

December 2020

Airedale Academy

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for your ongoing support of our Academy. I have compiled this newsletter to make you aware of some the highlights from this term and to inform you of events and key dates for the start of the spring term. As always, this term has been a very busy and very rewarding one! Our new Y7 and Y12 students are settling in well, our staff team have been very impressed by their positive attitudes to learning, their uniform and their behaviour. Thank you to all families, feeder schools and staff involved in our virtual transition for making the start of the new term run so smoothly for them. All other students have also made a good start, thank you once again to all those parents/carers who continue to support the school by sending your children in the correct uniform and well equipped for a day of learning! Please do take some time to read about the fantastic things that have taken place over the course of the term and all about some of our upcoming events.

There are also important dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter.

The last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December with students finishing the school day at their usual times. More information about the last day has been outlined in a letter sent home to parents and carers; this letter is also on our website.

Our summer 2020 results

Our summer 2020 results were pleasing with most students making good progress from their starting points. Students also performed particularly well in the Sixth Form, with results above national averages across the board.



School Calendar 2020-2021

We know how important it is to you to have key school dates in advance, so please visit our academy website or Facebook page to see the school term dates for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. These are the agreed Wakefield LA calendar and will be adopted by all schools within our Trust. Inset dates are not published as yet for next academic year.

Attendance Matters!

This term our attendance has been fantastic. Despite all the changes and disruption, our students have demonstrated a superb appetite for learning through their attendance to school. At time of press, our attendance is over 10% higher than schools both locally and nationally. A phenomenal achievement!

Students have been rewarded for their brilliant attendance with weekly prize draws and, through our partnership with Castleford Tigers, we even saw a rugby shirt giveaway for 30 lucky students.

As we approach Christmas, we have over 300 students still on track to earn their Club 100 bronze badge for 100% attendance all term. These students are also in line to win a host of Christmas goodies supplied by local businesses



AJP, Castleford Tigers, Hookstone Group and Morrison's.

We hope this excellent start to the year continues in the Spring and Summer terms. Mr. P is already getting the Easter Eggs ordered for next term!!





Student Planners

It is vitally important that our students are ready to learn each day; a large part of this is ensuring that students have the correct equipment. All students are expected to have the '3Ps' (planner, pen, pencil) every day and their planners will be checked to record this. All students were given a planner at the start of this term. If students lose or deface their planners, the expectation is that they replace it. Planners are available from our school shop and cost £2.50.



Head Boy and Girl

Airedale Academy's Head Boy and Head Girl took up office recently. A big congratulations to Libby C and to Camron G who will be ambassadors for the academy, support our students in all year groups and work closely with the Senior Leadership Team to take the school from strength to strength. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are key to encouraging other students to demonstrate our core values of - Respect, Ambition and Bravery.



Airedale Academy Remembers

On Wednesday 11th November we came together as a school community to remember our fallen soldiers. Not just those soldiers from wars of years gone by but also of those of more recent battles. We also remembered an ex-student of ours, James Backhouse, for whom our memorial space was established. We remembered James and his fellow soldiers who sadly also lost their lives in Afghanistan. The students of Airedale Academy did us proud as they paid their respects for our fallen soldiers through song and poetic readings.



Uniform and Nails

We very much appreciate the efforts made by families to ensure that our students wear their uniform correctly and proudly. Our students look very smart and the vast majority of students reach our high expectations every single day. Just a gentle reminder that 'hoodies' are not allowed in school and need to be removed at the school gate, before our students cross the yellow line. Blazers need to be worn in school at all times, unless a teacher or adult has given permission for them to be taken off. A final reminder about nails. Our Behaviour Policy states that nails must be of a safe, reasonable length; long acrylic-type nails are not permitted. Students have also been reminded that nails should be of a natural colour. If students have their nails professionally manicured for the holiday season, we respectfully ask that nails are in line with our policy for return to school in January.

Parking

Another reminder to please park safely outside of the Academy. We must ensure the safety, when entering and exiting, of all students and some parking continues to jeopardise this. We have asked the police to support us with this.

Bad Weather

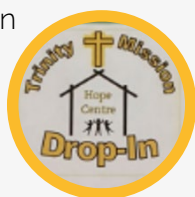
In the unlikely event that the school should need to close due to snow, parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible and kept up to date via text/website and our Facebook page. It is therefore vital that school has your up to date contact details.

