

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 of 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 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.

Please also note that we will be closing at **12.05pm** on the last day of this term, the **20th December** and will reopen to students on the **7th January 2020**. 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.

Results 2019

Our summer 2019 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. We held our presentation evening on the 28th November which was a lovely event and a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our young people.

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.

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 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. 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.



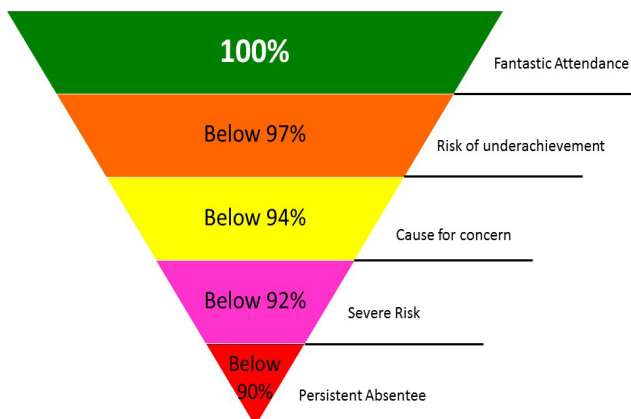
Student Planners

Our Form Tutors remind students every morning about being ready to learn; 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 in Cool Off and cost £2.50. The school shop is available to all students to buy stationary before school and at break time each day, to support with lost items.



Attendance Matters!

Our attendance continues to improve year on year; however, it remains a key priority for the Academy. We continue to tell our students that every day matters and that missing only one or two days can have a significantly negative impact on progress and achievement. 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! A massive well done to those students who received their Bronze Award for Club 100 – attending every single day since September! #aimforambitiousheights



A musical spectacular!

The autumn term has been a busy season for the Music Department with many of our groups performing in the local community and within the academy. First of all, we began with the Remembrance week where the choir performed in daily assemblies and at a memorial service led by our head girl Megan Miles.

We have also had excellent attendance at our exciting new extra-curricular rock band and guitar club.

Our choir began the festive season early with a November 'Christmas Light Switch On' performance at Airedale library. Our head boy, Harrison Collins was there to introduce the choir which featured students from years 7 to 13 performing to the local community. The choir will also be visiting two local care homes where they will sing and serve mince pies before finishing off the year with our Christmas Assemblies. Once again, thank you to everybody that has supported the music department so far this year.

Head Boy and Girl

Airedale Academy's Head Boy and Head Girl took up office recently. A big congratulations to Megan Miles and Harrison Collins 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. Megan and Harrison have already represented the academy at key events and have presented ideas brought forward by our Student Council to the Senior Leadership Team. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are key to encouraging other students to demonstrate our core values of - Respect, Ambition.



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.

Airedale Academy Remembers

On Monday 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.



Bad Weather

As the weather becomes a lot colder with the likelihood of snow and ice, can I please remind parents/carers that should students need to walk to school in boots or similar, they then need to change their footwear once in school. 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.

Your opinion matters!

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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

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Burberry Partnership

We are very privileged to have been invited to take part in the exciting Burberry Inspire Project. Chosen as one of only 8 schools nationwide, this 4 year long programme will see every pupil in Key Stage 3 have the opportunity to visit one of four exciting cultural organisations.

Burberry Inspire is a programme of arts and cultural experiences designed to change the way young people of Yorkshire see the world and understand their potential. Airedale Academy have started working with Northern Ballet in Year 2 of the project. As part of the project, every year 7 and 8 student has participated in a creative workshop with the Northern Ballet's artist in residence. All students then have the opportunity to watch David Nixon's Cinderella at Leeds Grand Theatre. During the visit students will also have the opportunity to ask the choreographer questions. For the rest of the year, year 9 dance students will be creating a dance for film with other KS3 students working with a freelance set designer, creating the costume and set for the film.

Exciting times ahead!



Events This Term



Educake

Online Formative Assessment

HAVE YOUR EDUCAKE AND EAT IT!

Towards the end of September, the Science Department launched the online platform Educake for completing homework – this is a quick and simple process, which requires students to answer a range of low-stakes questions.

As of November 2019, over 78,268 questions have been answered whole school, which is phenomenal! Year 9 are currently streaking ahead, with 23,088 questions being answered, followed by Year 11 with 15,902 questions. Year 10 currently stand on top of the leader board in terms of percentage of questions being answered correctly – with a mammoth 65.6% of questions being answered correctly – well done!

