

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a good Easter break. As we start the final term of the year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on last term, as well as highlight some of the upcoming events. The Spring Term was eventful to say the very least, from adverse weather to fantastic school trips and productions, we have had an action packed 12 weeks! 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 looks to 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 looks fantastic and our whole school attendance has increased by almost 2% over the last 12 months. Can I please ask that you continue to encourage your child to be equipped for a day of learning, with their bag, school planner and pencil case.

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

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.

School calendar 2018-2019

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 2018-19. This is the agreed Wakefield LA calendar and will be adopted by all schools within our Trust. Inset dates will be 3rd September 2018, 5th October 2018 and 7th January 2019.

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

Sixth Form Students Planning Their Future Careers



This term has seen the focus move from University applications to apprenticeships and job applications. Students are working hard to develop their CV's and beginning to look ahead to which career paths they will choose. On February 23rd we were fortunate to have a visit from Adrian Bird from Apprenticeship Finder who has offered to work with some of our students to help them find the right apprenticeships for them.



At the same time the Health and Social Care students have been working closely with Connecting Care to make sure that they gain a realistic experience of work in that sector and took part in some filming as part of the project which will be used locally on Wakefield CCG and Connecting Care's social media accounts. Watch out for future work being done with this group next year involving the students that will be joining the Sixth Form from the current Year 11.

Our Year 13 Business Studies students completed a two week work placement on Monday the 12th March which helped them to experience the work place and complete one of their important course units. The feedback from the work placements about our young people was fantastic, they were a credit to the school.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE ACTION PACKED ICELAND ADVENTURE!



a geothermal power station and ate square burgers at the Hamburger Factory. To finish the first day, we visited the Laugardalslaug swimming pool. On the way back to the hotel, students in Y11 helped a stranded couple in their car, giving them a much-needed push to get going again – well done team, you were immense!

The second full day started at a very early 6am and went on until 1am the next morning! Students were treated to a swim in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon, walked next to the 200 ft Skogafoss waterfall, visited the awesome Black Beach and then finished the South Shore day by visiting the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which was packed with so much snow that students could not walk behind it as originally planned! In the evening, students visited the Hresso restaurant in downtown Reykjavik. The very final activity of a long and arduous trip was to see the Northern Lights, which was just magical – a lime-green dancing curtain appeared as the clouds cleared and thousands of stars could be seen above our heads.

On Sunday 11 February 43 students and 7 members of staff set off on an adventure of a lifetime to Iceland. However, we were told when we reached the airport that Keflavik airport was closed, because of high winds and we didn't fly until 3am the next day! Despite the setback, spirits were high; the group had a fantastic time over the four days. The itinerary was jam-packed to make up for the delay. The highlights of the first full day included: trekking through the Þingvellir National Park, witnessing the eruption of the Great Geysir and seeing the bubbling water of the hot springs. At Gullfoss, we saw the cascading waterfalls, looked around



We had to get back up at 3am to get ready for a 4am departure – most Y11s stayed up the entire night and some students had only had 6 hours of sleep over the 4 days! After speaking to most of the students Monday morning, it's clear they made up for it when they returned to the UK! Thank you to all the staff, students and parents for making the trip as successful as it was

Students prepare for Three Peaks challenge to raise money for Cancer Research

A dedicated group of Y11 students, Mr Miller and Miss Kershaw are planning to complete the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, while raising money to donate to Cancer Research. Everyone in the group is undertaking the challenge in memory of loved ones who have been affected by cancer.

The challenge is to walk the Three Peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, which is a 24-mile trek. The walk is going to take place on Saturday 28 April 2018. The students are aiming to complete all three peaks - ideally in under 12 hours. As preparation for the challenge, the group went to Pendle Hill on 17 March to do hill training with a trained guide. It's going to be gruelling and tough, but nowhere near as tough as losing a loved one.

The students have set themselves an ambitious target and hope to raise £2,000. Anyone who would like to donate to this great cause can visit the group's Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/airedaleypc>



Students petition for puffin crossing on Sheepwalk Lane!

Children from Airedale Academy, Airedale Juniors & Infants and Townville made their way down to Sheepwalk Lane to show their concern about the lack of a safe crossing area on this busy road. Students and parents/carers within the community are rallying around to try to encourage the Local Council to consider placing a puffin crossing on the road to enable children to cross safely on their way to school. Some staff from the schools are due to meet with the local MP Yvette Cooper, to discuss a way forward.

BARNADOS - BEACON SCHOOL SUCCESS!

As Airedale Academy can evidence a wide variety of fantastic examples of implementation of the Anti-Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic bullying programme, we are proud to say that we have been awarded Beacon School status by Barnados. This wonderful achievement comes to us due to our continued commitment and hard work in challenging discrimination and prejudice and striving to make schools as inclusive an environment as possible. We will be awarded our plaque shortly. Big thank you to Mrs Coleyshaw for her hard work and determination in achieving this recognition.



