



Newsletter

Arnold Hill Academy



“Be Inspired & Achieve Together”

December 2017

Inclusion Trip to the Pantomime

Students involved in the inclusion faculty had a trip to the Pantomime at Nottingham Playhouse where they watched Cinderella. The students' faces were a picture and they really enjoyed themselves; Arnold Hill Academy received a 'shout out' from the cast members whilst they were doing the mentions so of course we gave them a big cheer.

There was an area for theatre go-ers to try on some costumes and props, our students really enjoyed having a go, they all had a great time! Their good behaviour made Miss Eyre so proud that she is thinking of making it an annual tradition – oh yes she is!



Message from the Head Teacher

As we head towards the Christmas holidays I am pleased to look back on an Autumn Term that has been packed with hard work and student achievement both in and out of the classrooms. We have ended this term on a high with our 'Shining Brightly: Arts Showcase' where students and staff delivered impressive performances for parents and carers as well as for children from our local primary schools. We have continued to offer a wide range of experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom which include a variety of clubs and activities, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, our Combined Cadet Force (CCF), and competitions in PE, Science, Technology and Maths. A number of educational trips also took place this term taking students throughout the UK, across Europe and safely back again!

I'm pleased to report that our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raised thousands of pounds again this year with the Craft Fair and we look forward to using these funds to further improve our environment and what is on offer to students at Arnold Hill. For the second year running now we have opened our doors to the children, staff and parents from Ernehale School who visited us throughout December to rehearse and perform their Christmas play in our lovely auditorium. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back for what is becoming an annual tradition.

Having already demolished the old buildings on what was the 'Upper School Site' the builders continue to landscape the remaining ground in preparation for a brand new grass sports pitch to spring up next year. Builders are extending the school drive within our grounds and are adding valuable on-site parking spaces and lighting too. These building works will result in us having a new exit for vehicles leaving the site at the end of the school day and will allow cars to exit the site further up Gedling Road without having to face incoming vehicles coming on site and heading to Playfootball.

Ofsted visited us on the 5th and 6th of December. We are awaiting the published report and expect to see acknowledgement of areas we have improved in and information on any areas where further improvement is required. We will notify parents as soon as the report is published.

I wish you and your family well over the Christmas holidays and hope you all have a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr Robertson
Head Teacher

Inclusion Faculty Visit to London

On 1st December a group of pupils in years 9, 10 and 11 visited the Houses of Parliament. After a guided tour of the Parliament, which included seeing inside the House of Lords and sitting in on a live debate in the House of Commons, they met with Gedling MP Vernon Coaker for a question and answer session. The group then went on to visit many of London's famous landmarks, finishing the visit with a tour on the London Eye at sunset.



Ms Loyeau, SENCO



Christmas with the Aliens

This week Arnold Hill had pleasure hosting the annual Christmas production for the Ernevale infants. The pupils performed their Christmas Show 'Hey Ewe' in front of pupils and parents over three days. The event has been a huge success and the performance showcased the hard work of all of the pupils and teachers involved. The pupils were amazing and performed superbly and they were very proud of their efforts. Both the pupils and staff have rehearsed incredibly hard to ensure a smooth performance, it was well organised and the costumes were fantastic!

The Academy now looks forward to hosting Ernevale Juniors with their annual production week commencing the 18th December.

Tara Box
Transition manager



Duke Of Edinburgh News

On the weekend 11th/12th November our thirteen Gold participants from Year 12 went to the Kinder Scout area for wild country navigation training. They spent two days learning to navigate precisely across featureless terrain without electronic aids. As the picture shows, they also learned that a straight line is often neither the quickest nor the easiest route. The young people benefitted from two things; the up-to-date experience of our team of mountain leaders from recent expeditions in Europe and Africa, and the hot showers, hot meals and comfortable bunks in Edale YHA.



Blue Group encountering a peat bog west of the trip point

Scopay

Scopay is the online payments system that allows payments to be made for school lunches, trips, music invoices, revision guides and any other saleable goods.

