



Newsletter

Arnold Hill Academy



“Be Inspired & Achieve Together”

March 2017

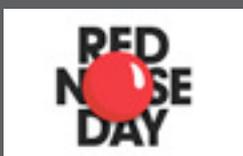
Ex-Student David Jackson

We have initiated and nurtured a valuable link with an ex-student and BBC Radio presenter, David Jackson, inviting him onto the site to view the demolition of our old buildings, to tour the new A Block and meet with students for a Q & A session. David subsequently broadcast a positive interview with the Head Teacher about the academy and returned a couple of weeks later to support our students with their BBC News Report work and also to interview long serving teacher, Sarah Marshall, which was broadcast on Radio Nottingham's breakfast Show on Friday, 17th March.



Red Nose Day

A huge thank you to students and staff for supporting our “Dress down for Red Nose Day” on Friday, 24th March. Together we raised a fantastic £877.89 for Comic Relief.



Message from the Head Teacher

As we head towards the Easter break I feel we can look back on a busy and fruitful term. Our students and staff have been working hard both in and out of the classroom and I hope you'll see, when you read the rest of this Newsletter, how positive many of these activities have been for our students and also the students at our local feeder primary schools.

Our Site Team will be spending much of the Easter holidays carrying out further improvements to the Academy buildings and decoration, especially in B Block, the older part of the Academy.

Anyone travelling along Gedling Road will have noticed that the demolition of our old school buildings is almost complete and the old 'Upper School' site is now being cleared. We are very excited that the next stage of improvements is about to begin and this area will be landscaped and transformed into additional playing fields for all our students to enjoy.

Whether it is preparing our students for academic success or supporting them in sports, the arts, The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or our Combined Cadet Force we will always make sure that we do all we can to inspire our students to achieve the very best they can.

Happy Easter.

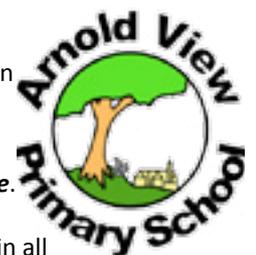
*Mr Robertson
Head Teacher*

Primary School Liaison - Arnold View Outreach

Last half term I was given the privilege to work with the Foundation children at Arnold View Primary School. This consisted of delivering two drama workshops and a story telling sessions with small groups of children.

Within the Drama sessions the children explored the book *Handa's Surprise*. The children explored physical theatre, still image, sound collage and narration. They were extremely enthusiastic and were keen to be involved in all aspects of the workshop. We then explored story telling and narration in which the children were exploring character through the use of masks and props (we used real fruit to bring the story to life!)

I was then privileged to take some of our talented Year 7 students to read to small groups of children, all of whom were engaged in reading some classics such as the *Gruffalo* and *The Room on the Broom*. We then ended the story telling session watching another cartoon classic *Mr Ben* and everyone shared and ate popcorn! I look forward to working more with the foundation pupils at Arnold View.



*Mrs Box
Transition Manager*

Student Leadership

The School Council has been reinvigorated this year, with elected representatives from each form group meeting as a 'Year Council', and sending two Year Leaders to the larger 'School Council'. There is also an 'Executive School Board' which comprises the Head Boy and Girl, the Deputy Head Boy and Girl, the and the Gedling Councillors. The Academy is proud to have three candidates aiming to become members of the UK Youth Parliament. Arnold Hill students recently organised student elections for the Youth Parliament and created significant student interest across the academy with over 1,000 Arnold Hill students voting in the election. This was truly impressive especially when compared with the total number of votes in this election across Gedling - Arnold Hill students accounted for 1/3rd of all the student votes cast in Gedling Borough. Our students clearly value democracy!

Achievement

This half term, over 120 students have received rewards because they gained the most achievement points for different contributions to the academy, including 'working well' 'good contributions' and 'effort'. Congratulations everyone!

Aromatherapy and Relaxation session

Mrs Armstrong, who runs the 'Base' Leaning Support area, organised a relaxation and aromatherapy session in March for some Year 11 pupils. Pupils and parents joined together to try out techniques and learn about strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety, including breathing, relaxing and visualising exercises. A former pupil helped run the session, and participants were able to create their own essential oils with bespoke aroma to take away. She said:

"It was great to see the pupils and mums in a relaxed environment and we were able to share experiences. It gave me chance to talk to them all individually. I went through strategies to help breathing, relaxing and visualising. We are going to build on these in the next session and practise some of the techniques - they will need to bring a cushion and a blanket for this!"

