

## Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and parents/carers a relaxing and happy Easter holiday. This Spring Term seems to have flown by with a huge amount of fantastic events having taken place. Both staff and students have worked incredibly hard to ensure maximum progress is made by all and that every opportunity has been taken to receive the best education we can offer here at Airedale Academy.

The forthcoming Summer term will be just as busy for us and is a crucial time for our Y11 students as they embark on their GCSE examinations. It can be a stressful period for these students, so we are making every effort to ensure that they feel supported and well prepared. Thank you to all parents and carers of Y11 who are supporting from home and who have attended the various Y11 events throughout the spring term, we really do appreciate it. A big thank you too to all parents/carers for your ongoing support for and commitment to the school. Our uniform continues to look fantastic and the vast majority of students are coming to school equipped for learning. Can I please ask that you continue to encourage your child to use our school shop if they need to top up with any stationery at any point? This is based in Cool Off and is well stocked!

Please do take some time to read about the fantastic things that have taken place over the course of the last term and all about some of our upcoming events for the summer. Please note that we will reopen to students on **Tuesday 23rd April 2019**. There are also important dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter.

### Your opinion matters!

We really value your opinions and I would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete our most recent parent/carer surveys posted on our website and FB page. I will collate all of the results and as always, we will act on any changes we feel are appropriate and doable. I will be updating you on what these are next term!!

Please also remember that you are able to make any comments via the following link at any time.

[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

## School calendar 2019-2020

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 2019-20. This is the agreed Wakefield LA calendar and will be adopted by all schools within our Trust.

Inset dates for Airedale Academy will be 2nd September 2019, 4th October 2019 and 6th January 2020

### No child too hungry to learn with our new Magic Breakfast initiative.

Did you know that over 25% of Secondary School students start the school day with no breakfast? Here at Airedale Academy we are trying to combat this statistic by giving each and every student a free bagel every morning. Eating breakfast has a significant effect on the brain influencing the release of chemicals that can lead to improved cognitive function, better memory and attention, increased energy levels and longer concentration spans. Toasted bagels are now available in the canteen from 7:45am every morning. Make sure you don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to start the school day in the best positive way.



**FREE BREAKFAST BAGELS!**



**AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE  
MON TO FRI 7:30 - 8:30**

**A FREE TOASTED BUTTERED BAGEL\*  
IS AVAILABLE FOR EVERY STUDENT  
FROM THE CANTEEN**

\*bagels contain wheat flour and gluten and are prepared in an environment which may contain milk, sesame seeds and yeast.

magic breakfast  
best for learning

## 1000% attendance MATTERS

Here at Airedale Academy Attendance matters. We want to ensure that each child has the best possible start in life and realise their true potential. At the heart of this, is attending school regularly. Our current cumulative attendance percentage is 93.0%. That means we are 2% below the National average of 95%. In assemblies, attendance data is shared with year groups and students are encouraged to attend school every day. Year 8 has the best weekly attendance of 95.5% with Year 7 and Year 9 a close second and third. Students who attend regularly are rewarded through various whole-school initiatives such as canteen fast passes, Love-to-Shop vouchers, attendance weeks, free breakfasts and joining Club 100. Club 100 is a Northern Ambition Academies Trust scheme where students with 100% attendance can gain the recognition they deserve and receive a Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum badge. Each badge signifies that the student has been present for a full term across the year and a Platinum badge represents 100% attendance across the whole academic year. So far we have 273 students aiming for their Bronze badge in the spring term and 132 students striving for their Silver badge in the winter and spring term. Well done to all those students who are improving their attendance at school; attending every day does matter!

### Admissions Update

It is with great pleasure that we have so far welcomed 25 in-year admissions - new starters who have transferred to Airedale Academy from other local schools and beyond the district. Well done to those who have made a seamless transition and have shown our values of Respect, Ambition and Bravery in their first terms at Airedale Academy. We are proud to have you on board!



### 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.



Some of you will have heard about our new and exciting endeavour to raise the positive profile of the Academy: the hashtag #airedaleandproud. We have shared some of our exciting events on Facebook and Twitter, to show off just how proud we are of our students - most recently baking for Comic Relief and reading with Infant and Junior school students within our Trust. Students behaved in an exemplary fashion at both events, and we certainly were proud of their efforts.

## Events this term

### BRIAN COX'S UNIVERSAL TOUR WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

On Valentine's Day, thirteen students from years 10 and 11 visited the First Direct Arena in Leeds for a sell-out lecture, "Universal: Adventures in Space & Time", from world renowned Physicist, Professor Brian Cox. Lecturing to over 7,000 people, the evening started with Brian Cox looking at the iconic scientists through the years. After this, he took us on a fascinating tour of the universe, looking at space-time, general relativity, how black holes work, and, in the second half, the evidence for the Big Bang theory, the life cycle of a star and the possibility of life in our solar system on the moons of Jupiter and Saturn before finally leaving us with the chances of finding intelligent life on other planets in the universe. The night was awe-inspiring and the students left completely buzzing about the night.