Scopay can be accessed through the Arnold Hill Academy website, and by selecting payment at the bottom of the homepage. Various reference guides can also be found on the payments section of the Academy website and the Scopay website. There is also a Reset password facility on the Scopay login page if you cannot remember your account details.

Please contact finance@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk for any queries regarding Scopay or for Scopay registration information.

Please note school lunch online payments will only be available on the student's account for that day's lunch if payment is made before 11.30am that day.



News from the Technology Faculty

FutureChef – two year 9 students took part in the local final of the national FutureChef cooking competition. It was a very close competition and our students excelled themselves on the day narrowly missing out on a place in the regional finals.

Cross curricular after school activity between MFL and Food – students in year 8 have enjoyed finding out about Spanish and French cuisine and then cooking dishes such as paella and Galettes.

After school baking club – a number of year 7 students have been making treats in an after school baking club this term. Recipes have included Swiss rolls, Christmas biscuits, carrot cake muffins and chocolate chip cookies.

Mug press – the PTA funded the department so we could purchase a mug press to go with the sublimation printer we already own. Students and teachers have been able to design and then purchase a personalised mug raising funds for the department.

Dress a girl around the world – the parcel containing a range of pretty dresses all made by the KS4 textile students was sent off this term to the UK branch of 'Dress A Girl Around the World'. We are looking forward to hearing where in the world they have ended up.



News from the Library

It has been a busy term for our library.

Year 7 were lucky enough to meet the author **Gwyneth Rees** who spent the afternoon in the library discussing her latest book "Libby In The Middle" and signing copies of her books for our students.

November saw the launch of the **Nottinghamshire Brilliant Book Award** at Mansfield Library and our Year 7 book group visited the event for a morning of book signings and inspiring speeches from the authors of the shortlisted books. The students were rewarded with signed copies of books from authors such as **Dan Walker** and **Christopher Edge** to name but a few!

Our Reading Buddies scheme, which aims to encourage our students to read for pleasure, started in October and has been a great success. Our 6th form volunteers are paired with a Year 7 or 8 student who they meet once a week during guidance. The students choose books, read and discuss what they have read with their reading mentor. Our 6th formers feel they have made a huge difference to the younger students' reading habits, with one of our Year 7 students saying that they now choose to read for ten minutes every night rather than go on their phone!

We hope you get lots of books as Christmas presents!



Black History Month Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Black History Month competitions.

Salome scored the highest marks in our quiz and Keira produced a story board about Rosa Parks.

Well done girls!



News from Year 10

Myles Somerton created a genuinely impressive piece of extended writing in his English lesson which received a commendation from the Head Teacher as it was so good.

Neave Archer and **Fern Williams** were selected for the Nottinghamshire U16 Girls representative football team and gave excellent performances, despite being a year below the age group.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF) have nearly completed their Level 1 basic cadet course. They will also be taking a leadership role with the new CCF recruits from Year 9.

A big thank you to all the CCF Cadets for their help during the PTA Festive Market, unloading cars and directing visitors. They were a credit to the school.



News from Dance

Arnold Hill's Reflections Dance Company performed at the annual Gedling dance showcase at Carlton Academy this month. It was a fantastic event showcasing some exceptional talent. A big well done to our dancers who excelled themselves during their two performances : Summer Pavier, Isabella Cave, Jamaica Payne, Jodie Ross, Jodie Lewitt, Chloe Henderson, Millie Gorey and Catherine Hudson.



Trip to Barcelona

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Barcelona. There were some complications but overall the trip ran smoothly. We visited markets and we completed a shopping competition in teams where we had to ask for things in Spanish. We also visited historical and architectural sites which I enjoyed much more than I thought I would. Towards the end of the week we completed a treasure hunt around a town in Spanish and went for a meal where we had to order in Spanish. The weather was lovely and we got to spend some time on the beach after our days out which was really fun. I would recommend this trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go.

