



Airedale Academy
Striving for excellence

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

**April
2017**

As we fast approach the Easter break and the end of another term, I would like to update you all on the last 12 weeks and inform you of events and key dates for the forthcoming Summer Term. This term has once again been a very busy one for the Academy. Please take some time to read about the array of things that have taken place over the course of the term and all about some of our upcoming events. Please note the important dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter.

appointments with staff

A gentle reminder to parents and carers to please make an appointment to meet with staff to discuss any matter concerning the education of your son or daughter. This way, you are guaranteed the time to discuss any matter in depth. Thank you.

New Staff

After the Easter holidays we will be welcoming a new member of staff to our Airedale family. Mrs Davis will be our new Head of Modern Foreign Languages and will bring many years of experience and much talent with her!

THANK YOU!

I would like to express my thanks for supporting our bid to raise standards across the Academy. Uniform, on the whole, looks smart and our mobile phone policy is now well embedded. All staff have been nothing but impressed with the mature attitude shown by students towards this.

Attendance

This remains a key priority for the Academy. At the end of this term, our attendance is just under 93% - we are working hard with families to improve this. I would like to congratulate all students with improved attendance as well as those at 100% and those students who are punctual every day. We continue to work very hard to support students in coming to school each day and can already see an improvement! Thank you for your continued support with this and please remember – attendance at school is vital to your child's success, academic and other.

attendance
MATTERS

Parking Safely

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.

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Student Council

This half term has seen the launch of the student council throughout the Academy. Students have been immersed in the voting process using ballot boxes and voting booths to elect their form representatives.



The first project the student council have undertaken has been fundraising for comic relief, including selling red noses, a lip sync battle performed by academy staff, bake sale with biscuits donated by Beetson Bakery and a wear something Red day which raised a grand total of

£1050.86 . What a fantastic start for our newly formed council!



KAOS HIPPAK AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS
BETTY BLUE EYES
A MUSICAL COMEDY
April 2017
Castleford Phoenix Theatre

Based on ALAN BENNETTS A PRIVATE FUNCTION

BOOKING TICKETS
Phone - 01152869653
Email - kaos10@btconnect.com
Web - www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.ticketsolve.com

Full Ticket - £12.50
Concessions - £10.50 (Thursday only)
Family Ticket - £42.00

Based on the HINDRANCE film 'A PRIVATE FUNCTION' and the original story by Alan Bennett and Michael Woodley. Adapted from the screenplay by ALAN BENNETT. Originally produced in London by CAMERON MACKENZIE.

TRIPS & VISITS – **Spring Term**

As always, we have simply too many trips and visits to put in one newsletter! Here are a few examples of some events which our students have been fortunate enough to take part in over the spring term.

Heaven Eyes

In March, Mrs Sansom took some lucky Year 7 students to the The Square Chapel Theatre, in Halifax, to see the play 'Heaven Eyes'. The play was based on a story by the internationally renowned writer David Almond, a Whitbread Children's Award Winner.

In the play, three children run away from a care home and sail downriver on a raft. They discover a strange girl and her Grandpa on the mudflats. The girl has a secret only Grandpa knows ... and he's not telling. The mysterious and exciting story had us all at the edge of our seats! The performance was excellent and the students were a credit to the Academy.

Following the performance, students have been invited to enter a short story writing competition. Their entry, entitled 'The Journey', should be no more than 1000 words and must be submitted by April 24th. The competition will be judged by no other than David Almond himself.

Get writing and good luck, Year 7!



Sixth Form Business Studies

On 27th of February, Mr L Wharin and Mrs Harrap took a group of Sixth Form Business Studies students to London for 3 days. The group went to look at Chelsea Football Club from a Business perspective focusing on their sponsorship deals and how the club generates its income. They also visited the Bank of England focusing on the changes to our monetary system. In addition to the business focus they also did lots of sightseeing, visiting places like Madame Tussauds, The London Eye and the London Dungeons as well as watching The Lion King Musical in the West End. A fantastic time was had by all and the students were great advocates for the Academy.



THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

The KS4 GCSE Drama students went to see The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time. They thoroughly enjoyed it and were so well behaved that we received a lovely email from a member of the public who was sat amongst our students that evening! The same group of students have also had their headshots taken by a professional photographer.

SEAL

This term, six year 8 students were fortunate enough to meet and interview a local firefighter as part of their SEAL lessons. They planned and posed thoughtful questions and were stunned and left speechless as they found out about the daily life of a firefighter. The group discussed qualifications and training, fitness levels and personal traits required, to give the students an insight into the public services.

Well done SEAL stars - you did us proud!

BIG BANG FAIR MARCH 2017!

Students in Y9 and Y10 were treated to a day at Birmingham's NEC to visit the Big Bang Fair during Science Week. After a power breakfast at McDonald's, students in Y9 watched the spectacular 'Do try this at home!' show, featuring Standupmaths YouTuber Matt Parker, TV Science guy Steve Mould and the singing physicist Helen Arney. In the 50 minute show, students were shown different Science experiments with links to everyday objects from around the home. We were amazed by the 3 metre fire tornado and the 'Mould Effect' of the gravity-defying curtain chains. We were even shown



how to convert a spreadsheet of numbers into pictures – Matt really Excel-ed himself! During the show on Thursday, Helen couldn't quite manage to break a wine glass with her operatic voice, however during Friday's show, she hit the right note and smashed the glass through the power of her own voice (and with a little help of an amplifier!) Finally, the show ended by making a human sound cable – Airedale's very own Phoebe took to the stage and became part of the sound cable – a low current was sent through her and other volunteers to make a speaker play at the other end of the stage!