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting us with homework.



SCIENCE GATE CHALLENGE!

The Science Gate Challenge is now fully underway! Students in Y11 are quizzed on the school gate every morning with a science-related question; if they get it right, they go into that week's draw to win 20 stamps! They have five opportunities to enter the draw and so far, we've had a big pile of names in the draw, which is fantastic – keep going, Y11, you're doing great!



A RECREATIONAL SCIENCE WALK AT BOLTON ABBEY

Students in Y11 have taken to the great outdoors on Saturday 28th September. The 8-mile walk started near the Priory at Bolton Abbey. It took the students along the ruins of the priory and along the nature trails through the Strid Wood. We tried our best to attempt the Welly Walk activities. The walk itself passed the infamous Strid, a stretch of water with strong undercurrents. After reaching and crossing Barden Bridge, we returned down the other side of the river Wharfe, where the footpath is more undulating. No walk is complete without a café stop at the Cavendish Pavilion, where we had lunch; the most popular order of the day being a jacket potato! After lunch, we completed the remaining part of the walk. On the way back to school, we got to see part of the Harrogate Bike Race – it was a fantastic day out.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH FLIES INTO ITS SECOND YEAR!

After a very successful campaign last year, this year's scheme swings straight into action. We have 40 Bronze students and 19 Silver students taking part in their DofE award this year. The DofE is split into four parts: volunteering, physical, skills and a small expedition later in the year. We have already had a wide range of activities for each section taking place, from students helping out in the School's Library Service, knitting scarves, cooking meals, drawing, karate, learning to play an instrument, taking part in airsoft training and photography to name but a few activities! Everyone at the academy wishes all the students the very best of luck!



NORWAY 2020: HERE WE COME!

It's not long now until we leave Airedale behind us and fly 20+ lucky students to Flam in Norway for what promises to be an action-packed, 4-day tour of some of the most majestic sites in Norway in February. Students will be stopping at the beautiful Fretheim Hotel and will be travelling on what has been dubbed 'the world's most beautiful train journey' by the BBC, walking on a glacier and taking several fjord trips, both by boat and coach. It promises to be cold, with temperatures already at -5°C and snow has already fallen.



OUT OF THIS WORLD! NASA ASTRONAUT TO VISIT AIREDALE ACADEMY!

It's not often you get to write in the newsletter that we will be hosting an event with a real NASA astronaut, but we have the privilege of announcing that retired NASA astronaut Ed Gibson will be attending the academy to talk to our students! Ed Gibson served on the support crew of Apollo 12 the second Moon landing mission, before working on the development of the Skylab space station in 1973–74. He made his flight into space as science pilot aboard Skylab 4 the third and final crewed flight to Skylab. He spent just over 84 days in space. This is an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students. Thank you to Space Lectures for making this happen.



6th Form News

The Sixth Form got off to a flying start this year with one of the largest intakes of Year 12 students we have seen. This followed a very successful set of Level 3 results in the summer where the average grade attained by students was distinction. This term sees us promoting the Sixth Form at careers events and in assemblies at other schools. This involves current students supporting the staff and talking to younger students about their experiences.



Most recently we went to Castleford Academy to promote our Performing Arts course. Some of 'The Cast', which is made up of our current year 12 and 13 Performing Arts students, led a very successful workshop for their Year 11 students based on the musical 'Everyone's talking about Jamie'.



November has seen the Progression Module celebration event at Leeds Beckett University. This qualification guides students through careers and HE applications and holds UCAS points which can be used towards entry to selected Universities. The students that attended were fantastic advocates for the Sixth Form.



We have also been lucky to have a number of different visitors join us recently. Darryl Powell dropped in to visit the College of Rugby League students that study the BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport on our site. He stayed to chat to the students and was interviewed for the Castleford Tigers Web Site.



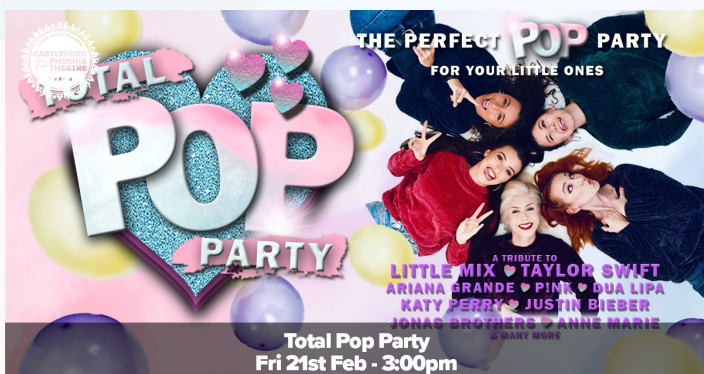
As part of Alcohol Awareness week we were lucky enough to have a visit from Henry Maybury who talked about his story and to share his music. This was a very moving assembly that the students will remember for some time to come.



