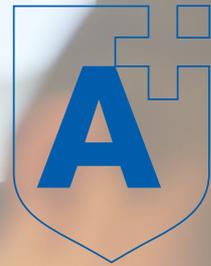


NewsRound



Keeping parents and students informed

Term 4 Letter 3 Friday 10 March 2017

Science Week begins

We have already started our celebrations for Science Week 2017 with the arrival of six duck eggs nicely tucked up in their incubator at a cosy 40°C. They have a camera watching them at all times which has been streamed so everyone can keep an eye on their development. There has already been some movement with cracks appearing and during the early hours of Friday morning our ducklings were busy using their egg tooth to break their shells and hatch. We now have three ducklings and the other three may well hatch today.



It is quite crowded in the incubator but at this delicate early age it is more important for the ducklings to be close to each other and keep very warm. They will sleep quite a lot as hatching is a tiring business but when awake you can hear them chirping to each other, showing they are healthy.

We have been told by the breeders they are The American Pekin duck, also known as the Peking, White Pekin, Pekin, and Long Island duck which is the most popular breed of domestic duck in North America. This breed of duck originated from the mallard in China and bear a superficial resemblance to a the Aylesbury British duck breed.

LRC Girl Power

To celebrate International Womens' Day, Ashcroft Girls became the centre of attention in LRC1 on Wednesday. As part of wider activities across the Academy, students took part in special book and drawing related competitions to mark the day and were treated to celebratory confections while watching empowering videos featuring women from all walks of life.

Year 7 girls are pictured in LRC1 completing intricate colouring IWD logos.



Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge Regional Final

We just wanted to share huge praise for Ally Stuart and Javaun Jackson for their performances in the Jack Petchey Speak Out regional finals at Burntwood School this week.



Ally achieved second place, and though Javaun did not get a place in the top 3, both students were given certificates commending their achievement and the opportunity to get their picture taken with Justine Greening.

Both students have put a tremendous effort in to their speeches over the last couple of weeks. They have raided classrooms, lunch clubs and even department offices pushing to perform their speeches in front of as many members of the school as possible and to get as much constructive feedback as they could. Both students have given up time before school, in their breaks, during lunches and after school so they could say their 3 minute speeches again and again until they were able to recite them backwards. Both students have worked together, building upon all this effort and feedback to

craft genuine, thoughtful and provocative pieces. On Wednesday evening, they were finally given the opportunity to share their hard work in front of a panel of judges.

There were 18 competitors at the regional final and it was a fierce competition. Miss McGruther and Mr Barry were biting their nails the whole time as they listened to those enthusiastic minds share their ideas. Mr Barry has probably listened to Ally and Javaun's speeches nearly a hundred times and none of those times even compared to the fierceness of their performances on the stage last night. They both had family present and it was clearly evident from the huge grins and watery eyes that, regardless of the outcome, both students would be walking away winners.

Ally and Javaun have both grabbed this opportunity by the horns, and they have both put a tremendous amount of effort in to representing Ashcroft. They should be proud of their achievement. They had the courage to stand up in front of all those judges, parents and peers in an alien environment and proudly speak. They were heard well.

Well done to both of them!



Taming of the Shrew

On Wednesday the English Department took Year 9 students to see *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Globe Theatre. It was a wonderful trip and an excellent performance which the students really enjoyed. Dr Smith's favourite moment was talking to a few of the girls on the way back ... "it was ironic the way Kate was treated given that it is International Women's Day".



More important than understanding every word of this Shakespeare comedy, is engaging with the ideas and the joy of the play. As one of the group said, "a lot of the words were tricky but I still understood the story". This is one of the reasons that going to see Shakespeare can be so enriching. The actors came and spoke to the students before the performance to explain character motivation. The Year 9s really loved all the slapstick comedy and the addition of 'dabs' to the dance at the end.

