Landau Forte Academy Amington

July 2018

Welcome to our end of Term 6 Newsletter. I can't believe we have already come to end of the 2017-18 academic year.

Term 6 has seen students in Year 11 finish their examinations and they now eagerly await their results on the 23rd August.

The Year 11 Leavers' Ball took place on the 12th July and it was an absolute pleasure to share this experience with the students. They looked fantastic in their suits and ball gowns; accompanied by a dazzling choice of transport. It began with the students arriving at Landau Forte Amington; a stroll along a red carpet to have their photos taken then back into their cars to to Moxhull Hall.

A massive thank you to Mrs Lawrence, who helped organise this event and to all staff who celebrated this evening with the students. The students were fabulous!

The other year groups have spent Term 6 carrying on with their studies, but accompanied by many events, trips and residentials. All this took place whilst welcoming Year 6 for two induction days in preparation for their start to Year 7 on the 30th August.

The end of this term will see the following staff leaving:

Mr Dovey—leaves to join Studley School in Redditch as Head of PE

Mr Walker—stays within Landau Forte Trust to work for Moorhead in Derby

Mrs Roberts—will be working at the City of Derby School teaching History

Mrs Garcia-Perez—is moving back to Valencia, Spain to teach English

Mrs Norris—Art Technician who is taking a well-earned break

Mrs Spears—Restaurant staff who is retiring to Portugal

These staff have been fantastic to work with. When handing in their resignation letters, these staff could not sing the praises of Landau Forte Academy Amington enough. They have loved working at Amington with all the staff and students. I wish them all the best of luck and they will be sorely missed.

I also want to wish Mr Wood the best of luck for the summer as he is getting married.

Finally from me, I hope all students, parents and staff have an enjoyable and restful summer holiday.

Mrs C. Robson (Head of School)

YEAR 5 MASTER CLASSES AND TASTER DAYS

Art

Recently, I had the pleasure of working with a group of creative Year 5 students from some of our local Primary Schools who attended our Art masterclass. The students were given the opportunity to explore the use of different materials and techniques such as bleeding inks and printing with paints to create their backgrounds and then combined the use of paper collage and stencilling to complete their masterpieces. It was great to see how engaged and enthusiastic the students were and brilliant to see them really considering how to make their work individual.

Mrs McCarthy

"Well done and thank you to all the staff that made the Year 11 Leavers' Ball happen. My son had a great night. A really nice way of saying good-bye to an end of an era, Thank you Landau Forte!" ***A parent commenting on the Academy's Facebook page regarding the Year 11 Leavers' Ball***

LANDAU FORTE ACADEMY GREENACRES

Year 5 Ssudents from Landau Forte Greenacres joined us for a taster day on Tuesday 19th June.

Students took part in a wide range of activities ranging from felt making, to dance workshops. Students were looked after by a selection of our Year 7 students who were on hand to answer student questions throughout the day. A enjoyable day was had by all.

Mrs Lawrence

YEAR 7 STEM AND FLOODING WORKSHOP

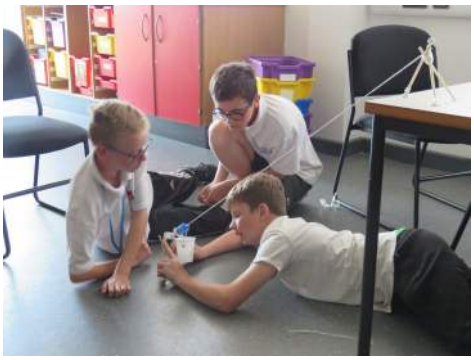
As part of the World of Work Day, 60 Year 7 students took part in a Geography STEM Day. Students had 3 challenges to complete throughout the day.

For challenge 1, students learntedabout Nepal. In the Himalayas, one challenge facing farmers is transporting their crops down the mountainside and across rivers. Students worked in teams to design a method of transporting tomatoes from one side of the mountain (two desks) to the other. Teams created a variety of designs, most of which were successful ,and a few teams even created a model of a gravity ropeway system, just like farmers would use in real life.

For challenge 2, students learnt about Kenya, where water is often sourced from wells. Students had to design and create a wind turbine capable of raising and lowering a bucket (a plastic cup) out of a well. Throughout the day teams were designing better and bigger wind turbines capable of lifting greater amounts of water.

For the final challenge ,students learned bout Ethiopia, where diseases spread easily because children cannot easily wash their hands before school or before having dinner. Teams were given garden canes, string, bottles and sellotape and needed to design a model capable of both collecting and dispensing rain water. The models were tested outside and teams explained how their models worked.

