

NewsRound



Keeping parents and students informed

Term 5 Letter 7 Friday 22 July 2016

ARTS WEEK

A tremendous start to Arts Week on Monday when there was a good selection of workshops for students to participate in - from string instruments to orchestral to singing to dance. Something for every talent to enjoy or be introduced to.

This was followed by drama, a singing and dance workshop and ending with a Music production tutorial.

The following day Year 9 Arts Award students spent the day being assessed for their Drama and Music awards.

On Wednesday students had the opportunity to experience a Silent Disco plus an invited audience watched Drama Gifted and Talented students performing in their first public performance.

To end this Arts Week extravaganza the whole school settled on the grass field to our annual Ashtival outside concert.

String and Orchestra Workshop



Students who play instruments and have one to one peripatetic lessons had the opportunity to take part in workshops to learn the basic techniques to play effectively together as an orchestra. The students had played together in small groups during the year but had not experienced the effect of being part of an ensemble consisting of string and woodwind instruments.

Under the guidance of Ms Di Bartolo holding the conductor's baton they practised following a beat, and knowing when to join in the musical piece. The workshop focussed on 'Hymn for the Weekend' originally by Coldplay, music that most of the students were familiar with.

It was so good to see that many students are learning to play instruments, not just the guitar or drums but also the cello, violin, flute and saxophone.



Dance Workshop

Students interested in Dance were eager to sign up for the dance workshop led by dance teacher Sam from the Jack Petchey Step into Dance project.

All dance levels were welcome where Sam choreographed them through their paces to learn a hip hop routine. Hip-hop dance refers to street dance styles primarily performed to hip-hop music or that have evolved as part of hip-hop culture. It includes a wide range of styles primarily breaking, locking, and popping.

A fun time was had by all as they went through sections of the routine until they could perform it all the way through.

After two hours the dancers quickly came to be a cohesive group of movers.

Music Tuition Service

We wish to advise parents/carers that music tuition fees will increase to **£15.75 per 30 minute lesson, as of September 2016** (or £7.87 for students in receipt of free school meals).

For students wishing to start music lessons in September, please visit the 'Music Tuition Service' section under Academy Information on our website to sign up.

Year 9 Drama

This group of GCSE Drama students have come a long way since they began their course last September. Their performances on Monday to an invited student audience were very professional and well acted.

They were set the stimulus of poems focussing on moral and self esteem issues and were required to write a monologue based on a dilemma of their own choosing.

The audience really appreciated their efforts and were overcome with Ally Stuart's emotional solo performance.

We look forward to future performances with anticipation.



Lunchtime Busking

A pleasant lunchtime in the restaurant with live music, instrumental and vocal, was enjoyed by staff and students on Wednesday.

It lent an unusual ambience to the normal lunchtime atmosphere and was much appreciated by the diners.



Silent Disco Experience

This is the best way to have a party without annoying the neighbours with loud music! Rather than using a speaker system, music is broadcast via a radio transmitter with the signal being picked up by wireless headphone receivers worn by the party members.

However, it is strange to see a year group of students jigging about to what just seems like a darkened room and blinking lights coming from their headsets.

Each year group had the opportunity to join in this pursuit and listen to popular music hits instead of a normal lesson. Although meant to be silent, the students singing along to the music could be heard from the corridors.



A SHTIVAL

A lovely warm afternoon, green grass to relax on, first class entertainment, appreciative audience – a perfect end to Arts Week.

The talent was phenomenal with a plethora of music and vocal contributions from all year groups. The festival began with 'Grace Notes', our KS3 choir, looking cool in their sunglasses, singing a harmonious version of Walking on Sunshine (very apt for the day) and Don't Worry About Me.

The standard was set and the acts that followed did not let us down with vocal solos, a pop medley by Safa Khan, Year 9 and Year 10 Music classes, a Star Wars theme from the Ashcroft Orchestra and even a staff performance.

All the acts were superb and received great applause, even from the neighbouring Mayfield Mansions who watched through their fence. A special mention to Michael Johnson who had the audience swaying and clapping along to his wonderful version of New Girl - Mr Chadda was very proud of him. Even Mr Sardar and Ms Bailey couldn't stop themselves from dancing on the grass!

