

Dear Parents and Carers
As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to update you all on the summer term events and inform you of events and key dates for the start of the new school year. The summer term is always a very busy one and this one was no exception! As always, I ask that you 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.

Attendance

This remains a key priority for the Academy. We have noticed a concerning trend whereby some students are often absent the day before or leading up to a school holiday. These students are now aware that this is unacceptable and that we will follow these incidents up. I would, however, 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.

attendance
MATTERS

BRITISH VALUES

At Airedale Academy we are committed to the promotion of the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As a school, we recognise the multicultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and understand the crucial role our school plays in promoting these values. Much of how we do this is seen in aspects of day-to-day academy life, for example assemblies, student voice, whole school policies and our PSCHRE provision.

Term Time Holidays

Government legislation states that as from 1st September 2013 amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) 2006 Act state that "head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances." Therefore, the governors at Airedale Academy, like many other schools in the Airedale area (and indeed countrywide), agreed that from September 2013 the academy would issue fixed penalty notices for unauthorised term time holidays. (Fixed Penalty amount per parent, per child is £60 if paid within 21 days, £120 if paid after this date but within 28 days. Please note that this money does not go to the academy but to the local authority. Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty Fine could result in a parental prosecution for non-attendance.) The academy do sympathise and realise that this is a difficult situation for some due to work, family and financial reasons, however this is not a decision that was taken lightly. Schools are accountable for student attendance figures and we are currently below the national average. Therefore we have to do everything we can to ensure that our students are in school for the full academic year. Please take this into account when booking family holidays.

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



Governor Work 2016-17

Our Academy governors have been busy all year doing various activities around school improvement and student wellbeing. Our governors meet regularly to discuss all aspects of school life from behaviour to school dinners, but they have also attended a number of different training sessions, both in and out of school, around safeguarding, school data, changes to the curriculum and Ofsted inspections. They are also all linked to a department within the academy and have visited these throughout the year. Thank you to all of our governors for their ongoing commitment to our students and staff.

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P.R.I.D.E!

This term we have introduced our new mantra of 'PRIDE'. This initiative is designed to help students improve the presentation of their work in their lessons. Work that is presented well, shows we care about what we are doing and that we always want to produce our best. It helps us to review and revise from our work effectively and means that it is easier to read, understand and mark. Students will be rewarded with stickers in lessons in the following areas:

- P: improved Presentation**
- R: Responding to teacher feedback**
- I: Independence – completing homework**
- D: Determination – not giving up**
- E: Excellence – standing out from the crowd and going the extra mile.**

Students receiving 6 full PRIDE stickers will be awarded with a special PRIDE badge. Students receiving 6 gold PRIDE stickers from Progress Leaders and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be awarded with a special PRIDE trophy.

Staff are looking forward to getting into lessons and rewarding students who are working towards receiving these awards!!

Transition Programme 2017

Transition into Year 7 has been as busy as ever with Induction, taster days, the transition disco and the family lunches. Our packed transition programme ensures Year 6 students are excited about joining us and this year we have again attracted high numbers of pupils from both within and outside our catchment area. If you have a younger child joining us in September, thank you for choosing Airedale Academy.

Events This Term – Summer

Meet a STEM PROFESSIONAL!

Chris Hartley, a development engineer from the National Grid, visited the academy on 24 May to meet Y9 students for the Science department's 'Meet a STEM Professional' workshop. 10 students got the chance to quiz Chris about his job at the National Grid over a cup of coffee. Chris brought some interesting equipment with him that he uses as part of his job, such as a section of high voltage power line that we see on the pylons around Ferrybridge. We had originally planned for 3 groups to meet Chris in the hour slot, but the students were so enthused and engaged that both sessions ran over. Chris kindly agreed to return to return and ran more sessions earlier the next month; he was very complimentary about our students and they got a lot out of the sessions.

GIRLS INTO CONSTRUCTION

Wakefield District Housing has been running a project to encourage more girls to consider careers in construction. There are some excellent opportunities for young people to start their career as an apprentice but very few girls take this up. As a result of activities in school to promote construction, seven Year 8 girls attended a taster day at the WDH training centre in Normanton.

This was a very practical day where the girls were able to try their hand at different construction activities with the support of one of their current female plumbing apprentices. It was a really successful day!

