THE DEAN TRUST
Ashton on Mersey School

NEWSLETTER

22nd November 2024

Headteacher Message

Mr McConaghie
Headteacher

Our second community coffee morning of the year was well attended on Friday. Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Mottram, briefed our guests on the importance of pastoral support and our wider offer for young people here at AOM. A range of external providers such as Turn the page, Kooth, Trafford Thrive, TLC and N-Gage were also able to attend and share how they can support the wellbeing and mental health of pupils.

The school's doors are always open to the community and next week sees our Christmas Market which is always a nice signifier that the festive season is almost here. With only four weeks until the Christmas break there is lots to cram in for pupils with in-class mock examinations well under way in Year 11 and our first progress evening scheduled for Year 10. Also, we have an important examination window for students in Year 13, week commencing 2nd and 9th December with mock examinations taking place across each subject area.

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday evening for Christmas shopping, mulled wine and lots of festive cheer!

Please continue to send in donations of chocolate and bottles for our popular tombola stalls. Thank you for your support.

Key Dates

- Wednesday 27th November – No Pens day for Key Stage 3
- Thursday 28th November - Christmas Markets event, 6pm-8pm
- Thursday 5th December – Year 10 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 11th December – Year 7 – 11 Flu Vaccinations
- Friday 20th December – School closes at 12 noon for pupils

No Pens Day

On **Wednesday 27th November** in support of **SpeechandLanguage.org.uk**'s speech development initiative '**No Pens Day Wednesday' t**eachers of classes in Years 7 to 9 will donate all or part of their lesson to a completely pens-free activity; no laptops, no films, just speech!

The aim is to help children develop their skills in oracy across multiple subjects, and if possible, to raise funds for a worthwhile charity which helps children to overcome speech and language delays through various therapies.

From Monday 25th November, pupils will be asked to bring in a suggested donation of £1 to be given to their form tutor. Hhowever, if parents would like to contribute online they are invited to do so via the Speech and Language website donation page: https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/get-involved/donate, or to scan the following QR code (remember to check the box which says: 'I am making a donation on behalf of an organisation' and enter '**Ashton on Mersey School**' in the 'Company' field).

All contributions will be gratefully received; it would be wonderful to be able to give something back to a charity which does so much to help so many young people!

I hope your child enjoys the activities their teachers have planned for No Pens Day Wednesday, and that they feel some benefit from the activities. Following No Pens Day, there will be a pupil voice survey on which pupils will be able to vote for their favourite activity and give their feedback in general.

Please note that pupils will still be required to bring their full pencil case equipment to school.

Thank you in advance for your support and donations!

Year 7

Year 7 pupils are settling well into secondary school life and are beginning to undertake extra-curricular activities, partake in trips and throw themselves into the many opportunities available to them. Every week, as part of our form time programme, pupils are able to see how their form is doing in our behaviour league. The forms will be working together in friendly competition to inspire the pupils to keep getting those positive points. As part of the league we can see the forms who have improved that week and celebrate the many positive points our Year 7 pupils are receiving on Bromcom. All of this will culminate in prizes at the end of the term rewards assembly.

Position	Form	Current form attendance and ranking		Current positive points and ranking		Current total score
1	7LEL	98%	10	877	8	18
2	7RAB	97%	5	887	9	14
3	7YOR	98%	10	766	5	15
4	7PEG	98%	10	755	4	14
5	7ROW	94%	2	1031	10	12
6	7DNH	96%	5	838	7	12
7	7JEH	98%	10	712	2	12
8	7AMH	98%	10	712	2	12
9	7BEA	97%	5	783	6	11
10	7PAC	89%	1	749	4	5

Information about the Year 7 residential trip will be shared soon. We are currently finalising the details to ensure an enjoyable and enriching experience for all pupils. Please keep an eye out for further updates, which will include dates, costs, and key information to help with planning.

Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came this morning. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to chat with all our wonderful partner organisations.

Performing Arts

There have been lots of exciting opportunities for pupils in Performing Arts this week.

