THE DEAN TRUST
Ashton on Mersey School

NEWSLETTER

9th February 2024

Headteacher Message

Mr McConaghie
Headteacher

This half term has culminated with a blend of examinations for Year 11 and enrichment for all. We have had several exciting wider opportunities and trips for young people this week including an international visit to Krakow. This will undoubtedly be a deep and meaningful experience for all of the pupils and staff. Alongside this, Performing Arts pupils had the chance to see Animal Farm by George Orwell whilst another group were taken into Manchester to take part in the Young Voices event. Enrichment didn't end there though; there was also a climbing trip to Rock Up. Reports on all this experiences will be found in this and future newsletters. We remain proud of our provision here at Ashton on Mersey which always travels far beyond the classroom.

Half Term School runs next week for Year 11 pupils (and a cohort of Year 10 pupils). It's not too late to sign up for a breadth of subjects which have been offered by staff. This is an invaluable opportunity for pupils to catch up or to prepare for examinations in a smaller and more relaxed environment.

May I wish you all a great half term break.

Diary Dates

- Friday 9th February - Year 9 Options Link goes live via MCAS (6pm)
- Friday 9th February – School finishes for Half Term
- Monday 19th February – School reopens
- Monday 19th February – GSCE Art Mock Exam
- Monday 19th February – GCSE Spanish Speaking Mock Exams (19th February – 7th March)
- Thursday 29th February – Year 8 Parents Evening

Please use the link below to view all upcoming events that are happening in school.
https://aomschool.co.uk/events/

Key Stage 5

Sixth Form Fundraising

Every year, the Sixth Form fundraising team pick a charity for their annual fundraising activities. This year students have chosen Macmillan Cancer support.

Macmillan Cancer support are there to do whatever it takes to support people and their families living with cancer. 98% of their income is through voluntary donations.

The students will be raising awareness of the valuable work that Macmillan provide and will raise much needed funds through a variety of fundraising activities in school. Students will deliver assemblies to each year group and will be encouraging pupils, staff and parents/carers to get involved and help raise as much as they can for this great charity.

Fundraising events will take place from Monday 18th March to Thursday 21st March. One of the most popular fundraising events is the Chocolate Tombola. We would be very grateful for any donations of chocolate that pupils, staff and parents/carers may be able to offer. Pupils can give any donations to their form tutor or bring them direct to the Sixth Form reception.

If you would like to know more about the fundraising activities or find out more about how you can help, please contact the Sixth Form.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Student Leadership

Over the last few weeks we have launched the student leadership programme. Students have volunteered to support in various areas of the school, using their skills and experience to support whole school activities. Behaviour mentors work 1-1 with Year 7 pupils to support their transition into high school. Fundraising leaders are responsible for leading and driving charitable activities within the Sixth Form. Maths mentors work with small groups of Year 7 pupils to support their progress in maths. SEN mentors work with small groups of pupils, providing holistic support and guidance. The leadership programme is overseen by our leadership co-chairs Emma Smith and Dhruv Negi.

This is an exciting time for the Sixth Form as we continue to expand and grow. Our student leaders have a vital role to play in the ongoing development of Ashton on Mersey Sixth Form and we look forward to seeing the positive influence they can have across the School.

Student Leaders

Safa Ali, Katie Boler, Dolci Cavanagh, Alexander Chebaro, Jaskaran Cheema, Moyi Choi, Jeremy Cofie, Matthew Cowell, Katie Emerton, Kishan Fillingham, Dylan Fletcher, Jacob Franks, Milly Gilbert, Isabella Gruarin, Olivia Horner, Hasana Huen, Amara James, Dana Kayali, Sokari Lawson, Dhruv Negi, Hattie Plant, Molly Reynolds-Smith, Emma Smith, William Thomason, Moses Wong, Ann Xiao.

Social Science

Child Development

Mrs Senior's Child Development pupils will be visiting Monkey Puzzle nursery in Altrincham this term. The visit will support the Child Development pupils with the writing of their RO58 coursework. Pupils will be investigating what happens in a nursery and how meal times are managed.

