

Aldercar High School Newsletter

April 2022

Whilst we still find ourselves continuing to navigate our way through the pandemic, we feel optimistic in moving forwards to better times. We have really valued the support of our parents in helping our students to follow the guidance designed to keep us all as safe as possible and realise that this support will continue to be vital in successfully navigating the future.

I would like to thank all of our students for their excellent attitudes whilst they have been faced with a challenging term. Students have attended as fully as they can, worked hard in their lessons and behaved well throughout.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff. Staff absences have been high as a result of COVID and sickness bugs, but the school has managed to stay fully open as a result of staff volunteering to take extra lessons and duties whilst teaching their own lessons, running clubs and trips as well as delivering revision sessions.

It is really pleasing to see that school life is steadily returning to normal. In particular, it has been a real pleasure to see the increase in the number of trips available for students to participate in so that they can widen their experiences beyond the classroom.

Just a reminder that we have taken the decision to move the Inset day from Friday 24th June 2022 to Monday 27th June 2022 so that we can take advantage of the availability of an outside speaker for all staff.

We look forward to seeing all students back on Monday 25th April for the start of what promises to be a busy summer term.

Mrs Hatto Head Teacher



Post-16 News

This last term has been a busy one for Post-16. All of our UCAS applications are in and we are thrilled that so many students have offers for so many courses - from English at York to Architecture in East Anglia. All the Year 13 students have worked hard on their applications and we can't wait to see what comes next for them. Students not going to university are encouraged to use their weekly tutor slots to chat about careers, apprenticeships and CVs to get them off to a good start.

Drop-Down Days

Both Year 12 and Year 13 students had a morning off timetable to look at some of the pastoral support topics. This included work on resilience, exam preparation, revision and independent work. Year 12 also got signed up to a fantastic program called Unifrog which allows them to develop career ideas, write personal statements and focus on their future. They can also use the program to record any extra-curricular activities they do. Year 13 students were able to spend some time looking at their next steps, either with a focus on finance and accommodation at university or in exploring apprenticeship and careers websites.



Enrichment

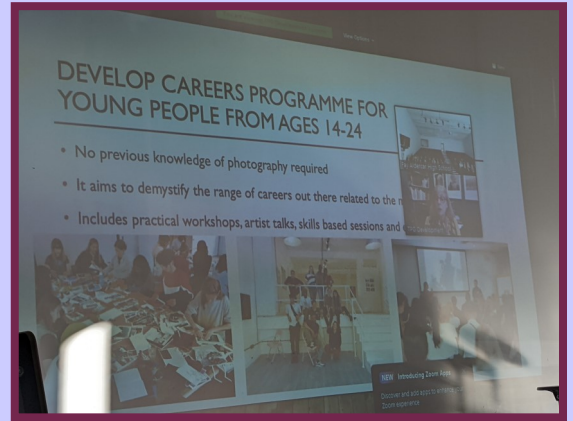
One of the most important parts of being in Post-16 is developing holistically - both for university and apprenticeship applications and for developing important skills. To help this, we now have an enrichment programme where students can earn rewards for their extra-curricular activities, both in and out of school. Many of the in-school activities our students do will count towards this and they can record them on Unifrog, making any future applications much more straight-forward. Any students who do out of school activities are encouraged to let us know as well.

School Council

We are looking for ways to improve students' time in Post-16 and one of the ways to do this is to increase student leadership (which also counts towards their enrichment as well) so we are looking for a team of Year 12 students to form a new and improved Post-16 School Council. If you are interested, let Miss Cracknell know before Easter. Students have also been sent a questionnaire about Post-16 and we would be grateful for any remaining replies. Look out for opportunities to get involved in all aspects of the Post-16 centre in the coming months too.

