

NewsRound



Keeping parents and students informed

Term 2 Letter 5 Friday 02 December 2016

Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge

On Tuesday this week, we held our Jack Petchey Speak Out Assembly. Seven students competed in front of a formidable panel and the whole of Year 10 for the opportunity to represent Ashcroft at the regional finals of this competition.

Though initially nervous and jittery, all seven of the assembly finalists braved the stage and delivered formidably constructed and brilliantly presented speeches to their peers. They spoke on a range of subjects, from the importance of making history, to the greatest cricket player of all time and even the human rights of the 'infamous' Frankie Boyle!

With great difficulty the three judges, Dr Smith, Mr Collins and Miss McGruther, had to decide on the two representatives who would go on to represent the school. However, in the end their decisions were unanimous.

Javaun Jackson was selected after his electric and lyrical performance of his speech titled: 'The Key to our Future.' Javaun discussed the importance of eccentricity, of thinking outside the box and of being innovative. These are characteristics that the judges, and many of the nodding heads in the room, felt were genuine to Javaun's personality.

Ally Stewart was selected for her dramatic but personal rendition of her speech 'The Truth', in which she discussed her experience as a victim of body shaming at a recent audition that she had tried for. They obviously didn't have the talent scouts that we have here, as she will soon be appearing as Dorothy in the Ashcroft Wizard of Oz!

These two will now continue their hard work, practicing and preparing for the regional finals which will take place at Burntwood School on Wednesday 8 March 2017.

Congratulations to the pair, and well done to the other contenders for all their hard work.



Model United Nations Debate



Our fourth annual Model United Nations simulation was held on the Thursday 01 December. A record 15 nations took part in the debate "To reach a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution to the global refugee crisis"

Leading up to the debate, Year 12 and 13 students prepared their arguments in small research teams, from which a delegate was chosen to represent their allotted nation. Each delegate was given the opportunity to put forward their case in a formal speech, then the resolution was debated, final remarks were given and a series of votes were cast.

The standard of research, public speaking and debating this year was better than ever, with some genuine rhetorical talent on show. The delegation team representing Germany, ably led by Moni Serneabat Ungar, was awarded the prize for their superb research, position paper and speech; whilst Year 12 student Helen Webley-Brown won the public speaking prize for her representation of Hungary. Both Moni and Helen would certainly have bright futures in the world of politics or diplomacy if they so chose.

The assembly voted on several resolutions: the proposals to call for President Assad of Syria to step down; a quota system for taking in refugees and the building of a refugee city were all denied. A call for the establishment of refugee safe zones maintained by the UNHCR was passed unanimously.



Prizegiving Evening

We look forward to welcoming prizewinner's parents to our prizegiving ceremony on Thursday 8 December. The evening will begin promptly at 7pm so please arrive early enough to take your seat.

This year our Guest of Honour is Charlie Walker, a British adventurer, writer, photographer and motivational speaker. He specialises in long distance, human-powered expeditions and has travelled thousand of miles around the world by bicycle, foot, horse and canoe.

New £5 notes

Unfortunately our revaluators have not yet been upgraded to accept the new £5 note as payment for school lunches. We will change new notes for old if we can until they are completely taken out of circulation.

It is far simpler to purchase your son/daughter's lunches via sQuid where you can also see what they have actually been buying to eat.

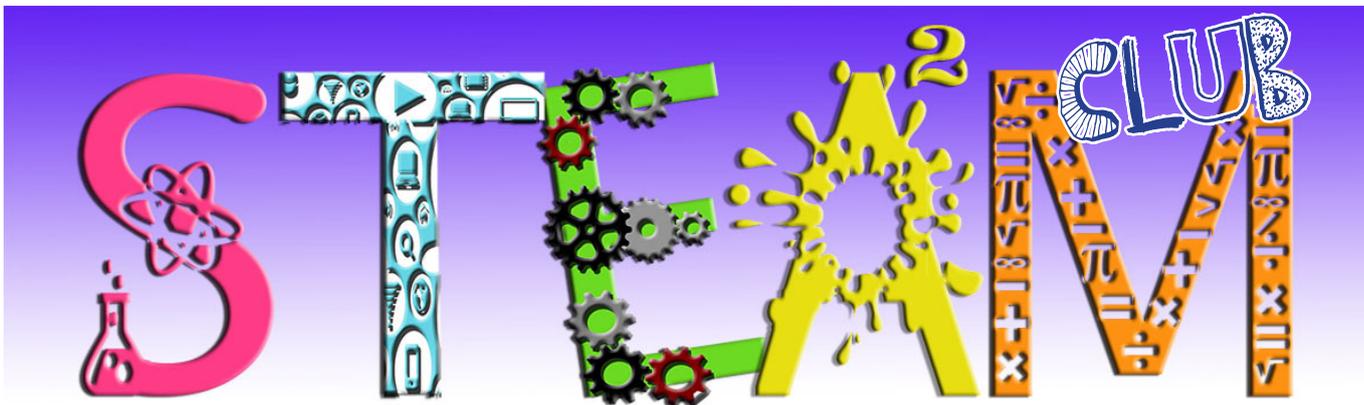
There have been a few changes to the sQuid portal which is detailed overleaf for your information.