[@airedaleacademy](https://www.facebook.com/airedaleacademy)
www.airedaleacademy.com



Castleford Mission

Our students are collecting for the Castleford Mission for this year's Harvest Festival. Yet again, we were absolutely blown away by the generosity of our amazing young people and their families. Trinity Mission open four times each week offering meals, food parcels and clothing to support members of our community. The items that our school donated were used to make up 60 food parcels that were handed out (and are weekly) and were also used to prepare meals. Deacon Sharon Dilley has shared thanks to our academy community on behalf of everyone at Trinity Mission.




Your opinion matters!

We would really appreciate it if you could take the time to follow the link to give your views about the academy. We really do care about parent/carer opinions and take them all very seriously.

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Spring Term Menu

Our current menu will continue after the holidays. When we return on Tuesday 5th January, it will be Week 2 of the menu shown below:

		Week 1 will be weeks commencing: 18/1/2021, 8/2/2021.	Week 2 will be weeks commencing: 5/1/2021, 25/1/2021,	Week 3 will be weeks commencing: 11/1/2021, 1/2/2021.	
Week 1		Week 2		Week 3	
Monday		Monday		Monday	
Burger Bar	Hot Dog • Spiral Potatoes • Drink	Burger Bar	Hot Dog • Spiral Potatoes • Drink	Burger Bar	Hot Dog • Spiral Potatoes • Drink
Deli	Pasta King Bolognaise • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Chicken Wrap • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Jacket Potato & Cheese • Fruit Pot • Drink
Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Tuesday		Tuesday		Tuesday	
Burger Bar	Chicken Burger • Chips • Drink	Burger Bar	Chicken Burger • Chips • Drink	Burger Bar	Chicken Burger • Chips • Drink
Deli	Pasta King Bolognaise • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Chicken Wrap • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Jacket Potato & Cheese • Fruit Pot • Drink
Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Wednesday		Wednesday		Wednesday	
Burger Bar	Sausage Roll • Wedges • Drink	Burger Bar	Sausage Roll • Wedges • Drink	Burger Bar	Sausage Roll • Wedges • Drink
Deli	Pasta King Bolognaise • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Chicken Wrap • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Jacket Potato & Cheese • Fruit Pot • Drink
Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Thursday		Thursday		Thursday	
Burger Bar	Pizza • Potato Balls • Drink	Burger Bar	Pizza • Potato Balls • Drink	Burger Bar	Pizza • Potato Balls • Drink
Deli	Pasta King Bolognaise • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Chicken Wrap • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Jacket Potato & Cheese • Fruit Pot • Drink
Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Friday		Friday		Friday	
Burger Bar	Chicken Nuggets • Chips • Drink	Burger Bar	Chicken Nuggets • Chips • Drink	Burger Bar	Chicken Nuggets • Chips • Drink
Deli	Pasta King Bolognaise • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Chicken Wrap • Fruit Pot • Drink	Deli	Jacket Potato & Cheese • Fruit Pot • Drink
Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 1	Ham Baguette • Cookie • Drink
Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Sandwich • Cookie • Drink	Grab Bag 2	Cheese Baguette • Cookie • Drink



Airedale Academy and Northern Ballet.

Last year the Dance department worked alongside Northern Ballet, as part of the Burberry Inspire project.

Plans had to be reshaped due to the pandemic and the closure of schools, but this did not stop the awesome work our students produced.

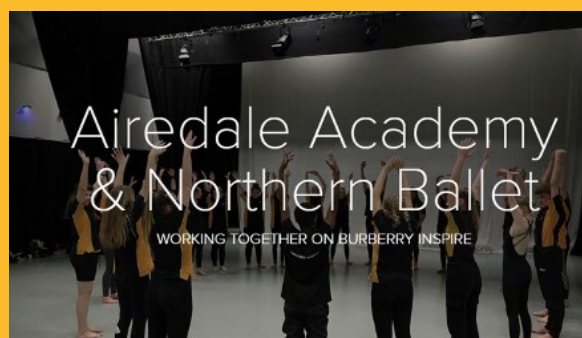
During lock down, the year 9 BTEC dance class continued working with the Artist in Residence remotely and created some footage at home. This was added to the footage captured in school by the filmmaker Marcus Lee to create the film *Escape*.

We also ran a choreographic competition for all KS3 students during Lockdown. The Choreographic Competition, invited pupils to create their dance, with the winning pieces turned into a special dance film by professional dancers.

A huge congratulations to Ellie T and Ruby P as they were selected as winners -you can see their work, *Roots and Trapped*, performed by Minju Kang, Lorenzo Trosello & Kevin Poeung from Northern Ballet.