## MOON ROCK ARRIVES AT AIREDALE ACADEMY!

On 26 February, Dr Sohan Jheeta brought in samples of the moon from the 'red box', one of only four touring boxes of Moon rock. Inside the box was lunar sample 230 along with meteorites from the Moon and Mars!

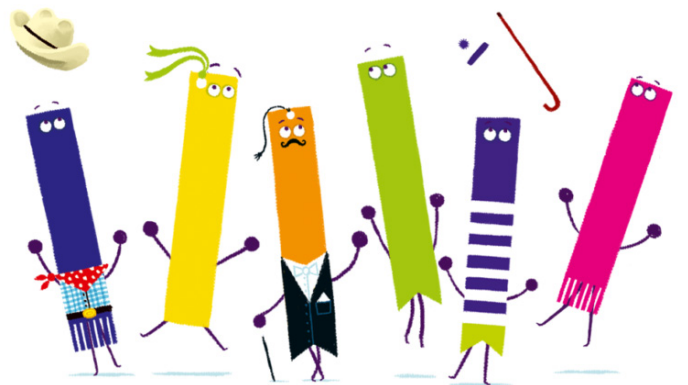
Students had time to look at the rocks in detail and were given a challenge to draw one of them. Students were then given a tricky quiz to test their knowledge.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be in the presence of an iconic piece of history.

## C'est fantastique!

Yet again students enjoyed the company of De Lacy Academy students as we visited their academy to watch a brilliant French play. It was so much fun and some of our very brave students got up on stage to interact with the actors. We loved the fact that they happily displayed one of our core Values of Bravery! We laughed and learned much. 'Merci De Lacy pour l'invitation!' The Modern Language Faculty has been covering the topic of 'Technology' in Year 8 and we have learnt how to text in French using the latest acronyms! 'Cé fantastique.' We would like to offer a £5 voucher to any person who can decode this text. Please send your answers to Madame Davis via the academy reception:

"I'S tomb! Pk HT un portable KC sur Ebay? Ok1 1Trêt! C + mal1 de le chanG pr ton anif ou kom cado pr Noël!" Bonne Chance!



## World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March, the academy took part in celebrations for World Book Day. Students took part in some exciting form time activities and discussion of books with Miss Hannam's form coming out triumphant! We also dropped everything and grabbed a book to enjoy some reading. Everyone from the students to the staff stopped and read for 15 minutes together to really highlight the importance of reading. Across the week of World Book Day, students enjoyed book focused lessons in English with students taking part in book speed dating and some story writing of their own.

## Our new Study Room

As well as our fantastic Reading Room, students now also have access to a Study Room within the academy which offers a quiet space for homework or revision after school. Located next to the Reading Room in lower school, the room has been given a makeover to make the room the perfect environment for studying. Open after school Monday - Thursday, it is a great place to work on homework or revision as a group or even spend some time working or reading independently.





## **GHWY Cambridge University Year 10 Residential- January 2019**

Cambridge University is on a mission to provide 'education which enhances the ability of students to learn throughout life' (Cambridge University's mission statement). This ethos provided a great start to 2019 for a group of our NCOP Wakefield Schools (Airedale Academy, Castleford Academy, De Lacy Academy and St Wilfrid's Catholic High School) who were lucky enough to experience the incredible atmosphere of Cambridge University. This trip involved 40 students (10 from each school) who were selected due to their hard working and positive attitudes. These students were accompanied by our Higher Education Progression Officers (HEPO) from each school, along with a few members of school staff.

Students were fortunate enough to stay in the university's very own halls of residence, staying in Selwyn College overnight. This was an amazing experience for our students, as it provided first hand experiences of what to expect when living independently at university. Students were also dining in Selwyn's dining hall, which seemed to impress our students- 'it's a different world here'.

On the first day of activities, students were invited to participate on a college tour in order to gain a sense of their environment for the next two days. The tour covered all aspects of student life, as Dr Matt Wise (our visit host) pointed out various attractions; such as the libraries, halls, JCR Room and some of the teaching space located at Selwyn. Students spent the majority of the first day in the Diamond Room, participating in a number of Higher Education related tasks. For example, students were asked to evaluate and design their own university timetables, in order to visualise their future routines as they progress into their dream courses. Dr Wise then delivered a sample lecture in his own field of expertise, as students participated in a Geography taster session. This demonstrated the teaching style of university, which allowed students to compare this to their current studies in school. Strike! In order to provide students with a sense of the 'work hard-play hard' ethos of an undergraduate, students were allowed free time in Selwyn's JCR room. It was great to see students from all schools integrating and introducing themselves to each other. This social time allowed students to socialise and gain confidence whilst occupying themselves by playing pool, table tennis and jenga! This free time was also followed by a fun bowling social, allowing students to experience more of what Cambridge University life has to offer.

On the second day of the residential, students were taken on a tour of Cambridge to explore the local libraries, colleges, city attractions and culture. Students were allowed to take a quick look in the main Cambridge University Library (see photo below) which holds every book in the UK!

To round-off the trip, students were then allowed some free time in the city- the Fudge Shop seemed to be the main attraction!

