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Ashcroft

15 December
2017



Sixth Form News

Biology Live Trip

The year 12 cohort went on a Biology conference where they listened to a number of lectures, given by experts in their field. It included lectures from an entomologist who put into perspective how many more bacteria, compared to animals, there are on the planet (and even on the human body). Student also gained an insight about neuroscience and techniques used to visualise the activity of the brain, antibiotics and why antibiotic resistance bacteria are a huge threat to the human population, and what is being done to find new antibiotics. They also had an examiner session, where the examiner went through the common errors students make in their Biology exams. Overall, the day left the students feeling very inspired about the variety of fields in Biology and hopefully got them thinking about a career in Science.



Ms Karim

Year 11 – Important date for your diaries

We ask that Year 11 students are available on Saturday 20 January 2018 for Sixth Form admissions interviews. More details to come in the new year.

Sixth Form raise funds for Children in Need - Shanell Cornwall 13T2

As a member of the Head Student Team here at ATA Sixth Form, I believed it was important to rally the Sixth Form together in support of Children in Need.

The Common Room was decorated with a multitude of yellow balloons and ribbons to create a more festive atmosphere for students to enjoy. Armed in our items of yellow clothing and cheerful attitudes, the Sixth Form managed to raise a total of £160 thanks to the donations of the Sixth Form students and staff.



Every £1 donated I'm sure will make a huge difference and will be greatly appreciated by Children in Need, a charity that works so hard to help disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.



ATA Horticultural Society

We have had a good autumn season with two very enthusiastic Year 7 students joining the society. We have now harvested the potatoes and tomatoes. In particular we are very grateful for the greenhouse, purchased during the summer of 2016 by ATA, because it is in a location that gets lots of sun, it is still relatively warm at this time of year enabling our tomato plants to have grown until the last week of November.

Remaining tomato plants have now been removed to the compost bin and been replaced with Broad Bean plants called "The Sutton". These are amazing plants for at least two reasons. They can be planted and will germinate and grow during the winter. In addition they are legumes. Their roots



develop nodules (see picture below) which allow bacteria to grow safely underground. These bacteria convert nitrogen in the air into nitrates which enrich the soil. These will stay in the greenhouse until early summer. This week the colourful dahlias from the first flower box have been lifted for storage in the greenhouse. These will be planted out again after the frosts have finished and the students have now chosen a good range of plants to start growing along with them next Spring.

Dr Brickley



Year 11 Geography Trip

On Tuesday, Year 11 geography students spent some time around the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, investigating environmental regeneration. The students collected data at 5 different sites around Stratford, comparing the level investment in the different areas. This was a great trip and despite the near freezing conditions, the sun was shining and the students had an extremely productive experience.



02

 Staff Development Day

03

 All students back to school

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate is a fast-moving team sport enjoyed by millions of players the world over. Although frequently compared to sports like soccer or American Football, Ultimate has some unique features that set it apart. There are no referees. And it's played with a flying disc.

To compete at the highest level, Ultimate players require speed, agility and endurance. Yet beginners find the game easy to learn and fun to play.

There are no referees in Ultimate. The players make their own foul calls and settle disputes according to procedures laid out in the Rules of Ultimate. Upholding the principles of fair play and "Spirit of the Game" during competition becomes a challenging responsibility for players and is one of the defining aspects of the sport.

Ultimate is a great sport to start at a young age with so many opportunities to represent your country at national and international level. Ultimate is played at Junior level, University level, regional Club level all the way up to Worlds level. The club World Ultimate Club Championships are held in Ohio in summer of 2018 to host 160 teams and 4,000 athletes.