The following link will allow you to see the fantastic work created by our student's curtesy of Northern Ballet and the Burberry Inspire team.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/RICPCB0E3J2si/>



Family News

Earlier this term, the Fraser family, including Archie in Year 8, went to London to take part in an annual event called Run the Ring. This year 950 Volkswagen cars and vans completed a convoy around the M25 to raise money for a charity call Papyrus that support helplines to prevent teen suicide. The fundraising totals have just been released and in total almost £52 thousand has been raised. The Fraser family were thrilled to take part in the fundraising effort and Archie was very proud to have been there! Well done Archie! #respectambitionbravery





Airedale Academy Recommended Reading List

Key Stage 3 Recommendations

Windrush Child - Benjamin Zephaniah

This is the story of Leonard, who at 10 years old makes the journey with his mother from Jamaica to join his father in England. Leonard is part of the Windrush generation, one of thousands of people and families who were persuaded by the government to help rebuild England after the Second World War and make a better life for themselves.

The story begins by focusing on Leonard's childhood, but follows him all the way to 2018 when he is denied citizenship in the country he has lived in all his life - a tragic example of the Windrush scandal.

A book to make children and adults alike think hard about our history, about racism and the Black Lives Matter movement, about fairness, about politics - and also about bravery and unsung heroes.



World Burn Down – Steve Cole

Dyslexia Friendly text

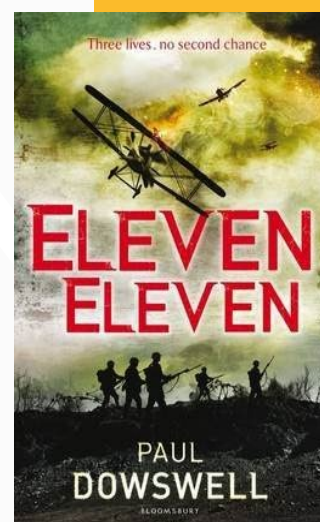
Carlos's mum works for IBAMA, Brazil's Environmental Authority, where her job protecting the Amazon rainforest from illegal deforestation has earned her some powerful enemies. The land-grabbers, who destroy vast areas of precious forest for farming, logging and mining, are prepared to go to extreme lengths to ensure they are not stopped by the authorities. Carlos is terrified when he's kidnapped by the land-grabbers in a bid to force his mother to back off. As he is being driven deep into the jungle, the jeep crashes and he is abandoned by his captor in the middle of a forest fire.



Eleven Eleven – Paul Dowswell

In the early hours of 11 November 1918, the agreement to end World War I is finally sealed but it will be several hours before the Armistice filters down the chain of command to the troops on the ground, and in the air – and a lot can happen in a few hours. As time ticks away, the lives of three young men, one English, one German and one American, collide as they fight to survive the final horrors of the war.

This action-packed thriller combines historical detail with three very personal stories of courage, strength and tragedy, to produce a gripping and thought-provoking account of the final hours of a brutal conflict.





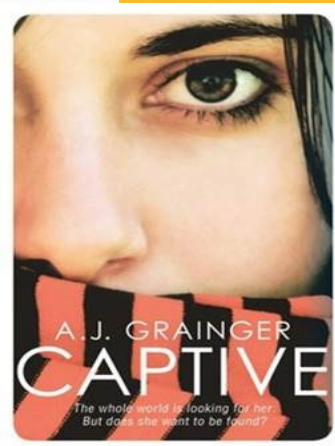
Key Stage 4 Recommendations

Captive – A J Grainger

Robyn is scared. Ever since the attempted assassination of her dad, the British prime minister, she dreads leaving home. Especially when he's staying in Downing Street and she's off to her grandparents' country estate. But this time, the animal rights activists aren't after the prime minister. It's Robyn they want.

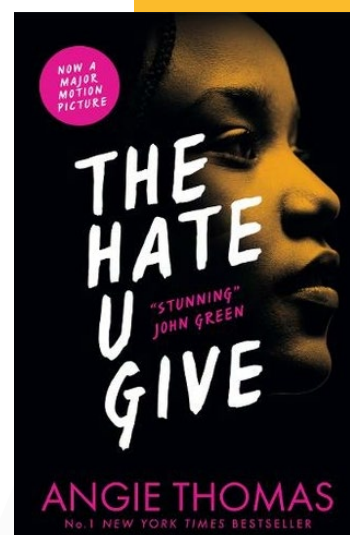
Kidnapped at gunpoint, incarcerated in a tiny cell, Robyn wonders how far her dad will go to secure her release. Doubts about lies and corruption at the heart of government start to fester. At the same time, she grows close to one of her captors - the boy with regret and melancholy in his captivating green eyes...

A gripping read and a moving exploration of identity, celebrity, loyalty, politics and power.



