

## 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 in September. 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 autumn events. There are also important dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter.

## Y12 & Y13 Examination Results day – Wednesday 14th August 10am 6th Form Area

We welcome back our Y12 and 13 students on the above date to collect their examination results! This will take place in 6th form area at 10am.

## GCSE Results Day – Thursday 22nd August 9.30 am Phoenix Theatre

We look forward to welcoming all of our Y11 students back to the Academy on the above date to collect their long awaited examination results! This will take place in the foyer of the Phoenix theatre between 9.30 -11am.

### Exam Fun Fact!

Look how busy our exams office, staff and students have been over this academic year, no wonder everyone needs a holiday 🌞🌴

29 Boxes of Exams Scripts were unpacked  
23 Different subjects  
172 Students sat exams  
2754 Exams were sat  
67 hours 9 mins was spent by students doing exams  
129 Parcels of exam scripts were sent off for marking

### Your opinion matters!

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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

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## New Academic Year 2019-2020

School will reopen to students on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 and all students will start school at 8.35am. (Monday 2nd September will be taken as an INSET day).

## Head Boy and Head Girl 2019/2020

Our new Head Boy and Head Girl for 2019-2020, Harrison Collins and Megan Miles, have been successfully appointed to the roles recently. Both students have already begun taking assemblies where they introduced our new subject ambassador roles which we are rolling out across the school. We look forward to continuing the good work of Tomasz and Nell and thank everyone that applied.

## Random Acts of Kindness

Both staff and students have taken part in our very own 'Random Acts of Kindness' here at Airedale Academy. This is to show each other that we appreciate and care for one another. For those lucky enough to receive a 'Random Act of Kindness', they will know how happy it makes you feel. We will keep this as a priority as we start the new academic year.

## Welcome to PC Vollens.

This term we have welcomed PC Vollens to the Airedale Academy team, joining us for one day a week over the forthcoming year. Like PC Vollens already does at other Wakefield schools, he will be around to support students, families and the school as a whole should he need to. He will lead assemblies on particular issues and support us in educating our young people around being first class members of their community. You will also see PC Vollens at the school gate welcoming students to and from school.



100%  
attendance  
MATTERS

Our current attendance figure is 93% which is still below the national average of 95%. We are always striving to improve our attendance and in order to do this we decided to introduce a new Northern Ambition Academies Trust initiative called 'Club 100' in September 2018.

Club 100 is an initiative that aims to improve the attendance of each and every student by raising the profile of attendance and rewarding those students who attend every day. Students who have 100% attendance per term have the opportunity to collect a Bronze, Silver and Gold badge. These badges are displayed on their tie or blazer and worn with pride as a real testament to having 100% attendance.

During this summer term alone there has been 265 students being bold for bronze, 120 students striving for silver and 66 students going for gold. Students with 100% attendance have also been rewarded with Christmas films, free breakfasts, early to lunch pass, Love 2 Shop voucher and tablets. Students who are eligible for their Gold badge will also receive a complimentary bowling trip on Tuesday 16th July as a congratulations.

Although improving, this remains a key priority for the Academy. 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.



In September, we will once again be having a big push on being in school and ready to learn. Having the correct equipment is a huge part of this. All students will be expected to have the '3Ps' (planner, pen, pencil) every day and their planners will be checked to record this. Please ensure your child comes to school every day with the correct equipment, and a bag to carry their belongings in. We will continue to run a school shop for emergency stationery purchases, before school and at break time each day, to support with lost items. This will be located in Cool Off reception and will be reasonably priced!

### Goodbye to Pam!

Happy retirement to our long-serving Pamela Gale who will be leaving us at the end of the term. Pam has worked at Airedale Academy for 34 years, both as support staff and a governor, and is now looking forward to having more time to do the things she loves. Thank you Pam from all of us for the years of commitment and support you have shown to Airedale staff, students and parents.

## Events this term

### Transition Programme 2019.

During the final week of the academic year, we are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students into the academy for transition week. The students will get to experience what life will be like for them as a student at Airedale Academy before they officially start in September. A range of exciting lessons and activities have been planned from sports tournaments to Science experiments and much more besides. We hope they enjoy their first taste of Airedale Academy and of course wish them all the best for the next 5 years!. If you have a younger child joining us in September, thank you for choosing Airedale Academy.