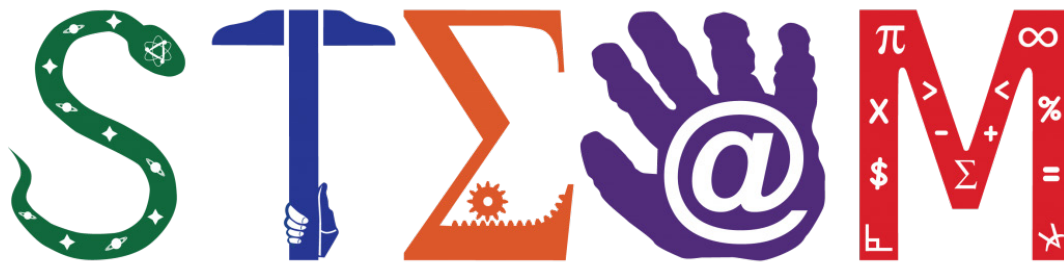
The Under 24 World Championships are in Perth in January 2018 also with thousands of young athletes competing from around the World.

The Ultimate Frisbee team from Ashcroft competed in their first game against Chestnut Grove Academy on 11/12/17 winning one match 4-3 and drawing the second 3-3. I was also delighted to see good sportsmanship from our students when discussing fouls, listening to the coach from Chestnut Grove and thanking the team at the end for hosting. Conflict

resolution, fair play and enjoyment of the game are huge aspects of ultimate which make it different from most other team sports so well done to our students for demonstrating this so well.

I am very keen to aim for regular fixtures and perhaps even a tournament in future. There is a Junior National tournament in Birmingham coming up so watch this space!





STEAM-tastic Terms 1&2 at ATA with absolutely STEAM-azing project rotations enjoyed by our STEAMmies. In this special Christmas feature, we would like to celebrate the highlights so far.

STEAM rotations so far:

Tessellating Tiles – Run by Miss Griffiths, Miss Haviland and Miss Peterson, this project collaborated on the A for Art side of STEAM. Our STEAMmies designed their own artistic tiles using tessellations and then made them with clay. Incorporating their Maths as well as their Art skills, impressive tiles were created! of well paid jobs in engineering, which involve creative and design, as well as STEAM, skills. He spoke about the UK's energy demands, accessibility to energy and sustainability of energy also.



Mega Maths – Mr Sellars' project developed mathematical modelling and analytical skills, as our STEAMmies worked through challenges such as designing a rollercoaster, formulating the Maths required for a successful Bungee jump and predicting the spread of an epidemic. Mega Maths certainly lived up to being mega!

The Maths of Language – Mr Revelant's project encouraged the STEAMmies to utilise as many of their STEAM skills as possible as they attempted code breaking challenges and even constructed their own language. Great team tasks and collaboration resulted in fantastic language skills being showcased!



STEAM Academia – This new branch of STEAM for Year 10 & Sixth Form, led by Ms Khan and supported by Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Mensah, has been a huge success as our older STEAMmies approached their projects with a more scholarly perspective, learning about current research pedagogy as well as the diversity of STEAM educational and career pathways that are available. With an array of STEAM guest speakers, each session provided a new and fresh look into the world of STEAM.

Sixth Form STEAM Ambassadors - Our impressive team of Sixth Form STEAM Ambassadors has been absolutely outstanding. They have co-planned and co-led on the STEAM Club projects to



the younger Years 7,8,9 STEAM Clubs and delivered some STEAM Academia sessions to the Year 10's also. Taking STEAM to the next level as they transition from Sixth Form to University, our Ambassadors have certainly achieved an impressive addition to their university application personal statement!

STEAM special events:

We've enjoyed some incredible STEAM events this rotation -

Trip to Science Museum - Years 7-8 STEAM Club attended the Annual Richie Lecture at the Science Museum for a STEAM-tastic day of interactive workshop activities and a lecture presented by famous YouTube Engineer, Sean Brown.



STEM Workshop - Year 10 STEAM Academia attended a special STEM Workshop delivered by guest Dan Simons from Marine Engineering, and were set a challenge to test the Archimedes Principle that "any object wholly or partially immersed in a fluid is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of fluid displaced by the object".

New STEAM rotations for January:

Lots to look forward to!

The Robots are Coming! - with Mr Haddleton. The STEAMmies will be wowed and challenged in the world of robotic programming!