Once again Ally Stuart showed her singing talent with her great rendition of 'Stay' and received loud applause as she reached a crescendo at the end. Marta Carli knocked us all for six with her version of 'Annie'. She has such stage presence and could go far in the stage/film musical world. Sam Phillips is also a favourite performer with the students and he delivered 'The Promise' accompanied with his guitar like a real professional performer.

What can we say about our staff performers – Dr Smith and Mr Roberts on guitar along with sixth former Dylan Woosey, Ms Di Bartolo and Mr Hewitt on the keyboards and Mr Chadda on drums providing the vocals to Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' – they were tremendous and Mr Chadda really can sing (but don't tell him we said so!).

After encores from Marta and Michael to repeat their performances the festival had one last act to watch. Rebecca Kargbo and Miah Jackson, our Ashcroft Got Talent winners this year, repeated their stunning performance 'It's a Man's World' running into a melody of two other songs. Rebecca has such a powerful voice and Miah can certainly tickle the ivory. A fitting end to another glorious Ashtival concert.



Singing Workshop

There were many would be singers who signed up to join the Singing Workshop led by our very own talented all singing, dancing and instrumentalist guru, Mr Chadda.

He taught the group the fundamentals of music scales, breathing and pitching your voice. They focussed on the song 'Lean on Me' learning a three part arrangement when all joined together to deliver a harmonised version of the Bill Withers soul classic first released way back in 1972 which is still popular today.



Page to Stage



Our Gifted and Talented Drama students staged a delightful excerpt from Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. It was really charming and a pleasure to be in the audience.

The group, mainly girls (where are the boys!), have worked really hard attending the gifted and talented club sessions at every possible moment to rehearse and become word perfect. The characters portrayed were easily recognisable even if not in costume as their characterisations were so obvious such as the Cheshire Cat and Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

The group performed with confidence, flair and such clear diction that the audience were absorbed in the plot.

Well done to them all for their contribution to Arts Week - we look forward to seeing more of their acting in the future.



Year 9 Arts Award

Year 9 Arts Award students spent Wednesday involved in finalising their evidence for assessment for their Bronze award.

To achieve a Bronze level students take part in an arts' activity they enjoy, go to an arts' event, research their arts' inspiration and share their skills with others.

They have to plan their work and keep a record by creating their own Arts Award portfolio which is assessed by an external moderator.



Medical Society Visit

On Wednesday Lunchtime the ATA Medical Society welcomed a visit from Dr Marouf. She held an interactive tutorial on successful application to medical school including advice on relevant voluntary work, work experience and other activities to be engaged in between now and the application date. She also gave advice on constructing a personal statement including the personal traits and skills that are important to convey. In addition, she recommended useful websites.

We are very grateful that she took the time to come to the school to share her experience and knowledge and also that she has agreed to return before the application submission date in the next academic year to help our applicants with completion of their personal statements



Year 9 Attendance Reward

Fifteen students chosen at random, who had achieved 100% attendance since the beginning of the academic year, and fifteen students with 100% attendance, between 16 May and 4 July were rewarded with a Hampton Court Picnic Day. This took place on Wednesday with a boat trip from Kingston to Hampton Court and spending time in the famous maze and trying to find their way out again.

It was a lovely day for the picnic in Bushey Park and a game of rounders. To end a perfect day students were treated to an ice cream before going home.



Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break whatever you are planning to do and we will see you at the beginning of September when the Academy reopens for Years 8-11 on Thursday 01 September fully refreshed and raring to learn!

ARC Wetlands Trip

As a special end of year treat ARC students visited the Wetlands Centre in Hammersmith this week.

The Wetlands Centre is an extraordinary place where land meets water creating more wildlife than almost anywhere on the planet. The students were able to get close to this wildlife and their habitats.

They wandered around the many learning areas and were able to find out about the conservation work carried out and identify sources of food and how some creatures have adapted their feeding habits.

A nice trip in a relaxing urban oasis.



