



# Aylesford School

and Sixth Form College

## NEWS AND VIEWS

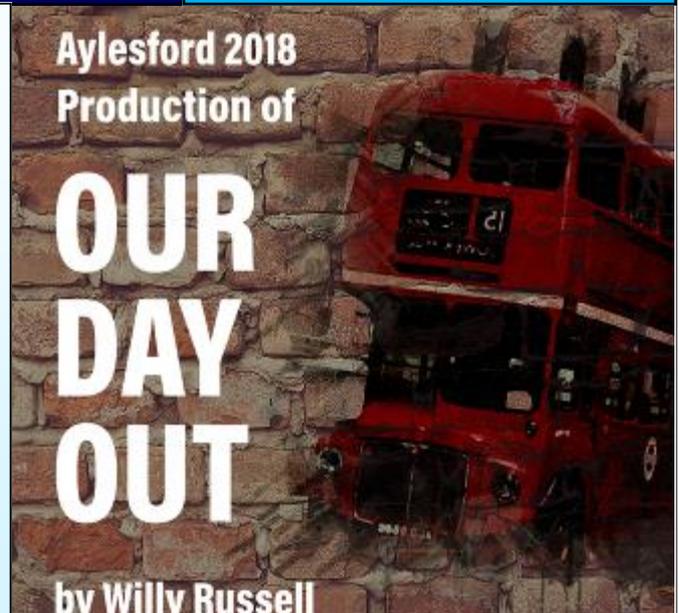
FEBRUARY 2018

### From the Head

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Dear Parents and Friends of the School,

Welcome to our first 2018 edition of the school newsletter.

Over the last two weeks I have been proud to attend the school production of Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' and later witness the official opening of the new Primary adventure playground. Whilst these two events were clearly different in nature they both captured the spirit in which Aylesford School moves forward; enthusiastic, willing, motivated and talented people working hard to contribute to both the greater good and their own individual development. Thank you all for your efforts and skills.

The Year 10 Curriculum Evening quickly followed and I was delighted to see such a positive turnout of so many families of Year 9 students keen to find out what the future may offer as youngsters plan their embarkation onto their GCSE courses. With the very high level of parental engagement observed we can all take confidence in the home/school partnership and the important effect it has on learning.

I will finish on a note to all those students and their families as they prepare for external examinations this summer. Carpe Diem! Now is the time to seize the day. It is what is done today, that will influence the future and on their return to school after half term students have approximately eight weeks until the examination season gets into full swing. Time to invest in the future now through establishing revision timetables, focusing on planned topics, and identifying priorities. Trust in the idea that deferred gratification really does work, and that those who 'put in' will 'take out'! Families can support in the following ways: provide a quiet area at home to study, encourage daily revision, short breaks, early nights and regular meals. Plan for an occasional treat, bearing in mind the real reward will come through certification in August.

Best wishes to all,

Headteacher

# Aylesford's Artist of the Week

Last term we introduced a weekly search for an 'Artist of the Week'. Each student selected has a piece of their art work posted on the school website via the school's Twitter feed. So far we have shared some beautiful work including drawings and paintings of buildings, the school Christmas card design, and even a drawing of a fish. Work is selected from students of any year group, so make sure that you are checking the website each week and we will be in touch if we have chosen a piece of your work to share.

Congratulations to the students below whose work has featured as 'Artist of the Week' so far:

**Grace Fry 11CST**



**Lauren Ashbourne 8DVS**



**Megan Taylor 12GLT**

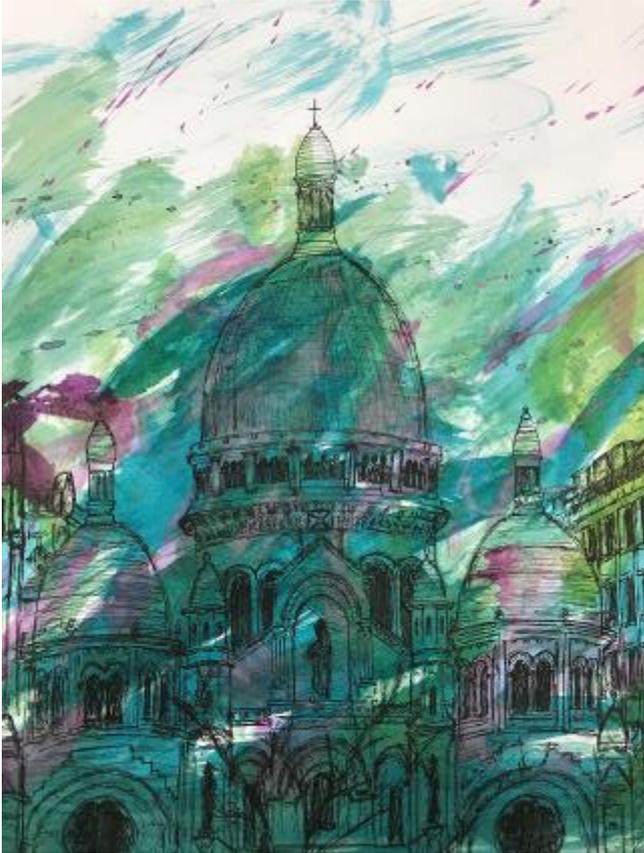


**Alessandro Badioli 10HRR**

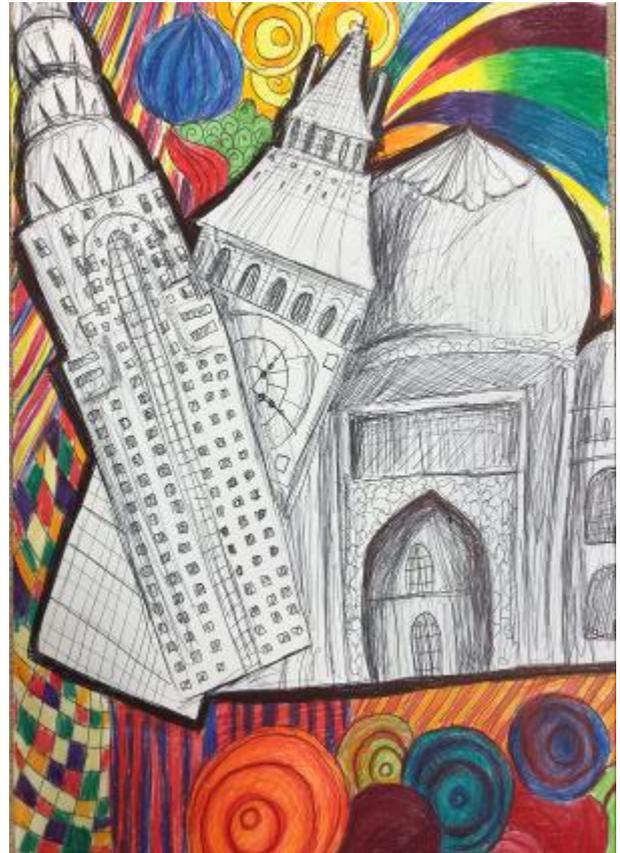


# ART DEPARTMENT

Harry Russell 13JRD



Zsofi Treuhaft 8HLY



Sophie Forbes 9BRD



Layla Payne 9TPS



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### SCRUMPTIOUS SCIENCE AND THE MRI MACHINE

The first Scrumptious Science event kicked off to an impressive start as **Professor Stuart Clare** from **Oxford University** lead the session. This free event is held one lunch time each term and aims to create a relaxed informal discussion between GCSE, A-level students and science staff over a hot chocolate and cake.

**Professor Clare** works at **John Radcliffe Hospital** in **Oxford** and uses some of the most powerful computers in the country to investigate how the brain works. He is involved in clinical and neuroscience research on the centre's MRI scanners, and has an interest in improving the quality of MRI images. As part of his presentation, he brought a 3D model of his own brain, used volunteers from the audience to model how an MRI scanner works, and gave a further insight into this area of science with the Psychology department. **Professor Clare** said: "I am heavily involved in communicating the research we do to the general public and have been working with schools to inspire the next generation of scientists."



**Miss Sam Holyman**, Second in Science, developed the event and also invited **Dr Laura Hobbs** from **Lancaster University**, **Mr Paul Henderson** from **Lanchester Museum** at **Coventry University** and **Lynne Purshouse** from **Beckland Scientific** who were all on hand to discuss with students the opportunities to study science further and how to have a STEM career. **Miss Holyman** said "It was a wonderful positive atmosphere and we hope that more of our students will consider choosing Aylesford to study science into the Sixth Form and beyond."



A **Year 8** form have used their Friday registration time to their advantage, by completing projects to get a Blue Peter Badge. The TV show, which has been running for over 50 years, awards under 15s who send in pictures, articles, letters or reviews, with a badge and a card allowing them to get into over 200 tourist attractions free of charge.