Fiona Gardens

This week some of our 'Sister Act Jr' cast visited Fiona Gardens Residential Care Home in Sale. The cast enjoyed sharing songs with the residents and spent time serving tea and biscuits. We are always hugely proud of the work our pupils do in Performing Arts and it is a great privilege to be able to share it with our local community.

War Horse

Cast members from this year's Ashton on Mersey School musical 'Sister Act Jr' interviewed actress Lucy Thorburn, who is currently touring in War Horse. Lucy talked about her career in theatre as well as leading a workshop for pupils. We spent time learning about how actors work in the industry, as well as learning about accents and some important scenes from the play. We hope that opportunities such as this help pupils consider what further study of Performing Arts subjects beyond Key Stage 3 could lead to!

The exclusive podcast will be released on the school website soon. 'Sister Act Jr' will be on at The Waterside Theatre in Sale on 18th and 19th March.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FPWm2f6yTTBzgkRdctcCk9kgUDsZdd7A/view?usp=drive_link

If your child is considering studying GCSE Drama or Music, please feel free to speak with Mr Hall, Miss Smyth or Miss Martin. We will be able to guide you through the content of the courses available and ensure that you have a real sense of what opportunities can blossom from study of an Arts subject.

Technology

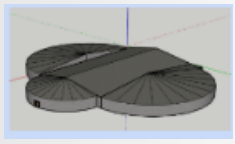
Year 7 pupils have used CADCAM to design and make a Maze Game on the laser cutter.

Year 8 pupils have been learning how to embed more complex electronics into products manufacturing these timer controlled scent devices!

This term Year 8 have cooked some delicious savoury dishes including Focaccia, Thai Green Curry and Tuna Pasta Bake topped off with a Victoria Sponge cake.

Pupils in Year 9 have learned the art of pasta making using specialist equipment.

Year 9 pupils have taken on the role of Architect in the Grand Designs unit.



Year 11 Construction pupils have started the practical element of their assessed pieces including plumbing, brickwork and plastering. We are looking forward to seeing their final outcomes.

In Hospitality and Catering, Year 11 pupils completed their food practical exam demonstrating resilience and determination under pressure. We are really proud of all of their hard work. A few pictures from the recipe trials gives you a flavour of the fantastic work achieved.

Technology

Year 11 Photography pupils had a highly successful trip to Liverpool for their Urban Project. The pupils captured great images showcasing the city's history, art, culture and development support their coursework component.

Year 12 Design Engineering students took part in team building activities earlier in the term to kick start our brand new A-Level course. Students worked in groups to solve Engineering challenges, a fun start to the term.

Year 12 and 13 students taking part in enrichment activities across the faculty have been jewellery making and cooking. Students have completed their jewellery using CADCAM, casting their design into a mould.

Year 12 and 13 students are leading the F1 in Schools challenge to design, build and race a mini F1 car.

F1 in Schools STEM Challenge

Technology

Our STEM activities this term are bustling!

Year 7 pupils are taking part in the 'Scalextric for Schools' competition

Year 8 pupils are studying the theme of 'Tomorrow's Technology Today' as part of the EDT Industrial Cadet Bronze project which is a 12-week project working alongside industry professionals.

We are hoping to achieve the same great success from earlier in the year where AOM pupils were awarded the top prize of 'Project of the Year 2024' alongside nominations for the 'Most Innovative'

Our STEM ambassadors Yashvi and Sofia are completing the University College London (UCL) Engineering challenge designing a solution to stop plastics entering the ocean.

Ned in Year 10 has been responsible for setting up the newest edition to our range of 3D printers. NED has mastered the software and hardware and is now developing projects based on 3D printing technologies. We are excited to see what he can produce to enhance our exciting curriculum!

STEM Leaders will be hosting a stall at the AOM Christmas Markets next Thursday 28th November 2024. Please pop along and see us, we will be selling our very popular Christmas themed products to raise money for pupil wellbeing projects.

If you are interested in STEM club, we meet every Tuesday and Wednesday in room 13 3.10-4.00pm. Please see Miss Andrew.