House Champions 2016

The secret is out as to who has won the coveted House trophy for 2015-2016 - it is Endeavour House who accumulated a massive 28595 points over the year. Challenger House picked up the Termly House Award by gaining just two points more than Endeavour - the contest has never been so close.

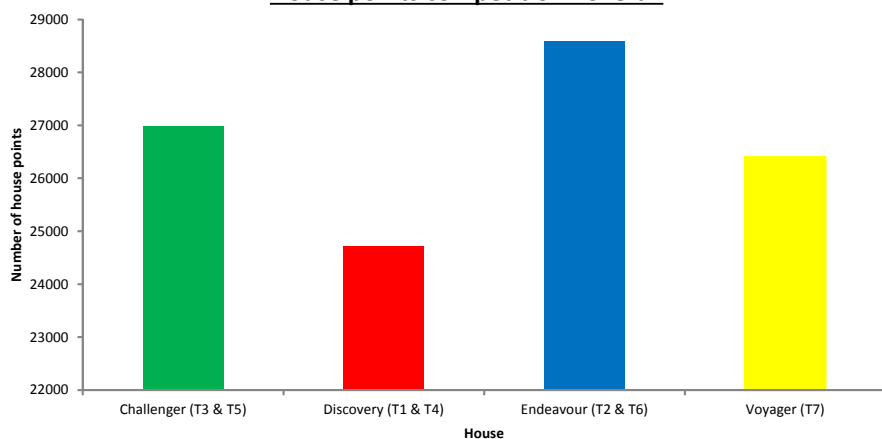
Current Endeavour Head of House, Ms Newton was so pleased to accept the trophy on Endeavour's behalf, especially as she is leaving for pastures new and hands over the reins to Mrs Khan. She thought it wonderful to leave on such a winning note and the legacy of winning the House Trophy twice during her reign.

Also standing down is Mr Wilson who hands over Discovery House to Mr Wandl.

The House assembly also applauded the sporting skills of our students and their achievements in numerous borough tournaments throughout the year. Medals and cups were presented including awards for the Sports Day winners.



House points competition - overall



Good Luck and Best Wishes

At this time of year it is always sad to say farewell to staff who move on to pastures new.

This year we are saying farewell to four long serving members of staff, Ms Graves, Ms Stoker and Ms Bryer who are retiring and looking forward to more leisure time and also to Ms Piggins who is leaving to take up a lead SEN post.

We thank them for their loyal service, all the support they have given to students past and present and wish them well for the future.

Although we are not saying farewell we are losing our Vice Principal, Mr Paul Sardar who is stepping down from his post to become a part time Design & Technology teacher at the Academy next year. This is to ease himself into retirement and to have more time to pursue his sporting ventures such as canoeing, kayaking and cycling.

Mr Sardar has been with the school for 25 years, way back when we began as ADT College and then became an Academy in 2007. He has seen the school grow and succeed over many years and we thank him sincerely for all his creativity, hard work and support over the years.

As Mr Sardar steps down from the Leadership Group we welcome two new members. Firstly, one you already know is Ms Calvert, who will be taking up a new role as Associate Deputy Principal after being Curriculum Manager for Humanities for the past few years.

We will be welcoming new Deputy Principal, Mr Matt Gallagher in September. Mr Gallagher has been into the Academy on several occasions this term and has familiarised himself with the Academy's day to day routine, met with staff and now looks forward to getting to know the students after the Summer break.

Uniform Shop

If you need to purchase new uniform or PE kit before the next academic year begins, the uniform shop will be open during the summer break at the following times by appointment only:

Monday 24 July from 9am to 12 noon

Tuesday 25 July from 9am to 12 noon

Monday 01 August from 9am to 12 noon

Tuesday 02 August from 9am to 12 noon

Monday 08 August from 9am to 12 noon

Tuesday 09 August from 9am to 12 noon

Please telephone 020 8877 0357 to make an appointment. Please note after these dates the uniform shop will not open again until Monday 05 September at the normal time 3.30-4.30pm. However, in previous years this is normally a busy time so it is recommended to come during the break if you can.



