



Aylesford School

and Sixth Form College

NEWS AND VIEWS

MARCH 2018

From the Head

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PHOENIX CLASS VISIT NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

Dear Parents and Friends of the School,

As a boy I read a book by Billy Bremner, the then Leeds United captain, called 'You Get Nowt for Coming Second' and understood the drive and desire needed to win at anything. When I was a young PE teacher I remember being challenged by the various impacts of winning and not winning on many young people. In competitive sport there can and should be only one ultimate winner be it either individual or team. Does this mean that by this premise all others are losers? Of course not and mature competitors understand this. The young have to learn it.

Competitive sports people have a profound belief in themselves and a never say die attitude that says all mountains are conquerable given time, energy and commitment. World champions are very often ephemeral, always human and only as good as the performances that got them to that position. This fact enables others who desire that success to believe they are beatable. It is what keeps competitors going – that someday they will be the best even if they get beaten along the way. In the long term process of winning you have to lose sometimes. It is where one finds the depth of character to make the changes necessary to move forward.

Not everyone is a competitive sports person, it is not necessary and there are those that would balk at being such. Comparison with others (external) although natural is not essential. Reference to previous best (internal) is. People can only ever be the best that they can be and establishing that attitude to learning is a requirement for growth. We must all prepare ourselves to knock down barriers to that growth and develop an internal strength at our core that does not allow things to get in the way. This is discipline. Not the discipline set or delivered by others but a discipline of self-reliance stemming from self-worth and self-belief. This is what many today call resilience. It really does not matter what your peers think or what they may even write on social media. It is what you think of yourself that matters because your thoughts become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Think little of yourself - expect to be little, think well of yourself - expect to do well.

A society where people increasingly measure themselves by how many likes they get on social media needs to take a 'rain check'. People need to self-validate, to affirm to themselves what matters and learn not seek the superficial approval of others, many of whom they have never met or known. Once individuals have come to terms with their responsibility for their own happiness, to have core strength and belief in themselves then anything is possible. Failing mental health can be restored. Losing (or in more general terms, failing) is not a slight on your character or a blot on your personae; merely a step on a journey to greater things. Take Winston Churchill who said 'failure is not fatal' or Hasbro in their 1971 commercial 'Weebles wobble but they don't fall down': or Chumbawamba in their 1997 song 'I get knocked down but I get up again, you're never gonna keep me down'.

So you can get a lot from coming second or even third, fourth or last. You experience life, you feel emotion and you learn. One way of making sure you don't lose is by not entering the race in the first place but that fear of failure stops you from experiencing all the pleasures you could get from taking part. The place you finish is not as important as taking part. Many know De Coubertin's Olympic quote regarding taking part but only a few can refer to the second part of the sentence.....'the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.'

Happy Easter

Steve Hill

NO FLIES ON OUR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

In February and March, the **Year 13** Biology class was very fortunate to get some support from **Professor Moffat** from **Warwick University**. He ran two workshops looking at how it is possible to investigate genetic inheritance in a species of Fruit Fly called *Drosophila*. **Professor Moffat** explained the lifecycle of this species and the interesting features and mutations that can occur. In the species you can get red, brown or white eyes, and they can have straight to curled wings and one mutation can even cause legs to grow in the place of antennae.



The students had a chance to anaesthetise samples of flies and observe the characteristics before selecting specific traits to breed. In the second workshop, the students examined the offspring of the flies they had selected and looked at the frequencies of each trait.

Many of the students made excellent matchmakers and had over a hundred offspring to sex and count; painstaking work with a microscope that has to be done quickly before the flies wake up and fly off.

This type of work was used in early genetic studies to understand inheritance and to find a gene location on a chromosome. Today modern technology has sequenced the whole genome but students still need to understand the basics of inheritance and this exercise gave them invaluable hands on experience.