Trip review by Melody Cook - 10D



Psychology News

This term Year 13 Psychology students have been studying the brain. We discovered which areas are responsible for understanding language and speaking and what would happen if you cut the fibres that enable both hemispheres of the brain to communicate. To make this more interesting Psychology and Biology students had the opportunity to dissect a sheep's brain in a lunchtime lab session and find those parts the textbooks don't really show. The brains were a little on the small size to see everything and were slightly worse for being in the freezer but the students made an excellent job of their dissection so well done to all concerned.

We also much appreciate the support from parents working in Psychology related areas. Year 12 students heard a talk from a parent who is a clinical psychologist and were fascinated to hear how her career developed and about the case studies she works on. Another Year 12 group heard a Professor from Leicester University talk about the history of mental health and his own research with service users in institutions. Thanks again to those parents whose input is so valuable.



Geography News



Year 7 started the year learning about the importance of tropical rainforests and the damage that deforestation can do. With rainforest resources being consumed at ever increasing rates students were tasked with finding sustainable strategies to manage wood resources. IKEA are one company who have taken responsibility to protect the rainforests and aim to source 100% of their wood from sustainable sources in the near future. IKEA Nottingham visited Arnold Hill to share their knowledge and strategies through an assembly which then led students to design an advert that would promote and inform potential customers.

Miss Payne



Year 9 Achievements

Megan Dixon: passed her Level One on a St John's Ambulance leadership course.

Future Chef: Two students from Year 9 were representing Arnold Hill at the Future Chef Competition. Both boys cooked fantastically. Unfortunately they didn't win but were commended on their fantastic attitude.

Basketball at Arnold Hill is flying with boys and girls winning in spectacular fashion. Year 9 and 10 boys' team have even beaten Year 11 teams from other schools.

Harvey Sturton: Boxing to a great standard for county and above.



History News

On **Friday 10th November**, we visited Mapperley Plains Primary school where we delivered a Remembrance workshop. The pupils were invited to create a postcard of Remembrance and what fantastic artwork and messages they produced to commemorate Remembrance Day. Arnold Hill ambassadors Esme Garaway and Lucy Brown also helped deliver the project.

On **Monday 13th November** Our History A Level pupils attended the Tudor Conference in London where we listened to famous historians John Guy, John Morrill and David Starkey deliver lectures on Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.

Wednesday 13th December saw the launch of our Nottingham University/Arnold Hill GCSE History students' collaborative project. Y9 and 10 students will be working with students from the university developing historical enquiry and presentation skills.



Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics News

Year 7 students are going on a trip to a Sri Guru Singh Gurdwara and a Buddhist Meditation Centre on February 12th 2018.

Ten **Year 8** students have been invited to the Holocaust Memorial Centre on the 18th January 2018.



Braking Point for Sixth Form

As part of our commitment to give a broad student sixth form experience, we have assemblies given by outside charities and agencies. On Wednesday 1st November 2017, we were delighted to invite all Year 12 and 13 students to a performance on Young Driver and Passenger Safety - "Braking Point". The event dramatised the dangers of drink-driving, passenger awareness and responsibilities. Students were encouraged to think about this from several perspectives and were asked to reflect and contribute on how these issues affect them directly.



News from the Arts Faculty

Art

- We have had a successful start with our exam classes in GCSE and A-Level Art, our students are creating some excellent work for their coursework, which is part of their final grade. Work includes observational drawing and portraits. These keen students come to 'open Art studio' on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime to perfect their work.
- The Art department created an outstanding presentation of work from Y12 and 13, this was displayed for our post 16 open evening. The standard of work was exceptional and caught the attention of many people.
- This term we have an exciting opportunity working with a local professional graphite and sound artist along with the linguistic department at Nottingham Trent University. A group of our Y8 students will be visiting Bestwood pit with the artist, where they will take part in a workshop after interviewing pit workers. Their work will be displayed next year at Cresswell Crags.