Maths Challenge 2017

This term we had the annual Maths Challenge which was undertaken by many of our Year 7,8 and 9 students. They rose to the challenge and really applied themselves to the task at hand to demonstrate their Mathematical ability. I was exceptionally proud of how they approached the challenge and for many their hard work and determination has been reflected in the awards they have received. The challenge is widely recognised across further and higher education institutions and being selected to participate is a recognition of ability in itself. A special mention for Harvey Maw, Brooke Lindley, Alysha Shooter, Piotr Krzyskaw and Lewis Johnson who secured certificates for being in the top 10% of students nationally! A massive well done to you all.

Mrs Lockett.

CALLING ALL MOST ABLE STUDENTS!

Please look out for your Summer Enrichment Tasks - these will enrich your holiday and keep you busy, whilst helping you think at a higher level across and beyond the curriculum. Whatever your interests, there's something to get your teeth into! All completed projects can be returned to Mrs Reader, any time between now and the end of September, for the opportunity to be displayed around school. If any other students would like to challenge themselves with these tasks, please contact Mrs Reader.

Polish GCSE

It has been a pleasure to see our largest ever cohort sit the Polish GCSE this year, led by Justyna, our HLTA (English as an Additional Language). We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing of your successes in August! Don't forget, Justyna is here to support both our EAL students and our families for whom English is an additional language. Should you require any further support, please contact her via main school Reception.

LITERACY WEEK 19TH TO 23RD JUNE

Our very first 'Airedale Loves Literacy Week' has been a resounding success! With lessons across the school focusing on top quality writing, guest authors and 338 students taking part in our 'Escape Hours' to encourage reading for pleasure, every single pupil has had the opportunity to love literacy this week!

Year 8 and 9 male students spent a morning working with published author and sports writer, Tony Hannan, spectating and producing sports writing about a baseball match to a deadline, just like a working sports writer! This followed a visit for our Year 9 and 10 More Able students, who completed a Writing Masterclass with published author, James Nash and produced their own creative writing.

Some of our Year 7 students were joined by staff and parents to take part in our Reading Coffee Morning, with a fantastic selection of books and cakes to choose from!

The Scholastic book fair has been a huge hit, with lots of students bagging a bargain book or two and over 50 books sold in the first week! We also have a good selection of second hand books available, so if you'd like a free reader, please contact Mrs Varley for more details.

French Booster

The French department held a successful KS4 booster session on Wednesday the 21st of June for a number of students in search of those higher grades in the new style French GCSE. We were very happy with the number of year 10 students attending as well as the contribution from a very-hard working year 9 student. Their positive attitude towards the new GCSE criteria and their maturity to deal with complex language was absolutely fantastic to see.

We hope that these students did find the session useful and are convinced that they will all be very successful in their future exams. Bonne chance pour vos examens et Merci encore de votre présence.

SEN Sports Day

In June, a group of our students took part in a special SEN Sports Day at Lightwaves organised by Wakefield College. The students, from Years 7, 8 and 9, enjoyed meeting students from other schools and taking part in activities such as table tennis, tag rugby, bench ball and even curling.



Tropical world here we come!

A few weeks ago the Geography department took 30 Y8 students to Tropical World to look at animal adaptations, in relation to the rainforest climate. Staff and students had a great day! Y10 students then had the opportunity to go to Whitby to undertake a range of field study techniques. They climbed the 199 steps to the Abbey and even found time for fish and chips!



Parenting Classes

Parents received their certificates for successfully completing a strengthening families course held at the Kendal Drive centre in Airedale. The course will start again in September and parents are welcome to come along to reinforce parenting techniques. The facilitators are Diane Shaw - parent support advisor at Airedale academy and Sherree Sawyer parent support advisor for Airedale Junior/ Infant school and Townville juniors. One parent quoted " the group is very friendly and supportive and has maintained my sanity. Valuable friendships gained"

The group meet every Thursday morning 9.30am-11.30am



SIXTH FORM NEWS

This has been an incredibly busy half term for the Sixth Form already. On the 24th June Year 12 students have been to visit the North & West Yorkshire Ucas Convention where they attended seminars and collected information about HE. On the 25th June the Sixth Form visited Blackpool where they all had a fantastic time at the Pleasure Beach. Following this on the 26th June we held the leavers assembly where we said a fond farewell to our Year 13 students as they leave us to take up Jobs, apprenticeships and HE places.