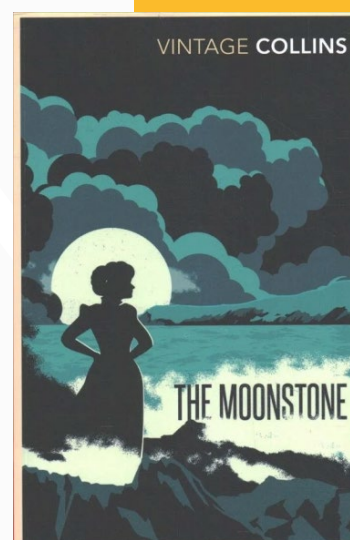
The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas

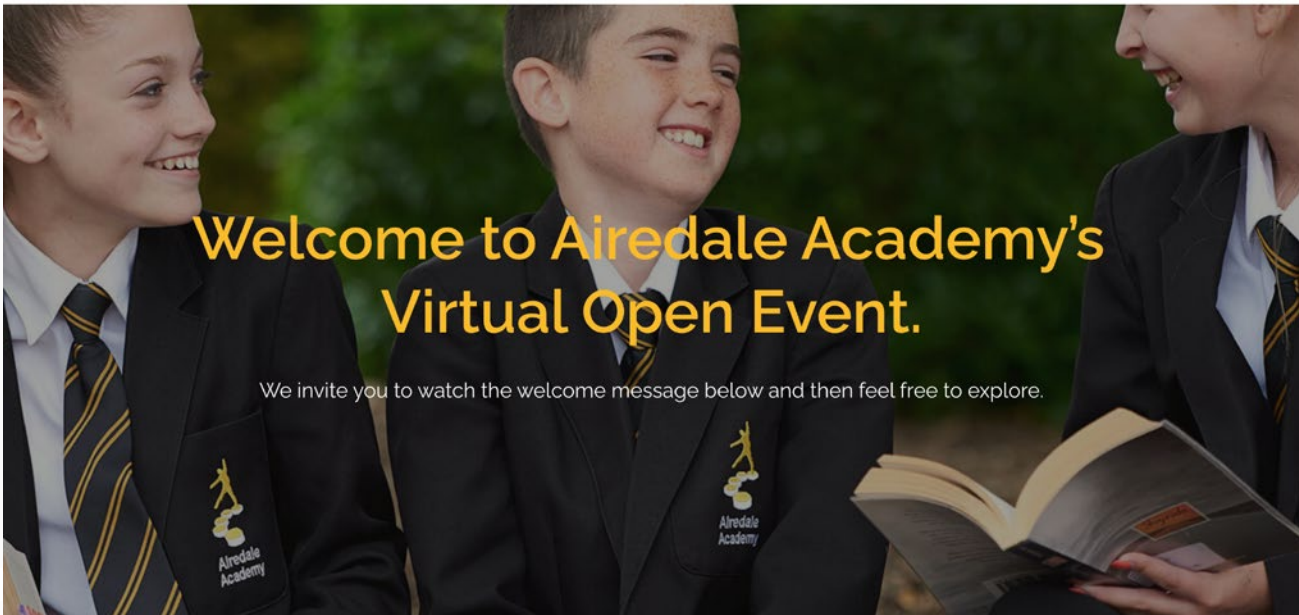
Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.



The Moonstone – Wilkie Collins

When Rachel Verinder's birthday present - the Moonstone, a large Indian diamond - is stolen at her party, suspicion and the diamond's mysterious curse seem set to ruin everyone and everything she loves. Only Sergeant Cuff's famous detective skills offer any hope of peace and a future for them all. The intricate plot and modern technique of multiple narrators made Wilkie Collins's 1868 work a huge success in the Victorian sensation genre.





Welcome to Airedale Academy's Virtual Open Event.

We invite you to watch the welcome message below and then feel free to explore.

Open Evenings

Our Year 7 students give their insights and advice for moving up to Airedale Academy.

To here more from our students follow this link

<https://youtu.be/XGugl4zATnU>



"Students should be looking forward to learning more about the subjects they're really interested in. English is my favourite subject – it's quite creative and you can add your own element to it, you can show your personality through it."



"The best thing about Airedale Academy is all the opportunities that you are given. This is a big performing arts school, so you get lots of opportunities to perform in dance and drama. We've also got really successful rugby league and football teams."



"Throughout Year 7, the school makes you feel comfortable and really welcomed and you're actually involved and part of the school system."



"The atmosphere is really friendly and kind. All the teachers are amazing at what they do."





Airedale Sixth Form

Despite this being one of the toughest years we have known I would like to share with you just how immensely proud we are of our Sixth Form students. The Year 13 that left us in March, as we went into lockdown, managed to achieve some of the best results we have seen at Airedale and the current Year 13 are also on track to gain excellent results as well.

