Landau Forte Academy Amington

April 2018

Welcome to our end of Term 4 Newsletter. Considering the Term was less than 5 weeks long, it is unbelievable how many activities our students have taken part in.

Last month also saw my first Herald Report. In case you missed it, here is what it said:

Celebrating success and welcoming the opportunities of the terms ahead

In November, we hosted our annual Aspirational Awards Evening, where we celebrated students with exceptional dedication and strong academic progress, with over 70 prizes in total. For our whole school community, this event reinforced the value in working hard, being committed to your learning and striving to improve and excel. These are lessons I hope all our students are taking into 2018 as they approach their next round of assessments – not least our Year 11s in their hugely important GCSEs.

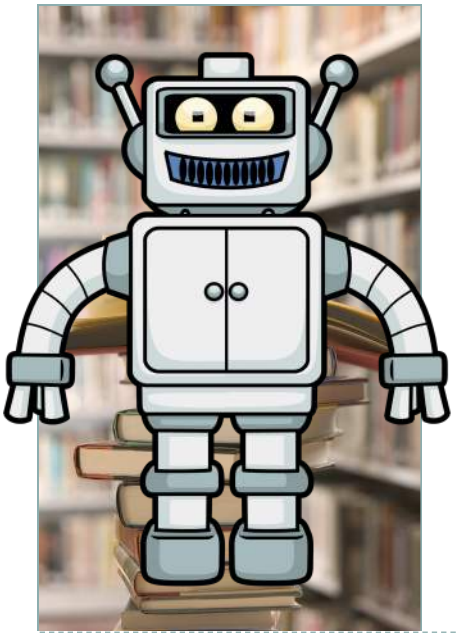
Academic progress is our central focus at Amington, but we also want our students to have the best opportunities outside school as well as in the classroom. We know that school is an investment in your children to make sure that they have everything they need to succeed, and this includes wider life skills, experiences and understanding.

So, later this year, students will be visiting Cern, the home of the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, to see how physics theory meets real-world application. Others will be camping and taking part in outward bound activities, or touring top London theatres as part of performing arts. Opportunities like these crystallise what can be achieved when combining talent with hard work.

Last term, one of our most rewarding and enjoyable initiatives was a series of Year 5 mastery classes for local primary pupils. These were designed to introduce pupils to key learning concepts – from exploring poetry and metaphor in English and performing complex maths calculations correctly. The Year 5 Festival in October allowed over 200 Year 5s to join us at Amington for a taste of secondary school life, and we will be welcoming over 200 more next month in our next series of masterclasses. Amington's greatest asset is its dedicated teachers who put on such amazing activities.

The feedback from the Year 5 children, their parents and staff was brilliant and we look forward to welcoming many of them back in the autumn when they begin their school applications. For the moment though, we are very excited to receive those Year 6 pupils who have been successful in gaining a place here at Amington for September, as part of our new, oversubscribed Year 7 cohort. While starting secondary school can be daunting for children, we begin our transition process early so that pupils have all they need to start the year with confidence.

Mrs C. Robson (Head of School)



STEM DAY—TECHNOLOGY

On Thursday 1st March over 50 Year 9 Students took part in an external STEM Day, run by The "Smallpeice Trust". The Trust's aim is to promote the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) for future options and career paths. The students took part in the day by learning the importance of engineering by designing and creating an autonomous self-driving vehicle using LEGO mindstorm kits. By working in small groups they develop and communicate their design from the page to creating and programming the vehicle and then finally presenting the final design to the rest of the groups. All the groups really enjoyed the day and loved working and programming their creations.

Mr Bridge

"Fun; a step into the future; you learn more; more exciting; more sociable; friendly" ***Year 7 student summarising their time at Amington during a student voice meeting***

PARENTS' EVENING DATES

Following feedback from parents, we are now rolling out Parents' Evenings to all year groups.

Evenings will run from 5pm to 8pm and parents can book appointments via an on-line booking system. Information will be sent out by post in advance of each evening with guidance on how to book appointments.

Y7—24th May 2018

Y8—10th May 2018

Y9—8th March 2018 (including guided choices for KS4)

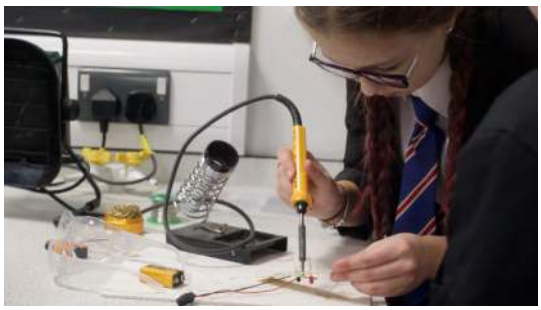
Y10—25th January 2018

Y11—12th October 2017

All parents may contact their child's Personal Tutor at any point to have a consultation about their child's progress at the Academy.