Sporting Success

The Year 8 girls rugby team have had a tremendous season, they have trained hard and have really gelled as a team. The girls then competed in the Wakefield Cup in February and successfully qualified for the next round which



was the Yorkshire Cup. Their next challenge was to win the group stages and win the semi-final, which they did. After successfully beating Castleford Academy in the semis, they then had the amazing opportunity of playing St John Fisher at the Wakefield Trinity ground. The girls had a fantastic afternoon, but sadly lost the final against the 2015/16 National Champions. However, the girls still get to represent Yorkshire at the next National Cup tournament in May. Well done year 8, you are such an awesome team, let's keep fighting! Miss Ward.



Battle Of The Bands

Some amazing news for our band 'Sevens, Eights & Nines'!

Well done to the following students who participated in Wakefield schools 'Battle of the Bands' in February and won an award for the most original song!

- Shawn Bazaya – Vocals
- Harrison Collins – Drums
- Sasha Chizhande – Vocals
- Jessica Duly – Keyboard
- Phoebe Jones – Guitar
- Jordan Leigh Jones-Gill – Bass
- Lucas Richards - Manager

Mrs Fairhurst went along on the night to give her support and commented:

'It was an excellent performance by 'Sevens, Eights and Nines', our very talented band. We were so proud of them and their confidence on stage. Their originality shone through amongst a whole host of other Wakefield school bands. The students were over the moon with this win and rightly so.

Lucas Richards (Y7) deserves an extra special pat on the back, as he actually wrote the lyrics - Go Lucas!' The bands next performance will be at Wakefield Theatre Royal on the 4th of April – we will all be there to sing along! What a fantastic achievement - we are very proud of you all!





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Wakefield College

On 17th March, Year 10 students attended a taster day at Wakefield College. Over 120 students participated in subject specific tasters in both A-Level and Vocational qualifications. Students had first-hand experience of college life by visiting either the City Campus at Margaret Street or the Castleford Campus at Skills Exchange. Students had the opportunity to choose a wide variety of subjects ranging from Hair and Beauty, Law, Motor Vehicle, Photography and many more.

Quotes from students -

Brighton Mhizia - I enjoyed it because it was a new experience with new staff and new surroundings.

Molly Stares - I enjoyed my taster session and really enjoyed the course.



Iceland 2018

45 students will be visiting the 'land of ice and fire' with the Science department during February half-term in 2018. After jetting off from Manchester Airport, students will stop off for a swim at the Blue Lagoon. The Lagoon is a unique wonder of nature, with pleasantly warm, mineral-rich, deep blue geothermal water in a middle of a black lava field. The very same evening, students will get the opportunity to see one of the most spectacular natural light displays on the planet - the Northern Lights. The Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis are a natural phenomenon, often seen dancing around in fantastic colours across the Arctic sky - all for just the first day! After stopping in the capital city overnight, students will take part in the Golden Circle excursion on a private coach - stops include the awe-inspiring Þingvellir National Park, Gullfoss waterfall and the Great Geysir at Strokkur, which spouts water up to 20 metres every 10 minutes. We'll also stop off the Hellisheidi power station, a geothermal power station that generates steam by heating water with the hot rocks underground; the steam is used to turn the turbines and generator. In the evening, students will have free time to go sight-seeing and swimming at the local swimming baths, where again the water is heated naturally using hot rocks underground.

The action will continue on the third day, as students will be taking the South Shore excursion. This full day excursion will definitely need a coat, as students will be able to stand behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, before moving on to witnessing the 200ft Skógafoss waterfall. Students will spend time at Reynishverfi, a black sand beach with views of sea stacks and Dyrolaei, a peninsular with a good example of an arch. To complete this monumental trip, students will get to walk on the Sólheimajökull glacier under the guidance of expert guides.

We're already excited about going - we can't wait! The trip generated a lot of interest - all the places are now taken on the trip, but students can still add their name to the reserves list should a place become available later in the year - just ask at student reception.

Upcoming Events and important dates for your diary:

Y11 Easter revision sessions – Your son/daughter will be aware of all the revision and support sessions which will be taking place throughout the Easter break. Thank you to all staff giving their time to offer such support.

Summer Examinations 2017

Good luck to all Y11 and P16 students who sit their exams in the summer term. The official timetable is now published and has been given to all students. Please familiarise yourselves with these important dates. **We will also be posting this on our website and on Facebook.**

Y7-10 Student Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)/Assessments

Y7 Assessment week	Monday 12th June
Y8 Assessment week	Monday 19th June
Y9 Assessment week	Monday 26th June
Y10 Assessment week	Monday 26th June

Reports to Parents/Carers and Parents Evenings

Y7	Reports and Parents Evening on 29th June
Y8	Reports W/c 3rd July
Y9	Reports W/c 10th July

Y10 Reports and **Parents Evening on 26th April**. Subsequent reports w/c 22nd May and 10th July. Sixth Form Reports issued week commencing 2nd May and 17th July.

Y10 Enterprise days 27th & 28th June

Move it! Dance show 27th & 28th June

Y10 & Y12 Mock Interviews 3rd, 4th & 5th July

Airedale's Got Talent! 5th July

Sports Day 7th July (14th as reserve)

Y6 Induction Days 12th & 13th July

Academy Presentation Evening 18th July

Inset dates 2017-18

Our calendar dates for the academic year 2017-18 are already on our website. To aid your planning, the Academy will be closed to students during that year for staff training on the following dates:

4th September 2017

6th October 2017

2nd January 2018

25th June 2018

Many thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter, have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

E Fairhurst – Principal

The Cast Proudly Present...
HABARET
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd of June
19:30 start
Not suitable for children under 18.
Tickets £10 - 01977 664566
or www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk

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