

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Leaving

On Friday this week, I will sadly leave my position as Headteacher at Ashton. My 17 years at AoM have simply been the best experience of my career. I've been blessed to work in an environment where staff and pupils work so well collectively and together achieve outstandingly. I will really miss this aspect of Ashton and feel privileged to have played a part in helping the School maintain such an excellent reputation, ethos and culture. I will have so many positive memories to take with me and wish everyone associated with the School the very best, as it continues on its journey. I know the School will continue to be a beacon of outstanding practice across The Dean Trust, the local authority, and nationally.

Although I've known about my new position at St John Vianney in Stretford for some time, it has always been my intention to ensure the School is handed over to a successor in the best possible position and I have continued to work with colleagues to ensure this transition is seamless and in no way affects what is a vital time in the school year, supporting staff and pupils in reaching their potential in the forthcoming summer exam series.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the parents and pupils who have been associated with the School since 2001 for their initial welcome and their continuous support of my various roles in Ashton- thank you. I would also like to thank the Governing Body and the staff at every level in School for their support, encouragement and loyalty. I often tell the staff that a School is only as good as the people who are employed there and Ashton on Mersey really has the most fantastic people at its heart; staff who do so much for the children of the School. Ashton's children are indeed very fortunate to attend such a school. I look forward to bumping into many of you over the next few years in the local area and hope that all those involved in School continue to have the very best success in the future. Very best wishes and thanks.

Exams

The first week of GCSE and AS level exams took place last week. The Year 11 and Year 13 pupils had mixed feedback on how tough they were, but have told us they are feeling well prepared for the exam season. This week sees the start of the 'core' exams (maths and English) and the next few weeks are particularly challenging in terms of the amount of exams our pupils will now face. We wish all our Year 11 and 13 pupils the very best of luck in their external exams. Your continued support of those preparing for these very important exams at home is really appreciated.

Exams for all other Year groups.

The Heads of Year across Years 7-10 this week will send home details about their forthcoming internal exams in School. You will receive information about the exam schedule, what pupils are expected to know for these exams, a blank revision timetable and tips to help them revise. Please discuss these exams with your child and support us by ensuring they are giving at least 2 hours per evening up to personal revision. Practicing at good revision techniques and developing positive learning habits will only help pupils reinforce what they will need to do to be successful at terminal exams, at the end of both Year 11 and Year 13.



Manchester Arena Remembrance

On Tuesday 22nd May, we will hold 2 minutes silence to remember those affected by the bomb explosion which happened during a concert last year, at the Manchester Arena. The silence will begin at 2.58pm, 28 minutes after the nationally recognised time of 2.30pm, due to the GCSE exams.

School Closure

Please note we are closing the school at 2.10pm on Friday, 25th May, for the start Whit break. Should any child need to remain in School until usual closing at 3pm, please inform us and we make suitable arrangements for them.

PE Extra-curricular highlights:

- Well done to the AOM Sixth Form football team who beat Urmston Grammar 3-2, to be crowned Trafford League Champions. Players Harry Stainton, Alex May and Joe Crooks have now won the Trafford league '7 times' during their time at Ashton- well done boys.
- Thank you to our trainee teachers Mr O'Neil and Mr O'Sullivan, who delivered a Gaelic football session to over 20 Year 7/8 pupils



who loved the opportunity and the variation of contact, kicking and handling the ball.

- Thank you to Sixth Form students Millie Davis and Jodie Taylor who have been leading dance lessons to Year 9 pupils during their enrichment programme on Wednesday afternoon- both girls have done a fantastic job!
- Thank you to Ashton's resident DJ Chris Harrison (Year 9) who supported the Flowskate Roller Disco on Monday. Leo the coach and pupils taking part were really impressed. Chris has now been invited down to support Flowskate at the weekends.
- The Year 7's Pairs Cricket league has now started at central venue Ashton on Mersey Cricket Club every Tuesday evening. This alternative competition format is aimed to be more inclusive so all pupils have a go at each role. It increases the pace and engagement with the intention of creating pathways to local cricket clubs.

What's on?

- The SHRED club will be changing to Thursday evening after half term.
- The Flowskate Roller Disco on 4th June is now cancelled due to a clash of dates with the exam season, which means the sports hall is out of action. This will now be re-arranged for later in the term.



Forthcoming Events

Additional Dates for your diary

- 25th May – School closes 2.10pm for Whit half term
- 4th June – School opens 8.30am for everyone

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aida Moloney'.

Mr A Moloney
Headteacher