Speakers in Schools

Speakers in Schools is a country wide scheme designed to allow students in schools to experience talks from people who have excelled in their field and can offer passionate and detailed lectures on their specialisms. We were lucky enough to be able to celebrate International Women's Day and careers week with a talk by Brett Rogers - director of The Photography Gallery in London. All Year 12 and Year 13 art students



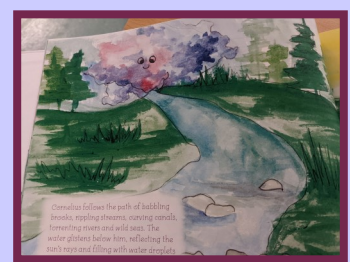
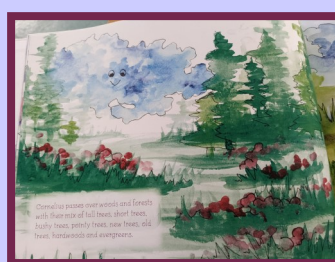
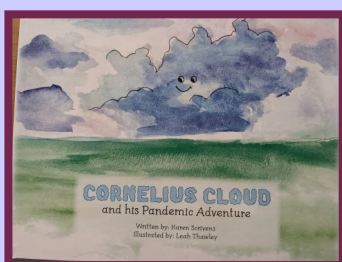
were in the audience along with some of our most gifted Year 10 and Year 11 artists. Having been awarded an OBE for services to photography and the arts, Brett told us about her career and the gallery and offered some wonderful activities for our students. Mr Goddard and Miss Cracknell will be looking into taking students on a visit to the gallery in the summer term.

Mocks and National Examinations

Year 13 are well underway with revision and mocks and are looking forward to being able to do the first national exams of their school careers. If any parents or carers would like information on how to support their son/daughter through this time, please get in touch with Miss Cracknell or Mrs Brighton. Year 12 students will have their summer exams towards the end of June and we will work with them in form time to help them prepare for these.

Student Achievement

We always like to celebrate our students' achievements in school and out. This term, we wanted to share with you the fantastic work done by Leah, one of our Year 12 students. A gifted artist, Leah has been working with one of the teachers at a local infant school and has painted all the illustrations for a fantastic book, called *Cornelius Cloud*, aimed at helping young children understand the pandemic and its impact. The illustrations are whimsical and perfect for the story and we couldn't be more proud of Leah now becoming a published illustrator.



Subject Focus

One of the problems Year 10 and Year 11 students often face is making their choices for their studies once they come into Post-16. Students in Year 9 who are making their option choices might also want to explore their options so they can make the right choices to support their goals. To help this, each newsletter there will be a subject focus so that students can get a little flavour of what Post-16 subjects can offer them. Even a known subject such as English can be very different once you get into Post-16. This term, our focus is psychology but if you would like to know more about any of the courses and options we offer at Post-16 then please get in touch with Miss Cracknell or Mrs Brighton in Post-16.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of the brain, mind and behaviour and tries to help us understand why we do what we do. In this subject you will study a total of 11 units including memory, attachment, relationships and psychopathology. Over the course of the two year qualification you will develop a wide range of skills which will help you in any further career - for example you will learn about how children attach to their caregivers, which could help if you wanted to go into nursing - and every single university course accepts psychology A level - even things like medicine, veterinary science or physics! As it is a science you will learn how psychologists go about studying the brain and behaviour and you will have the chance to do your own mini experiments to see if, for example, listening to music or watching TV helps you to learn. Psychology goes with any other combination of A levels or BTECs but goes particularly well with sport, biology, history and criminology. To succeed in psychology at A level, you need to have got a minimum of 5 grade 4-9 at GCSE and these must include science (or biology) and, if you have studied it, you must have passed history. It is preferable if you have achieved at least a grade 5 in English too as this will help you with the assessments in psychology.



Subject Focus continued

What our students say.