On Friday 25th June 2018 Y7 students took part in a flooding workshop run by the Environment Agency and Stafford Fire Service. The main aim of the session was to get students thinking about what happens during a flood, how they would be affected and what they could do to prepare. The main activity was an interactive snakes and ladders game developed by Lancaster University, with some discussion questions before and after. At the end of the session, students wrote their own personal flood plan which they could take home to complete and discuss with their parents.



Miss Fox

YEAR 8 MONOLOGUES

Earlier this term we challenged every Year 8 student to perform a monologue to two members of Amington's Senior Leadership Team. Not only this, but they were then required to answer some questions about their performance too. All of this… completely on their own! The purpose of this was to push the students out of their comfort zone, developing presentation skills that they can take forward into their GCSE speaking exams, job interviews, and future careers.

The whole year group worked extremely hard to present the best performances they could, memorising up to a full page of lines and learning the full context of the plays to further inform their characterisation. Watching the students develop so much in confidence in such a short time has been an amazing experience. There was initial daunting wave of "How am I going to walk into a room and talk to teachers on my own?" yet weeks later, we had students producing extremely high quality drama pieces, surprising themselves with what they can do when they really put their mind to something.

The image shows the students who received awards for Exceptional Progress and Outstanding Progress. However, every student should remember this experience as a key moment in their school journey in becoming well-rounded, ambitious young adults. All students should be extremely proud of themselves.

LION KING

During enrichment week, 40 students and the Performing Arts team ,travelled down to London for two amazing days. Firstly, our budding actors attended a workshop led by the Resident Director of The Lion King UK Tour, Tim English! Alongside this, our dancers developed a dance choreographed by an ensemble performer from The Lion King -Julien Roussel! Both professional workshops allowed the students to experience a genuine sense of what it is like to be a working performer.

That evening, the students watched the incredible *Lion King* at the Lyceum Theatre. This developed the students' understanding and awareness of combining the disciplines of performing arts to create an overall performance. Many said it was the best thing they had ever seen at the theatre.

The next morning, we had a backstage tour of Shakespeare's Globe, learning the history of the theatre and interesting facts about the performance conditions at the time. We were lucky enough to watch part of a real rehearsal for Shakespeare's *Othello* with professional actors, including Academy Award and BAFTA award winning Mark Rylance!

As usual, throughout the trip every student demonstrated outstanding behaviour while representing the academy, making the whole experience enriching and unforgettable.

Mr Walker

CREATURAMA

Anthony James from CREATURAMA was invited in to work with Year 8 on Monday and Tuesday during Enrichment week. The students were taught how to create dinosaurs out of household junk such as cereal boxes and plastic bottles. It was all a matter of spotting useable shapes: eyes from sections of egg boxes and knee joints from cardboard tubes. While the students were creating their dinosaurs, Anthony James told them about his work and how to pursue a career as a prop and set designer. He explained how he trained to do the job and shared stories from his life working for theatres, games companies, Blue Peter, CBBC, Dr Who and most recently 'Jurassic World – Fallen Kingdom'. Anthony spoke about the ups and downs of pursuing your dreams and about the responsibility and commitment expected of you to succeed in the TV and Film Industry.

The students worked with enthusiasm and asked lots of interesting questions, partly about education/work/careers but also about how to improve the design they were working on. The dinosaurs created varied from small anatomically correct creatures to huge creations with moveable parts such as jaws. Throughout the day the students displayed enthusiasm and during both days Anthony James was impressed by the creativity displayed. By the end of each day students creating outstanding pieces of work or showing teamwork and readiness to help – such as tidying beyond their own working area – were awarded with original dinosaur designs drawn by Anthony James.

Mrs Mogelmose

GCSE FILM STUDIES

Film Studies is up and running for the new Year 10 students with some fantastic work on editing, cinematography and colour already completed. Next term we're moving on to our first depth study - the 2012 James Bond movie 'Skyfall'.

Mr Martin

Y7 KIBBLESTONE

During the first week in July the academy staff took over 100 Year 7 students camping for the week. The students enjoyed taking part in activities such as tug of war, orienteering, crate stacking and archery. The first half of the year had the opportunity to watch the England v Colombia World Cup game and were delighted when England won on penalties.

All students did fantastically well at all tasks considering the hot weather. As always the behaviour of the students was exemplary and there were many compliments from visitors who shared the camp site.