Drama

- It has been a fantastic start to the 2017 academic year for Drama, firstly we have had our first round of final examinations for our Y11 students for their devised piece, all exceeded previous practical grades and did themselves and us very proud.
- Y11 and Y13 students are now moving on to their next wave of practical examinations which are based on script work. We are very excited to work in collaboration with Pilot Theatre Company on the text they performed last year based on the original novel 'The Machine Stops' by E.M. Forster.
- We have had a very exciting few weeks holding auditions for our school show this year, our 'Shine Brightly Showcase'. We were overjoyed by the extent of students coming to audition, showing a range of performances including solo dancers, singers, musicians and drama performances.
- Last week GCSE and A-Level students had the privilege of observing a talk given by a producer from a television/documentary company. This talk was excellent and gave the students an insight into the television industry.
- We were very proud to have presented our first 'Shine Brightly' showcase. Not only will did we have a wonderful group of students performing, but we had our first ever professional theatre company up and running bringing the show to stage. Many thanks go out to all students in the cast and company, along with a huge thanks to all staff involved with this production, it was an amazing experience!

Music

- Another busy term for the music department in our still new premises! Students have been working hard across the key stages, with noticeable success in the new Y9 GCSE music group and the Y10 showing especially fantastic work ethic and attitudes. Many of these students have performed at the various open evenings over the half term, with the rock band proving especially popular with the Y5s (and their parents!). Several young pupils were given the chance to join in with the band on the night and we look forward to developing their skills when they join the Academy in two years' time.
- Extra-curricular work has continued to build, with the orchestra under Mr Egan's leadership doubling in size since the start of term. New ensembles include the Y7 vocal group led by Mr Miles on Tuesday lunchtimes and the Jazz group formed by one of our 6th form students on Thursdays. Practise rooms are in almost constant use at lunchtimes by students rehearsing for lessons and forming their own bands and ensembles. This half terms performance opportunities include the PTA Christmas fair, where several groups will be adding to the atmosphere and the Arnold Town Centre Christmas lights event, both on Saturday 25th November, where the Y7 singing group and a number of solo acts will be representing the Academy in the wider community. In addition many bands and singers will be taking part in the Christmas Showcase on 13th and 14th December.
- The number of students signing up for extra-curricular clubs and lessons has increased significantly since September, with more than double the number taking lessons with our peripatetic staff since the start of term and numbers growing every month. The department looks forward this trend continuing.

News from the PE Faculty

Dance

Students represented the Academy in the annual Gedling Showcase event on Thursday 23rd November with Lauren Hays, this involved Y7, 9, 10 and 12 students.

KS3 PE

“You’re Hired” – employability competition for Y8. Rewards were given for students who showed employability skills in PE lessons in September this year, following on from last year’s success.

Y7 Rugby – students have played their first set of games representing the academy in the Gedling rugby festivals, they played three games and won two.

Basketball – u14 county winners; Y8 County winners

Football across all years is still proving very popular, with uptake of boys’ football on a Tuesday night to training regularly exceeding 40 students. This is the same in girls’ football on a Wednesday night exceeding 20 students each session.

The Y7 girls’ football team are unbeaten in three games and are through to the ¼ finals of the West Bridgford Colts Shield for Girls (7-a-side).

Athletics - We have now become the host centre for the Nottingham Athletic Development Academy, which takes place on a Monday evening in our sports hall. Students from the Academy as well as the local community are selected to attend and improve their muscular strength and endurance using weight bearing activities and equipment.

The 30 athletes who make up the cross country team have competed in the winter XC league first event with a number of teams just off 3rd place at the moment

KS4 PE

We have recently been successful in receiving a £2,000 grant from the FA for futsal goals and equipment. This included two metal indoor futsal goals, 10 futsal footballs, bibs and coaching equipment for the students to use in both PE lessons and as an extra-curricular club which will be starting in the new year.

Y11 GCSE students have completed their controlled assessments, which involved a mammoth 14 hours of planning and writing up a report/analysis on their own fitness and skill aspects in their chosen sports.