In addition, Year 10 Child Development pupils are currently researching what would be a healthy menu for a picnic, for an Early Years setting. The Child Development pupils in Year 10 will prepare this menu next term in the food rooms as part of their practical assessment.

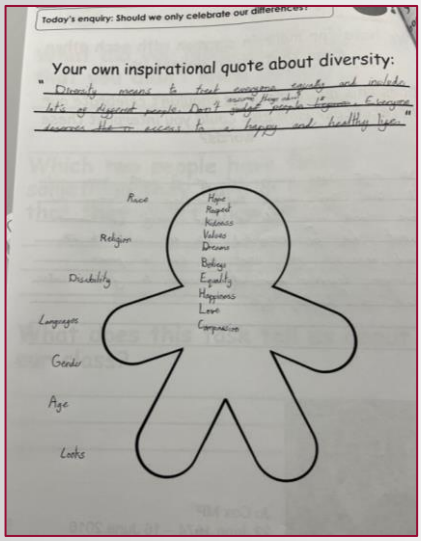
Year 11 pupils in Child Development, Psychology, Religious Studies and Sociology have made good use of the afterschool revision session in preparation for their mock exams and in addition many Social Sciences pupils will be attending revision boosters during the February half term holiday.

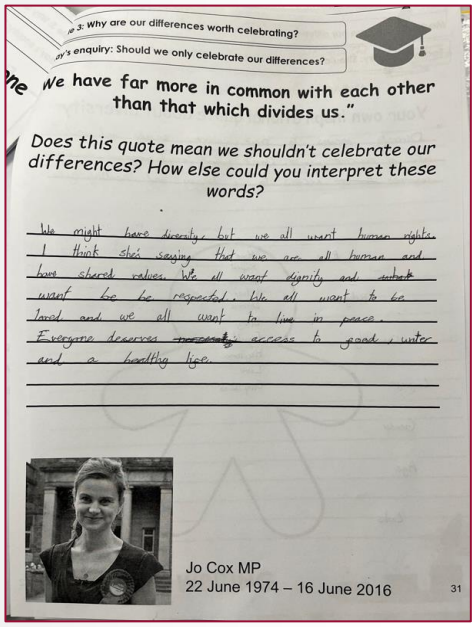
St Mary's Youth Group

Every Friday lunchtime in room 58 the St Mary's youth workers run a lunch time session. The session involves a range of activities discussing big questions about religion and the meaning of life. All pupils are welcome, please see Mrs Senior for more information.

Personal Development Year 7

This term Year 7 pupils have been exploring diversity in society, the 2010 Equality and Act and the Protected Characteristics.