Mr Dovey

DUKE OF EDINBURGH (D OF E)

It has been a busy term for D of E at the Academy with both a day walk and expedition taking place in June. Congratulations to the Year 10 and 11 groups who completed their expeditions on Cannock Chase at the end of June.

Despite scorching sunshine all of the groups successfully navigated their route and were a credit to the Academy whilst staying at Springslade Lodge. Special thanks must also go to Mr Walker who throughout his time at the Academy has committed to helping many groups complete their expeditions. His enthusiasm has been a highlight for many groups during their training walks and he will be missed.

We will be recruiting from J9 - J11 for a new group of participants to start the award from Wednesday 3rd October.

If you are interested please see our posts on the school Facebook feed. For more details ask Mr Hellyer for a letter.

Mr Hellyer

YEAR 6 INDUCTION DAYS

A huge thank you to our new Year 7s who visited us for their induction days this June. They represented their primary schools impeccably and had a taste of what life is like at Landau Forte Academy Amington. Taster sessions included Performing Arts, PE, Science, Humanities, Food and Enterprise. These sessions gave all pupils an insight into regular Academy life and students also had a chance to meet their new personal tutor and tutor group! All the pupils were very excited to see their new Year 7 friends and cannot wait to begin learning and experience the wider curriculum.

Mr Lacey

YEAR 2 WORLD CUP

What an afternoon! On England's World Cup semi-final day it was quite fitting that we had over 90 Year 2 students from Woodlands, Amington Heath and Florendine join us to play matches to compete for their own mini world cup.

Congratulations to Woodlands, who competed in the final with their 2 teams and played some excellent football. The talent levels were high for such a young age group and it was nice to see some of our feeder schools come together in the spirit of world cup fever and take part in such an exhilarating afternoon.

Thank you to all the primary staff involved who helped run such a smooth event. Mr Lacey

PA SHOWCASE

It was with great pride we were able to hand over the Summer Showcase to our Performing Arts Ambassadors. The PA Ambassadors are a group of students who have shown commitment and genuine interest in Performing Arts within the Academy for a number of years. After our latest production 'Back to the 80's', the students approached me to ask if there was anything they could help as they wanted to ensure future students would continue to be given opportunities to be part of live performances perhaps even bigger musicals that currently, are not financially viable. They had the idea of a fundraising showcase and took it upon themselves to organise it all.

The evening ran smoothly. The students had selected a variety of performances from both solo and group dances, solo vocal performances, duets and bands. The performers impressed us all with confident performances showing stage presence as well as the ability to confidently communicate with the audience during the performance.

A former student donated a batch of homemade cupcakes, which were sold before the show and during the interval and along with the ticket sales, the Ambassadors raised £140. If you feel, you will be able to contribute to the development of the Performing Arts within LFATA, please let us know. It can be anything from baking a cake, sewing a costume, making props or playing in the show band – let us know! We would love to hear from you!

A big 'Thank You' goes to the students for whom this was their last showcase as LFATA students: Carly Nicklin, Molly Kelly, Kaiha Ford, Bradley Davis, Abby Gilbert and Paige Austin. These students have ,over the past 5 years, shown commitment to Performing Arts in LFATA and participated in numerous performances. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to hearing how they get on.

Huge congratulations to our Performing Arts Ambassadors for creating an entertaining showcase and a special 'Thank You' to Lucy Watkins, for overseeing the planning and execution of the event. We look forward to the next one.

Mrs Mogelmose, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

GENEVA

Students from Landau Forte Amington have been inspired by a visit to Geneva, home of the UN, CERN and the Large Hadron Collider.

During the visit on 2nd July, the students discovered how CERN is helping to answer some of the most fundamental questions: How did the Universe begin? What are the basic building blocks of matter?

Scientific breakthroughs such as the discovery of the Higgs boson require experimental machines on the large scale, and the students gained an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that the multinational experimental collaborations at CERN face.

The UK has been a member of CERN since the organisation was founded in 1954. Membership allows British researchers to take a wide variety of roles that contribute to CERN's on-going success; from recently qualified technicians and university undergraduates gaining their first taste of working in an international environment to PhD students analysing experimental data and experienced engineers and physicists leading projects or representing their experimental collaborations. The Landau Forte Amington students' visit was led by a member of the CERN community who talked from personal experience about their contribution to CERN's research programme.

STFC's Executive Chair, Professor Mark Thomson, said "The scale of the science and technology at CERN is awe-inspiring. There is no doubt that seeing it at first hand, and meeting the people who work on the experiments, can influence young people's future education and career choices."