The next session will be after the Easter Holidays. Please get in touch if you feel you would like details.



An Unusual Guest

Some Year 8 pupils had an interesting visitor in one of their lessons: a barn owl.

'Screech' belongs to the family of an Arnold Hill pupil, and they were happy to bring him in to meet some of the pupils for a question and answer session. They have had Screech since he was a few weeks old, so he's very tame and loves being stroked.

There was a chance to handle him for those who were brave enough.



- ◆ A massive thanks to students and staff for supporting our dress down for @rednoseday. We raised £877.89 for @comicrelief #AchieveTogether
- ◆ Meet @Arnold_Hill Challenge6 Research & Evaluators. Exploring home learning from a student's view with support from @UFAorg. #empowered
- ◆ Great morning for @Arnold_Hill Combined Cadet Force @ annual inspection day. Super amount of progress. Thanks to staff & parents for support

Dick Whittington Pantomime Visit

In December a group of pupils enjoyed a visit organised by the Inclusion Faculty to Nottingham Arts Theatre to see the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The show was very funny and there were lots of surprises to keep everyone on their toes. It was a great chance for a singalong and put everyone in the mood for Christmas. We're already looking forward to next year's panto.



Home Cooking Skills

The Y11 Home Cooking Skills group all completed their assessments, which involved preparing a balanced meal from scratch. They chose a range of dishes, including salmon risotto, chicken fajitas with salsa, seafood tagliatelle, vegetarian curry and chicken stir fry. Mary Berry would have given top marks for the desserts and there were definitely no soggy bottoms! They tasted delicious and the presentation was superb. The whole group worked really hard and it was great to see them put the skills they have learnt into action.



Visit to Jamie's Italian restaurant

Pupils studying Home Cooking Skills enjoyed a visit in December to Jamie's Italian Restaurant in Nottingham. They were treated to a 'behind the scenes' tour of the restaurant, including the caves underneath the historic 18th century building. Then it was time to make pasta with TomTom, the king of tagliatelle, followed by pizzas in the special ovens. They were delicious! The finale was a demonstration and tasting of fruit cocktails - shaken not stirred! All the pupils loved the visit and it gave them food for thought for future careers.



Useful Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd April to Monday 17th April	Easter Holidays
Thursday 20th April	DofE Awards Ceremony
Monday 24th April	KS3 Parents' Forum
Thursday 27th April	6th Form Awards Evening
Monday 1st May	May Day Holiday
Wednesday 10th May	DT Awards Evening
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June	Whitsun Holidays
Thursday 15th June	Y5 Parents' Info Evening
Wednesday 5th July	Y10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 6th July	Gig Night
Thursday 13th July	Y6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 19th July	Sports Day / Y7&8 Achievement Evening
Thursday 20th July	Y9&10 Achievement Evening
Wednesday 26th July	Start of Summer Holidays
Wednesday 6th September	Students Return to School



- ◆ Thanks @niofNottingham for our Y12 Taster Day yesterday. Perfect personal statements, tour of the campus, lunch & finances. #BrightFutures
- ◆ Healthy eating, healthy bodies & being safe. Essential life skills for Y11 students. Who said pancakes are for Shrove Tuesday?! #BrightBodies
- ◆ Year 8 combining cultural knowledge with enterprise skills. A tough day creating, presenting, marketing & selling #BrightLives @Arnold_Hill

Bright Days

The academy enriches the curriculum with five Bright Days each year, where students get the chance to immerse themselves in a whole day of activities based around one of five key themes: **Bright Bodies, Bright Lives, Bright Lights, Bright Sparks** and **Bright Futures**. The first Bright Day of the year in October was a glowing success, with our students taking part in all sorts of activities, such as building enigma decoding machines, African drumming, CV writing and healthy eating.

Four Bright Days have now taken place, and these have included statutory sex and relationship education as well as careers interviews and broader cultural awareness, such as celebrating the Chinese New Year.

'Be Inspired' Assemblies

This academic year we introduced the 'Be Inspired' assemblies where the Head of Academy, Senior Leaders and wider staff deliver an inspiring assembly to each year group. These are now an established and recognised strength within the academy, and pupils speak highly of the experience.