This term, Blue Peter Badges have started coming in for students of **8HLY** after completing a project in Form time. The badges will allow free entry into many attractions including locally, Twycross Zoo and Kenilworth Castle until they are 15! **Miss Holyman**, form tutor of **8HLY** said: "I always wanted my own Blue Peter Badge when I was a child and sadly I never got one. But I am so proud of my form members who created wonderful projects to send to the programme. I hope that you enjoy using your Blue Peter Badge to have some great experiences – for free! Also, you can send extra projects in and try to collect all the badges."

**8HLY** have so far received six badges; **Emily Roberts** for getting a Purple badge after reviewing a programme, **Thiany Wilson** in getting her Silver badge after sending in a couple of pieces of work, **Scott Billings** for getting his Green environmental badge. **Thomas Foley**, **Louis Osborne** and **Joshua Valle** received the traditional blue and white badge.

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## VOLCANOES AND MINECRAFT

A top university sent a volcanologist, lap tops, a selection of rocks and a sprinkle of Minecraft to help students have a taste of STEM.

**Dr Laura Hobbs** from **Lancaster University** led a one hour hands-on session, sharing her passion for volcanoes with fifty students from Aylesford this term. **Dr Hobbs** completed her Geology degree at **Bristol University** before moving to **Lancaster University** to complete her PhD in Glacial Volcanology. Her area of research looked at how ash from volcanoes affected glaciers. She continues to work for **Lancaster University** on the Science Hunters Outreach team. **Dr Hobbs** said: "I love studying science, but really enjoy working in the classroom to inspire the next generation of Scientists. This academic year we have worked with over 1800 students and hope to return to many of these schools, including Aylesford next year with other exciting activities."

Students from Year 7 to Year 10 took part in over five hours of sessions. They looked at how the rate of cooling affects the rocks that are formed from lava, ash and pyroclastic flows. With their new found knowledge, they then modelled a volcano using the famous Minecraft software on the five lap tops that the university provided.

The session was very well received. **Caleb Bacon, 8HLY** said: "I think the session is good, we are all learning. This is my first time using Minecraft and I might even play it a bit at home now."



## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

# Our Day Out



This year the Drama Department had the very exciting opportunity to perform our annual school show at the Bridge House Theatre. Our students were a little nervous in this professional environment, but boy did they deliver. The performances our students gave this year were exceptional, and made Aylesford very proud. The students had the audience in fits of giggles, and they really challenged themselves as actors. Big thank you to the hilarious and brave **Mr Scholes, Mr Owen** and **Mrs Savage** for their great cameos as the 'terrifying' gorilla. Thank you to all the students, parents and staff that came along to support the show, it is always appreciated, and we are already considering what the next exciting production will be.

**Miss Carter, Head of Drama**



## YEAR 9 NEWS

### Engineering Masterclass at Warwick University invitation for Year 9 students Layla Payne and Eli Bowen

Congratulations to **Layla Payne** and **Eli Bowen** who have been selected to attend engineering masterclasses at Warwick University with the Royal Institute.

The Royal Institute offer young talented students from locals schools, who show an interest in engineering, an opportunity to learn from top experts in their industry.

In the past years classes involved mind-control Scalectrix and Leap Motion Virtual Physiotherapy.



## MOCK INTERVIEWS

Last term, all **Year 11** students were asked to complete Mock Interview application forms, ready for the mock interviews that took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January. Eight of the best forms were chosen and these students were invited for a mock interview on 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Graypaul Ferrari and Maserati dealership in Birmingham.

The students selected to attend were ; **Danny Bradbury 11BNS, Michael Edwards 11BNS, Lily Owuye 11BNS, Carys Eadon 11CST, Lauren Finnegan 11WLY, Callum Price 11MMY, Emily Meeson 11WLY and Libby Simmons 11BNS.**

During the visit, each student was given a 15 minute interview by either Head of Business, **Stuart Hood**, or Maserati employee, **Malcolm Botta**. In the interview, students had the opportunity to gain some experience and learn about how to present themselves in a formal interview setting. Students were then given feedback and assessed on their individual performances. After this, the Year 11's were given a tour around the dealership, workshop and custom car configuration area.

We would like to say thank you to Graypaul for inviting us and hosting our memorable visit.

By **Lily Owuye.**



# YEAR 7 ENTERPRISE DAY



On Wednesday 31st January 2018, all of the Year 7 had Enterprise Day which involved teamwork, communication and creativity and all sorts of different subjects such as Maths, English, Art and Design Tech.

We got told to make funky sandwiches for the company 'Funky Lunch'. First we had to think of an idea for our sandwich. Some of the Year 7 lunch themes were Xbox, under the sea, Disney, rockets, and surfing.