Cooking Club has been a hive of activity this term with our largest number of pupils ever recorded joining the D&T extracurricular club! With dishes such as cheesecake, spring rolls, flatbread and rocky road, were not surprised! Sign up now for term 2 starting in January.

If you are interested in Cooking Club, we meet every Tuesday 3.10-4pm. Please see Miss Fisher.

Congratulations

Well done to the below winners of Maths Week and literacy treasure hunt.

Parliament Week

This week, we celebrated UK Parliament Week which gave pupils an opportunity to learn all about the workings of the UK Parliament. The week started with a special assembly which explored the different areas of Parliament, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Pupils learned about the roles of key figures who help make decisions for the country, like MPs, the Prime Minister, and the Speaker of the House.

The week ended on a high note when a group of around 100 pupils met with the local MP, Connor Rand. Pupils were given the chance to ask him questions, and the range of topics covered was fascinating! From what it's like to speak in Parliament, to how he balances his work and personal life, it was a really informative talk and the questions gave everyone a deeper insight into the life of an MP. It was a fantastic way to wrap up UK Parliament Week, leaving pupils inspired and informed about the democratic process. Who knows, maybe we have inspired our next Prime Minister!

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Giving Pod

This year at the Christmas Markets *Thursday 28th November*, the Giving Pod will be selling pre-loved uniform items. If you have any donations of Blazers, Jumpers, Skirts or PE Kits, we would be very grateful. Any donations can be dropped off at School Reception for the attention of Miss Parker. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Preloved Uniform Sale

Thurs 28th November
6-8pm at the Christmas Markets

Any uniform donations would be gratefully received. Please drop at main reception.

White Ribbon Day

Monday 25th November is White Ribbon Day in school, fundraising for Refuge – The Domestic Abuse Charity. There will be a stall in Hall 2 and Sixth Form reception during break and lunch where pupils can donate and purchase a white ribbon.

Cross Country

Congratulations to the 15 runners who represented Ashton at the Altrincham Schools Cross Country League on Saturday. The Year 7 and 8 boys' team was made up of 8 runners with top ten finishes from Josh H who came 3rd and Jacob S in 9th. The Year 7 and 8 girls performed strongly in the team event with 4 runners including Florence C who finished 5th and Erin S-C in 6th. There were also great results for Oliver H who finished 3rd in Year 9+ boys race and Isabelle C 4th in the Year 9+ girls race. Congratulations to all the runners who took part, this was the first race for many of them and they all finished the long challenging course.

PE

Our PE newsletter is back! We have had several netball fixtures this week and some great performances across the board. Our Year 10 girls' netball team kicked of the fixtures by beating Wellington in a very close and tense match. They put in an outstanding performance to hold their own. Shoutout to Emily M for playing up a year group and absolutely smashing it. Year 8 also had a very close match against Wellington. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out on the win. Well done to all those involved.

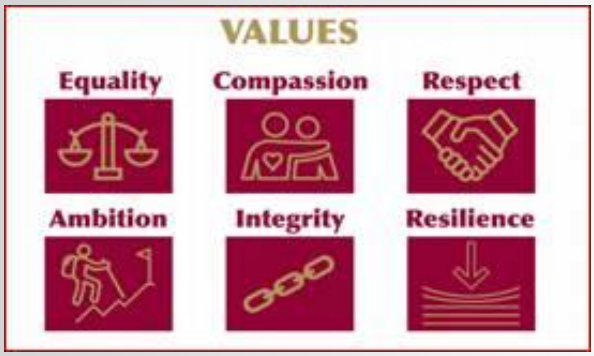
Our Year 12/13 BTEC Sport students have had another busy week. We have had several students leading for our younger pupils. They have produced some excellent planning and delivery of the sessions and are great role models for younger pupils in the school. We would like to thank you all for your hard work. Shoutout to the Year 13 students for doing the bleep test in the cold Manchester weather, what a great contribution to your fitness training unit. Well done.

We would like to apologise for any confusion with regards to the extra-curricular timetable. The timetable below will remain up until the December break.

