

Dear Parents and Carers
As we fast approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to update you all on this terms events and inform you of events and key dates for the start of the spring term. As always, this term has been a very busy one, but also a very rewarding one! Our new Y7 students are settling in well, I am nothing but impressed by their positive attitudes to learning, their uniform and their behaviour. Thank you to all families, feeder schools and staff involved in 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. Please also note that we will be closing at the usual time of 2.35pm on the last day of this term, the 15th December and will reopen to students on the 3rd January 2018. More information about this day will follow. There are also important dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter.

An Inspector Calls!

Our inspection on the 26th & 27th September was very successful and testament to the hard work shown by both staff and students at the academy. I would encourage you to read our report. This can be found at

www.gov.uk/ofsted.

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Students live up to our Academy Values!

The English Team took 8 lucky Year 10 students to The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield to take part in the Articulation Project. They were given the opportunity to work with curators, art students and peers from other schools to explore art and work on their own presentation skills. They were given some great feedback on their bravery and confidence when delivering their ideas to the Director of The Hepworth Gallery and a Professor of Art History from Leeds University. Mrs Blaikie was incredibly proud of the group's maturity and hard work.

NATIONAL WRITING DAY

The 20th October 2017 saw Airedale Academy take National Writing Day by storm. Every student in the Academy had the opportunity to write a section of their own spooky narrative at the start of each lesson. From ghouls to zombies, students at Airedale really did boast an array of writing skills. Well done to the following students, who were selected as winning entries:

- Molly Norris Year 11
- Antonia Serban Year 10
- Ellie Parker Year 9
- Ebony Hawkin Year 8
- Sam Hughes Year 7

Events this term

Our summer 2017 results were again very pleasing with students making very good progress from their starting points. Students also performed particularly well in the sixth form, with results above national averages across the board. We held our presentation evening on the 23rd November which was a lovely event and a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our young people.



Try something different and experience the magic of live theatre!



CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE

The Castleford Phoenix Theatre is one of the regions main venues for live entertainment. From family pantomimes, dance, drama, musicals, bands and comedy and much more.

The venue opened in 2008 and is a modern, comfortable 300 seat proscenium style theatre. While being part of Airedale Academy, the Phoenix is so much more than just a simple school hall. With over 80 public shows and events per year, the Phoenix helps put the arts at the heart of the community.

Coming Spring 2018

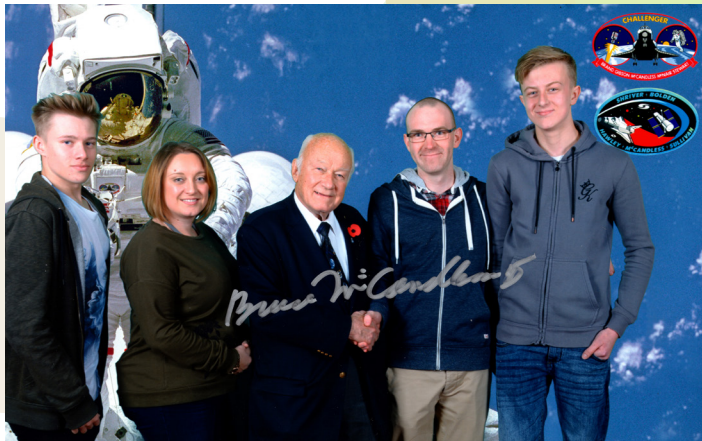


New Brochure out February!
Visit Us, Love us!
Box Office - 01977 664566
www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk

SCIENCE ALL THE WAY THIS AUTUMN!

It has been a really busy start to the year. Here are some of the highlights so far:

- Students in Y10 have visited Concorde at Manchester Airport. They sat in the Queen's seat and had an extended period in the flight deck.
- Students in Y11 are raising money for Cancer Research. This will involve taking on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge later in the year. It's a gruelling walk, so to prepare for it, students have started with smaller training walks. The first walk was 8 miles around Bolton Abbey, which students thoroughly enjoyed.
- Two lucky students have met a real NASA Astronaut: Bruce McCandless. Bruce blasted into space twice: once aboard the Challenger Space Shuttle and once on Discovery. He was the first astronaut to do an untethered spacewalk (using a jet pack). On his Discovery mission, his team was responsible for launching the Hubble telescope.