Orlagh in Year 12 said :

Learning about social influence has been the most interesting thing for me so far because you can understand so many things that you had noticed yourself and others doing but had previously accepted as 'normal'. The biggest challenge with psychology A level is the fact that it is a completely new subject, you don't have any background information or knowledge, so having to write essays at the start can be quite challenging. Doing biology as well will definitely help in future lessons/topics as it does cover a bit on the brain. For essay writing, English and History have helped, but ultimately I have felt that this subject is very different to any others as its based on explaining behaviour and looking at theories and studies, so I don't think that there is any single subject that is necessary to help you study psychology.

Evie, also in Year 12 said:

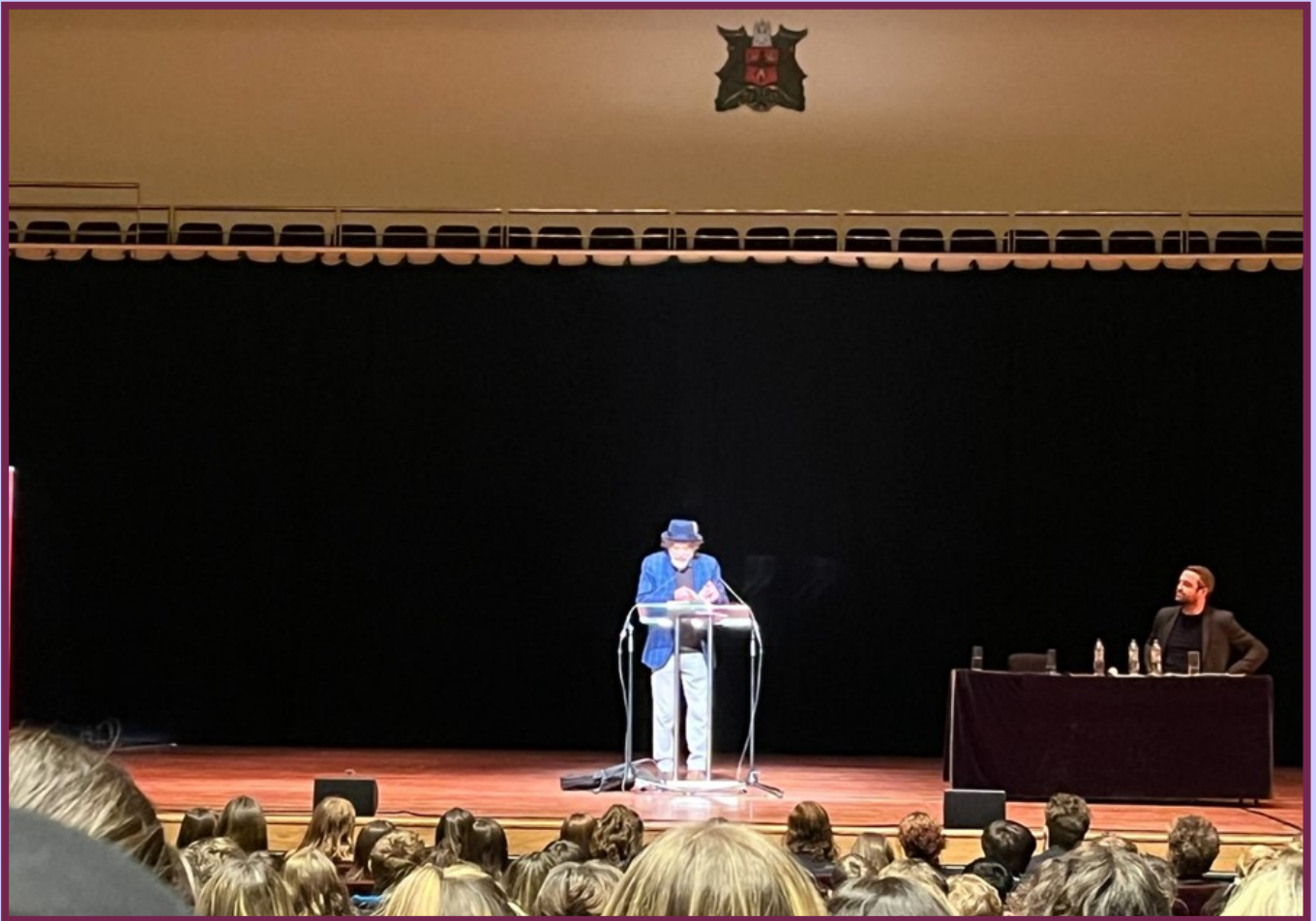
I think that psychology will be useful in day to day life just by explaining certain things that I might do or feel. If I go into a career which involves helping/talking to someone, I think it will be really useful for that. The most interesting thing in psychology is definitely the first topic we did which was social influence. We study what conformity is and how people conform in day-to-day life. Also, obedience and how people's professions can influence their decisions. The biggest challenge is probably the independent learning needed in Post-16 courses, including psychology, finding those methods to help myself find it easier. The GCSE subject that has helped me in psychology is English. Psychology is very essay based and you really need that language and ability to lay out an assessment. Even if you don't know what you want to do, psychology may help in life with mental health or when others are struggling or acting a certain way. It might help me because I've been wondering if I want to be a child therapist or an art therapist.