GEOGRAPHY

In geography, some year 9 students took part in the Go Higher West Yorkshire/ Keepmoat Homes NCOP Castleford Housing Project. They are working with Castleford Academy, developing skills in preparation for higher education and the working world! The launch event was held at Castleford Academy and proved a huge success!



Maths & English go to Herd Farm!

Year 11, and some of the English and Maths departments, enjoyed a fun filled two day residential at Herd Farm during February Half Term. We enjoyed the obstacle course and giant swing along with some exam specific revision for both core subjects. The students were polite and positive and worked exceptionally hard in the revision sessions and faced a few fears along the way.



The Big Maths Challenge!

UK Maths Challenge Results are in, a massive well done to all of our winners, you are stars!

Year 11: George Gardner (GOLD), Steven Horton (BRONZE), Connor Chambers (BRONZE), Beth Sanderson (BRONZE)

Year 10: Harvey Maw (BRONZE)

Year 9: Jacob Ciesinski (BRONZE)

The Junior challenge for years 7&8 will take place in April – watch this space!

French

Year 10 made their own French Cheese Board and enjoyed it in class listening to French music. They tried all the cheeses and enjoyed the experience.



Also, intervention in French is thriving. We have students every night in our faculty catching up and completing homework. It's a brilliant place to be because our students are so hardworking.

We have been studying a French Film in KST 3 that is called Kirikou et la Sorcière. The students continue to enjoy learning about French speaking Africa.

6TH FORM PERFORMING ARTS - THE CAST

What a hectic and rewarding 3 months! Theatre has to be in your blood to work at the pace and depth our students do. The 6th form Performing Arts continues to go from strength to strength.

After 3 very successful performances of 'A Chorus Line' with 3 different casts in December 2017, we move to January the 7th, when 28 of our 6th form performing arts students escorted by Mrs. Bell, Mrs Nickerson and Mr Leake flew off to New York for 6 days. With heavy snow in the USA, worries were that we would be unable to land at JFK airport, it was touch and go for a while. We did manage to land, only to be evacuated from the airport due to a flood - without our luggage! However, even without our luggage for the whole 6 days, we had an amazing and inspirational time. We visited the Empire State at night with the wonderful views over New York. We spent an emotional day at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty followed by a serene visit to the Ground Zero memorial. We had the best seats in the house to see the musical 'Miss Saigon' as a group and individually saw Broadway shows such as Hello Dolly with Bette Midler, Anastasia, Chicago, School of Rock and Phantom of the Opera. We had masterclass workshops with cast members and the musical director of both Miss Saigon and Hairspray. The 3 time Tony Award winner of Hairspray was so impressed with our Cast that she came to visit us in the hotel and brought everyone a gift - unforgettable memories!

Since our return we have worked tirelessly to raise money for our final major production unit of 'Ghost - The Musical', which required a hire charge of £5,000 for a video wall to perform the illusions of Sam walking through walls amongst other tricks. These amazing students raised £2,200 in a fundraising evening at the Townville Club; £1,500 by walking the Tri Peaks with the help of Mr Miller and Miss Kershaw; 'Saturday Night Live with The Cast', a Kabaret evening at our own Phoenix Theatre which raised £1,622 and the competition 'Sing!' raised £220. They have also been lucky enough to have had working visits from the Assistant Director and illusionist from the national tour of Ghost and a personal email from the playwright, directly helping them understand the back story of the show.

The Cast have also performed a flash mob of 'One Day More' from the musical Les Miserables at the Keep Moat stadium, Doncaster on behalf of Castleford Alcohol Partnership promotion and education work.

On top of all this, our students have all been auditioning for Universities and Theatre Schools and 100% have been successful, many with large scholarships. We have our talented students performing in regional theatre in both lead and ensemble roles in 42nd Street, Sister Act, Cats, Les Miserables to name a few.

The Diary for the next 3 months for these amazingly professional and capable students is just as busy so please watch out for future events including the final cabaret of their Season 'Kabaret of Dreams' in June.

Mrs Bell

Upcoming Events and important dates for your diary: Summer 2018

April 2018

26th

Y10 Parents Evening
Junior Maths Challenge
Y9 & 10 Reports issued

30th

May

7th

Bank Holiday – School closed

9th

Y7 Parents Evening

14th

GCSEs begin

June

w/c 11th

Literacy Week

w/c 18th

Y7 & 8 Assessments

21st, 22nd

Kabaret of Dreams – 6th Form Production

25th

Inset Day – school closed

26th-29th

Y9&Y10 Assessments

27th

Y11 Prom

July

6th

Sports Day (13th July as reserve)

11th & 12th

Y6 Induction Days

11th

Y10 Preparation for Y11

19th

Evening

Whole school celebration evening

20th

Y7, 8, 9, 10&12 Reports

24th

Issued

Last day of summer term.

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 successful summer term.

E Fairhurst – Principal