Beyond the pleasure of seeing our students enjoy the play was seeing how they represented the school. It can be difficult travelling on public transport with a large group of students. However, the students were very mindful of other passengers and courteous at all times. These students were excellent ambassadors for us.

Multicultural Event



On Wednesday lunchtime, sixth form student, Merfat Abbas held a multicultural event in the auditorium in order to fundraise for the drought that has affected 6.2 million people in Somalia. To integrate as many people as she could, she thought a Multicultural Day would be the most beneficial way in which her fellow sixth form students could demonstrate various cultures to Year 7 and 8 students as their audience. What better way to fundraise

for this cause than educating and showing others the fundamental cultures of the ways of lives across the world.

Visiting students could taste different foods, listen to different music, flag face painting, have their name written in Arabic and view the wonderful national costumes the sixth formers were wearing from Colombia to China and Africa to India.

Merfat raised a total of £395 – just during one lunchtime! It was a fantastic event with a brilliant, positive atmosphere. Thanks to everyone that participated and turned up!



This Girl Can - Nike workout



Another celebration of International Women's Day saw sixth form student Abigail Lane organise and lead a fantastic workout session for Ashcroft girls who are regular members of the lunchtime Nike Fitness Club.

She had the group singing to Beyonce while working up a real sweat as she took them through an energetic aerobic workout.



Music Technology Club

REMIX

Competition

- 10 House Points Per Entry
- Friday lunchtimes F204 with Mr Hewitt
- Prizes for KS3/KS4
- Remix songs include Drake, Bruno Mars etc
- The Deadline is 21st March, so get your entries in!

Music Technology Club

REMIX COMPETITION

Friday lunchtimes F204

Ask a member of Performing Arts pass for a lunch pass.

Short Story Competition 2017

Deadline: Wednesday 29th March
Email Entries: shortstory@ashcroftacademy.org.uk or hand to Mr Collins

<p>Discursive</p> <p>Any non-fiction theme/topic 600 words 10 points per entry 200 points for winner</p>		<p>Children's (KS3-5)</p> <p>Aimed at primary school students (Reception-Y6, you decide which!) 350 words 10 points per entry 200 points for winner</p>
<p>Short Story: KS3/KS4+5</p> <p>Any theme/topic 600 words 10 points per entry 200 points for winner</p>		<p>Illustrated (KS-5)</p> <p>24 panel limit. 10 points per entry. 200 points for winner</p>

Are you a reliable, hard working student looking for a new challenge?

Apply to be a Y10 Prefect for 2017-2018!

Write a letter of application to Miss Di Bartolo and Mr Dooley outlining why you are suitable for this position. More information on showmyhomework.

Deadline 17th March at 3:30pm, F201.

Good luck!

Loads of Science activities going on including form time quizzes, regular duckwatch updates, dissection demonstrations, science busking, documentary cinema - there is something for everyone.

10-19 MARCH 2017

**British
Science
Week
2017**



Easter Revision Courses at ATA

We are impressed with the engagement of Year 11 students in subject specific catch up sessions, study club and mentoring. These activities will undoubtedly help your son or daughter secure a very good grade in every exam. In addition to these, and just as important as these, your son or daughter should now revise every day at home – at least an hour every evening and 3 to 4 hours each day on a Saturday and on a Sunday. Students should also plan to study 5 hours every day during the Easter holidays.

To help even more, we have created a revision programme for the Easter Holidays which we expect all Year 11 students to attend (Science and Maths are by invite). The activities will run from 9am to 4pm, after which time the students will be free to leave.

We have uploaded the details on showmyhomework and on our website under the Years 7-11/Year 11 tab but please also find the programme opposite.

With ten weeks of teaching now left, the Easter revision activities are crucial. The study sessions will focus on course work, targeted tuition and exam practice. Subject teachers will work with students; target any areas of their course the students are unsure of; help to improve the quality of work and build confidence. Previous revision sessions have been very successful, and these activities will be even more focused.