See Miss Cracknell for any more information on Psychology at Post-16.

Coming Up

- Year 13 first aid course: 28th April 2022
- Year 13 exams begin: 17th May onwards
- Talk the Talk workshops (Year 12): 5th and 18th May
- Year 13 exams begin: 17th May onwards
- Year 12 exams: w/c 20th June
- Next steps drop down day (Year 12): date TBC
- Young drivers day (Year 12): 6th July 2022
- Year 12 work experience: w/c 11th July

Key Stage Four Trip to Poetry Live



On Thursday 3rd February, a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students visited Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall to experience the Poetry Live event. They were treated to readings and discussions of poetry by famous names like Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and John Agard and some of our students took the opportunity to ask the writers questions. As well as this, students were given expert advice on how to tackle GCSE poetry questions.

Our students found the performances enjoyable and useful. Many of them have been inspired to take part in the Poetry Live writing competition - watch this space to see if any of them win! We are already looking forward to next year's event!



Key Stage Four Trip to Poetry Live



In Year 9, students study the play version of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. It's a funny, warm and sometimes shocking play exploring family relationships and some of the challenges of living with autism. This term, a group of our students visited the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to see the story come to life on stage.

It was an amazing audio-visual experience, full of light, sound and action. Our students were bowled over by the performances and the stage set-up, which presented the story in an extremely vivid and powerful way. We're looking forward to the next trip!

Private Peaceful - Year Eight Theatre Trip

On Thursday 16th February Mr Garratt and Ms Addison took a group of Year 8 pupils to see an evening performance of 'Private Peaceful' at the Nottingham Playhouse theatre.

It was a great night out! Our pupils were gripped by the imaginative dramatic portrayal of the book they had read earlier this year. There were even some tears!

The pupils were a credit to the school and staff were congratulated by various members of the public about how well behaved the students were. All in all, a fantastic first trip to the theatre for many; an experience the English department hopes to repeat in the future.



Literacy Walking Tour

On Thursday 20th January 2022, a select group of our English A level and Year 11 pupils enjoyed a walking tour around Nottingham.

Meeting near the city centre, our blue badge guide, Felicity Whittle, took us on a fascinating tour of the city. From D.H. Lawrence to Alan Sillitoe, Lord Byron to Robin Hood, with many interesting bookish detours in between, this really was a literacy journey of discovery. Our pupils were a credit to the school and were polite and engaged throughout. Overall, a very successful day and one which Mr Garratt intends to repeat with another year group soon. Watch this space!



Author Visit - Friday 11th February



Tom Mitchell is known for his hilarious, action-packed books for kids and we were delighted to welcome him to talk to our Year 7 students about how to write successfully! Tom read from his books *How to Rob a Bank* and *Escape from Camp Boring* and offered our students his funny and irreverent tips on creating comedy in writing.