Time	Activity	Venue	Teacher(s)
Monday			
After-school	Teacher Training	N/A	N/A
Tuesday			
After-school	Badminton (Year 7-11) Football (Team: Year 7A/7B) Netball League Night (Year 7-11) OCR Intervention	Sports Hall Various Courts TBC	Mr Jackson Mr Doody Miss Lloyd/ Miss Conolly MIP / DAH / RAB
Wednesday			
After-school	Basketball (Year 7) Football (Team: Year 8/9) Rugby (Year 7/ 8) Sixth Form Football Scholarship Girls Football (Team: Year 7-11)	Sports Hall Astro Field TBC Field	Mr Jackson Mr Stead Mr Locke / Mr Worsfold Mr Henderson/ Mr Shaw cross Miss Pemberton/ Miss Lloyd
Thursday			
After-school	Football League Night (Year 7/8) Dance (Invitation) Basketball (Year 8-11) Netball (Team: Year 7/8) Table Tennis A-Level Revision	Astro Dance Studio Hall Courts Gymnasium F18	Mr Holbrook Coach Mr Doody / Mr Henderson Mrs Bruce Mr Locke Miss Connolly
Friday			
After-school	X-Country	Field	Mr Szekely

Star of the week

Well done to all pupils who received star of the week this week, each nomination has been linked to one of our school values.



Resilience

Georgie Bloss, Year 8 – Nominated by Mr Robson, Georgie always works hard in History lesson and contributes answers well during discussion. Keep up the excellent work!

Safa Ali, Year 13 – Nominated by Miss Lavassani, Safa has demonstrated incredible commitment to learning this year by working harder than ever for her assessments, attending all revision sessions and showing good resilience with concepts she initially struggled with.

Poppy Rowlands, Year 8 – Nominated by Mrs Senior for excellent effort in RE lessons.

Rory Cusack, Year 8 – Nominated by Mr Szekely for working hard in Mathematics and achieving excellent test scores.

Shahrbanu Kayani, Year 10 – Nominated by Mr Szekely for working hard and making improvements in Mathematics.

Isaac Gray, Year 7 – Nominated by Mrs Evans, Isaac had a late afternoon, unavoidable, appointment. Isaac returned to school after the appointment. It would have been easy for him to go home but he was conscious of keeping his 100% attendance. Congratulations on excellent attendance Isaac, and thank you for your dedication.

Alisha Warmisham, Year 7 – Nominated by Mrs Mungovan and Mrs Higgins for resilience at school in all lessons.

Integrity

Harry Corrigan, Year 8 – Nominated by Mr Moore, Harry has shown a massive improvement of late in his integrity, attitude and concentration in lesson! Well done!

Respect

Lily Cannon, Year 8 – Nominated by Miss Lavassani, Lily is such a delightful young pupil who works her hardest every Science lesson, contributes well in class and has a cheerful manner every week without fault. Well done Lily!

Star of the week

Ambition

Jaiden McDermott, Year 9 – Nominated by Miss Cridland for a continued enthusiastic approach to English reading lessons. Well done!

Anna Bracegirdle, Year 12 – Nominated by Miss Cridland for an enthusiastic and hard working attitude as well as achieving 100% in an assessment. Well done!

Freya James, Year 10 – Nominated by Miss Cockayne, Freya is a superstar! She is working extremely hard in art lessons and also after school at art club. She is very keen to do well and I am really proud of all the time, hard work and effort she is putting into her artwork! Well done Freya!

Ruby Burchell, Year 11 – Nominated by Mr Loynd for an absolutely superb effort in your recent writing Spanish assessment Ruby. You smashed it!

Danny Scott, Year 11 – Nominated by Mr Robson for constant hard work in History lessons. Keep it up!

Nathaniel Russell, Year 10 – Nominated by Mr Kelly for hard work and effort in Business Studies.

Claudia Wright, Year 11 – Nominated by Miss Lavassani, Claudia is so motivated and working hard independently for her mock exams in Science. She attended after school revision and always actively participates in our revision lessons.

Pavel Komitov, Year 9 – Nominated by Mrs Esgaio for a fantastic end of unit test result in Spanish.