Students will be able to leave the academy when they are finished each day, and they will not be expected to wear school uniform - however, they will be expected to be dressed appropriately.

If you have any queries or questions about the days, please email – douglas.mitchell@ashcroftacademy.org.uk

	03.04.17	04.04.17	05.04.17	06.04.17	07.04.17
9am to 11am	Chemistry (triple students) Physical Geography	Human Geography / French (Foundation Geography/ Higher French)	Physics triple students and Additional Science	History (paper 3) A* to B	PE RS Exam Skills A/A*
11am to 1pm	Chemistry (triple students) Physical Geography Music	Human Geography/ French (Higher) Geography/ Foundation French) History Paper 1 C/B	Physics triple students and Additional Science RS	History (paper 3) C/B Geography Skills A/A*	PE RS Exam Skills C/B
2pm to 4pm	Music	Core Science History Paper 1 A/A*	RS	Geography Skills C/B	
	10.04.17	11.04.17	12.04.17	13.04.17	14.04.17
9am to 11am	Maths	Art History (paper 1)	English	English	
11am to 1pm	Maths	Art	English	Art	

More support for Year 11 students

	Periods 1 & 2	Periods 3 & 4	Periods 5 & 6	Periods 7 & 8	Periods 9 & 10
Monday 20 March				Geography WTM Unit 1 (B side)	French WTM Foundation Reading
Tuesday 21 March				French Mock Listening exam	
Wednesday 22 March			Maths WTM		
Thursday 23 March	Science WTM				
Friday 24 March	Maths WTM	English WTM			
Monday 27 March	Maths Mock exam			History WTM (B side)	French WTM Higher Reading
Tuesday 28 March	PE Practical Exam				
Wednesday 29 th March	English Mock Exam			RS WTM	
Thursday 30 March	Maths Mock exam	Geography WTM Unit 2			
Friday 31 March			Maths mock exam		

We are continually researching innovative ways to help the Year 11 students achieve the very best they can. To this end, we have organised a programme called 'Walking Talking Mocks' (WTMs). The main benefit of a Walking Talking Mock (WTM) is that students can be guided through an exam paper by a subject specialist. In this context, the subject specialist can discuss the best possible approach to each exam question, alert the students to common mistakes made in specific questions, provide the key elements in an answer an examiner would like to see etc. The students will be encouraged to make notes throughout.

In terms of the set for these, the subject specialist will speak to the entire year group in the auditorium. Using a visualizer, the students will be able to see, on the big screen, what the teacher is writing (notes and responses) while the teacher is talking the students through the process.

The schools who have used this strategy have commented on it in a very positive way. As a result of this encouraging feedback, we have planned to run WTMs in core subjects in the two weeks before the Easter holiday. The two week schedule will include 'actual' mocks in

addition to the WTMs. The reason why we have chosen to run the WTMs at this time is because we expect them to inform the students' revision activities over the Easter holidays so that these are very focused.

We expect attendance to be 100% on these days so that every student can benefit from this strategy.

Restaurant information

Despite a range of external challenges, the Academy successfully sought to keep prices low within the restaurant since first running the provision internally some seven years ago. This has been achieved with only two price adjustments in that seven year period.

Reluctantly, as a result of continuing inflationary pressures that have brought about national increases in food costs, we are no longer able to hold food prices at their current levels. The impact of this will be a price increase of approximately 5% from Tuesday 18 April 2017 when we return from the Easter break. This will not be applicable across all food items but for instance, the main meal deal for students will increase to £2.25 from its current price of £2.15. For those students entitled to free school meals, this change will be reflected automatically on their cards.

Whilst not ideal, we have attempted to keep the increase as low as we can and genuinely believe when comparing our prices to others, that this still offers excellent value for money.