Our students relished the opportunity of meeting Tom, asking him a wide range of interesting questions. Several of them even got their copies of his book signed!

World Book Day

World Book Day 2022 was a wonderful success. We had lots of students in the library taking part in potato decorating, designing book covers, reviewing books, and many more literary activities.

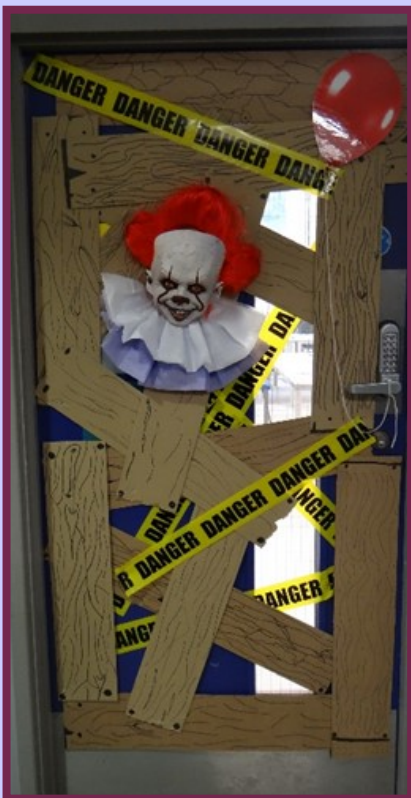
There were some great costumes and we had great fun seeing what everybody came up with. Our well-deserved winners were Ethan in Year 7 as Grandpa's Great Escape, Oliver in Year 8 as Ash from Pokémon and William in Year 9 as The Riddler.



Everyone also decorated their doors with a literary theme and the winners were Mrs Cleveley's and Miss Gigg's form 7C, Mr Waite's form H8 and Mrs Walford's form G9.

The best potato was decorated by Samantha in Year 8 and we had small prizes for some great book cover designs and book bunting made by Taegwyn, Summer, Lola and Scarlett, all in Year 7.

Well done to everyone who joined us to celebrate books and reading. Happy reading and see you next year!



Year 9 Geography Fieldwork

During the Spring Term, Aldercar High School's Geography team took Year 9 students out on a fieldwork adventure to test their knowledge of the local area.

'Is Heanor a Clone Town?' was the geographical enquiry question.

After numerous lessons in the classroom, the students headed into Heanor town centre to test their geographical enquiry. Along the way we saw rain, the majority of Storm Eunice, and even had a run in with the police! However, students managed to collect their data to conclude whether Heanor was being taken over by chain stores and housing developments, or if it was managing to hold on to its independent shops and housing.



Poetry Writing Competition

Mr Garratt recently entered some of his Year 7 and Year 9 class into a poetry writing competition. He was pleased with the letter he received from Young Writers who wrote:

"I am delighted to let you know that I've chosen all of the work from your school for publication", and also saying "I was impressed with their writing".

Pictured below are Year 7 students with their certificates and bookmarks. Aldercar High School are looking forward to receiving our complimentary book for the school library which will include all of our pupils' wonderful poems.



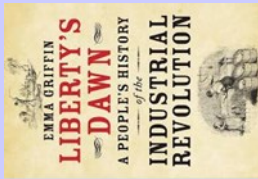
Digging Deeper: Year 8

Below are some suggestions to enhance your understanding of topics we are studying in history this year for passionate historians to enjoy.

Scholarship and Fiction



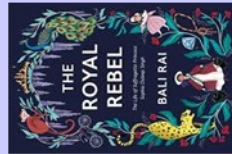
Did life improve for everyone 1750 to 1900?



How did the Holocaust happen?



How effective were the tactics of the Suffragettes?



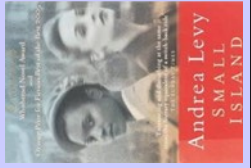
What were the turning points of WWII?



What were the consequences of WWI?



How tolerant was post war Britain?