Recruitment is currently taking place for September 2020. Interested students should apply at www.wakefieldprospectus.co.uk or through the Sixth Form page on www.airedaleacademy.com



Our students collected 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.





Performing Arts

Our summer examination results were excellent at both Level 2 and Level 3 again this year, and many of last year's year 11 students have now joined us in Sixth Form. Last year's year 13 are now settled at Theatre school in London and top Universities around the country. Congratulations to Ellis Kirk, Charlotte Embling and Oliver Kemplay who won 100% scholarships to Theatre Schools - a massive national achievement!

What a busy first term we have had in Performing Arts! Our wonderful year 11 group successfully performed to video, parents and friends, their Unit 2 examination extract of 'Grease'. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing at the Phoenix Theatre with all the additional technical support. Well done!

Our Sixth Form 'The Cast' welcomed its brand new year 12, who joined our year 13 students and hit the ground running with their very first 3 night Kabaret show in October. Kabaret Overture included numbers from our upcoming shows of Chicago and Our House- The Madness Musical. We have auditioned both shows and are currently in rehearsals for Chicago, which plays at the Phoenix Theatre on December 17-19 2019. Tickets are available from the box office. Don't miss Chicago, it promises to be a great show.

At the beginning in November we travelled to London to experience and audition for Theatre school for Sept 2020, it was a fabulous day culminating in a visit to the Shaftesbury Theatre to see the new musical '&Juliet'. Three of our year 13 students have already been offered theatre school places for next year with very large bursaries, Mason Wagstaff, Paige Moorby and Alyssa Kerry. Olivia Ridley, Charley Pickerill and Bethany Thornton have also been recalled for a further audition in February! Congratulations!

THE CASTS WINTER/SPRING SHOWS

THE CAST
The Cast Present
CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE

This amateur production of "Chicago (High School Edition)" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

CHICAGO

CHICAGO: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script adaptation by David Thompson

Proceeds from the show supporting Airedale Academy Sixth Form Musical Theatre.

17th, 18th & 19th Dec - 7:15pm
Tickets from £9
www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk

The Cast bring this popular musical show to the Phoenix stage for the first time.

Set in the legendary city during the roaring "jazz hot" 20s, Chicago tells the story of two rival vaudevillian murderesses locked up in Cook County Jail. Nightclub star Velma's serving time for killing her husband and sister after finding the two in bed together. Driven chorus girl Roxie's been tossed in the joint for bumping off the lover she's been cheating on her husband with. Not one to rest on her laurels, Velma enlists the help of prison matron Mama Morton and slickster lawyer Billy Flynn, who turn Velma's incarceration into a murder-of-the-week media frenzy, thus preparing the world for a splashy showbiz comeback. But Roxie's got some of her own tricks up her sleeve...

WINNER - Best New Musical, Olivier Awards 2003

"A compelling, knife-sharp affair... Our House is that rare thing, an original musical" - Evening Standard

"Fresh and original... an enthralling theatrical exercise in parallel story-telling and quick-change artistry" - Daily Mail

Our House is a romantic 'Sliding Doors' parallel story that follows our hero Joe Casey and the different paths that life and love take him. Set in present day Camden, this contemporary and fast moving new musical features all the Madness hits including 'Our House', 'Baggy Trousers', 'It Must Be Love', 'House Of Fun', 'One Step Beyond' and 'My Girl', as well as two brand new songs.

THE CAST
Amateur Production by arrangement with Our House (UK) Ltd

"Welcome to the HOUSE OF FUN!"

By **TIM FIRTH**
Music and lyrics by **MADNESS**

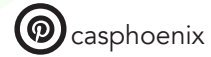
PROCEEDS FROM THE SHOW SUPPORTING AIREDALE ACADEMY SIXTH FORM MUSICAL THEATRE.

CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE **Wed 1st to Fri 3rd of April**

Follow us on:



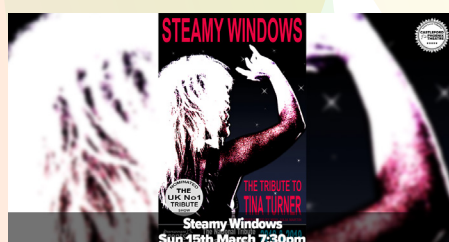
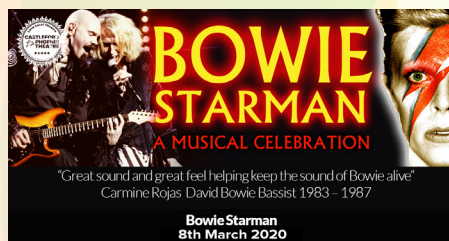
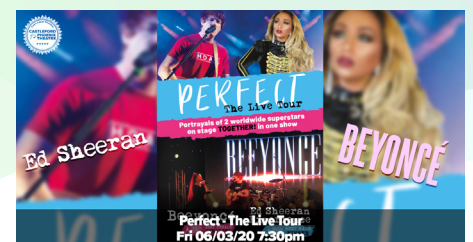
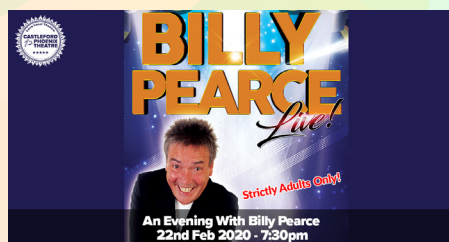
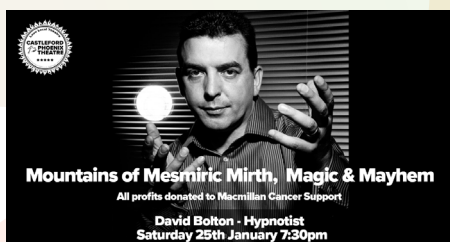
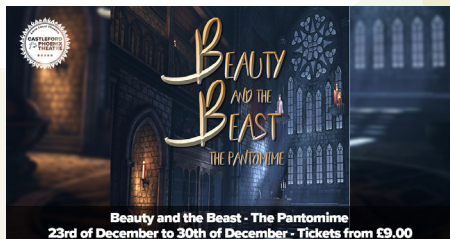
Follow us on:



Our new season has been very busy with some great shows entertaining people from across Yorkshire as well as visitors from other parts of the country. They not only get to see excellent shows but also can see how the arts can help transform and benefit the lives of our young people. Against a backdrop of education cuts and many schools having to reduce their access for pupils to the Arts, Airedale Academy continues to provide excellent arts provision as well as outstanding facilities for our pupils, our local community and the area as a whole.

This is reflected by so many companies choosing to perform here and bringing a range of different shows to us, as our unique reputation continues to grow. There are not many schools in the country who can say that so many members of the public have been welcomed to the site, seen first hand the work that the school does and it's innovative approach to how a multiuse facility can operate to the benefit of everyone.

We have even more great shows lined up for spring and summer to tempt you and we hope to welcome you to the Phoenix soon.



EVEN MORE GREAT SHOWS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY ONLINE

Parent / Carer Governor

Are you interested in supporting our school and joining our Academy Council as a Governor? Our Academy Council meets 6 times each year and provides support and challenge to the Principal and Senior Leaders. Governors help to set the aims and objectives for the school and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives.

They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact main reception or email admin@airedaleacademy.com

Spring Term 2020 – Upcoming Events

Dates for your diary – Spring Term 2020
INSET Dates 2020

6 Jan 2020
17 July 2020

January

Tue 8th Academy opens to students

w/c 13th Y8 Assessment week

Wed 22nd Y9 Parents' Evening & report issue

February

Thu 13th Y8 Parents evening & Report issue

13th & 14th Geography Field Trips

Fri 14th Academy Closes

Mon 24th Academy Opens

24th – 4th March Y11 PPEs

March

Thu 5th GCSE Dance Showcase

Wed 11th Y8 Options Evening

w/c 16th Art Exam week

Fri 20th Y12 & Y13 Report Issue

w/c 23rd Y10 Assessment Week

25th-26th Y8 Option Taster sessions in school

Thu 26th Y11 Revision Evening & Report Issue

31st – 3rd April Sixth Form Show – Our House: The Musical!

April

Fri 3rd Academy Closes

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 8th January 2019.

L.Y. Proctor – Principal