Mr Smith, Science Technician



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Physics is often thought to contain a lot of maths but the new Science GCSEs have an increased amount of maths in all the sciences. These skills have been taught in maths lessons but often students find it difficult to be used with a science focus. **Mr Orme** and his Maths Department have used science questions as maths starters to help students better understand the links between these subjects. This term, Aylesford School has teamed up with STEM Learning Centres to deliver a CPD course to give ideas to help students better use their maths skills in science lessons and science exams.

Although the National STEM Learning Centre is located at the **University of York**, they provided materials to Aylesford to make the course. They aim to provide world-leading STEM education for all young people across the UK and are supported by a unique partnership with Government, charitable trusts and employers. The 'Maths in Science' course saw sixteen delegates attend from across the West Midlands and they shared ideas as well as experience, with interactive practical approaches to balancing equations, ratios and statistics.

Dr Lloyd, one of the delegates and also a member of the Science Staff at Aylesford, said: "It was an interesting course which gave me some useful insights into making maths in Science more interactive and engaging for the students. I look forward to trying some of the strategies with the students that I teach."
Miss Holyman, Second in Science

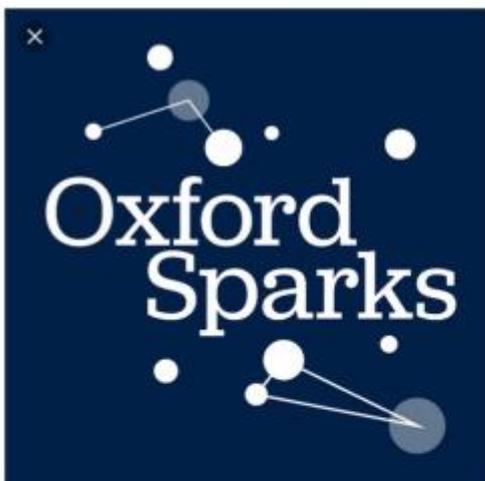


SCIENCE WEEK

Scientific discoveries help us understand the fascinating world around us as well as make better materials for us to use. As part of Science week, **Year 10** students are being encouraged to write an article discussing a scientific discovery that captured their interest in a bid to win a competition from **Oxford University**.

As part of the GCSE Science and Chemistry, students are looking at sustainable development and how chemistry has contributed to the materials that are around us. Students have been coached by **Dr Lloyd** and **Miss Holyman** to choose their area of interest, and have been shown ways to conduct research. After a visit to the library where we used books, computers as well as articles through Warwick University to research, the students have written their seven hundred word articles. The articles will be judged by a panel of experts from **Oxford Sparks**, and the winning article will be published in the next issue of *The Oxford Scientist*. The winning entrant will also receive a £50 Amazon voucher and runners-up will have their article featured on the **Oxford Sparks** website.

Miss Holyman said: "We are building links with Oxford University, and last term we were lucky enough to welcome **Prof. Stuart Clare** from **Scrumptious Science** who shared Oxford Sparks take on Neuroscience. Oxford Sparks is an off shoot of Oxford University and aims to share their amazing science with everyone, support teachers to enrich their science lessons, and support researchers to get their stories out there. Now they are running their first ever Schools Science Writing Competition and we are very excited to challenge our students and give them an opportunity to explore their love of science in this way."



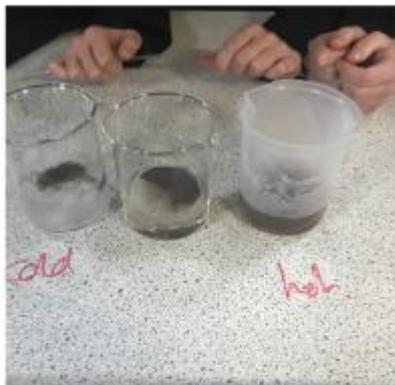
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

National Science Week was from 9th-18th March, and it is a series of science related events that took place all over the country and Aylesford School.

The aim of Science Week is to engage and inspire people of all ages with science, engineering and technology. As part of Science Week, a group of local Year 6 Primary students came up to the science labs to make rainbows using ray boxes and prisms. They looked at how different colours of light could be combined to make flags look different.