TV & Film



- The Suffragette
- War Horse
- Dunkirk
- The Longest Day
- Band of Brothers
- The Book Thief
- Schindler's List
- Pearl Harbour
- Oliver Twist

Podcasts



- You're Dead to me by Greg Jenner - look for the episodes on The Harlem Renaissance, Harriet Tubman, The Haitian Revolution, The Notting Hill Carnival.
- Homeschool History by Greg Jenner

Exploring Further

Year 7 Geography

**Make a
Contour
Model**



In our **Map Skills** we learn about how geographers show height on a map. To help you understand contour lines you could make a model of a hill using layers of card.



Visit the website worldatlas.com to travel the world with great **maps**, pictures, articles and facts.

**Explore
the world**

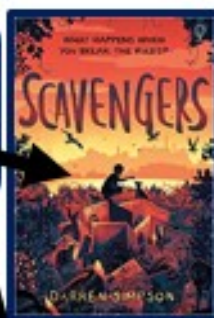
**Watch
TV**



Physical geography series such as the Perfect Planet and films like **Ice Age** will help you this year.



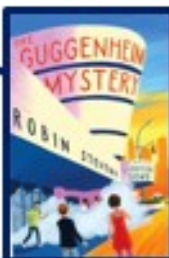
These two books are based on **Africa** - which we will study in the summer term.



Read a book



This series is set in London and New York about a weather-obsessed boy who becomes a detective. It links with our topic on **cities**, **crime** and **weather**!



Exploring Further in Year 8

Tectonics



Film: Dante's Peak, San Andreas and The Impossible are brilliant film introductions to this topic. There are lots more disaster films to discover!

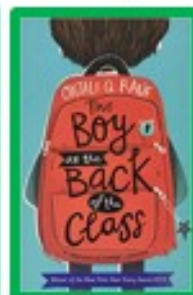
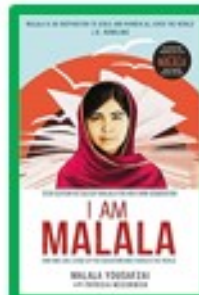
Books: The 'I survived' series of books includes many tectonic hazard stories but there are many non-fiction books on volcanoes that are well worth reading too.

TV series: The David Attenborough 'Perfect Planet' series includes a volcano-featured episode. There are many more documentaries e.g. see 'Into the inferno' currently on Netflix or 'Japan – between earth and sky' on Disney+.



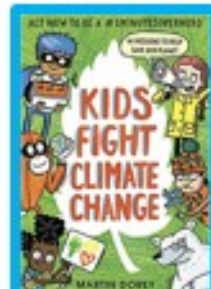
The difference between rich and poor countries is the theme of many fiction and non-fiction books. Here are some of them.

Development



Climate Change

Follow Greta Thunberg as she challenges world leaders to take climate change seriously. Then learn more with Ade Adepitan on this issue. Or find out how you can help!



Rivers and Coasts



Russia

Visit the website worldatlas.com to discover Russia with great maps, pictures, articles and facts.

Sports news

Our Year 7 students played a football tournament in February at Ripley Academy against all the other schools in the area. The boys and girls performed really well and performances improved with every game. We drew 0-0 against both John Flamsteed and Ripley, got beaten 1-0 by Belper and then beat David Neiper 2-0.

The next round in March was not a great evening for the Year 7 students, who unfortunately, didn't seem to be at the races for our second phase of the competition. We finished second in all of our games and despite being second in the league table from the first round we tumbled to fifth overall. Well done to all students involved: it's not the winning, it's the taking part that counts.

There was a fantastic win for our Year 11 team on 2nd March against very tough opposition, in absolutely freezing conditions. A magnificent effort by all the students: everyone did a solid job on a poor playing surface. Belper couldn't hack or match us physically. Goals from Brandon H, Bailey B and Ethan G.

Our Year 8 students competed against schools across the borough at Belper School on 15th March. Despite the results, they played better every single game and left their best performance until last to beat arguably the best team there.