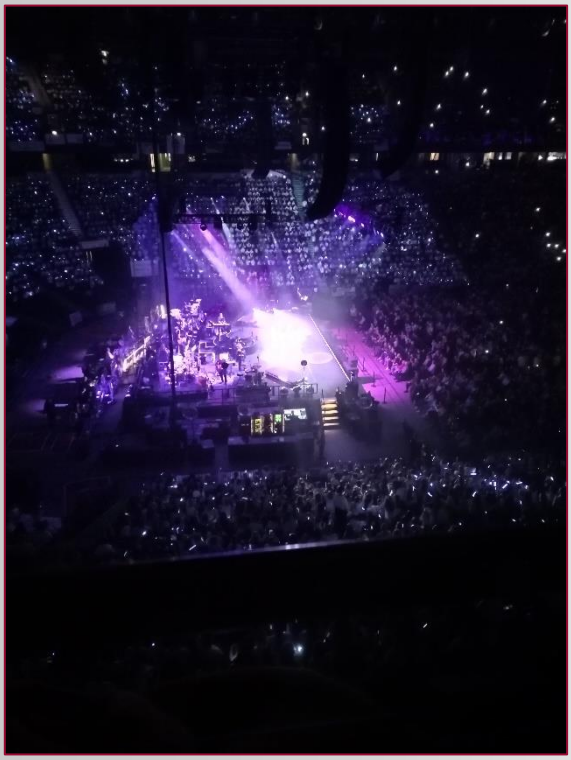


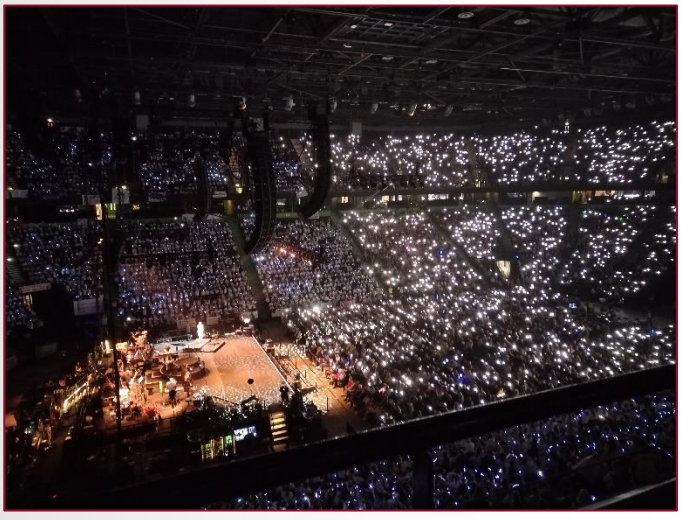
Young Voices Performance Trip

35 members of Ashton on Mersey's school singing group performed with the Young Voices choir at the AO arena on Tuesday.

The atmosphere was electric! We sang a variety of genres of songs ranging from Matilda the musical to Coldplay.

The pupils spent the whole day rehearsing and then finally performed in the evening. It was a first for many of our pupils being in such a big venue. Safe to say they enjoyed it very much.





PE Trip

Last Wednesday, 8 of our Year 8/9 pupils were taken to Altrincham Football Club. This was part of the Trafford girls Leadership academy. Each pupil went through a written application process and was selected to be involved. During the day, the girls got an introduction to coaching, leadership and refereeing. As well as this, they got to hear guest speakers who referee in the women's super league. Their attitude and effort throughout the day was an absolute asset to the school, congratulations to all those selected. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Altrincham Football club to support the leadership program in our school. Out of the 8 pupils selected, Annie Cutting was selected to represent the school further to be a Barclays Game changer. She will receive National training through the Youth Sport Trust and pioneer the movement for females in football within our school. A very well deserved opportunity. Well done to all those involved.

ALTRINCHAM
FOOTBALL CLUB

Football Scholars

Ashton on Mersey football scholars had another successful week with team 1 beating Robbie Fowler Academy 3-0 away whilst team 2 beat Steven Gerrard Academy 3-2 at home.

That sees team 2 assert themselves into the title race and team 1 a game closer to putting one hand on the trophy as they keep their 100% record.

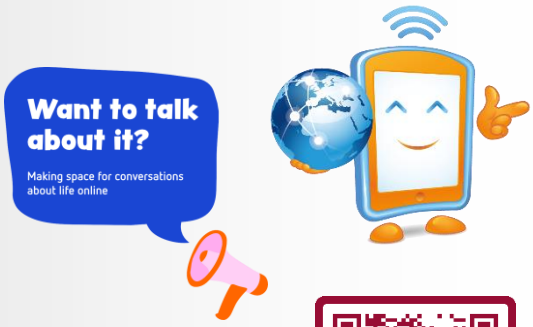
Team 1 have now extended their win streak to 10 games on the bounce and see themselves into the Greater Manchester Cup Semi-final and the last 16 of the National cup.
They also sit top of the AOC championship invitational winning all 6 games with 8 remaining.

Mr Henderson and Mr Shawcross are now in the process of recruiting the next years scholars so we can continue the great success we are having this year into next.

SAFER INTERNET DAY – Tips for parents & carers

Advice for Parents/Carers

Safer Internet Day 2024 was on **6th February 2024**, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.**



Be positive and open minded about the internet

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people. Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant. If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail. You may need to do your own research.