Aylesford Primary works very closely with Ferncumbe C of E Primary School, and they invited Aylesford Science teachers to be their judges for the Science Week poster competition. Students in every class had prepared a science based project and then presented it at school. A winning piece of work was chosen by **Dr Lloyd** and **Miss Holyman** from every year group to win a scientific modelling kit.



Year 7 students have been investigating the best way to make tea. They have used their knowledge of particles, dissolving and temperature to learn that it is better to add water to tea and then add the milk rather than the other way around. Students used free apps on mobile devices to measure the light that came through the tea to decide which was the best tea.

Miss Holyman, Second in Science

TEACHING AND LEARNING



At Aylesford we believe that challenge is about building resilience, having the controlled fail, learning from it, and unlocking deeper thinking. This helps students to apply their knowledge and generate new ideas. This skill is vital to unlock the higher grades as the new exams require students to apply what they have learnt to novel situations. Students at Aylesford are being encouraged to challenge themselves in lessons to unlock their deeper learning.

This term there has been a focus on challenge inside and outside the classroom. One example of challenge is working in groups to find many different ways to solve the same puzzle. This teaching idea has been used in **Year 9** for sorting the elements and in KS3 in maths as the same problem has been solved in different ways.

The idea of a termly focus on challenge was borne out of the Teaching and Learning group. Teaching and Learning are always changing and adapting for the needs of the learners as well as new research and gives us more ideas to help people learn better. **Mrs Scopes** said: "As learners, feeling challenged often means that they feel out of their comfort zone but as they build a positive learning environment, students will learn from their experience of struggling to get to an end point, the deeper learning is unlocked".

LIBRARY NEWS

READING BUDDIES

The Reading Buddies program builds on student participation in the Library, literacy skills and mentoring. The paired reading sessions took place during tutor on Tuesday mornings. The **Year 7** students read to older students; these sessions helped the reading confidence of both sets of students and was enjoyed by all.

The students who took part were:

YEAR 7:

Abbie-May Slater
Amelia Caddick
Harriet Hill
Megan Bromley
Erin Coleman-Fletcher
Fraser Eades

YEAR 8

Ellen Barton
Chloe –Louise Herron
Niamh Barton
Benjamin Khan
Molly Russell
Rohan Bhogal



Megan Bromley and Abbie-May Slater



Fraser Eades and Benjamin Khan

YEAR 7 NEWS

YEAR 7 YEAR PERIOD—HEALTHY EATING

It's Year Period, and the theme this time is 'Healthy Eating'. **Mr Orme** said that we could either make a board game, a poster or a rap whilst lucky **Miss Robbins'** tutor got to burn food!! Have in mind, **Miss Robbins** is a qualified science teacher and she doesn't randomly just burn food. **Olivia** and I decided to make a rap, after successfully making ones in other subjects together.

After a good hour stressing over what rhymed with beetroot, we finally arrived with the finished product. To complement our performance, we made a highly educational and informative PowerPoint. Our work was then judged and performed alongside our fellow tutor groups... I'm sad to report that our amazing, incredible, catchy rap did not win the competition but nevertheless we learnt a lot about healthy food and had great fun in the process!!

By Corey Cox



Pictured from left is **Olivia Mason-Collis, Corey Cox and Marcus Barton**

YEAR 9 NEWS

SOAP AND GLORY!

On the 14th February, **Year 9** took part in an Enterprise activity with a company that manufactures soap. Before arriving I was slightly apprehensive as this didn't sound very interesting, however, it turned out to be completely the opposite. After putting us into groups, we were told that the task was to create, design and brand new soap, and the winning soap would be made for that team as the prize. I really enjoyed the design aspect as it allowed me to be creative and share ideas with my group.