Thursday 15 December 2016

Doors open at 6.00 for 6.30pm star

All ticket monies donated to *educate for Life*

CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE



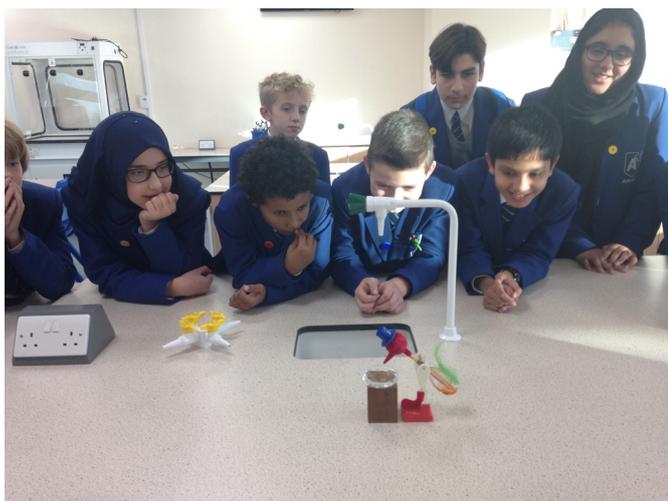
After last week's fantastic award of 'Most Dedicated STEM Club' this week's sessions were really buzzing with enthusiasm and excitement.

World of Doctor Who

The Year 7 STEAMies observed the wondrous and adventurous world of Doctor Who and used Science to explain "How do....?" scenarios.

They looked at and explained scientific concepts for experiments such as: a) dipping bird, b) Crooke's radiometer, d) Sterling engine, e) Floating metre stick, f) non-spill water, g) pressure point and h) magic flame.

The Year 7s worked very well together and held high level, enriching discussions as well as asked probing questions. Such a bright group of students and STEAM Club look forward to challenging them further with some complex tasks next week. Watch this space!



Mega Maths

Great enthusiasm and participation again from the Year 9 STEAMies who got on with the difficult task of deriving a formula to model a bungee jump.

We started by considering the 'Principle of Conservation of Energy' and the STEAMies explained how potential energy was present at the top of the jump and kinetic energy at the bottom.

This gave us our basis for reasoning and along with the elastic potential energy of the rope we started on the maths! We expanded double brackets, substituted for x and then used the quadratic formula to obtain a formula that gave us the length of rope required, based on height of the bungee and mass of the jumper. Excellent work!

Christmas Mufti Day

This mufti day wouldn't be the same without the festive Christmas jumper - dust off last year's and get into the festive spirit on Friday 16 December. A £1 donation will entitle you to wear non-uniform and your Christmas knitwear if you wish with monies collected going to Cancer Research

Robot Programming

In week 2 of Year 8 Robot Programming Mr Haddleton showed the STEAMies how to pilot the minidrone accurately. They were then asked to practice landing the drone on a small landing tile set on the classroom floor. After a few false starts and some tense moments as the minidrone flew into windows and the ceiling! the teams were able to land the drone accurately and safely. Their next successfully completed task was to use both the minidrone and the Jumping Max robot cameras to take photos of the STEAMies in action – selfies from the robot point of view!!



Important Notice

Can parents please ensure that their contact and address details are correct. Any updates should be submitted to communications@ashcroftacademy.org.uk. This is especially important if you have applied for a sibling place for 2017. If we are unable to match address details in particular, sibling status will not be granted to the applicant.

KS3 ENGLISH STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

- The following students have been identified by their English teachers as being worthy of this title.

Adnan 9T2
Excellent participation in lesson

Mungo 8T2
Good effort in poetry lessons

Tanveer 9T3
Excellent effort and participation in lesson.

Umair 8T7
Attainment in writing assessment

Hannah 8T2
Attainment in writing assessment

sQuid Update

Merging Accounts

The new sQuid Online portal uses one username and email address to access multiple child accounts. If you have more than one child that uses sQuid, you are required to change all of the email addresses that are associated to your accounts to the same email address, before the launch.

This will allow you to merge all your accounts when accessing the new sQuid Online portal for the first time.

To change your email address, please follow the steps below:

- Log in to the existing sQuid portal here - https://secure.squidcard.com/customer/c_logon.aspx
- Click on the 'My Details' link in the left hand menu
- Click on the 'Change email address' button
- Change the email address to the address that you would like to use to access all your accounts in the new sQuid Online portal
- Click 'Save changes'
- You will be sent an email to both your old and new email address. The one sent to your new email address includes a link, which you must click on to confirm your new email address before you can access your account
- You will then be able to access your sQuid account in the existing portal using your Username and Password
- Repeat these steps until you have changed the email addresses for all your registered account.