Conversation starters

Family online safety plan

Create a safe space for conversations

Look for opportunities to talk together. Often, talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier. The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed. Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.

Keep it relevant

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet. To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have. There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.

Scan the QR codes for more help for parents/carers

Family activities

If something goes wrong

Further Support links

Be proactive

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children.

Use the QR codes below, for some further tips on how to protect your children whilst using internet enabled technology.

Smartphones

Laptops

Social media

Smart TV's

Games consoles

Tablets

A Mind of Their Own

On Monday 19th February, St Mary Magdalene Church are hosting *A Mind of Their Own*; a one-session, group resource to inform, encourage and equip parents and other significant adults to strengthen children's emotional wellbeing based on the book by Katharine Hill.

We know that Children are navigating the complexities of an ever-changing society, full of both opportunity and risk. The good news is that we can prepare our children to meet life's inevitable challenges head-on.

This 2 hour video based resource from Care For The Family is packed with practical ideas on how to help children process setbacks, gain body confidence, develop a growth mindset, manage emotions and build resilience.

Over the course of the evening, we'll watch engaging teaching from *Care For The Family's* Katharine Hill and Mark Chester and hear expert insight from their interviews with psychiatrist Dr Rob Waller and psychologist Dr Kate Middleton. There will also be time to pause and discuss the topics covered with those around you. We also appreciate that this can be very emotive for some families to talk about, so there is no pressure for you to share your experiences, you can just come and listen.

Who is it for?
This resource is accessible for all, but particularly aimed at parents and carers of children aged 7–14 years. However, parents of younger children are also likely to find this a useful resource.

Topics include:

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Resilience
- Brain development
- Body-confidence
- Role models

You'll leave with …

- Tools to help your child build resilience that enables them to bounce back from challenges and bounce forward in emotional strength, character and development
- An understanding that negative thought patterns can in fact be changed for more positive brain pathways, helping your child to deal with failure well
- An appreciation of how vital your child's identity is and strategies to help them become confident in it
- Ways to talk to your child about positive body image

Event details:

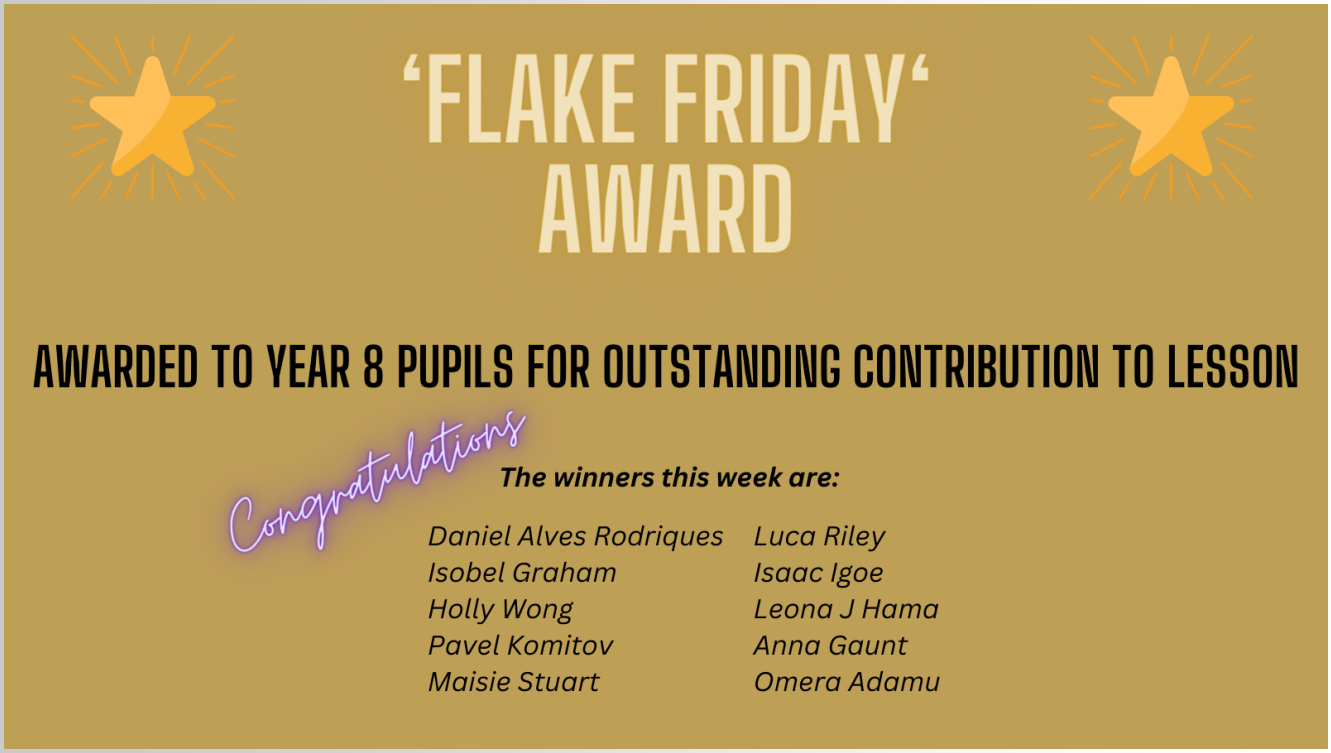
- Date: Monday 19th February
- Time: 7:45- 9:45pm. Please arrive from 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start.
- Where: St Mary Magdalene Church, 44 Moss Lane, M33 6GD
- Cost: Free! To help us with numbers, please sign up at https://www.stmarysaom.org/Groups/408915/A_mind_of.aspx
- Refreshments available on arrival