So far this year we have inspired your children with assemblies about the joy of reading, Alan Turing, British democracy, acts of kindness and supporting each other. Video clips of these assemblies are on the Academy's website and YouTube page for you to see and discuss with your children



A Level Trip to Madrid

Finn Smith, Year 13 student, writes:

As A-Level Spanish students, we were lucky enough to travel to Madrid for 5 days at the beginning of March to help improve our language ability and knowledge and understanding of Spanish culture, in preparation for our exams. From the moment that we landed, we were only allowed to speak in Spanish or we would face a penalty ranging from more laborious tasks such as extra grammar or cleaning the kitchen to more entertaining (and embarrassing) 'multas' such as dancing the robot in a busy street. In addition to our standard work we also immersed ourselves deeper into Spanish culture and history, visiting 'El Palacio Real', 'El Museo de Prado' and 'El Museo de la Historia de Madrid' where we found exhibitions, audio tours and information (all in Spanish, of course) that broadened our understanding and comprehension of the Spanish culture over time.

On the very first day we discovered a unique style of dining in a bar where you eat standing up and instead of ordering food you order a drink, and food comes along with it. Based on the price and the sheer volume of food we were given we strongly believe we should have the same style here in the UK!

A sunny and warm day presented a great opportunity to meet an ex-Arnold Hill student currently spending her third year of university in Madrid, who joined us for some relaxing rowing in the lake in 'El Parque del Retiro'. It was exciting to see where Spanish can take you and how much of an amazing time she's having. Making use of the good weather we had a picnic and completed work while squeezing in a bit of sunbathing at lunch before later eating Churros in the famous 'Chocolatería San Ginés'.

Possibly the most challenging task in Madrid was at 'Fox in a box' scape room; split into 2 teams we were given an hour to save humanity from either a zombie invasion or nuclear disaster only using the clues in Spanish that we had in the locked room.

Fortunately one team was successful and everyone survived with 2 minutes and 14 seconds to spare, however, as for the other team, a missing key was in the hat of a certain team member the whole time... It was a great experience to use our Spanish in such a situation and resulted in many laughs along the way, something we'd all love to do again!

However, the sunny weather didn't last long, but the mood was lifted by the wonderful and immersive experience of an authentic Salsa class, which brought a lot of smiles and laughter to the rainy day. Although some grasped it quicker than others we all loved it equally; it was something we'll never forget!

On the Friday evening we watched a Spanish thriller, 'El Guardián Invisible' in the cinema, not only did having to watch the film entirely in Spanish drastically help our Spanish but as the film was centred around a series of murders in the Basque region of Spain we were also able to learn about fascinating ancient myths of the region.

On our final full day we had the perfect opportunity to make use of our much improved Spanish and confidence in the theme park. Not only did we have a thrilling time on the rides but we spoke to various staff about the rides as well as having to ask for any directions to certain areas of the park, as well as Miss Paz starring in her latest YouTube video courtesy of a roller coaster enthusiast. To finish off the day we had a treasure hunt competition in pairs across the centre of Madrid but with a difference. Given a list of tasks we had to find various places, people, and monuments and speak with the locals to gather all the evidence to lead us to victory... although it was more a competition for 2nd place with Gemma and Finn being obvious winners from the start.

We all want to say a huge thank you to Señorita Paz and Señorita Bolívar for organising such an amazing trip and being the best possible teachers! We're devastated that it had to come to an end but it has given us memories for a lifetime!

¡Lo pasamos muy bien!



News from the PE Faculty

A-Level Dance: Year 12 A Level Dance had the opportunity to attend a taster day at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Dance in Greenwich, London.

Students were invited to attend a typical first year lecture in their theatre, take a tour of the Laban building, watch Transitions Dance Company during their technique class followed by a creative workshop and technique class in the afternoon. The day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain an insight as to what higher education looks like following sixth form. The practitioners who worked with our students were extremely impressed with the level of ability and professionalism displayed throughout the day.

A very successful day - it has inspired one of our students to aspire to attend there following her time at Arnold Hill!



BTEC level 3 trip to the Panthers: In January our Y12 BTEC Sport and Exercise students had the opportunity to 'Skate with the Panthers'. As part of their coaching unit they had the opportunity to watch the Nottingham Panthers, recently crowned European Champions, train and put through their paces under the instruction from the head coach. They also had the opportunity to skate with a number of players after the training session with

the player handing out tip on improving their skating technique. The highlight of the morning was a question and answer session with David Clarke, the long serving captain and now player coach for the team. He was happy to answer questions regarding his role within the coaching team, the skills and qualities needed to be an elite coach and the use of technology to improve players' performance which the students are now able to use in their future assignments. The students found this to be a great experience.

Nottingham Forest – Foundation Degree Programme: We had two employees from the Nottingham Forest foundation degree programme come in to speak to our Y12 & 13 Level 3 Btec students about the opportunities available to them once the Btec course is complete. The students found the morning very interesting and engaged in the discussions about the course and where it can lead them in the future. Since the visit, two students have shown further interest in the course.