### Goodbye Year 11!

On the 1st July, the Year 11 students attended their long awaited Prom at Kings Croft, Pontefract. It was a lovely summers evening where all the Airedale staff and parents gathered excitedly for the arrival of Year 11s and we were not disappointed. Students arrived in style! Some arrived in army vehicles, limousines, Harley Davidsons and we even had doves let loose on arriva! The students looked magnificent in their glamorous dresses and their cool suits and the staff couldn't have been prouder. The evening was filled with laughter, smiles, live music and dancing, presentations and awards. The Prom Queen went to the fantastic Emily Roberts and the Prom King went to our very own Flynn Hunt. Thank you to all the staff, students and parents who came and made this years prom 'the best one yet'. Thank you to the class of 2019, I can't wait to see you all on results day (22nd August).



### Airedale Annual Sports day!

On Friday the 28th of June we held our annual whole school Sports Day! There was a record number of students involved in a range of activities including Tag Rugby, Rounders, Baseball, Tug of War and Team Relay Races, which included the staff! The winners of Sports Day will be announced shortly!



### Intrepid DofE team conquer British weather and Fairburn Ings.

Wednesday 8 May saw the first of three 7km training walks around Fairburn Ings for our DofE adventurers. Students had to navigate from Fairburn Ings to Ledsham and then Ledston before finally making their way back to the nature reserve. The students were fantastic at navigating and already there are some natural leaders emerging. Students put their theory training session into practice, learning how to walk along roads with no path safely, how to identify rights of way, footpaths, bridleways, how to relocate themselves if they are lost, how to take a bearing and how to take a 6-figure grid reference. Spirits were high despite the incredible downpour that soaked the team. Well done to our intrepid explorers; they have set the bar high!





## DofE Silver Practice Expedition 2019

Airedale Academy's first DofE expedition set off mid-morning on Friday 21 June to Silkstone, South Yorkshire. With Mr Clark leading the first two groups, they set off on the Southern loop down to Oxspring to pick up the Trans Pennine Trail back towards the campsite. They were followed a few hours later by the final two groups. After many hours traversing fields, forests and farms, all the group arrived back at the campsite and put up their tents and make their evening meal using the gas stoves. The night was spent playing games or sitting around the campfire toasting marshmallows. The next day, the students were joined by Miss Matthews and Dr Wetherill, who led their group up to Cannon Hall and back, which again meant a trip through fields, forests and farms - as well as dodging sheep and cattle! The evening was spent trying to light the campfire and keep it going, before a second round of marshmallows before settling down for the night. With all bags packed, tents dismantled, it was time to leave early Sunday morning. The students did themselves proud and managed to show great resilience when they took a wrong turn - good luck for next week from all of us at Airedale Academy





## **DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition Complete!**

It may have been the hottest day of the year, but this did not deter our silver DofE students from taking part in the qualifying expedition at Bolton Abbey. Students left for Thruscross Reservoir on Friday 28 June fully packed and prepared. After a day of walking and completing the first part of their aim, they set up camp at Breaks Fold Farm, cooked their meal and enjoyed a night with a fire pit. The next day, the students set off on the longest part of their journey, which involved a trek from Breaks Fold Farm in West End, Harrogate, to Catgill Campsite at Bolton Abbey - the journey took them over the moor, where some of the footpaths were difficult to distinguish and required expert map-reading skills to keep them on track. Upon arrival at Catgill Campsite, students once again set up camp and cooked their evening meal. On the final day, students dismantled their tents and packed everything away for the final push - a walk up the river from Bolton Abbey, passing the infamous 'Strid'. The students did themselves proud and many walkers stopped the teachers along the way to say how polite they had been; they are a credit to the academy. Well done!



## DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Complete!

Students from Airedale Academy trekked across Silkstone on the 6th July for the start of their Bronze expedition. The route took them south towards Oxspring, before travelling east along the Trans Pennine Trail and then north up to Lindley Dike before heading back to the campsite at High Lea Farm. At the working campsite, students spent the afternoon entertaining themselves from playing cards and football to rolling themselves down the hill. As the clouds rumbled overhead, students cooked their evening meals using a gas stove. The final activity of the night began: the campfire! As soon as the fire had been started, the marshmallows quickly followed before the students settled down in tents for the evening. The next day, students packed up their camping equipment early and set off for their second day's walk - up to Cannon Hall. The route took students in a northerly direction up through Hoylandswaine and Cawthorne before arriving at Cannon Hall. With spirits high, students blitzed this route, arriving in record time! The students really enjoyed themselves and thoroughly deserved to pass their expedition section of their DofE award. Well done to all the students and thank you to the staff for volunteering over the weekend!