Winner Wednesday

Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils who received 'Winner Wednesday Award' this week.

Flake Friday

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been recognised for the Head of Year Flake Friday award this week. Keep up the amazing work. Miss Pepper.



ASHTON ON MERSEY SCHOOL PRESENTS

SHREK THE MUSICAL

6-7 MARCH 2024 7PM

ROBERT BOLT THEATRE, WATERSIDE, SALE

Running time 1hr 20 min inc interval

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL

£10 Adult / £5 Concessions
Tickets from Student Services
Pay by cash or card

Email: office@aom.trafford.sch.uk

@DT_AoMSchool

Believe Achieve Succeed

Star of the week

Year 7

Aaron Walker – Nominated by Mrs Packwood for hard work and conscientious attitude in English.

Year 8

Natalia Mares – Nominated by Mrs Esgaio for exemplary behaviour in Spanish and outstanding attitude to learning. Well done!

Jessica Whitley-Jones– Nominated by Mrs Evans for showing great resilience and determination to battle through the week despite feeling unwell. Well done Jess, you have set a fine example for your peers!

Imogen Robinson – Nominated by Mr Loynd for hard work and conscientious attitude in Spanish.

Year 9

Harley Thornton – Nominated by Miss Thorburn for excellent commitment to revision for end of term test in Maths.

Hareem Khalid – Nominated by Miss Lavassani for positive attitude to learning in Science.

Rose Dulieu – Nominated by Mrs Saunders for fabulous work on poetry this week. Always stretching herself and completing the challenge tasks.

Year 10

Alexis Morley – Nominated by Miss Lavassani for hard work and conscientious attitude in Science.

Oscar Welch – Nominated by Mrs Esgaio for positive attitude to learning in Spanish.

Ben McNamara – Nominated by Mr Pryce for hard work and conscientious attitude in Business.

Year 11

Kayde Hylton – Nominated by Miss Hagan for excellent effort in English mock.

Semilogo Olabiyi – Nominated by Mrs Rutley for hard work and conscientious attitude in Sociology.

Isabella Buckles-Davies – Nominated by Mrs Pearn, Mrs Mungovan and Mrs Higgins for fantastic resilience during exams, working through them confidently and methodically.

Cole Ward – Nominated by Mr Loynd for excellent exams results in Spanish.