Mrs Sterling, a science tutor from Landau Forte Amington said, 'Meeting the scientists at CERN has inspired our students and helped deepen their understanding of Physics. They've all decided they want to work at either CERN or the UN now!'

Mrs Sterling

Y10—SIXTH FORM TASTER

Our new Year 11s visited the Landau Forte Tamworth Sixth Form on Monday 9th July to sample some of the fantastic courses on offer. The visit was an opportunity for students to start to think about their next steps after GCSE and try out some A-Level/BTEC courses. Criminology was a hot favourite with over 90 students choosing to sample a session!

YEAR 10 BRADGATE PARK

On the 10th and 11th July, Y11 GCSE Geography students visited Bradgate Park in Leicester to complete a study of the River Lin. The work carried out at Bradgate Park will support students in completing Exam 1 – Our Natural World. Students carried out a variety of river surveys to help them to conclude if the River Lin was typical of an upper course stream. The weather was on our side both days and all of the students becamereally involved in the data collection.

Miss Fox

WEMBLEY AND WE WILL ROCK YOU

In Enrichment Week the English department had the pleasure of taking a trip to Wembley with J9 and J10 students. We managed to take in the sights of London and the spectacular show School of Rock – The Musical, as well as trips to the London Dungeon and the Hard Rock Café. We followed this up with a remarkable visit to the home of English football, Wembley Stadium, and a fantastic guided tour around the stunning venue. Our students even snagged a chance to hold the FA Cup – a once in a lifetime experience!

Mr Martin

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM— 'THANK YOU YOUTH FESTIVAL'

To commemorate 100 years since the ending of WWI, the National Memorial Arboretum held a day of workshops and activities themed around the First World War. We took a group of J10 and J9 students to take part.

Our first activity was called 'Songs of the Centenary' and focused on turning stories of people from the war into simple poetry and music. The students really threw themselves into this activity and in just a few minutes came up with some really creative and interesting bits of poetry to reflect the experiences of wartime.

The second activity was more hands on, using clay to make tiles representing 'Dazzle Camouflage'. This was a WWI technique to confuse submarines by obscuring the sides of a ship with geometric patterns and shapes. Again, the students got involved and made some interesting designs which were put together to form a big overall pattern.

Finally, our last activity was in the 'Landscapes of Life' exhibition. This is a series of exhibits focused on how and why people remember. The students had different task sheets to complete and had to find the answers among the information and objects around the exhibition. Once again, the students were engaged and active in finding the answers and learning more about the different ways that remembrance can take place.

Overall, the conduct of the students all day was excellent. They behaved calmly and maturely and engaged actively with each task they were given and really showed themselves and the school in a positive way. Many students also took the chance to explore other parts of the arboretum whilst we had our lunch break, again showing their maturity and understanding of the importance of remembrance.

Mr Hart

SPORTS ROUND UP

Athletics

The TSSA Y7 and Y8 Athletics competition took place this term with lots of successful performances from our students; overall Landau Forte Amington managed to finish in 3rd position.

A further congratulations to the following who all finished in the top 2 for their events and made it through to represent Tamworth in the County finals: Liam Luke (100m), Charlie Dando (High Jump) , Billy Jacques (Shot Put), Charlie Collins (100m & 200m), Louis Malin (300m) , Jack Cardus (High Jump), Liam Cracknell (Javelin), Rebecca Hanratty (High Jump & 200m), Niamh Collins (800m), Emily Meanly (Long Jump), Lara Morgan (Javelin), Katie Cheneler (200m & High Jump) and Emily Flavell (200m).

SPORTS ROUND UP—CONTINUED

TSSA Rounders Tournaments

Y8: The girls were very unlucky to just miss out on winning the tournament. They comfortably beat TEC and Rawlett, but lost by half a rounder to QEMS which meant they finished in 2nd place.

Y9: With a very long, close tournament, the girls had to play the final (decider) match on another night. They were playing against Rawlett, unfortunately Rawlett managed to just beat them, therefore the girls finished in 2nd place.

Y7 & Y10 tournaments TBC Wednesday

Cricket

The Y8 cricketers had a very successful start to the cricket season

Y8

Y8 v

Lichfield Cathedral- Landau Forte won by 27runs

Y8 v QEMS

Despite losing their first match against QEMS the boys showed great commitment and represented the Academy with finesse. Sam Easterbrook got man of the match with 4 wickets and 27 runs not out.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' BALL PHOTGRAPHS

TERM 1 2018-19

A reminder that all students in Year 7—11 are back at the Academy after the summer break on **Thursday 30th August, 8:30am**