## Let's Dance!

GCSE YEAR 9 Dance students have been working with a visitor commissioned by the UDOIT! Dance foundation.

Launched in 2014 the UDOIT! Dance Foundation believes in giving disadvantaged children the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from Street Dance as way of becoming active and building confidence and self esteem. Working with partners such as UDO Academy, Sport Wales, Sport England, Exercise Movement Dance (EMD) and Street Games (to name a few), we encourage the participation in street dance and assist in removing barriers preventing any child from dancing.

The 4 week project was such an exciting opportunity and all student have shown huge amounts of RESPECT BRAVERY AND AMBITION. They performed the finished routine at the annual Move it dance showcase.



### Move It 2019

On Tuesday 2nd July, our Dance department held the annual Dance show case, 'Move It' which involved lots of our very talented students. From 'Gaga' to 'Annie' to more serious thoughtful pieces such as 'Dulce Et Decorum Est', all performances were absolutely amazing. We even had some special guests from Northern Ballet that commented on the talent we have here at Airedale Academy and they were very impressed! Big thanks to all of those involved and a massive well done to our super tremendously talented students!

**Miss Kelly.**



### Getting ready for the World of Work!

Year 10 students have participated during the last few weeks, in Mock Interviews in school. We had volunteers from a number of local organisations who came in to support this activity. These included staff from Wakefield Council, Wakefield District Housing, ASDA and Burberry plus UTC Leeds and Leeds City College and an Airedale Academy governor. Students were able to experience an interview situation first hand to help them when they go on to interviews for college, university, jobs and apprenticeships.

### Is there a doctor in the house?

On Monday 29th April, Medical Mavericks returned to Airedale Academy to thrill students in Y9 and Y10 with a range of medically-related tests. The sessions were designed to give students an insight into the different medical careers that are available post-16. Along with completing the tests, students had to find out which medical professional used the piece of equipment they were using. Students had the opportunity to carry out tests on themselves such as ascertaining their blood pressure, temperature and locating blood vessels with a vein scanner. Students also had the chance to have an ECG and take a picture of the back of their eye. A favourite test of the day included using the ultrasound scanner to locate growth plates to see if our students would grow any taller!



## Ghana comes to Airedale again!

At the end of June, as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms project (which connects British schools with schools across the globe) we welcomed Eric Opoku Mensah into the academy once again, but this time for the week.

During the week, Eric took part in many lessons and got to see many of the students he had met here last year again. He presented a music class with an African Xylophone this year which he then demonstrated to them – thank you Eric!

The week culminated in an afternoon of performances in our Theatre with the Mayor of Wakefield in attendance, who was blown away by the project and the talent we have at Airedale Academy. In fact, he has invited the students to perform at Wakefield Town Hall in July for the Mayors Tea Party!

We look forward to continuing our Connecting Classrooms partnership with Asamang Junior High School in Ghana for many years to come and, hopefully, some of our staff will have the opportunity to make a reciprocal visit soon!

Two of Northern Ambition Academies Trust staff went to Ghana over February half term this year and as we are hoping to maintain links with Eric's school, we are hoping that other staff will get the opportunity to do the same next year.

Finally, we would like to thank Mrs Barnes at Airedale Junior School for enabling our academy to benefit from the Ghanaian links that she has built up over the past few years.