STEM DAY—SCIENCE

On the 20th March, 60 students in Y9 were given the opportunity to take part in a Science STEM day. The day was provided by the "Smallpeice Trust" and involved the students working in small teams to design and build a water reservoir, which included a moisture detector and a working pump. On completion they then had to pitch 'Dragons Den' style in an attempt to sell their design.



The winning team and the team who impressed the most with one aspect of their work have now been given an opportunity to represent the academy on the 26th June at the Lichfield Cathedral school on another project competing against other schools in the area.

Many of the students who took part commented on how good the day was and the representative of the "Smallpeice Trust" who delivered the workshop commented on how good our students were; trhe winning design being one of the best he had seen!

Mr Steggles

BACK TO THE 80S—PERFORMING ARTS PRODCUTION

This term it was finally time for Performing Arts to show what our students had spent afternoons, evenings and weekends working on during Term 2 and 3.

This year we chose to do 'Back to the 80s' which is filled with music and references to film we all recognise. The students were amazing and created some fantastic performances. Who knew Ty Kennedy was able to hit that high note, Jack Bennett could get the audience to laugh just by moving his shoulder and how many of you cried when hearing Paige Austin sing 'Video Killed the Radiostar'?

We had a busy week with three daytime performances where local primary schools were invited to watch sections of the show followed by two evening performances. The support of the community is really appreciated by our students and performing to a full house left them buzzing, ready for the next performance.

Mrs Mogelmose

MOVE IT

30 students from Year 9 and 10 took part in a highly energetic, advanced and exciting dance from the Musical *Bodyguard*. Throughout the day, the students were able to watch professionals from across the country, as well as a famous dancer from the American TV show *Dance Moms*. The students excelled themselves in behaviour and enthusiasm.

Mrs Wood

BRISTOL HIPPODROME

14 Year 10 students travelled to Bristol to watch a piece of dance for their assignment that commences in May. It was a contemporary dance piece choreographed by the famous Matthew Bourne and his company New Adventures. The contemporary dance appreciation is a rather difficult skill as there are no words to guide. Students had to interpret the adapted *Cinderella* theme. All students represented themselves and the Academy outstandingly.

Mrs Wood

BIG BANG FAIR

On the 16th of March Year 9 and 10 students attended the fantastic Big Bang fair at Birmingham's NEC. The event provided a great opportunity for students to explore different careers in Science and Technology and broadened their knowledge of various University courses that are on offer. Students had a wonderful time making medicines, dissecting organs, holding bugs and making turbines and much more. The range of activities meant that there was something for everyone. We are excited to go again next year!

Miss Tarleton

YEAR 11 TRIAL RESULTS EVENING

All Year 11 students with parents were invited to a trial results evening. Students picked up their latest tracking report predicting their grades for their GCSEs this summer.

Mother of one of our Year 11 students emailed Mrs Robson to say:

"Just like to say thanks to all of the staff for the evening last night. Ethan and Darren found it very informative, we are thrilled with his mock results and only hope that he can replicate them in the Summer. Thanks go to the staff for their continued guidance and support helping him achieve and to be the best he can."

Y6 COFFEE EVENING

On the evenings of the 21st and 22nd March, a special Y6 Coffee events took place and the students who will be joining the Academy in September were invited in with their parents.

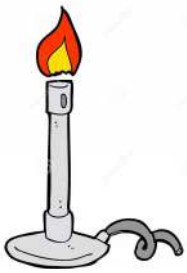
The informal evening introduced parents to key staff and explain what support their children will get in terms of transition.

All who attended were very grateful for such supportive information.

All Year 6 students will be in again on 27th and 28th June for a two day induction. This is supported by an induction evening for parents on the 27th June, where students and parents will meet their child's Personal Tutor.

PRIMARY—SCIENCE

For Science week the Academy had a visit from the Year 5 and 6 students from Glascote Heath Primary School. The students were here are all morning, learning how to use a Bunsen burner, follow a method and carry out a dissection. The students really enjoyed their visit and were very brave, carrying out a range of dissections on hearts, eyes, lungs, livers, kidneys and more! They started developing their skills as Chemists by burning magnesium, changing the colour of nails, testing for a hydrogen squeaky pop and forming a precipitate. We look forward to sharing even more fun Science days with other local primary schools soon!