Belper 1 - 0 AHS

David Niepier 1 - 0 AHS

John Flamstead 3 - 0 AHS

Heanor Gate 0 - 1 AHS

A challenging evening of football for the Year 9 students on 24th March. They lost to Belper 5-0. This was a great learning experience for them though, and they will be ready to do battle next time. Keep trying guys.

We are looking forward to next term's competitions!



Outdoor Inspire Programme

Miss Peplow ran the Outdoor Inspire Programme alongside Tony, Amanda and Mel from Derbyshire County Council. The programme is designed to improve students' self-confidence, self-esteem and tackle challenges out of students' comfort zone. We worked together as a team to build a camp shelter, camp fires and made tools with natural materials. Everyone had strict safety procedures to follow and all students adhered to these perfectly.



Students took part in team building games where communication was key. We made friendship bracelets and learned about the different tools we were going to use in the outdoors. Students also took part in a tool box talk and read out safety features for each tool in front of the group.



We battled the cold and had two fun filled days in Shipley Park, where we learnt how to build a shelter, make fires and discover our natural surroundings. We also learned about the outdoor environment.

Students made 5 minute fires and put their concentration skills to the test by making a star out of sticks and knots. We built a big campfire after collecting enough fire wood. We made tea, hot chocolate, vegetable soup and toast. Students were given certain tasks to do and Scarlett was fabulous at making the group their soup and hot drinks. For pudding, we made popcorn over the fire. Kelsey and Kristina were amazing at getting their 5 minute fire started and Kai and Aaron were able to warm their hands from their fire as they kept it lit for over 5 minutes. To finish, students made a hammer from one piece of wood or created a tree spirit from clay and items in the woodland area.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Huge congratulations are in order for the six Year 10 pupils pictured, who are our first at Aldercar High School to successfully complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award! Mr Waite, Miss Walford, Miss Mansfield and other supporting staff are rightly very proud of what these young people have achieved over the last year or so. Each has completed at least three months doing volunteering, practicing a skill in the skills section and enjoying a sport or exercise to complete their physical section. As well as this, they of course completed their hiking and camping expedition in September last year, gaining sore feet, blisters and sore shoulders but making great memory's along the way! Well done to all of you! Watch this space for other successful Duke of Edinburgh students soon!

Raising money for Ukraine

The Learning Support department raised £20 for Ukraine by cooking a lunch for staff.

The menu:

BBQ Beans

Jacket Potato

Coleslaw

Grated cheese

Followed by banana and chocolate chip muffins.

We had great fun and staff said it was delicious!



The last day of term, 8th April, will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Ukraine, please wear the colours of the Ukraine flag: yellow and blue.

Snowden Challenge for Animal Charity

On Saturday 26th March, Sophia, in Year 9, did a sponsored walk up Snowdon. This is her written report of how the day went:

The day I tackled Snowdon

Saturday 26th March was the day I tackled Mount Snowdon for a local charity, Brinsley Animal Rescue Centre. They look after lots of different animals that have been abandoned or injured.

So far we have raised just under £1700.

I did this walk with my friend and her family. We started the walk at around 9:15 in the morning after an early set off from Langley Mill. We decided to do the Llanberis path as my friend is only 7 years old so we thought it would be a safer route to take.

The day was lovely with blue skies so we saw some fantastic views. We stopped off a couple of times for food and drink but if we hadn't we would have reached the summit in just over 2 hours. When we reached the top we had to queue to take our picture at the summit.

Sophia's tutor, Mr Garratt said, "Well done Sophia! As someone who is always the first to volunteer, a pupil who always wants to do her best, when she told me what she was doing I wasn't particularly surprised! I had no doubt that she would succeed. Sophia is a great role model for our pupils. I am looking forward to seeing other charity efforts and I'm sure she will do in the future."