Once we did this, we had to sort out all of the food that we were going to need for our sandwich and to tally it all up to work out an end profit. Then each group had to split into two; the first half had to work on the food preparation, building of the sandwich, and choosing the fillings, whilst the other half had to work on the box packaging and decoration. All the groups got taken out with different teachers to present our ideas. We later had to compete against other groups for a chance to present in the final. We had to present our idea, explain the target age group, and show our end profit.

If you got through to the top seven, you would have to speak in front of the whole of Year 7 and present your idea again. My group won the 'Surf Sandwich' which was a healthy and delicious lunch. Enterprise Day has made us think about working as a team more and to make new friends. It was a great first Enterprise Day and hopefully it will be like this every year.

**Ella Goodman 7ORM**



Surf Sandwich Company winners **Jake Potts, Joshua Brown, Ella Goodman, Lottie Jack, Poppy Irvine and Evan Vinojo** with Funky Lunch presenter **Mark Northeast**



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## YEAR 12

**Year 12** students have two exciting Education Enrichment Events to look forward to after February half term. The first is to Coventry University, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, when eight students will be participating in a Criminology Session and discussed will be 'What makes a criminal?' The session will expose a number of influential factors that can lead someone into criminality, using a range of current issues in society.

The second visit is to The Milton Keynes National Apprenticeship Show at The Arena MK on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. This will provide an opportunity for Year 12 students to start their careers research. The Apprenticeship Show brings together employers, colleges and providers and provides a great opportunity for students to find out more about what apprenticeships offer. This will be followed up by our annual visit to the Higher Education Exhibition at the NEC on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June where students will get a chance to talk with university admissions staff, subject specialists, find out what life's like on and off campus, and discover what else is on offer when exams are complete.



**Year 12** students last year after completing their careers research at The NEC in Birmingham and loaded up with prospectus' to help them make informed decisions about the next step.



## YEAR 13

**Year 13** students have been busy this term submitting their UCAS applications or looking at the numerous apprenticeships available. Those who applied to University have already been receiving their offers. Congratulations to **Molly MacRae** and **Sammy Miles** who have been successful in securing a place at **Oxford**.



**Molly MacRae and Sammy Miles**

## CHARITY WEEK 2018

A phenomenal £2,300 was raised during the course of the Charity Week through various fundraising events. On the last day of term before breaking for Christmas, the nominated charities; Mat Davis, Guide Dogs, British Heart Foundation, Bloodwise and Molly Olly's Wishes were presented with their cheques. Funds raised will be used by the charities to benefit those in need.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team presenting one of the cheques to Guide Dogs.



### EUROCAMP 2018

Following on from last year's successful visit to **Formigine, Italy**, the Warwick Town Council have been launching their annual Eurocamp Summer 2018 opportunity. This will be the fourth year that Aylesford School Sixth Form students have participated in this FREE opportunity to learn new skills, while completing a variety of community work. This year the host country is **Saumur, France** and will take place between 23rd July-5th August 2018. I am pleased to say that **Córa Moynihan** and **Jessica North** were successful in securing a place on this once in a lifetime opportunity.



From left: **Jessica North** and **Córa Moynihan**

### LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECT

Aylesford has been awarded two places on this four part project for 2018. Following a selection process within Sixth Form, **Hannah Coggins** and **Josie Stevenson** were chosen to represent the school.

The project, sponsored by the Holocaust Trust, is based on the premise that 'learning is not like seeing' and comprises four stages. Hannah and Josie will be attending an orientation seminar in Birmingham to learn about pre-war Jewish life and to hear from a Holocaust survivor.

A few days later they will be taking part in a guided one day visit to Poland, and this will then be followed up with a reflective seminar on their return.

Hannah and Josie will then pass on their experiences and the lesson that they have learnt to other students at Aylesford.

They will both have a life changing experience and we look forward to listening to their presentations on their return.



From left: **Hannah Coggins** with **Josie Stevenson**

### REALISING OPPORTUNITIES



Congratulations to **Jamie Keyte**, **Khadija Razzaq** and **Córa Moynihan** who have been selected to take part in the Realising Opportunities Programme that is coordinated by Warwick University. This prestigious course will run throughout their Sixth Form Years 12 and 13, and will support them in their future decision making and in their current work.

If our students decide to apply to selected high level universities next year, a successful completion of the course will give them an alternative offer worth up to two A level grades lower.

They will be attending conferences and workshops over the next two years, receiving help with A level study skills, and revision from a Warwick University mentor.