On the coach home it was great to hear comments like 'I could actually do this', 'can we stay a few more days' and 'best trip ever'. Dr Matt wise has also written to our progression officers to praise our students for their attitudes towards education. The Cambridge University staff are keen to publish a blog on their website to highlight this trip as a huge success!

## FLORIDA 2019!

Forty-nine students and staff enjoyed a six-day, half-term excursion at Orlando, Florida with the Science department. The itinerary was action-packed with the first day being taken up with flying to Atlanta and then catching a connecting flight to Orlando. When the plans for the evening meal fell through, we met our 'True American Hero' Ann, who was staying in the hotel and heard our plight. She ordered pizza for everyone on her card and went to pick the pizzas up, earning the affectionate name of Pizza Ann.

On day two, we visited Universal Studios and CityWalk, taking on rides such as the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit and Revenge of The Mummy. The evening was spent at the Bubba Gump restaurant for a Forrest Gump-themed quiz and at the pool.

On day three, we took a coach to the Kennedy Space Center to visit five-time astronaut, John Blaha who explained exactly what it was like to be strapped into the space shuttle and blasted into space. Later in the day, we visited the space shuttle Atlantis, the very vehicle John used in the 1991. In the IMAX theatre, students were given a challenge for the day; design a rover, which they did underneath an actual Saturn V rocket. At lunch, they spent the time in the viewing area reserved for astronauts' immediate families during launches. The tour also included a trip to see the iconic launch pads and the Vehicle Assembly Unit (the big building with the American flag on it!) The evening was spent at the Hard Rock Cafe before retiring to the pool for the night.

Thursday was the final day at CityWalk and a day at Islands of Adventure. Most students were woken up by a thrilling ride on The Hulk, followed by a wash down on Popeye and Bluto's Bilge-Rat Barges. In the afternoon, students experienced the first Floridian 'shower' of the trip, leaving most students completely drenched! The evening was once again spent at the Hard Rock Cafe before finishing the day with a special visit to see The Blue Man group.

The final morning was spent packing and at the Premium Outlets to get last minute bargains and presents for everyone back home. The afternoon was spent travelling back to the airport to catch the night flight back to Manchester. It was an excellent trip that both staff and students really enjoyed.



## Sixth Form News

The Sixth form students have been as busy as ever since the New Year. In February, Auditions, Interviews and taster sessions have been taking place and we look like having a strong new Year 12 cohort in September 2019. We were particularly pleased to welcome students and parents from around the Yorkshire region to a taster for the BTEC Level 3 Sport course that we are currently hosting on behalf of Castleford Tigers.



Also in February our Health and Social Care students began studying the heart as part of their anatomy and physiology studies and were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take part in dissection lessons with Mrs Sanderson to help them look in more detail and the hearts structure- not everyone's cup of tea!

In March we got an exciting phone call from BBC Radio One wanting us to get involved in their 'Lol-a-thon' for Comic Relief. This involved a group of our students going to the hilariously named 'Tickle Cock' bridge in Castleford to have their jokes added to the Lol-a-thon big red book and also tell jokes live on the Scott Mills show.



We have had a visit from NCS this term and are hoping that some of our Year 12 students will be taking part in the scheme over the summer holidays. We are also looking forward to becoming involved in the 'Looking Out For Our Neighbours' campaign which is a West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership social marketing campaign, that aims to prevent loneliness and its associated health risks by encouraging communities to look out for vulnerable people. More to come on this in the near future.

The 7th of March was World Book Day. This year the Sixth Form students were asked to contribute their favourite book quotes, which we then put on display in the Sixth Form block, and also to try to find more time to read. A number of our Year 12 students are also opening the reading room in school at lunch times for our Year 7 & 8 students to use every day.






**CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE**  
**Coming Soon to the Phoenix**



For info about all our shows and to book tickets visit [www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk](http://www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary – Summer Term 2019

- April**  
 29th April Y9 Assessments begin
- May**  
 2nd May Y10 Parents Evening &

- 6th May Report Issue  
 BANK HOLIDAY – school closed
- 15th May Y7 Parents Evening
- 20th May GCSEs begin
- 24th May Y9 Reports issued  
 School Closes for Spring Bank Holiday

- June**
- 3rd June School Reopens  
 Dance Showcase
- w/c 10th June Literacy Week
- w/c 17th June Y7 & 8 Assessments  
 Y12 H&S Work Experience
- 25th, 26th, 27th Hairspray The Musical
- w/c 24th June Y8 Assessments continue  
 Y12 H&S Work Experience continues
- 28th June Sports Day

- July**
- w/c 1st July Y12 H&S Work Experience continues  
 Y10 Mock Interviews  
 Y11 Prom
- 5th July Reserve for Sports Day
- w/c 8th July Y10 Food Assessments
- 9th July Y10 New College Taster day
- 12th July Reward Trip Day
- w/c 15th July Y6 Transition Week
- 16th July Y7 & Y8 Report Issue
- 18th July Whole School Celebration Evening
- 19th July Y12 Report Issue
- 19th July **SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

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 Happy Easter.

*E Fairhurst* – Principal

