

NewsRound



Keeping parents and students informed

Term 4 Letter 7 Friday 21 April 2017

Message from the Principal

I am very pleased to write to you at the start of this term as the Academy's new Principal. This is a very busy term in the Academy: all 6th Form and Year 11 students are preparing for exams; Year 10 students are preparing for end of year exams which will be, for them, the first 'real' GCSE experience; Year 9 students are about to embark on more challenging work which will help to prepare them for the demands of the new GCSEs; Year 8 students are in the process of choosing their GCSE options and Year 7 students are preparing for the move to Year 8, and the new academic challenges that this move will offer them.

For this reason, it will be 'business as usual'. My priority is to make sure that our students adhere to the rigorous behavioural and academic standards we set for everyone, and that the students feel well prepared for the immediate challenges they have ahead of them. I am very well supported by the leadership team and by staff in achieving both. This support has been strengthened even further by two new appointments. Mr Richard Perry is now Vice Principal of the Academy, and Miss Jennifer Calvert will be a Deputy Principal. Her appointment will begin in August 2017.

I look forward to speaking to you at up-coming parent information evenings.

Douglas Mitchell, Principal

Ski Trip to Passo Tonale

Thirty two students and staff spent part of their Easter break skiing in the popular Italian resort of Passo Tonale. Tonale is one of Italy's highest ski slopes offering some 80km of high-altitude of skiing. They stayed at the Grand Hotel Miramonti which was in a central location, and only a minute's walk to the Presenella ski lift and ski school. The hotel was 4* and served excellent food with excellent facilities including Wifi and a Games Room.

The group were of mixed ability in their skiing; from complete beginners to some at an advanced level. But, all were able to take advantage of the excellent facilities, enjoying cruising on the long pistes or trying some freestyle skiing in the snowparks. Complete beginners were able to take their time and find their 'ski legs' on the excellent beginner slopes, and made excellent progress by the end of their stay. The groups were split amongst five ski



instructors for every ski session and Miss Calvert, who is a qualified ski leader, took the best skiers for extra time on the slopes.

You may think skiing all day would bring a much welcome rest in the evening, but the group were kept entertained with a quiz night organised by Joe, one of the ski reps, a movie night where they watched the new J K Rowling 'Fantastic Creatures' film and one evening was taken up with tasting the delicious hot chocolate drinks served in the area.

Each evening a student was named 'Skier of the Day', 'Hero of the Day' or 'Wally of the Day' (they had to wear the statutory jester's hat the next day!). At the end of the trip a special awards evening was held where Libby Centre was named 'Skier of the Week' by the ski instructors.

The trip was so successful that Ms Griffiths has already started to organise next year's trip to Bardonecchia, Italy which will take place during the February 2018 break.

It only takes 500 words



"Seven years ago, Chris Evans had a dream: to get children excited about reading and writing. All children, no matter what their ability. 500 Words is now one of the most successful story-writing competitions for kids in the world. Nearly half a million pupils have written a story for us; that's over 277 MILLION words!

It's very simple. Entrants write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 Words or fewer and submit it online. If they win, their story will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity...like Julie Walters, Tom Hiddleston, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Jeremy Irons, or Sherlock himself – Benedict Cumberbatch. Each year, 10 million Radio 2 listeners hear, read and love these stories.

Ms McGruther entered her top set Year 7 class and top set Year 8 class into this National Story Competition 500 Words. Over the Easter holiday she received an email to confirm that Akira Corr 8T1 has made it through the first round of the competition with his story entitled Where am I?. They received 131,798 entries and only 5,000 go to the Reading Agency for the second round of judging. She is, needless to say, very proud of him! We now need to wait until next month to see if he makes it to the Final 50."

Our Library needs you

The LRC is now looking for volunteers from Year 8 to join their LRC Monitor team.

They are looking for students who are friendly, cheerful, reliable, polite, energetic, enthusiastic, keen to help other students and staff, a good team worker and calm under pressure. Successful candidates will play an exciting and important role in the day to day running of the LRC. Full training will be given and Year 8s should speak to a member of LRC staff for more details and a application form. Deadline for applicants Friday 12 May 2017.