A visit was arranged to the National Space Centre in Leicester. Students were able to see a real Soyuz rocket, real moon rock, a mock-up of the Columbus module from the International Space Station and Helen Sharman's space suit.

- Tim Peake's Soyuz Capsule has recently been on display at the Bradford Science and Media Museum. Students visited the museum on 11 November to view the capsule that brought Tim back down to Earth in June 2016. The Yorkshire Games Festival was also taking place the same day, so students took part in video games related activities as well as taking part in the experiments on show, such as the very disconcerting mirror maze!
- Students in Y8 will be representing the department in the Faraday Challenge at Hemsworth Academy. In the challenge, teams will be pitted against each other to design, create and promote the best solution to a given challenge. Students are only given the problem on the day of the challenge! Good luck, Y8!

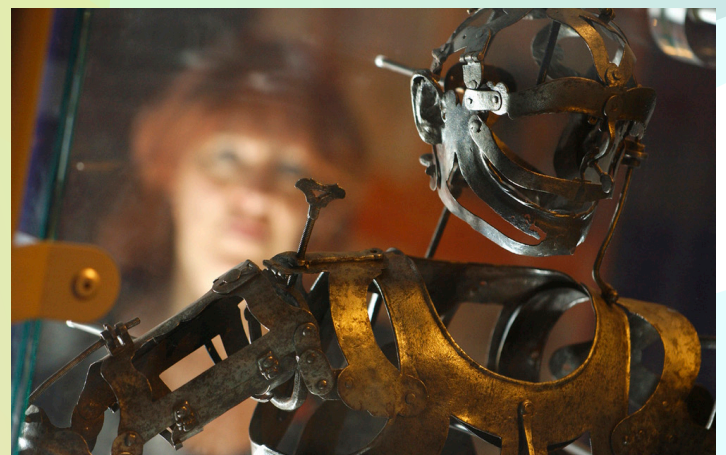


TO ALL OUR BUDDING GEOGRAPHERS!

In geography we have geography club running on a Monday in L29. We have explored different biomes, watched some Blue Planet II, lots of exciting geographical investigations. Also, follow us @airedaleebacc on Twitter for updates across History, Geography and MFL! #watchthisspace

HISTORY

This term the History department took 40 students to investigate the development of medicine through time at the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. This was a great opportunity for the students to study elements of the history of medicine in a different and engaging way. Our students had a great day and when looking at their end of session work they had clearly benefitted from their museum experience. In addition to this, I was extremely proud of our student on this trip as their behaviour and manners were exemplary, they were fantastic ambassadors for Airedale Academy. Following the trip this is what our year 8 students had to say about their day at the museum "we got to experience life during the Industrial Revolution, it was shocking to discover how wealth could affect medical care. People were desperate to find cheaper alternatives, one of the bizarre remedies was passing a baby under a donkey to get rid of whooping cough. Overall we enjoyed the trip and would recommend the Thackray Medical Museum."



Bien fait!

Year 11 French students engaged in preparation for their forthcoming Pre Public Exams. As ever, they were impeccably behaved and tried extremely hard. We would also like to thank Madame Hartley who came from Minsthorpe Community College to deliver the excellent session as part of our collaborative work. Madame Davis, Madame Chambers and Monsieur Le Gall.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Over the last month, seven Year 13 Health and Social Care BTEC students undertook 100 hours of work experience with a number of different local health and social care providers working together as part of the Connecting Care programme. Connecting Care brings together partners from social care, healthcare, housing and voluntary sector organisations across the Wakefield district to improve integration of care.