This term our students are being extremely resilient and are showing a determination to succeed that is outstanding given the current circumstances. I would like to congratulate them on the mature approach they are taking to their studies and ask them to stay focused and motivated in the coming weeks.

This year we are unable to have an open evening in the way that we would normally, however we recently hosted a photographer for the company who will be putting together a virtual open evening for us in early December.

The students that volunteered to talk about their courses did an amazing job. Watch out for the adverts and please join us to find out what our Sixth Form has to offer and hear from present and past students about their experiences.

Students can apply for the Sixth Form by going through the Wakefield prospectus site or directly through the school web site on the Sixth Form page.

www.airedaleacademy.com/sixthform-applynow/

E Harrap Head of Sixth Form



Alumni Testimonials



"Airedale Academy Sixth Form provided such a fun, friendly environment that was a pleasure to be a part of. I studied Business Studies/ICT, the staff there were experts in that they did and gave great insights into the subject, enabling me to excel in the classroom. Airedale sixth form provided me with countless opportunities to excel and develop outside of the classroom, all of which helped me to get to where I am today! "

— Amy Martin, BA Hons Physical Education at Liverpool John Moore's University, PGCE in Secondary Physical Education Sheffield Hallam, currently a PE Teacher.



"Due to the sixth form being smaller, there is a lot of support there available for you as you get to know your teachers really well. The main skills I took with me are the academic writing skills I developed; this has really helped me during my time at university. The Progression Module is also excellent for giving an insight into what university is like."

— Emma Cossar, studying Linguistics and Phonetics at University of Leeds.



"Without a doubt the best decision I made. With tutors who are more like family, I've made friends for life. The opportunities I gained just from the support of staff, including auditions, masterclasses from west end professional. Opportunities that would never have arisen if it wasn't for Airedale. Remember, as Liz likes to say "fail to prepare, prepare to fail"

— Ben Evans





Christmas Comes Early at Airedale Academy!

Christmas is a time for giving and this year, the gifts have been flowing at Airedale Academy, in Castleford, where seven students have benefitted from the gift of a new laptop from a hero in the local community!

A local resident and his wife, who both wish to remain anonymous, was so moved by the many stories of school children not being able to access remote learning during the pandemic, that he decided to take direct action! Digital poverty became one of the frequent headlines emerging from the pandemic, with many families not having access to a suitable device which would enable their children to access home learning in an effective way.

Motivated by the many shocking headlines about digital poverty and with an incredible sense of generosity and community spirit, the local resident contacted local firm Airedale Computers. He sought their assistance in procuring seven refurbished laptops to gift to seven students in Airedale Academy, who were to be identified by the school as being in need of an aid to their independent and remote learning. Airedale Computers also demonstrated the spirit of giving, by providing the laptops at a hugely discounted rate.

The laptops have already been put to good use and the students who have benefited are extremely grateful. One particular student, within the 6th Form, stated



'I really struggled during Lockdown, as I didn't have access to a laptop. I was a bit anxious about starting my 6th Form course, as I knew I would have lots of learning to do at home, as well as in the classroom. As a result of the virus, I've already had to complete learning at home for a few weeks. I would have found it really difficult to stay on top of my assignments without this wonderful laptop!'



Miss Proctor, the Principal at Airedale Academy has commented, 'we always encourage our students to complete random acts of kindness- especially at Christmas. Each year, we give food items to Castleford's Trinity Mission and use the opportunity to teach our students about the gift of giving, but this year some of our students have seen the power of giving for themselves and the gift of a laptop will be potentially life-changing for them.'

Digital poverty hasn't disappeared, but community action such as this, can help to alleviate the problem and to lessen the barriers to learning at such a challenging time.



Spring Term 2021 – Upcoming Events

Dates for your diary – Spring Term 2021

Dates	Event
4th January 2021	INSET Dates 2021
5th January 2021	Academy opens to students
w/c 11th January	Y8 Assessment week
20th January	Y9 Parents' Evening & report issue
w/c 25th January	Y7 Assessment week
2nd February	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
9th, 11th & 12th February	Geography Field Trips (provisional)
12th February	Academy closed
22nd February	Academy opens
22nd February – 11th March	Y11 Mock Exams
10th March	Year 8 Options Information
19th March	Y12 & Y13 Report Issue
w/c 22nd March	Y9 Assessment Week
25th March	Y11 Revision Evening & Report Issue
23rd July	INSET Dates 2021

Many thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter, and on behalf of all of us at Airedale Academy, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We will look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Stay safe.

L Proctor – Principal

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