Meet the Head Student Team

Over the next four weeks we will introduce our new Head Student team, who have taken up their roles with immediate effect. We hope this will help you recognise them around the Academy and feel able to approach them for a chat.

Firstly, we introduce the new Head Student:

Hello, my name is Helen Webley-Brown. I joined Ashcroft in September and I am studying the IB diploma. My subjects are Higher Level: English, Chemistry, Biology and Standard Level: Economics, Maths and Spanish. I aspire to study Politics and International Relations, possibly with Economics, at university in the UK or USA.

As an external student from Kingsdale Foundation School, the prospect of having to integrate into a new school community and adapt to post-16 education was a daunting one. However, I can honestly say that I have not regretted this decision once. I am proud to be part of an "outstanding" Sixth Form with a welcoming and diverse student body and dedicated staff. Our Sixth Form provides an excellent learning environment where you will thrive and develop both personally and academically. To complement our academic curriculum there are a multitude of extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities available here and I encourage you to get involved. In my short time at Ashcroft I have had the pleasure of taking part in Model United Nations, rowing club and the annual Balloon Debate - to name a few. Ashcroft is a Sixth Form that supports and acknowledges hard work and ambition. As Head Student I hope to inspire and collaborate with my fellow students, as well as support the recruitment of others who share a great zeal for academic development and engagement. I firmly believe that a post-16 education at Ashcroft is an exceptional and rewarding experience. I look forward to welcoming new students in September.



Try out for the Rowing Club

Ms Dowson who runs our Rowing Club is on the lookout for a new intake of rowers. If students are interested in joining, we go out on the river near Putney Bridge on Tuesday afternoons. We travel by bus to the venue, but students are then dismissed from the club at around 6:30. It is about a 10 minute walk to Putney Station. Any student who is interested from Year 7 upwards should come to see Miss Dowson in E204 as soon as possible, as availability of coach places is limited.



Debating success

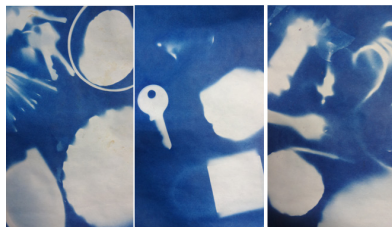
Well done to Holly Flook who took part in a programme learning to debate through CAMHS to help young people who've had mental health issues to be able to speak up and be more confident. It is called 'Debating Mental Health' and was run through a partnership between SW London CAMHS, English Speaking Union, Anna Freud Centre For Young Minds and Facebook UK. In the holidays Holly wrote an article about doing the course which you can read here: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/debating-mental-health/what-is-debating-mental-health/203995090098420/> She took part in a series of debates with among thirty young people and an audience of about 120 including one of the clinical directors of the NHS, who quoted from her article in his speech and she won a certificate for Best Speech on the Floor. She really liked debating and voicing her opinions and arguing (no surprise there, her mother said!).



New STEAM Club rotations commenced this week and the STEAMmies have all been engaged in fantastic new projects with a new round of STEAM teachers!

In Mr O'Sullivan's Super Structures Club, the Year 7 STEAMmies made an excellent start with their bridge building challenge. They learnt how bridges are made and why triangles are used in bridge construction. First they planned out how to construct their bridges, then through team work and communication they put their knowledge into practice. The bridges will be tested next week to see which groups design is the strongest.

In Mr Hearn's Anatomy of Film Club, the Year 8 STEAMmies were transported to the land of their nightmares by the 1992 short film 'The Sandman'. They identified the ways in which horror was created in the film, particularly through the use of camera angles. Having discussed how this film was put together, they started to apply the same techniques in thinking about the way in which they would make a film version of Ted Hughes' 'The Iron Man'. STEAMmies quickly grasped the effects of various film techniques and decisions made by directors and over the coming weeks this should give them a good grounding to put this into practise on their own films!