Primary school athletics: Arnold Hill hosted a Y3/4 Primary School Athletics event with eight local primary schools coming in to compete in a highly competitive afternoon of running, jumping and throwing events. It was an absolutely fantastic to see so many students engaged in sport, working as a team and encouraging their peers to do their very best. The PE department had organised 15 sports leaders (Y10) to help out at the event, all of which were an absolute credit to the school. We are hoping that this is the first of many of these events to be hosted in the new sports hall at Arnold Hill. Parents, grandparents and teachers all commented on the fantastic building.

Rugby: On Thursday 9th March our Y7 and Y8 rugby squads are combining with our TAG counterparts for a day with Leicester Tigers. They will have a number of coaching sessions led by the Aviva Premiership Rugby club and also have the opportunity to speak to a couple of their players who will be with us for the day. The day will culminate in a round robin tournament for the pupils to put into practice the skills they have learnt earlier in the day. This could be the start of a Lions style partnership where we challenge a number of the rugby elite in the area.

Basketball: Huge success in basketball this term with the Y8&9 boys winning the county finals and now go through to the regionals. Our Y12 & 13 basketball team remain unbeaten in the county.

Girls' football – both the Y7 & 8 girls' football teams are still going strong in both the County Cup and the South Notts Cup, reaching the semi-finals of both competitions. The girls' under 18 football team won at the recent Gedling Sports awards. They were awarded a lovely trophy and were all really delighted to have been recognised for their amazing achievement last year (to the last 4 in the country).

Scopay - Online Payment System

Scopay is a secure online payments system and is the new method of paying by credit or debit card for trips, revision guides, music tuition and making any other payments to Arnold Hill Academy. Please be assured that credit and debit card details are not passed to the Academy.

School dinners will continue to be paid through sQuid

Each user was sent an email on 23rd January 2017 containing a unique link code along with instructions on how to create an account on the Scopay website. This site is specific to the school and utilises Worldpay to ensure that any transaction is safe and secure.

If you have more than one child at Arnold Hill Academy there is no need to create multiple accounts as a further code will be provided so that all siblings can be linked to the existing account.

If you require a link code or need any assistance please contact the Finance Office





Teaching Shakespeare Workshop

Year 7 students and staff from Arnold Hill hosted a *'Shakespeare: Be The Teacher'* workshop on Wednesday 29th March for 60 Year 4 pupils and parents from Ernehale Juniors.

The workshop consisted of some Shakespeare performances from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *Henry V* and *Hamlet*; these were all performed by students in 7x1. They also planned and delivered five exciting workshops based on Shakespeare that the Year 4 pupils engaged in positively.

Parents were invited to the event so they could witness and engage in the work that their children have been working so hard on at home and in school.

The event was a huge success and I would like to thank 7x1 for their outstanding contributions and efforts, the staff that supported (with a special mention to Mrs Wright, the class teacher), the pupils and staff from Ernehale and the parents of our wonderful students who have supported in learning lines and attending the event.

We are now aiming to plan and deliver another event similar to this next term.

Tara Box - Transition Manager



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Since the start of January we have been taking 12 cadets from Y9 to join the Nottingham High School CCF training program. This group has now been issued a uniform and wear it all day on Mondays. They have a morning parade and inspection by our Academy team and we spend guidance doing small revision activities around areas such as drill, badges of rank etc. to supplement the training they receive when they attend the High School after school that day.

The cadets took part in their first 'field day' event at the High School during the last Bright Day. They spent the day with the high school recruits taking part in a number of activities and tests through the day. Particular highlights mentioned by the cadets were swimming, hockey, command tasks (team building and communication tasks) and food preparation (cooking in the field and ration packs).

They had a contingent inspection day on Saturday 25th March, to which all were expected to attend. All Academy CCF staff, Matt Robertson and Tom Watson (Head of Year 9) attended the event along with any parents that wished to attend. The day involved a number of showcase events to show a senior ranking officer of the regular armed forces what the contingent does. He will report his findings to the Brigade Headquarters and is part of the system of checks and balances that the CCF have in place to ensure quality and safety in all they do.

Our staff have been busy working behind the scenes gaining qualifications and skills needed to be an independent unit in September 2018. Douglas Robson and Ross Hatfield deserve a particular mention for the time and commitment they have shown with their work towards these qualifications. We now have staff qualified to run ranges, teach cadets safe conduct and procedures during exercises and an Alpine Ski Leader along with three staff that have completed officer training and now hold the commissioned rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

We were also successful in bidding for funding to improve/create a storage facility for CCF use. We were awarded £10k to do the works and the site team has done an excellent job of creating this space in readiness for our September start, with completion and final inspections due in the near future.