Mrs Sterling

SPANISH—PEN PALS

"The pen pal project has started this year with Year 7 and Year 8 students and it is a great success so far! The students write a letter to their friend in Valencia, Spain, in Spanish, so they can practise what they have learned at the Academy. In addition to this, we have started this year with "mini projects" in which different students get involved in filming short videos in the target language, and we get to see the videos from the Spanish students who do the same! So much fun!"

Mrs Garcia-Perez

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

During Term 3 students in 8A1 took part in the Shanty House Challenge. Students were given 40 minutes to create a Shanty House out of materials they had collected from home. It was really hard to choose the winning team and the final decision was made based on level of detail. The winning group included features such as a stove, a waste disposal unit and solar panels.

Also, under the guidance of Miss Bruce, students in Year 7 and 8 have been making volcanoes in Geography Club. They have been finding out about different volcanoes to help them make their models and made them explode at the end of term.

Miss Fox and Miss Bruce

SKI TRIP

Mr Dovey and Mr Price took 17 of our students to Les Deux Alpes in France on a ski trip for 5 days (or so they thought). All students were exceptional on the visit and their skiing performance progressed rapidly, although there were a few who tumbled on the first couple of days.

The students took part in many activities in the evening such as ice skating, swimming and bowling and enjoyed the ski town life with lots of hot chocolates and French crepes being consumed.

On the way home the ski party were stuck in Geneva Airport thanks to Storm Emma and the 'Beast from the East', but after a day of luxury in a five star hotel, all returned home safely.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip for all and both staff members would like to thank the students for being so well behaved and entertaining for a week.

Mr Dovey and Mr Price

SPORT CELEBRATIONS

Unfortunately, the 'Beast from the East' has impacted a lot of our sporting fixtures this term, nevertheless students have battled with the elements to ensure they have been attending clubs regularly which has been excellent to see.

Football

The Y11 boys football team successfully made it into the semi-final of the Fazeley Shield, but lost out to Rawlett in the second half.

The U16 girls football team were beaten by Wolgarston High School in the semi-final of the County Cup, with one player injured, the girls showed some excellent team work and managed to put up a strong fight in defence until the end.

Player of the Match: Sophie Cross

SPORT CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED

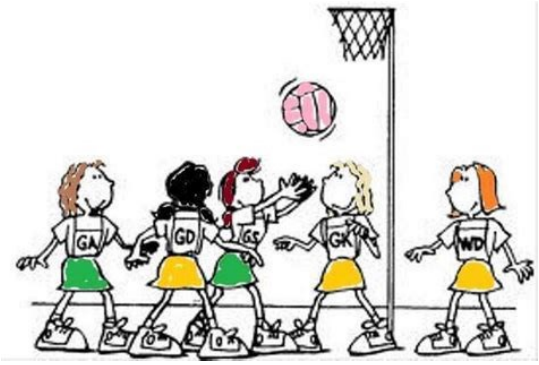
Rugby

The Y7 boy's rugby team braved the bad weather and mud to play Polesworth. It was a very entertaining and close game. Unfortunately the boys just lost out in the final stages of the match. The final score was 4-3.

Try scorers: Billy Jacques (x2), Matthew Dugmore (x1).

It was also the Y11s final Rugby game representing the Academy against QEMS and what a great performance to end an era. There were some decent defensive performances. Topped off with 2 tries from Harry Ralph, one from Owen George and 2 conversions from
Jordan McCann.

Players of Term 4: Matthew Dugmore & Harry Ralph



Netball

The Y11 girls played Polesworth. With one player already off injured and another going down injured in the first quarter, they managed to hold their own with only 6 players. It was a tough game for the girls but they showed true grit and determination throughout. They only lost by 3 goals,. If they had been given another quarter the girls definitely would have won the match.

Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 v Rawlett

With Rawlett being our true rivals, these games are always tough for our teams. The Y8 and Y9 have been working particularly hard in training, but were fighting an additional tough battle against height. They both put up a strong fight, but lost out in the final stages.

The Y7 & Y10 teams were both successful in beating Rawlett. The Y10 team demonstrated superb team work and played with class. The Y7 team have come a long way within practice this year, from a team that have played hardly any netball to a team that is winning matches demonstrates the commitment they have put into training.

SPORTS RELIEF

Sports Relief was yet again another huge success with the Academy raising £751.80 for fantastic causes locally and around the world.

The students participated in House competitions throughout the week within their PE sessions. The staff and students also took part in a Landau Vs Forte Steps Challenge using the Sports Relief App. Landau managed to achieve a total of 3,281,185 steps during the week, whilst Forte managed to accumulate an astounding 4,345,816 steps to finish the challenge victorious.