KS5 PE

Our Y12 BTEC Sports Science students have been completing their coaching unit by helping out and leading the PE KS3 lessons. This has worked really well, 12 students have been excellent role models to the younger students, as well as being very helpful and leading on some of the different activities and drills with the classroom teachers supervision.

Football – the academy’s 6th form team are now in quarter finals of both South Notts and the County Cup.

‘Arnold Hill does Parkrun’ happened at the Gedling Parkrun – in dire conditions – over the weekend of 4th and 5th November. Staff and students took part in helping out and running during this event.

UK Youth Parliament

In November, UK Youth Parliament sat in the House of Commons chamber to discuss the most important issues for young people in the UK. Florence Orchard, current sixth form student and member of Gedling Youth Parliament, is pictured helping young people to “make their mark”.



Bright Day

This term we have completed our first bright day of the year! The day was very successful, giving students the opportunity to learn new skills in different areas– we had students learning how to build shelters, learning CPR, students in year 11 had a guest motivational speaker and learnt strategies about how to cope with exam stress and we ran a year group trip to the skill show for Y10 to name a few! Planning is already underway for the next Bright Day and staff and students look forward to it.





Don't Forget!

School returns on
Monday 8th January
2018



**Have a
Wonderful
Christmas!**

CCF

The CCF at Arnold Hill continues to grow and expand with our numbers already exceeding the year two target. From September 2017 we have been operating as an independent unit but continue to maintain strong links with the Nottingham High School Contingent by sharing field days and our staff attending their parades for on-going training.

All of our current Y10 cadets joined the Nottingham High School in the summer for the annual camp. This year it was held in Pennali, Tenby, supported by 160th Brigade. The week had an excellent range of activities for the students to take part in including Kyaking, raft building and teamwork (with the Royal Engineers), rock climbing and abseiling, a full live firing range day that resulted in a number of our cadets being recognised for their marksmanship, clay pigeon shooting and archery, and an overnight two day exercise to repel and covertly observe an invading foreign force. All cadets and staff had a fantastic time. The development of the cadets was inspiring with some being away from home and parents for the first time.

We now have 25 cadets on roll with a large intake from Y9 joining us from September. They are currently going through basic training but are in uniform and, along with the Y10s, wearing it for the entire school day each Wednesday.

All CCF units are affiliated with a regular army unit. We have been awaiting our affiliation after making applications before the summer. We have now had confirmation of our affiliation to 1st Regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery. Through our SSI (Ross Hatfield) is an artillery man himself we have some fantastic contacts within the branch of the forces. We are in the process of arranging visits both by them to us for a formal cap badge and prize giving ceremony and for a visit to them for the cadets. There is a plethora of careers and employability links we can make and take advantage of with this link in place.

Staff continue to remain committed to further training, often giving up free time to attend courses over weekends. We have also had interest from other staff about becoming involved with one now attending on an informal basis before deciding to hopefully pursue a commission and join formally.



Ernehale Juniors Singing Assembly

Mrs Box, Transition Manager, writes:

On Wednesday 8th November Mrs Corton and I had the absolute privilege of being invited to the Ernehale Juniors singing assembly. The reason for our visit was to present a number of prizes to the Y6 pupils who entered the 'Book Blurb' competition during the Year 6 Open Evening in early October. All pupils who visited during the Open Evening were invited to enter the competition when they visited the library. Mrs Corton then had the pleasure of reading the entries and deciding on an overall winner and the runners up. There were a number of runners up from a variety of local schools including Arno Vale, Arnold View, Coppice and Ernehale, the overall winner was Annabelle from Ernehale. Annabelle won a range of goodies including a book, a pencil, bookmark, chocolate and a £5 gift voucher.

We were both made to feel very welcome by all of the pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 as they sang us two songs by the Beatles: 'With a Little Help from my Friends' and 'Penny Lane'.

Well done to all of the runners up and the winner of the competition and a huge thank you to all of the students for welcoming Mrs Corton and I to Ernehale Juniors.