## The Casts Autumn/Winter Shows



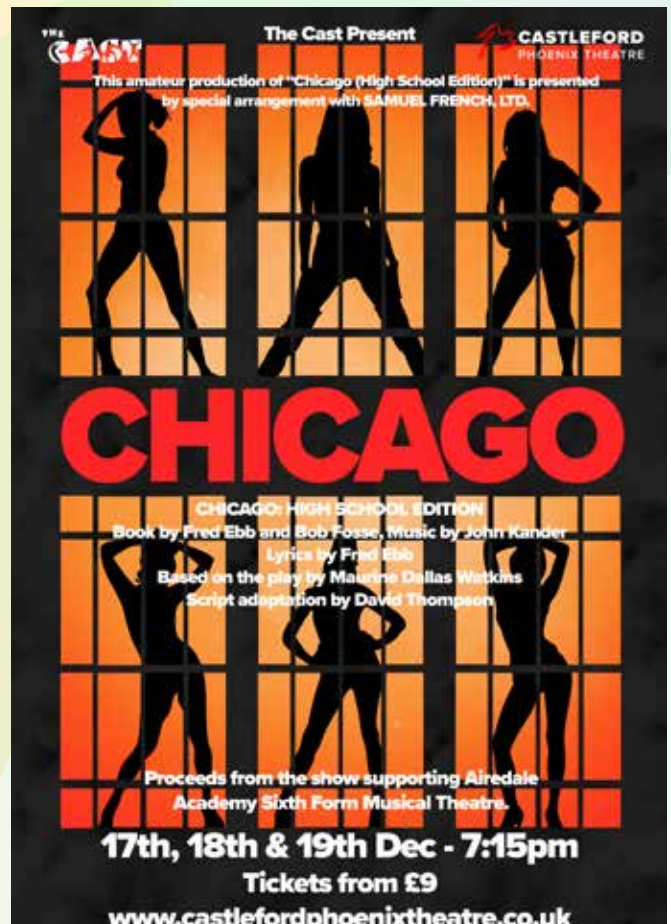
**THE CAST** The Cast Present **CASTLEFORD PHOENIX THEATRE**

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ENJOY THE LEGENDARY KABARET EXPERIENCE  
FULLY LICENSED BAR AND TABLE SERVICE  
MUSIC, LAUGHTER AND MORE FOR AN UNBEATABLE  
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PROCEEDS FROM THE SHOW SUPPORTING AIREDALE  
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**23rd, 24th & 25th October - 7:30pm**  
Tickets £10  
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**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.

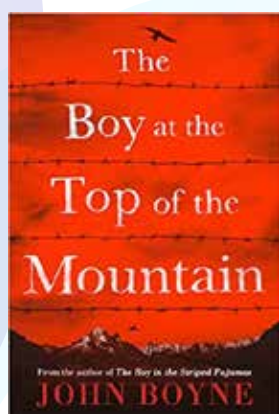
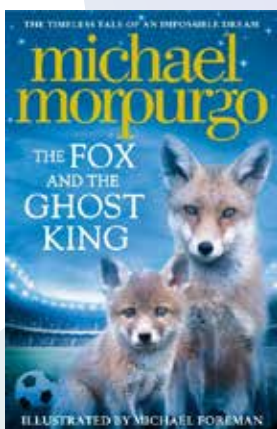
**17th, 18th & 19th Dec - 7:15pm**  
Tickets from £9  
[www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk](http://www.castlefordphoenixtheatre.co.uk)



## Airedale Academy's Literacy Week

As part of our Airedale Academy Literacy week, Students were given the opportunity during form time to discuss Will Smith's theory that reading is the 'key to life.' As part of the celebration, some classes were also invited to use the academy's Reading Room and were given the time to delve into the latest Young Adult fiction on the market. During DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time, students have been enjoying First News newspapers in order to explore and understand the latest UK and global news stories.

Don't forget: DEAR time takes place on a fortnightly basis so always keep a book, magazine or newspaper in your bag!



## Recommended Summer Reading List – It's good to read!

KS3:

The Fox and the Ghost King - Michael Morpurgo

Boy at the Top of the Mountain - John Boyne

KS4:

One of us is Lying - Karen McManus

The Secret Runners of New York - Matthew Reilly

## SUMMER LITERACY TIPS:

- Encourage your children to read – anything and everything!
- Watch the news .
- Discuss current events.
- Exposure to cultural experiences – Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Pontefract Castle are great and free!
- Review writing is part of our GCSE – watch a great film together and discuss them.
- Share interesting articles you read online.
- Send a postcard to someone from a day out.

## Inset Dates 2019-20

2nd September 2019

4th October

6th January 2020

17th July

## Sixth Form News

It has been another very busy term in the Sixth Form with BTEC and GCSE examinations, mock interviews for Year 12, the conclusion of the Progression Module and the West Yorkshire UCAS convention.