When you log in to the new customer portal for the first time, you will see all accounts which are registered under your email address. To merge your accounts, click the merge accounts button on the right hand side of the screen. You can assign a display name (child's name) to each sQuid registration number shown, by clicking on the 'Users' tab in the pink navigation bar and then clicking 'Name me'.

Login to the new sQuid Online customer portal

Link: <portal.squidcard.com> - <https://portal.squidcard.com/LoginPortal/#/login>. Please remember to bookmark this link for the time being as it is the only way to access the new sQuid online portal, so you can also easily find it the next time you wish to log in and top up.

Important - account management information

If you have changed your registered email addresses to the same address in preparation for the new portal, please ensure you access the new sQuid online portal using the username that you would like to be used as your new single login for all accounts. You will then be able to simply merge all your accounts when you log in.

Help

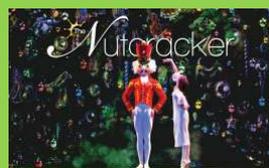
If you need any further help, please visit the sQuid FAQ page which can be found at: <https://www.squidcard.com/welcome/help>

DT Christmas Competitions

Year 7 & 8

The Design Briefs

Textiles: The National Youth Ballet is putting on a production of The Nutcracker ballet for Christmas. They have asked you to design costumes two of the main characters of your choice. They must suit the character and the dancer must be able to move freely.



Product: The world famous toy shop Hamleys has approached you to design a brand new toy for boys or girls aged 7-10. It must be sustainable, have a Christmas theme and above all be fun!



Food: Cake company Crumbs & Doilies have asked you to design a Christmas themed cupcake. It must be full of traditional and seasonal ingredients. It must be colourful and look festive.



Engineering: Decorating the outside of your home with lights and figures at Christmas has become very popular. B&Q would like you to design a set of decorations that can be used for this purpose. They must be bright and bold.



Choose a brief (or more), get designing! Draw, collage, photograph! Hand in to C110 by 4.30pm on the 12th December. Winners announced on the 15th December. PRIZES TO BE WON! If you have any questions please come to C110 or ask your DT teacher.

sQuid

New sQuidOnline for parents



A brand new sQuidOnline portal that's quicker, easier to use & includes a whole host of new features.

Designed from the ground up, the new look-and-feel makes managing school payments effortless & more convenient for parents.



Features include:



Brand new dynamic website



Manage multiple children using one login



Simplified login process



Intuitive Help Centre



Basket-style checkout process



New, simpler registration process

sQuid

squidcard.com/2016

REMAINDER TERM DATES 2016-2017

Term 2 begins Mon 31 Oct - Fri 16 Dec
Term break Mon 19 Dec – Tue 03 Jan 2017

Staff Dev Day Tue 03 Jan
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

TERM DATES 2017-2018 Academic Year

Term 1 begins Wed 30 Aug (Year 7)
Thur 31 Aug (Year 8-11)
Term break Thur 19 Oct - Fri 27 Oct 2017

Term 2 begins Mon 30 Oct - Fri 15 Dec
Term break Mon 18 Dec – Tue 02 Jan 2018

Term 3 begins Wed 03 Jan– Fri 09 Feb
Term break Mon 12 Feb – Fri 16 Feb 2018

Term 4 begins Mon 19 Feb – Fri 25 May
Easter break Thur 29 Mar – Fri 13 Apr 2018
Bank Holiday Mon 07 May 2018
Term break Mon 28 May – Fri 01 Jun 2018

Term 5 begins Mon 04 Jun – Fri 20 Jul



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Multi-choice menu
1	Chicken Flatbread Spanish Omelette with Salad	Mediterranean Fish Vegetable Lasagne	Chilli con Carne and Rice Open Vegetable Tart	Roast Turkey and Roast Potatoes Vegetable Curried Naan	Fish and Chips Pasta Bake	MEAL DEAL Choose a hot meal from Option 1 plus something from Options 2 or 5 Choose a soup from Option 2 plus something from Options 3 or 4 or 5 Choose a sandwich from Option 4 plus something from Options 2 or 5 Choose the Salad Bar option plus something from Options 2 or 5
	Pasta King Jacket Potato	Stone Baked Pizza Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	Stone Baked Pizza Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	
	Green Beans and Cauliflower	Baby Carrots and Parsley Potatoes	Peas and Sweetcorn	Carrots and Cabbage	Peas and Sweetcorn	
2	Lentil Soup	Vegetable Soup	Tomato and Basil Soup	Spiced Citrus Bean Soup	Leek and Potato Soup	
3	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)					
4	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)					
5	Apple Crumble and Custard	Rice Pudding	Lemon Drizzle Cake and Custard	Carrot Cake and Orange Sauce	Fruit Cobbler and Custard	DELI BAR Freshly made to order each day
	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	Fresh Fruit Selection of small cold Desserts Selection of Cakes and Biscuits	

Lunch rota for next week

1st sitting Year 11/7 — 1.05
3rd sitting Year 9 — 1.25

2nd sitting Year 8 — 1.15
4th sitting Year 10 — 1.35