World Scout Jamboree

Heather in Year 11 has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. This is where scouts from around the world are invited to attend a big 12-day camp held by different countries every 4 years. The theme this year is "Draw your Dream" and will be a great opportunity to experience new cultures. However, Heather is now trying to fundraise £3,600 to be able to attend and would be very grateful for anything you could do to help.

She will be gathering sponsorships for a sponsored bike ride on 8th of May. This will be a big challenge for her as she says she has only just conquered going in a straight line.

Also, Heather will be running a "guess how many chocolate eggs are in the jar" competition during the last week before Easter. Heather would appreciate any help with fundraising. Please contact school if you would like to help.

After School Science Baking

Mrs Roe has been running an after school science baking club. So far, students have baked gingerbread dinosaurs, and learnt lots of interesting facts. For instance, did you know that in 2014 the bones of the largest dinosaur were found in Argentina? It was 40m long! This was called Argentinosaurus. Scientists believe that some dinosaurs had lifespans of between 75-300 years.

Our students have also taken a 'journey to the centre of the pizza'. This involved making pizza and learning about the Earth's inner core, outer core, mantle and crust!



Student Work Experience

Lily, a Year 11 student, recently went to work at Nottingham Trent University's Radiological and Radiochemical department for a week. Dr Nick Evans showed her the ropes and allowed her to see what to expect in a career in nuclear physics.

After some safety training on the first day, Lily was given the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research into how the radioactivity of soil samples from the Chernobyl exclusion zone can be mitigated by the growing of certain plants.

The research took a whole week and in that time Lily was able to use high tech equipment including a germanium detector, a radon detector, and a vortex mixer. She was also given the responsibility of mixing compounds, measuring the radioactivity of samples, analysing data from experiments and last but not least, looking cool in a lab coat!

Dr Evans will be publishing the results of Lily's contributions in the scientific journal Radiochimica Acta.



Comic Relief

We have collected **£400.22** for Comic Relief from non-uniform day. Thanks to all who donated!



Enhanced Resource Facility News

Students from our Enhanced Resource Facility attended a sporting event at the start of February. The event took place at Alfington Leisure Centre. The students played Boccia, which is a sport designed for people with high support needs. It is a target sport played indoors with soft leather balls. It is a sport of intriguing tactics, incredible skill and nail biting tension.

The event was organised by Amber Valley School Sport Partnership.

The students were amazing and had great fun.



ERS Trip to Center Parcs

A great week away with 11 students from our ERS department was had at Center Parcs. The weather was very good and the students enjoyed lots of activities and food throughout the week.



Diary Dates

Event	Date
Easter break	11th April - 22nd April
Students return to school	25th April
Year 12 parents' evening	27th April
Bank holiday	2nd May
Year 11 and Year 13 mocks 2 results day	3rd May
First exam on common timetable	17th May
Last day of half term	27th May
Half term	29th May - 3rd June
Students return / Year 6 start of weekly transition clubs	6th June
Year 10 geography field trip	15th June
Year 10 and Year 12 exams	20th June - 1st July
Year 7 science trip to the Space Centre	22nd June
Year 13 leavers meal	24th June
Inset day 5	27th June
Year 11 Post-16 induction days	28th and 29th June
Year 6 transition day 1 and open evening	30th June
Year 6 transition day 2 / Year 11 prom	1st July
Duke of Edinburgh expedition	2nd and 3rd July
Year 9 tutor review day	4th July
Shipley celebration evening	4th July
Post-16 ERF Skegness trip	4th July - 8th July
Key stage 3 exams	4th July - 15th July
Sports day	5th July
Howitt celebration evening	5th July
Year 10 Post-16 taster day	8th July
Ormonde celebration evening	11th July
Year 10 and Year 12 work experience	11th July - 15th July
Student gratitude week	11th July - 15th July
Gregg celebration evening	12th July
Activity week	18th - 22nd July
Last day of term	22nd July
Summer Break	25th July - 31st August
A level results	18th August
GCSE results	25th August