At the end of our leavers assembly we also took the time to say goodbye to Rhys Barker who would have been in this cohort of students had he remained with us in Year 13. Students released balloons that had their messages to Rhys attached to them.



Rhys Barker

It has been a terribly sad end to the summer term learning of the recent tragic death of our ex-student, Rhys Barker.

Staff and students have very fond memories of Rhys. Our sixth form students held a balloon release in his memory and funds have been raised through an online campaign for a memorial bench to be placed here in the school grounds.

Our students and staff will undoubtedly continue to remember Rhys in many ways in the future.

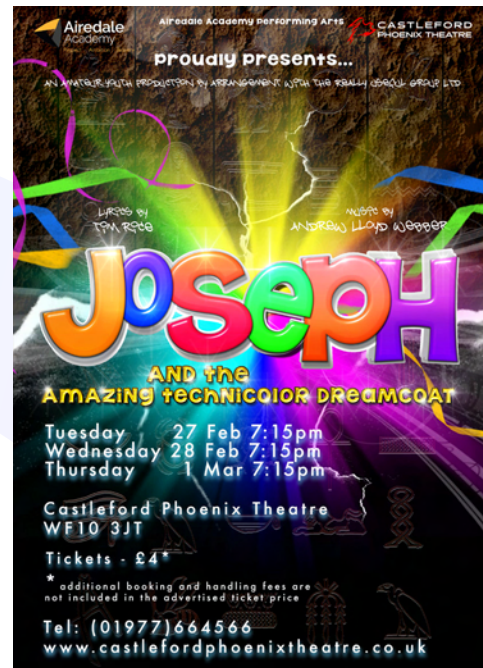




CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE News

The 2016/17 season has once again been very busy for us. By the end of the season we will have sold almost 13,000 tickets from 37 public events including 3 Pantomimes, Live music, musicals, cabarets, dance shows and much more. The theatre has helped raise over £10,000 for charity last season through offering concessions to groups that use us as well as contributing profits to the Academy directly to help support the education of the students here at Airedale Academy. The theatre features a fully licensed bar and again this has been a good season keeping our audiences refreshed with over 1000 bottles of Coca cola, 750 bottles of water, 300 bottle of Budweiser and 300 ice creams sold. The theatre has also helped with the success of our Musical Theatre Sixth Form course and the excellent results by providing the best facilities of any local school in which to study performing arts, assisting with productions and events by designing sets, lighting, sound and helping students etc and helping to ensure the standard of our productions is the equal or higher than what any other local venue can offer. Looking ahead to next season as we start our ninth year, our Sixth form have some interesting performances planned, with two Kabaret's, A unusual production of A Chorus Line in December and then the musical Ghost in 2018. Our pantomimes this season will be Rapunzel in December and Jack and The Beanstalk in January. We begin our regular programme of live music events including tributes to the Eagles, Roxy Music and one of the best Elvis tributes in the business that is a must see for any fans of the king. We also have a national sell out swing band and roof raising rock and roll band to entertain you as well as dance shows, youth theatre, and much more. If you haven't been to see a show here then give yourselves a treat and find out what you are missing by visiting our website at www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk If you are interested in the arts and getting involved then we are launching our new volunteers programme in September that will reward you for helping here at the Phoenix. More details can be found online.

Autumn Term 2017 – Upcoming Events



GO GO GO JOSEPH!

We are very excited to announce that our whole school production for next academic year will be Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat! The hit musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice that 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. Auditions will take place in the autumn term and tickets will be available from Sep 1st for this must see spectacular.

Forgot your pen!?

Opening in September 2017, our School Shop will be stocking basic stationery, revision guides and school ties at cost prices. We will even be stocking coloured Casio scientific calculators, as recommended by the maths department! Please see Miss Evans, Mrs Reader or your Student Council Rep for further details!

Upcoming Events and important dates for your diary: Autumn 2017

4th September	Inset day – school closed to students
27th September	Y11 Information evening
6th October	Inset day – school closed to students
11th October	Y6 Open Evening
19th October	Y7 Tutor Evening
20th October	Y10 & Y11 Report Issue



The Next Step To Your Success

Why Choose Us?

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

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 pantbimmes, 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 35 public shows and events per year, the Phoenix helps put the arts at the heart of the community.

Coming Autumn 2017

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