Placements have been personally tailored for every student according to their individual career goals and ambitions. Airedale students were placed in a variety of roles across Wakefield, including: General practice nursing; Residential care with Wakefield Council; Dementia Support Services and childcare at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust; Mental health nursing at South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust; Fire and Rescue community services with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Students also participated in a week's training and workshops with Connecting Care partners learning essential healthcare skills such as emergency first aid and dementia awareness. These sessions were co-ordinated in partnership with Carers Wakefield and District, Spectrum Community Health, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Wakefield Council and the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust.

This was a fantastic opportunity to develop real and valuable work experience for our students and we have been very fortunate to be the first school to be invited to be involved.



PERFORMING ARTS

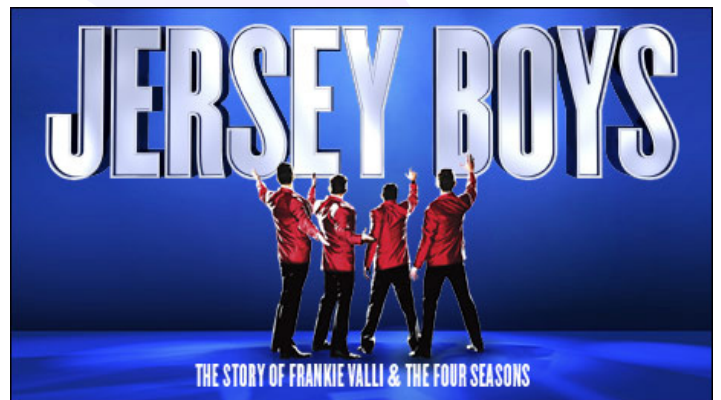
What a start we have had to this academy year following the amazing Btec Level 2 and 3 examination results and the amazing destinations of our leaving year 13 students! Our 6th form Performing Arts has gained a new cohort of year 12 students who are both talented and driven. They joined our newly established Year 13 students and kicked off the year after just 6 weeks, with their first show The Spirit of Kabaret, which was very successful and promised great things to

Audition successes - London Bound

At the beginning of October we all travelled to D&B Theatre School, London to sample Theatre school life, ten of our Year 13 students actually auditioned that day for September 2018. We are delighted to announce Conor Cox, Charlotte Embling, Jason Burton, Sheldon Harling and Meghan Smith were offered scholarship places to study there for the next 3 years. Jordan Kitchen, Katrina Brown and Jordan Blears were recalled for a second audition. An amazing result! We finished off our day with a spellbinding visit to the Queens Theatre to see Les Miserables.

18 Months contract with JERSEY BOYS

Jordan McMahon who completed his Btec Level 3 Production Arts course with us in July 2017 has been offered an 18 months contract with the Jersey Boys professional tour. Jordan takes up his post from Dec 2017 as head of AV on the national tour. Amazing and well deserved.



More London successes

Chloe Dodd has gained a place for September 2018 at the prestigious Goldsmith's, London and Charlotte Embling has a second offer to study at the London College of Music.

KS4 Performing Arts Showcase

A lovely evening was had by all on 22nd November, as parents, carers and friends supported the students whilst we recorded their examination performance pieces. Year 9, 10 and 11 entertained us with a wonderful mix of song, dance and drama. The students did us all proud.

Upcoming Show - A Chorus Line

Our 6th form with additional KS4 PA students will be performing the acclaimed 8 times Tony Award winning show 'A Chorus Line' on 12th- 14th December. For most courses just organising one cast can be a handfull but ours are staging a different cast per performance. 3 shows, 3 casts, resulting in one singular sensation. Tickets are available at the Phoenix Theatre box office in person and online. Please come along and support our amazingly talented students while they are still in Airedale, as I can promise you, you will be seeing the stars of tomorrow.

New York Bound An interesting fact!

29 of our 6th form Performing Arts students will be visiting New York on January 7th 2018 to spend the week working with professionals from the cast of the musical Miss Saigon and experiencing the shows and sights of Broadway. We are all very excited about the opportunities and experiences that this trip of a lifetime offers.

And that's just in the last 12 weeks! 2018 promises to be our busiest yet, watch out for our Performance of Ghost the Musical in March 2018, it is definitely one not to miss.