- ◆ Workshops for Y11 students @ inaugural @TrentAcadGroup English Conference @Arnold_Hill @RushcliffeSCH & @FarnboroughAcad #achieve #inspire
- ◆ So proud of y10 student, Liberty Lee. Skydiving in Sept to raise money for @MDUK_News Read more and donate <http://www.arnoldhillacademy.co.uk/index.php/information/arnold-hill-news/403-student-skydiving-for-charity>
- ◆ Y8 students head out to Arnold Market to interview local councillors. Watch out David Dumbleby! <http://www.arnoldhillacademy.co.uk/index.php/bbc-news-school-report> ... #BBCSchoolReport

News from the Arts Faculty

Music

Another exciting year for the Music department: Spring term saw a Y8&9 trip to see Opera North's production of *Hansel & Gretel* at the Theatre Royal, with 60 students experiencing the thrill of live opera.



Thursday 30th March was the first of our termly recital evenings, over 40 students from across all year groups performed a varied programme of acoustic material, including the school samba band and orchestra alongside many solo and small ensemble pieces.

PTA funding was requested for 12 new keyboards, which have had a significant impact on classroom achievement and allowing us to replace several old and broken units. Students especially like the record function, allowing them to hear themselves back immediately and play over their own performances.

Extra-curricular work continues at Arnold Hill, including a rock band project involving 30 students and takes place after school on Thursdays; a ukulele group for Y7 during Wednesday lunchtimes as well as the new vocal group run by Mr Egan and Mr Cahn on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes (with several staff joining in to sing alongside students!).

Art

During the Autumn term all Y7 pupils developed work in their art lessons based on the theme of Sunflowers. During the project they developed skills in a wide range of different art materials and then created their own original prints inspired by sunflowers. The Art Department, along with Gerard Liston worked closely with the Focus Art Gallery in Nottingham and the gallery owner selected winning submissions which are currently on display within Focus Gallery's professional working space.

Both the kilns have successfully been back in action this term since the move to the new school! Year 7 have been conducting their own 'Great Pottery Thrown Down' by producing some Kate Malone inspired coil pots.

Drama

The Y13 drama devised exam was a huge success, the students decided they would like to devise a piece based on the morality of *Death Row*. The piece was quite hard hitting and receive excellent feedback from the audience members. They looked at a range of cultural, social and historical issues surrounding *Death Row*. All students achieved amazing grades, for the performance they were marked out of 15, three students achieved full marks and one achieved 14 and another 12. These are the best practical results we have ever had at A Level!

News from Technology

- **Futurechef** - Scarlet Scott represented the academy after winning the local heat.
- **Primary Liaison** - working with Ernehale Primary School with Stone Age inspired printing and making fruit kebabs
- **Formula 1 in schools** - KS3 pupils are on their way to building their own car for this national competition
- **Baking club** - a regular 25 students, mostly year 7, have been attending a baking club on Mondays after school making brownies, butterfly cakes, and recently, Easter cakes
- **NHS Futures** - have been in school talking to Year 12 students about the career opportunities available within the NHS. Year 12 H&SC had very successful work experiences. Many of the year 13s have secured places at uni on H&SC related courses.
- **Craft Club** - after making Christmas bunting last term, the group have been making lavender bags
- **Year 11 catering classes** - phenomenal success with their practical catering exam



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

In April, Arnold Hill Academy will become a Direct Licence Centre for delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme as Nottinghamshire County Council reduces its role in D of E in schools.

This brings a lot of additional workload for our staff but also the opportunity to develop and extend the reach of D of E within the Academy. We are hosting the first Awards evening for D of E certification this term, on Thursday 20th April.



**School returns on
Tuesday 18th April
2017**



FASHION SHOW

Designer & High Street Store Ladies' Garments to be Sold at a Fraction of the Normal Price

Tickets
£5
Each!

Arnold Hill Academy A Block Auditorium

Wednesday 3rd May 2017

7pm – 9pm

(Doors Open at 6.30pm)

Tickets
£5
Each!

Ticket price includes a complimentary drink and the bar will be open throughout the event.

UNBEATABLE PRICES • SIZES 8 - 22 • VISA & CASH ACCEPTED

DOROTHY
PERKINS

TOPSHOP

RIVER ISLAND

next



NEW
LOOK

& Many More