WEEK 3 MATHS CHALLENGES

KS3

MATHS CHALLENGE



Q1 I am thinking of five numbers

average average average average average average average average

The **median** of these numbers is 3

The **range** of these numbers is 9

The **mean** of these numbers is 4

The **mode** of these numbers is 1



What are my five numbers?

Use the **green** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by Monday 20th March (break time).

ARE YOU READY TO FOR THIS WEEK'S MATHS CHALLENGES?

We had lots of entries for the Week 1 maths challenge and were really impressed with all the correct answers! There were only two correct entries entered for our KS4 problem so we decided to award the KS4 prize to both students who answered correctly. Well done to all who entered but especially to our winners who are:

- Darren Weston 7T1 (KS3 problem)
- Spike Snijder 8T4
- and
- Julius Ahmad 10T5 (KS4 problem)
- Abdurahman Said 8T7 (KS5 problem)

We are still accepting answers for Week 2's problems (until break time Monday 13th) and the problems for Week 3 are here for you to start thinking about. Make sure you get involved!

Here are the solutions to the Week 1 challenges.

KS4

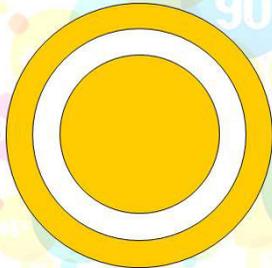
MATHS CHALLENGE



Q1 The three circles in the diagram have the same centre

Their radii are 3cm, 4cm and 5cm

What percentage of the largest circle is white?



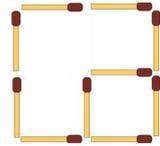
Use the **orange** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by Monday 20th March (break time).

KS3

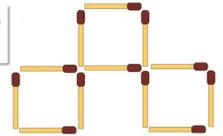
WEEK 1 SOLUTIONS



Q1 Remove two matches to leave exactly two squares



Q2 Move three matches to leave exactly three squares



KS4

WEEK 1 SOLUTIONS



Q1 Using $a = 1, b = 2, c = 3, \dots, z = 26$ to evaluate

$$(n - a)(n - b) \dots (n - z)$$



The expression will have the term $(n - n)$ in it, which equals 0. When you multiply anything by 0, the answer is 0.

KS5

MATHS CHALLENGE



Q1 Consider using Pythagoras Theorem in 3 dimensions...

We get the result: $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = d^2$

Prove that if you choose two consecutive integers and their product as a, b and c , then d will be an integer.

What can you say about d ?

One set of numbers that will satisfy this is 2, 3, 6 and 7:

$$2^2 + 3^2 + 6^2 = 7^2$$

Use the **red** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by Monday 20th March (break time).

KS5

WEEK 1 SOLUTIONS



Q1 There are a few ways to do these. Some suggested correct answers are:

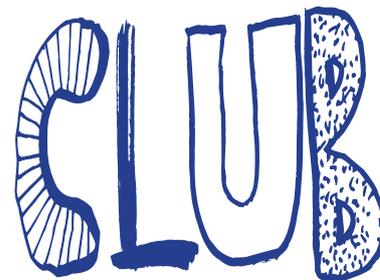
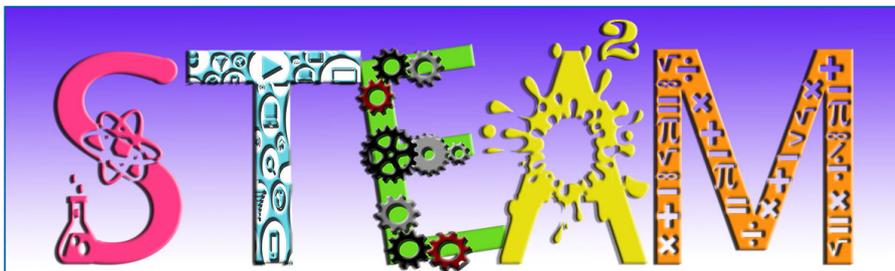
a. $3125 = 5^{[(2+3) \times 1]}$

