

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you to the parents of our Year 12 and 13 students who attended Parents Evening last Thursday in the Sixth Form. The turnout was very pleasing and the feedback we received was very positive. The evening is timed deliberately to give Sixth Formers (and their parents) exactly the right information that they need to help them secure the most positive outcomes possible in the summer.

Year 11 have responded really well to our 'rally call' to attend our extra study sessions after school and this is reflected well by the Saturday morning optional session that had 97 Year 11 pupils attend last Saturday. Many of the pupils we feel are in a really healthy position and we are confident that if they consolidate where they are currently, they should do well in the summer. Some of the pupils are however aware that they now need to improve their work ethic and attitude to exam preparation. Additional sessions in most subjects are available after school every evening and also Saturday morning provides an excellent opportunity to undertake personal revision in the Sixth Form study areas. We ask parents to continue to prompt their children to take full advantage of these opportunities. The Sixth Form I- Site is also available each Monday after school for private revision for those who wish to use it.

English GCSE Drop Ins

A huge thank you to the parents of Year 11 who attended the English faculty GCSE drop in last Wednesday. We had 30 plus parents attend and I know they valued the support offered by Mrs Dunleavy and her team in understanding how they can advise their children on the examination material. Thanks also to the English team for organising this initiative.

Options and Year 9 Parents' Evening

On Wednesday 7th February, Year 9 parents are invited into school for their Parents Evening. For our Year 9 cohort this is a vital evening as they also need plan to choose their options for GCSE subjects for Year 10 and 11. On the evening there will be two talks in Hall 1, giving parents information about the various pathways that exist for this year and obviously an important opportunity to meet with subject staff to provide guidance and advice.

Attendance

Attendance last week across the school was still worrying. We now have a number of pupils who have had significant periods off school since the start of term. Once again could I ask for support from parents in ensuring they maximise the amount of time their children are in school? The school has, for the last few years, secured attendance well above the national average of 94% and we certainly wish this trend to continue.



E Safety Week

Staff have planned as part of the National E safety Week to deliver a range of activities to ensure pupils are fully aware of their responsibilities when using the Internet. We have organised assemblies planned on this theme for the last 2 weeks and also activities to help pupils safeguard themselves

whilst online. Mr Howe has been delivering key messages about the ease of online accounts being hacked and what pupils can do to secure their access to the Internet.

Art Exhibition KS3

On Thursday 1st February, the Art and Design Faculty would like to invite you all to our annual KS3 Art Exhibition from **4pm – 6pm** in room 34 and 35 (Art, Craft and Design). We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate and share our pupils' creative progress and successes. Thank you so much for your support and time in advance. Miss T Livesey, Miss P Cockayne and Miss S Wild.



Geography Iceland Trip



On Friday this week we have 40 pupils travelling to Iceland for our Geography field trip. This is a brilliant opportunity for pupils to see some of the geographical landscapes they learn about in lessons in the field and Iceland provides classic features which I know our travelling pupils and staff are really looking forward to observing. We hope they have a great trip and are also successful in seeing the world famous Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) during their stay. We look forward to hearing of their adventures when they return.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, all Year 7 pupils are designing their own rocket cars this week to enter the national 'Race for the Line' competition. The project closely follows the Bloodhound SSC; a high technology project aiming to race a car at over 1000 mph. Our pupils will spend the next few weeks perfecting their own rocket cars before we use rocket motors to race them against each other at speeds of up to 70mph.



PE Highlights:

'It's not whether you get knocked down, its whether you get up' (Vince Lombardi)

PE Extra-curricular highlights:

- Year 7 Rugby made history after beating St Ambrose 35-30. The team went behind early, conceding a few early tries. After a motivational team talk from captain Fraser Gillan, the boys stepped it up to finish on top in extra time, with Tom O'Callaghan scoring the winner. This is the first time Ashton has beaten this rugby specialist school and maintain their unbeaten record this year, currently it stands at 14-0 for the season. Well done boys.
- Year 9/10 girls' Basketball team came runners up in their group to qualify for the Trafford finals. Highlight was beating Stretford Grammar 10-0! Player of competition was Lilly Hayes.
- Alternative lunch activities are proving popular with 47 pupils now attending 'dodgeball'.
- 28 Year 10 PE leaders hosted Year 2 Multi-Skills Primary Festival with 120 pupils from The Firs and Woodheys primary school attending.
- The GCSE PE pupils hit the slopes at the Chill Factor on Thursday night to complete their GCSE PE Skiing and Snowboarding practical assessments. The night was a real success and big thank you to Miss Cooper who organised a wonderful evening to try and help maximise the pupils' practical grades. The evening didn't finish until 10pm!

What's on?

- Keep up to date with our Fixtures Calendar. This can be found on the school website under helpful links (<http://aomschool.co.uk/pe-fixtures-results/>)
- Due to popular demand the PE department have booked a bigger bus for Oxygen Freejumping. 15 new places are now available @ £6 per session, to be paid to the centre on the night. If parents/ careers would like financial support, please contact Mr Doody.
- USA Ski & Snowboard trip 2019 is now confirmed. Sign up via ParentPay
- New lessons for SHRED (skiing and snowboarding) Club are available for after half term. Sign up now via ParentPay (limited spaces available)
- There are several parents evenings on this half term and this may effect some clubs. We ask pupils to double check that clubs are still on with PE staff on each occasion.

Forthcoming Events



Additional Dates for your diary

- 7th February – Year 9 Progress and Pathways Evening
- 9th February – Close for half term
- 19th February – School Re-opens
- 15th March – Year 8 Progress Evening
- 28th March – Year 7 Progress Evening
- 28th March – School closes for Easter (Pupils)
- 29th March – INSET & Close for Easter

We do hope you find the weekly letter informative. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact reception and we will endeavour to deal with them promptly.

Yours sincerely

Arda Moloney

Mr A Moloney
Headteacher