After smelling the different soap oils and analysing them, it was time to present the product. Our group had thought a lot on the finance and our target audience, which was children; this seemed to impress the first round of judges. However next was time to pitch our design to everyone. I found this very nerve racking and I just wanted it to be over with. But after a round of presenting the winner was announcedit was us! All together it was a great experience, which was really helpful.



Winning team from left **Hannah Warnes, Layla Payne, Arjan Purewal, Ben Saliss, Vienna Thompson and Tom Statham**

Vienna Thompson 9BRD

YEAR 10 NEWS

gcse science
live!

Fourteen **Year 10** students attended a GCSE Science Day at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on 27th February 2018. After a session from a chief examiner advising them how to achieve the best grades, five world renown scientists each gave a thirty minute presentation on their topic of research.

Professor Lord Robert Winston spoke about his pioneering work in fertilisation and gynaecological microsurgery. **Professor Lucie Green** explained her work on the sun and in particular the causes of solar flares. **Professor Andrea Sella** chose ice as his theme and asked us to think about what will happen when all of the ice in the Artic has melted. Scary!

Professor Kate Lancaster is currently researching how we could solve our world energy needs, by building a star on Earth and using nuclear fusion to power the world. *'It was inspiring'* said **Oliver Williams**.

Professor Steve Jones, a biologist who specialises in genetic research, highlighted the way that obesity is caused by a combination of both genes and what is eaten.

'It had me on the edge of my seat' said **Adam Webber**.

It was a privilege to listen to such dynamic and knowledgeable scientists and in the words of **Jack Lewis** the talks were *'fascinating, mind blowing and inspiring'*.

Mr Scholes, Sixth Form Learning Mentor



SIXTH FORM NEWS

OXFORD VISIT

A few **Year 10** to **Year 12** students spent a superb day visiting Braenose and Pembroke Colleges in Oxford.

We started with a presentation on applying to university and then specifically to Oxford and Cambridge followed by a tour of Brasenose led by **Caitlin Gold** who left Aylesford in 2016.

We then walked to Pembroke College to meet **Amber Ridgway** who left Aylesford in 2014. She gave the students an excellent talk about her educational journey and showed us around her college. Following a lovely lunch in the magnificent Brasenose College dining room,

we walked to the Natural History and Pitt-River Museums to see some incredible exhibits including real life shrunken heads. All the students agreed that it was an inspirational day, made even more special by the fact that students from Aylesford have gained places in one of the world's top universities.

Mr Scholes, Sixth Form Mentor



APPRENTICESHIP VISIT

Sixth Form students interested in apprenticeships attended The National Apprenticeship Show, MK Arena in Milton Keynes on Tuesday 13th March 2018.

The National Apprenticeship Show gave students the opportunity to explore a variety of post-18 apprenticeship options in one setting. It was a chance to learn first-hand about all the opportunities available as well as offering good advice to help make informed decisions and climb the ladder of opportunity to fulfilling jobs.



This will be followed up by our annual visit to the UCAS Exhibition at the NEC Birmingham in June 2018. Visiting both apprenticeship and university exhibitions allows students to make informed decisions about which route would be most beneficial to them post-18.

EXCITING TIME FOR OUR YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Year 13 students are currently busy receiving and confirming offers from their chosen university as well as beginning to apply for student finance and accommodation. By doing this they are then able to focus on revision and the forthcoming summer exams to gain those all-important grades to secure their place at university.

Students who are not going to university are busy researching apprenticeship opportunities and completing their applications.



INTEREST FREE STUDENT LOANS

Did you know that interest free loans for up to the value of **£1500** per year are available to students living in Warwick who are going to college or university? Financial assistance is available for university and college courses after A-Levels if you live in the postcode area of CV34. If you are hoping to start further education you should know, **The Charity of Sir Thomas White, Warwick**, is able to offer interest-free loans of up to £1500 per year for each year of your course.

You can apply by downloading an application form at www.sirthomaswhite.org.uk, emailing connect@sirthomaswhite.org.uk or by telephoning **Belinda Shuttleworth** on 01926 350555.