b. $4096 = 4^6 + 0 \times 9$

c. $16807 = 7^{[(6-1) + (8 \times 0)]}$

d. $20736 = (6 \times 2)^{(7-3-0)}$

e. $32768 = 8^{[(3+2) \times (7-6)]}$



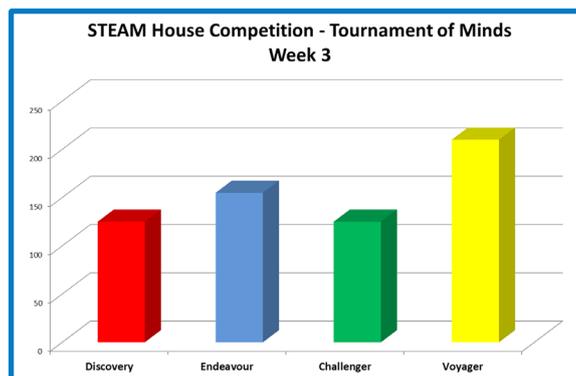
STEAM Inter-House Competition - Tournament of Minds

'Tournament of Minds' students continue to work hard and come up with creative solutions to the problems they have encountered with their drafts. Some teams are feeling the pressure and their groups are working less effectively; however, Voyager has shown a huge amount of house spirit and ability to deal with issues as a team. They have been listening to each other and taking all of their members' feedback on board, this is fantastic to see and as a result they are now taking the lead in the development of their product. The other houses are not far behind and they are starting to see how effectively Voyager are working as a group and taking this on board. It looks like it will be a tight contest.

We are into week 3 of the challenge – It is the year 2050 and resources to make toys are scarce. Each STEAM house team has the challenge of building a toy using completely recycled materials, which has 5 independent and functioning parts.

House points are awarded for successful completion of each of the challenge criteria. With just 3 more weeks to go before the final winners are announced, the competition is certainly fierce! In week 1, Endeavour had the clear lead in week 2 Challenger took the top spot but in week 3, Voyager have stormed ahead!

With all efforts at maximum capacity, any team can win! Who will it be? Keep working hard, not long to go!



Elsewhere in STEAM, it was the final week of the current rotation and the groups will switch next week

STEAM Cooking:

In Ms Niklekaj's Cooking Club, the Year 7 STEAMmies made Oreo cake. Ms Niklekaj was Very pleased with the participation of these young chefs. Once again they took part in every section of the cooking session by smashing the biscuits, melting the chocolate and the butter, mixing the ingredients. While the cake was chilling they made sure everything was clean and put away. They went home happy with a piece of each flavour, white and dark chocolate Oreo cheesecake.



on adding the finishing touches to the rocket cars. The wheels were added and some STEAMmies decided to decorate their cars to make them stand out from the crowd. The work was finished to a high standard and all STEAMmies were happy with their completed rocket cars.



STEAM Language:

In Mr Revelant's Maths of Language Club, the Year 7 STEAMmies worked through more difficult Code Breaking activities around the mysterious Vigenère Cipher and won a lot of House Points. It has been a real pleasure to have these amazing Year 7 linguists in STEAM Club and Mr Revelant was particularly impressed that they were even faster at cracking the code than their Year 8 predecessors!

STEAM Science:

In Mr Mensah's Explaining Mysteries with Science Club, Year 9 STEAMmies had an exciting session investigating static electricity and how density of water is affected by gas. The STEAMmies used the Van der Graff generator which made their hair stand up. They also demonstrated how aluminium foils fly off when placed on the generator. They were able to use this idea to explain why thunderstorms happens. They investigated what happens to vessels when the water density is affected by gas and pumped methane into a bowl of water and observed a model boat sink. The STEAMmies answered and asked some very challenging and thought provoking questions.



STEAM Design:

In Mrs Aldred-Hall's Textiles Rocket Club, the Year 8 STEAMmies completed their E- Textile Rocket torches this week! Excellent quality with working LEDs. Well done!

