it has meant that up until now all our updates and meetings have been done online - something many of us have had to adjust to in the last year or so. Having last been into AVA to attend the new starter induction with our daughter in 2019, I was eager to see the school 'in action' on a normal working day and to see the changes and updates that we had been advised on.

Aside from all the Covid-19 safety measures that are in place (as well as the cleaning regime), the most noticeable difference that struck me was the calm, quiet working atmosphere in the classrooms. Pupils were engaged in their work and classroom behaviour was impressive. The enthusiasm of staff remains high and inspiring, whilst the politeness and openness of the children we spoke to all gave a reassurance that the process and progress of improvement at AVA is clearly heading in the right direction.



I look forward to working with my colleagues on the LGC to ensure the vision for AVA is delivered by the senior leadership team and staff, by supporting them and challenging them where needed as part of our commitment to the school and the academy. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and also thank all members of AVA -governors, staff and students - for the warm welcome I have received.

James Hammett

## YEAR 8 RIVERS TRIP

It was great to be able to take 8P3 down to the River Axe on Monday, to bring to life some of the work we have been doing during our Rivers unit this term. They had a go at some map skills and we visited the site of an Oxbow Lake - something most parents probably remember from geography lessons when they were at school!

It's amazing to have this fantastic resource on our doorstep - and the sun even shone!

Mr Horn



# YEAR 9&10 UPDATE

## Mr Horn bids farewell

I wanted to say a fond farewell to Years 9 and 10 as they move on to having Mrs Ward as a Year Leader. It has been a disrupted year to say the least and as a result I don't feel like I got to know the Year 9 students as well as I would have liked. They have also missed out on the amazing assemblies I normally deliver! They are a year group packed with talent and I look forward to seeing them shine over the next two years.

Year 10 now move on to be the oldest students in the school. There are many natural leaders and motivated students within this year group and I hope to see you carry on being role models for the younger students.

I'd like to say a big thank-you to all the parents I have worked with who have children in Year 9 and 10. There has been an amazing amount of support from you in helping your children, especially with their learning during lockdown.

You will be in good hands with Mrs Ward and I wish you all the best with your future studies and extra-curricular activities.

Mr Horn

# MARTHA'S SKYDIVE UPDATE



Martha Shuell completed her charity skydive in aid of Marie Curie! She was inspired to do something so brave by her Aunt Linda who has been a dedicated nurse for over 10 years. The school had a non-uniform day which managed to raise her an extra £514, bringing the grand total to an amazing £1633!

If you wish to make a donation, please click on the link below:

[www.gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)

## WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A LOVELY WEEK OFF - ENJOY THE SUNSHINE!