Mrs Bell

Award Winning Theatre

Great news! Our theatre, The Castleford Phoenix Theatre, was voted the Best Events Venue 2017 for the City of Wakefield by the Yorkshire and Humber Enterprise Awarding body. A massive achievement, well done to all involved and in particular to our Theatre Manager Neil Myers and our events team.

Airedale Academy Remembers

On Friday 10th 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.



WOW! - 2163 PPE examinations were sat in the Gym over the course of this term by students from Years 9,10,11,12 and 13. They deserve their Christmas holidays!

Careers Events

During the autumn term, students in Year 10 and 11 had the opportunity to attend some exciting careers events out of school. The National Apprenticeship Show in Harrogate was an excellent chance for students to find out about companies that offer opportunities for students to learn whilst earning on an apprenticeship. Many more businesses are now recruiting apprentices at all levels with opportunities for higher and degree apprenticeships also being developed. For further information about apprenticeships take a look at the following link: CEaIG photo here <https://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk/parents/apprenticeships>



Standards and Expectations

We were delighted to see that the team of Ofsted Inspectors who visited our school recognised the relentless efforts the whole school community put in to ensuring students look smart and behave appropriately on a daily basis. We will maintain and continue with our high standards and expectations. Your ongoing support with this is hugely appreciated.

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. Please also respect local residents and park considerably.

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 are not published as yet for that academic year.

Have Your Say!

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

Attendance Matters

I am delighted to report that our attendance is on the up and now stands at around 94% as opposed to 92% last academic year. Thank you to staff and parents/carers for their continued hard work on this. We do still ask that you keep an eye on the concerning trend whereby some students are often absent the day before or leading up to a school holiday. As always, I would like to congratulate all students with improved attendance as well as those at 100% and those students who are punctual every day. Thank you for your continued support with this and please remember – attendance at school is vital to your child's success, academic and other. This remains a key priority for the Academy.



GO GO GO JOSEPH!

Work is progressing towards our next whole school production. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is the hit musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It sets the biblical tale of Joseph, his brothers and the Pharaoh of Egypt to an upbeat rocking soundtrack that features songs like One More Angel in Heaven, Close Every Door, Song Of The King, Benjamin Calypso and of course Any Dream Will Do.

Tickets are available now for this must see spectacular. Book yours to ensure you have the best seats to enjoy this excellent show





We run the following specialist vocational courses:
 BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas in Health & Social Care (a combined course in children's play, learning and development/ Health & Social Care may be available from September 2018, Business Studies and Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) and all of our courses are equivalent to 3 A Levels.



Our 2016 results placed us in the top 4% of the country for applied general qualifications!
 The Sixth Form has very experienced staff, excellent progression rates to HE, Employment and Training and outstanding results.



Students receive one to one pastoral and careers support, extra-curricular opportunities including work experience and a wide range of trips and visits, as well as being taught in some of the best facilities in the area.



Applications through www.ucasprogress.com
 or contact Liz Harrap on 01977 664555

Upcoming Events and important dates for your diary: Spring 2018

January 2018

- 3rd School reopens to students
- 7th 6th Form New York Trip leaves
- 9th Y11 Consultation Evening & PPE results & Report issue
- 24th Y9 Parents Evening
- W/c 29th Y7 & Y8 Assessment week

February

- 9th School closes
- Half term Trip to Iceland!
- 19th School reopens
- 22nd Y7 & Y8 Report issue
- W/c 26th Whole school production of Joseph
- 27th Y8 Options Assembly
- 28th Y8 Parents evening

March

- 1st-7th Y11 PPE Examinations
- 7th Y8 Options Evening
- W/c 12th Y8 Option Taster sessions all week
- 16th Y12 & Y13 Report issue
- W/c 19th Y9 & Y10 Assessments all week
- 23rd Y8 Options deadline
- W/c 26th Ghost The Musical
- 28th Y11 Revision Carousel Evening & Report Issue
- 30th School closed – Bank Holiday

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.

E Fairhurst – Principal