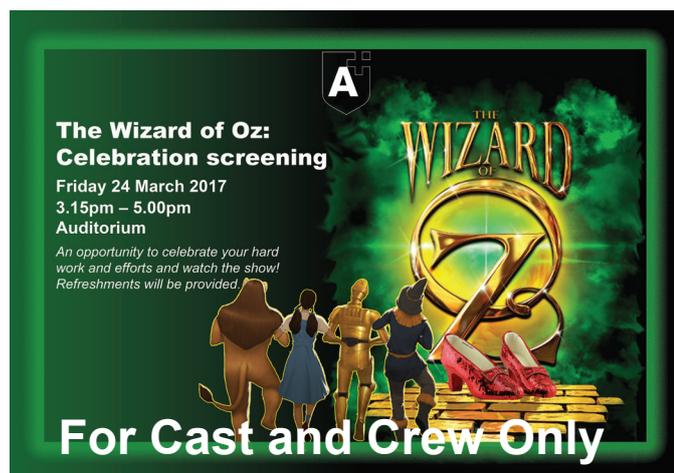
In Mr Morrissey's Rocket Car Club, the Year 8 STEAMmies were focusing

Year Group	Current Project Rotation	Teacher	Room
8	Explaining Mysteries with Science	Mr Mensah	C210
9(a)	The Maths of Language	Mr Revelant	D304
9(b)	Cooking Club	Ms Niklekaj	B101
7(a)	Textile Rockets	Mrs Aldred-Hall	E112
7(b)	Rocket Car	Mr Morrissey	C111

1:20pm on Tuesdays in the rooms allocated above.
Each project rotation will be for 4 weeks and you will then switch.
Please see Ms Khan in Science to collect your blue lunch passes!

A special screening of the Wizard of Oz for the cast and crew only will take place as below.

They can see for themselves what a splendid production it was due to their outstanding acting/singing and the superb job of all the crew behind the scenes.



The Wizard of Oz: Celebration screening
 Friday 24 March 2017
 3.15pm – 5.00pm
 Auditorium

An opportunity to celebrate your hard work and efforts and watch the show! Refreshments will be provided.

For Cast and Crew Only

10-19 March 2017



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2017

REMAINDER TERM DATES 2016-2017

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

Please note the start date for Years 8-11 is Thursday 31 August 2017. The new Year 7 intake will begin on Wednesday 30 August 2017.



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Multi-choice menu 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
1	Chicken & Sweetcorn Lasagne with Garlic Bread Vegetable Quesadilla	Sausages & Onions, Potato Wedges Vegetable Layer Pie	Beef Curry and Rice Veggie Mince Pitta Bread and Salad	Roast Chicken (Halal) and Roast Potatoes Cauliflower Cheese	Homemade Tuna Fish Cake with Potato Wedges Vegetable Pasta Bake	
	Stone Baked Pizza Jacket Potato	Pasta King Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	Pasta King Jacket Potato	Chicken Joe's Wrap Jacket Potato	
	Green Beans and Salad	Baked Beans or Macedoine	Broccoli and Sweetcorn	Carrots and Cabbage	Salad and Peas/Sweetcorn	
2	Leek and Potato Soup	Winter Vegetable Soup	Tomato and Basil Soup	Minestrone Soup	Vegetable Soup	
3	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)				
4	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)				
5	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Fruit Sponge and Custard	Chocolate & Mandarin Puddie Pudding and Custard	Apple Pie and Custard	Steamed Sponge and Custard	
	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 Cakes and Biscuits	

DELI BAR
 Freshly made to order each day

Meal Deal (Option 1 + 2 or 5) £2.15 students/£2.36 staff Main Meal only £1.83 students/£2 staff

Lunch Rota next week: 1.05 Year11/Year 7 1.15 Year 8 1.25 Year 9 1.35 Year 10