Payment can be made by cash, cheque or debit/credit card. If you are in receipt of a clothing voucher this can be used in part payment for uniform and sports kit the value of £55.

Stem Club Review

The KS3 STEM Club have celebrated their STEM-azing year of enrichment experiences, which have included a vast variety of STEM projects such as:

- Dr Who Club with Mrs Khan
- Mathematical Modelling with Mr Sellars
- Mission to Mars with Mr Emblem
- Mega Materials with Mr Bell
- Fantastic Food with Miss Borg
- Robotic Programming with Mr Haddleton
- I'm an Astronaut, Get me out of Here with Mrs Khan
- Tim Peake BBC Interview with Mrs Khan
- Space Seeds with Mrs Khan
- Numerous STEM Trips

STEM traditionally involves Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. However, the new government initiative is to turn it into STEAM (whereby A = Art), as the creative side is considered a vital component combined with technology skills. This will enhance the balance for young people to obtain the right kind of skills in accordance with the new global employability market trends. This is particularly relevant in industries such as film/music/special effects/APP development/web designing/multimedia etc. Statistics show that 98% of this kind of employment happens right here in London, compared to elsewhere in the world!

The next academic year will see the club expansion to "STEAM", with a larger cohort; and we are welcoming new STEM staff too.

Short Story Competition

Well done to everyone who entered this House competition. Sixth formers and staff had the tough task of reading the entries in each category and choosing the winners. The high standard of writing and illustration made it even more difficult to select the best. Eventually the following students were awarded certificates and house points for their outstanding efforts:

Graphic Novel winner: Safiyya Najami 7T2
Childrens Story winner: Atka Haq 8T7
Short Story winner: Tiphaine Haque 8T2
Non Fiction winner: Ines Costa 8T5



Times Table Tournament Grand Final

Well done to the following students who competed in the Grand Final of this competition:

In first place winning 200 points for Year 7 was Reuben Butcher-Campbell on behalf of Challenger House.

In second place winning 150 points for Voyager House was Year 8 student Wasil Bhatti.

In third place winning 100 points also for Voyager House was another Year 8 student, Abdallah Awil.

TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

Staff Dev Day	Tue 30 Aug
Term 1 begins	Wed 31 Aug - Wed 19 Oct (Y7)
	Thur 01 Sep - Wed 19 Oct (Y8-11)
Staff Dev Days	Thur 20 & Fri 21 Oct
Term break	Thur 20 Oct - Fri 28 Oct 2016
Term 2 begins	Mon 31 Oct - Fri 16 Dec
Staff Dev Day	Tue 03 Jan
Term break	Mon 19 Dec – Tue 03 Jan 2017
Term 3 begins	Wed 04 Jan– Fri 10 Feb
Term break	Mon 13 Feb – Fri 17 Feb 2017
Term 4 begins	Mon 20 Feb – Fri 26 May
Staff Dev Day	Fri 31 Mar
Easter break	Fri 31 Mar – Mon 17 Apr
Bank Holiday	Mon 01 May
Term break	Mon 29 May – Fri 02 Jun 2017
Term 5 begins	Mon 05 Jun – Fri 21 Jul

GENERAL SERVICE ASSISTANT (Temporary position)



Salary £7.20 per hour. 24 hours pw 10.15am-3.30pm (½ hour unpaid break).

We require a General Service Assistant to assist with food service for all students and staff as well as assisting in preparing food items as required for the daily menu. The Academy runs its own in-house catering provision.

All posts are term time only plus a final pension salary scheme and attendance bonus. Details of this post and an application form are available to download from our website www.ashcroftacademy.org.uk/career_opportunities/associate_posts or telephone us on 020 8812 3524. Where possible you should complete your application form electronically and email it directly to christine.burgess@ashcroftacademy.org.uk

Applications are still welcome

All appointments are subject to enhanced CRB clearance. ATA safeguards children and actively promotes their welfare. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. ATA is an equal opportunities employer and has a fully accessible site.

Ashcroft Technology Academy, 100 West Hill, Putney, London SW15 2UT

GENERAL SERVICE ASSISTANT



Salary £7.20 per hour. 16½ hours pw 11.15am-2.30pm

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