The week of Sports Relief was finished off with the traditional “Sport Relief Mile”. As always the students were able to complete this with great enthusiasm and some students ran the mile in an excellent time (some more than once).

Thank you to all students and parents who contributed to helping the Academy raise a great total for the Sport Relief cause

YEAR 9 CAREERS FAIR

Year 9 students attended Tamworth's Careers event at Landau Forte 6th form. The event was organised by STEP (Schools of Tamworth Employability Partnership). Whilst at the event students had the opportunity to find out about Further and Higher Education and Apprenticeships. A variety of Universities attended as well as employers, including Redrow Homes, HS2, Nationwide, the NHS and Police Force.

Feedback from the students was positive and the exhibitors fed back that the engagement they had with Amington students was excellent!

Mrs Rudd

BOOK FAIR IN THE LRC

The LRC once again played host to the Book Fair – a fantastic opportunity for our students to find and buy their next brilliant reading book. With titles from great authors like James Dashner, Joe Sugg, Malorie Blackman, Suzanne Collins and our own Ben Davis. There was plenty for our students to be wowed by! Mr Martin

HUMANITIES MASTERCLASSES

Over the past three weeks, six exceptional Year 5 students have participated in the Humanities Masterclass. Ethan, Lincoln and Skye from Lakeside and Luke, Grace and Sid from Woodlands were involved. They participated in three challenging but exciting lessons in Geography, Religious Education and History. In Geography they developed their map skills; in Religious Education they produced a video on why Jerusalem is a holy place and in History they had to solve the crime of who murdered Rasputin. They passed with flying colours, all receiving a Humanities Masterclass certificate and we are very proud of them all.

Mr Birkin

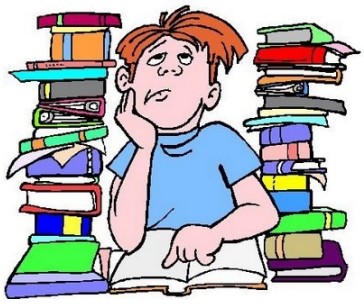
"Just wanted to say a massive thank you to the staff at our son's recent Year 9 Guided Choice evening. It was so pleasing to speak with staff who were incredibly enthusiastic about their subject. The whole event was very well organised." - Year 9 parent.

Assessment Windows—Important Dates:

Students in Year 7 and 10 will have assessments this year and a revision list is always sent out in advance.

Please also access our website for the revision list and revision materials.

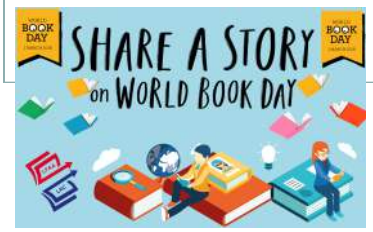
Year Group	Dates of next Assessment Window (2018)
7	9th April—20th April
10	11th June—29th June



WORLD BOOK DAY

This year, students across Key Stage Three were wowed by a wickedly exciting Reading Relay to celebrate the annual World Book Day. A short story – 'Bet Your Life' by renowned author Anthony Horowitz – was divided up into sections, and students got the chance to follow the story in all of their lessons throughout the day. Staff and students alike were thrilled by the twists and turns in this fantastic tale about the dangers of reality television.

Mr Martin



TERM 5—WHAT'S COMING UP?

9th April—27th April—Y11 Parental Consultations

9th—20th April—Y7 Assessment Window

12th/13th April—Y11 Food Practical Examinations

13th April—Y11 TLM ICT Examination

13th April—Y9/Y10 Visit to National Holocaust Centre

17th/18th April—Science Crest Award

18th April—Y10 Visit to Planet Walk in Tamworth

20th April—Y10 Visit to Planet Walk in Tamworth

23rd April—Y11 GCSE PE Moderation Day

25th April—Y10 Drama Examination

26th April—Y10 Macbeth Live Broadcast

27th April—Y7 Visit to Leicester Tigers

3rd May—Parents' Forum

4th May—Y8/Y9 HPV Immunisations

7th May—Bank Holiday (Academy Closed)

10th May—Y8 Parents' Evening

10th/11th May—Y11 Art Examinations

14th May—Y11 Public Examination begin

24th May—Y7 Parents' Evening

25th May—End of Term 5

KS3 SAM LEARNING

Don't forget, one way that Extended Learning is set is via our on-line platform Sam Learning

www.samlearning.com

Centre ID: B77LF

Username: 6 digit date of birth plus initial of forename and surname e.g. 020304JB

Password: Same as username unless changed. You can contact the Academy to have it re-set.