Geology Club – with Ms Niklekaj. The STEAMmies will delve into the world of rocks and uncover many interesting facts about how rocks are formed, how they change and what we can learn about planet Earth through our studies of rocks.

Tournament of Minds – Miss Dowson and Ms Khan will kickstart the annual STEAM House Competition. House teams will be pitted against one another to solve a challenge and showcase their innovative STEAM skills.

STEAM Academia - More fascinating STEAM sessions and workshops planned for Term 3. Lots of new knowledge will be learned and important STEAM skills further developed, which will support the (9-1) GCSE studies.

Sixth Form STEAM Ambassadors Programme - Our STEAM Ambassadors raising their profile further with more leadership of STEAM events and further higher education/career networking with STEAM contacts to support UCAS applications and transition to university.

ATA's STEAM Enrichment Programme would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT



Performing Arts – Christmas Performances

It has been a very busy week in Performing Arts! We are so proud of all the students who have taken part in an event this week, here is a summary:

Christmas Showcase

We started the week with rehearsals on Monday and Tuesday for our annual Christmas Showcase. Eight of our Extra Curricular clubs across Music, Drama and Dance took part in the performance on Tuesday evening which was well received by our audience and raised a lot of money for our chosen charity 'Glass Door'. Highlights included some festive tunes from our two choirs and three instrumental groups, a very energetic dance routine from 'Step into Dance', 6th Form soloists, seasonal readings from KS3 Drama and a modern version of Scrooge from KS4 Drama! We gave raised over £400 to be donated to 'Glass Door' and we would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket and donated on the night.



The Snow Queen' by The Platform (KS3 Drama Club)

On Thursday afternoon students from the KS3 Drama club, The Platform, performed an adapted version of Hans Christian Anderson's The Snow Queen. The story is about a boy called Kay who gets taken by the evil Snow Queen, and it's up to his best friend Gerda to find him and take him home. The students involved have been fantastically committed and enthusiastic and performed with confidence. They were performing to an invited audience of KS3 superstars in the Performing Arts Department – nominated by their Music and Drama teachers for being fantastic ambassadors in our lessons.



Coming up in Performing Arts

Next term we will see our bi-annual talent show 'Ashcroft's Got Talent' take place – sign up in the Performing Arts office to audition!

All Performing Arts Extra Curricular clubs will re-commence w/b Monday 8th January 2018.

The Performing Arts Team

Advanced Collective at Wandsworth Music Academy's 'Winter Sounds'



On Wednesday Advanced Collective performed at Wandsworth Music Academy's 'Winter Sounds' concert at Burntwood School. They performed their two pieces (the Pentatonix version of 'Silent Night' and an orchestra arrangement of 'Fairytale of New York') perfectly and received a well deserved reaction from the large audience. Well done Advanced Collective!

6th Form Vocal Group

Our newly formed 6th Form Vocal Group have performed three times this week! Firstly in our Showcase on Tuesday night and then in the 6th Form Assembly on Thursday and the House Assembly on Friday. This group have put together an arrangement of Keane's 'Somewhere Only We Know' and have sounded beautiful every time they have performed. Well done 6th Formers, we are looking forward to your next performance!

Other News

Colour in a Bauble Competition

In this year's LRC 1 annual Christmas competition, KS3 students were asked to draw and colour in a Christmas bauble. Met with much enthusiasm, the students rushed to take part in this exciting project with the deadline of 14/12/2017. With over twenty entries on display, it was difficult to choose the winners. Alas, with much debate, the winners have been chosen. The winners are: 1st place – Amelia Krogh from 7T2, 2nd place – Mees Visser from 8T3 and 3rd place – Adam Sheikh from 7T6. Well done to all the contestants and have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.





Would you like a chance to win a FREE Fitbit?



ATA PE department are now offering the chance to

win a Fitbit through regular attendance to morning fitness.



Just turn up regularly every week, 7.30-8.15 to be in with a chance to win

Prize winners will be announced before the Easter break.