As well as these events we have been involved once again with the Connecting Care, Growing Our Own Talent programme, where Sixth Form Health and Social Care students have taken part in a 3 week programme of work placements and induction activities. These have been provided by Adult Social Care services, Wakefield District Housing, Normanton Fire Service and the NHS. Once again we are lucky to be the only school being supported in this way, giving our students a realistic feel of what it would be like to follow a career in these areas. We have had a wide variety of visitors in school from areas such as Continuing Health Care, Wakefield Council, Mid Yorks' Trust, WDH and Wakefield CCG, as well as going out to do First Aid training with the Fire Service and visiting the local Care Link centre. The students have benefitted greatly from these opportunities and we would like to say a special thank you to Sarah Hyde from Wakefield Council for co-ordinating the programme for us this year.



We also had our final production of the year, which this year was Hairspray the musical. The show was a resounding success with a sell-out audience on the final night. This was our opportunity to say goodbye to Year 13 as they move on to Theatre Schools, Universities and work abroad, and we welcome our new performers as they move up from Year 11 to join us properly in September.


We still have a few places left in Sixth Form for September if any students still wish to apply they can do so through the Sixth Form area on the Academy website.

It has been another very full term for our Performing Arts students as they performed their Theatre In Education piece on knife crime, which was commissioned by the police and was filmed to be used as an educational resource in schools in the region. This was extremely well received and the feedback that the students gained from everyone involved was fantastic.



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This season has been easily the busiest and most rewarding for the Phoenix. By the end of the year we will have had close to 18,000 people watch over 150 shows and events during the year from throughout the UK as well as Yorkshire. We have had stars of stage and screen on stage performing, the best tribute bands on the circuit, some excellent live music, brilliant local Pantomimes with several sold-out shows and of course our very own amazing Academy productions, both by our talented performing arts students and the members of the CAST.

The next season is shaping up to be even bigger with generally more of everything going on. I sincerely hope you find something in the new brochure you would like to experience, as while the Phoenix is a growing regional venue we are also a resource for our local community. If you haven't been to the Phoenix then why not come to a show and find out why we are called the hidden gem of Castleford.

## Season Highlights - many more shows onsale now!



## Dates for your diary – Autumn Term 2019

### September

w/c 16th	Y7 and Y11 Photos
27th	GCSE PE students residential to Skipton

### October

2nd	Y6 Open Evening
3rd	Y11 Yorkshire Skills Event
w/c 7th	Y10 Assessment Week
10th	Y11 Future Choices evening
17th	Y7 Tutor and Pupil Evening

### November

4th-12th	Y11 PPEs
13th	Y10 report issue
15th	Y12&Y13 Report issue
w/c 18th	Y11 Mock Catering Exam
w/c 25th	Y11 Mock Speaking Tests
28th	Y11 Presentation Evening

### December

2nd-5th	Y11 Mock D&T Practical Exam
w/c 9th	Y9 Assessment week
11th	Y11 Parents Evening & Report Issue
16th-19th	Y11 Mock D&T Practical Exam
17th	Cinderella, Leeds Grand (KS3 Students)
20th	Break up

## Autumn Term 2019 – Upcoming Events NORWAY 2020! Fjords and Waterfalls!

It may seem a long time, but February 2020 will soon be around the corner and 25 lucky students will be jetting off to Bergen to start their scenic journey to Flam. As part of the trip, students will be taking a cruise along a fjord to Gudvangen; taking a picturesque train ride up to Myrdal with a stop at the Kjosfossen waterfall, which has been voted as one of the most scenic journeys in the world. Students will also be walking on an actual glacier! It will be an action-packed 4 days and parents are invited to the information evening on 17 July. Places are still available for students wishing to go.

## And finally.....

I would like to thank you all for the support that you have shown myself and the Academy over the last 3 years. A lot has been achieved which will help the Academy to go from strength to strength. As you know, I will be moving into the role of stand-alone CEO for Northern Ambition Academies Trust in September. I am delighted to be handing over the leadership of the school to Miss L Proctor, who I know will continue to ensure the highest standards and expectations for all within our school community. I will very much look forward to seeing this in action during my numerous, planned visits to the school. Miss Proctor will continue to keep you up to date via the termly newsletter. Through our partnership between home and school, we have continued to ensure high standards despite the national pressures and so thank you for helping us to ensure the majority of students attend school, arrive on time, wear correct uniform and try their best. It really does make a difference – not just to your child's education but to the education of all students in our community.

Enjoy a lovely summer break and we will look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 8 35am.

*Mrs E Fairhurst*