THAC

THE WARWICK APPRENTICING CHARITIES

The Warwick Apprenticing Charities are able to provide grants to students wishing to pursue further education once they have left school. They work with young people, with a maximum age of 25 and that live in the parish of Warwick (CV34), to help them broaden their life experiences and skill sets ahead of seeking employment. They can help with costs towards a variety of further educational pursuits including apprenticeships, college or university.

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING FOR EQUIPMENT, OUTFITS, BOOKS FEES, TRAVEL, MAINTENANCE EXPENSES ETC, BY THOSE ENGAGED IN HIGHER EDUCATION OR POST-SCHOOL TRAINING CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING

www.warwickapprenticingcharities.org.uk/application-equipment

VALENTINE'S DAY FUN

The build up to Valentine's Day 2018 saw **Issy Bidgood**, along with her team of sixth form students, pulling out all the stops to sell sweet bags over the course of the week prior to Valentine's Day to raise money for The British Heart Foundation.

Students at Aylesford were encouraged to part with their money and buy a sweet bag for their Valentine with a message attached. These bags were then hand delivered on Valentine's Day to tutor groups by **Issy's** team of sixth form students.

A phenomenal £170 was raised for The British Heat Foundation.

Well done to Issy and her team!



Issy and her team

Back row: Ella Refson, Issy Bidgood, Emily Parsons, Skye Coyle and Hannah Coggins
Front row: Alex Stevens, Ellie-Mae Head and Ryan Dale

GUEST SPEAKER

We were fortunate to have **Sarah Green** (ex- Aylesford student) who is currently working at Warwick University as a Customer Experience and Insight Manager, visit Aylesford School on Friday 9th March to deliver a session to year 10, 11, 12 & 13 students interested in a career in the sports industry. She has worked for 14 years as a sports consultant which has included work with the Rugby World Cup 2015, IAAF London 2017, British Athletics, EFL, UK Sport, Sport England and Silverstone. She shared her experiences and routes into the sports industry as well as offering advice on how to 'stand out' from the crowd by volunteering and gaining those all-important skills and experience that get you noticed.

UNICORN CLASS

Unicorn Class have loved the topic 'Our Community.' They were lucky to have not one, but two visitors during the learning of People Who Help Us.

A big thank you to **Mr Justin Goonesinghe** who taught them all about **National Grid** and how they help us cook our food and keep us warm! We children were also visited by firefighters and the children also loved getting to go in the fire engine.



PEGASUS CLASS



Pegasus Class have been thoroughly enjoying their reading and have been very fortunate to share it with some very special visitors. We have been delighted to see so many families coming into school together on Monday mornings and sharing a book or two. **Headteacher, Mr Hall**, has been to visit **Pegasus Class** and the children enjoyed sharing with him their knowledge of Julia Donaldson, our focus author this half term, and some of her super stories. Thank you to everyone who has been able to join us to read.

*"It was great reading with **Mr Hall**. We all read a page and it made me really want to read!"*

"I enjoyed reading with mummy because it encourages me to read longer stories."

PHOENIX CLASS

On Thursday 8th February, **Phoenix Class** visited the National Space Centre in Leicester. They have been learning all about the moon landings and space travel, so were delighted to explore the museum.

The pupils visited real life and reconstructions of rockets and were amazed by the tiny sizes of their couches and bedrooms. After trying on many space outfits and fitting into space capsules, the children found out about the planets and why we can't live on them.

Having found out about astronauts past and present, the children were inspired by their braveness and sense of adventure. We now have lots of budding astronauts with many wanting to make history and be the first person on Mars.

Back in school, the children have been very excited to continue their learning about space and have already created some fantastic pieces of writing about their trip.





Aylesford School
and Sixth Form College

CAREERS FAIR

IT'S YOUR FUTURE

ALL YEAR 9, 10, 11 AND YEAR 12 STUDENTS
ARE WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

4PM-6:30PM