# ULTIMATE FRISBEE

## MORE SUCCESS FOR EVOLUTION AT THE NATIONALS



Our school **Ultimate Frisbee** team recently made it all the way to the final in the **Under 17 Indoor Nationals**. The tournament took place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January in Wolverhampton. After several close group games on the Saturday, the team went into the quarter final on Sunday morning aiming to repeat last year's feat of reaching the semi-finals. They faced a strong team from Twycross House School but confident attacking play and excellent defence saw them emerge as 6-4 winners. This set up a semi-final against Gildredge House School (Eastbourne). Some of our players really stepped up in this match and competed for every pass and every block. The score line remained close throughout, but we looked like the better team for most of the game and emerged victorious, 4-3. The final against St Peter's School (Exeter) didn't go to plan, but all of our team should be very proud of their fantastic achievement in reaching the national final.

The top teams at these tournaments are usually dominated by tall, athletic boys and often the majority of opposing teams are made up of Y11 students. Our success is remarkable due to our team's resilience and team effort representing a mix of ages and gender. It's fair to say we have some outstanding players! Huge congratulations go to: **Hollie Eykyn 11BNS, Emily Parkinson 11CST, Liam Fentham 11CST, Kirstie Eykyn 10DHS, Eleanor Stratton 10HRR, Amelia Edwards 10LNR, Reece Newey 10LNR and Tyler East 9SCF.**

Overall, twenty-five students represented the school in three teams, one in the Under 14s division (Y7 and 8) and two in the Under 17s (Y9 – 11). Both of the other two teams competed well and won some games but found it tough going against some excellent teams and some older, more experienced players. Their time will come in future tournaments and the way they developed throughout the weekend shows that the club will remain strong for years to come.

We'll continue to train every week and look forward to competing well at the U20 Indoor Nationals in March and the Outdoor Nationals in June. New players are always welcome. If you want to be part of this success in the future, get involved now!

**Mr Darren, Math Teacher and Team Coach**

# PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

## UNICORN CLASS

**Unicorn Class** demonstrated fantastic learning, focusing on our topic of 'Journeys.' The children thoroughly enjoyed the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', and loved retelling and re-enacting the story at Forest Schools. They made story maps supporting story sequencing and writing key words and captions and also focused on activities using positional language that they used in the story. We also intertwined the story within our Maths lessons, by learning about repeating patterns with different colours and sizes of bears. The whole class worked together in our outdoor area to draw and construct the changing environments within the story and then retold it all together. A fantastic first term in **Unicorn Class!**



## PEGASUS CLASS

**Pegasus Class** topic, 'To the Rescue,' has fascinated the students with the story of the Titanic. We had a very special visitor come and tell us all about her experience of being on-board this 'unsinkable' ship.

**Miss Morris** gave the children clues to work out who she was, why she was travelling on the Titanic and whether or not she survived the disaster. The children pieced together the information and found that she had been a personal assistant to **Lady Duff-Gordon** who was travelling to New York and Chicago to visit clothes shops there. We were delighted to find out that she had survived! Thanks go to Miss Morris for her visit and well done Pegasus Class for being great detectives!



## PHOENIX CLASS

Last half term, **Phoenix Class** began visited the secondary school to use their computer suites. The children really enjoyed using the computers to explore and find out different information and to use excellent software to create some brilliant castle-themed artwork. These visits will continue for the rest of the year.



## SCHOOL NOTICES

### REMINDER FOR PARENTS—LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME AND REPORTING ABSENCE

As you will all be aware, current attendance regulations stipulate a Head Teacher may not grant a leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

*Each application for leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional', and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. If the leave is granted, the Head Teacher is able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The school can only consider leave of absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent. Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s) by way of Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional.

#### **How to report a student absence:**

1. Phone 01926 747100 and leave a message /speak to a member of the office or email [attendance@aylesford-elearning.net](mailto:attendance@aylesford-elearning.net)
2. Each day your child is absent you need to repeat the step above

**Please note that we may still request further information regarding your child's absence.**

## CAREERS FAIR 2018

This is a plea to parents out there who work in a business which could support our Careers Fair.

**Careers Fair** takes place on **Wednesday 25th April from 2:30-6:30pm** and every year we want to invite more and more exhibitors, so, if you are a local business and can offer our students specific or generic advice on careers arising from your business, we would love to hear from you.

**If you feel you would like to participate in this event then please contact Miss McDonagh at the school.**

**We look forward to your call.**

## YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS



All of **Year 11** have now received a Mock Interview to prepare them for the real world of work. We are very grateful to a whole range of interviewers from local businesses who gave up their time freely to attend the interviews. This was a very rewarding experience for all.

**Miss McDonagh, Director of Inclusive Practice**