With Miss Griffiths, Miss Haviland and Miss Peterson, in the Pin-Hole Camera Club, the Year 9 STEAMmies incorporated the 'ART' into 'STEAM', and began their project with an experiment with photography and capturing an image through light. STEAMmies have begun to make their own pin hole cameras, using just a cardboard box and an aluminium can, and also experimented with light sensitive paper which produced some very interesting results



WEEK 6

MATHS CHALLENGES

KS3

MATHS CHALLENGE



A group of runners known as the *Ever Presents* have completed every single London Marathon in the race's 36-year history

Q1 Over all these London marathons, how many race miles have they each ran?



Q2 If you ran at a constant speed of 6mph, how long would it take to cover the distance you found in Q1?

Use the **green** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by Monday 1st May.

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

Well done to everyone who solved the Week 5 challenges

The winners are:

Week 5 questions obviously proved very challenging as we had no fully correct answers for the KS4 or KS5 questions!

Our KS3 winner is Danish Zeb 7T1 who also deserves recognition for his very good attempt at the KS5 question. Well done!

Problems for Week 6 are here for you to start thinking about. Make sure you get involved! You have until Monday 24 April the solve problems so put your thinking caps on and see how you get on.

Here are the solutions to the Week 5 challenges.

KS4

MATHS CHALLENGE



Eliud Kipchoge ran the 2016 London Marathon in 2:03:05, missing the world marathon record by 8 seconds.

Q1 How much faster is the record in mph?

Q2 If you ran at a pace of 4m/s how much longer would it take you to finish the race than the record holder?

A marathon is 26.2 miles long



Use the **orange** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by

KS3

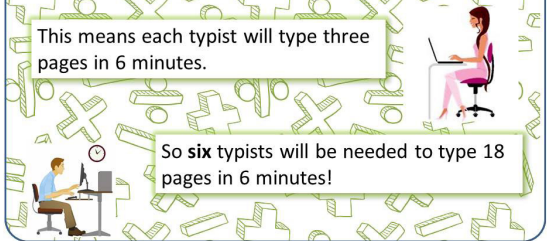
WEEK 5 SOLUTIONS



Q1 If two typists can type two pages in two minutes, then each typist takes two minutes to type one page.

This means each typist will type three pages in 6 minutes.

So six typists will be needed to type 18 pages in 6 minutes!



KS4

WEEK 5 SOLUTIONS

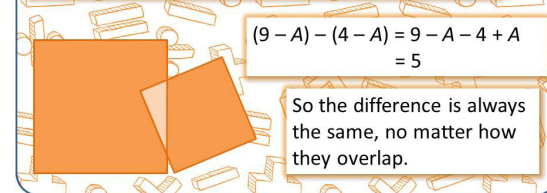


Q1 The difference between the darker areas is 5cm^2

If the white area is $A\text{cm}^2$, the larger shaded part is $(9 - A)\text{cm}^2$ and the smaller is $(4 - A)\text{cm}^2$ and so...

$$(9 - A) - (4 - A) = 9 - A - 4 + A = 5$$

So the difference is always the same, no matter how they overlap.



KS5

MATHS CHALLENGE



Rupert and Fiona are running a marathon.

Rupert runs the entire marathon at a constant speed of 8 minutes a mile. Fiona runs at different speeds, with fast spurts and slower sections, such that she covers every mile in 8 min 1 sec.



Whichever mile you take – the first mile of the course, the last mile or, say, the interval between 13.6 miles and 14.6 miles – Rupert will run it in 8 minutes and Fiona will be a second slower.



How is it possible that Fiona finishes first?!

Use the **red** slips to submit your solutions in the post-box in the Maths corridor by Monday 1st May.

KS5

WEEK 5 SOLUTIONS



Q1 1 is the first square number in the sequence

If there is another square number in the sequence, then the unit digit of the square root must be 9 or 1.

The number is of the form:

$$(10n \pm 1)^2 = 100n^2 \pm 20n + 1 = 10(10n^2 \pm 2n) + 1$$

$10n^2 \pm 2n$ gives the 10s digit, but this number is even so it can't be 1.

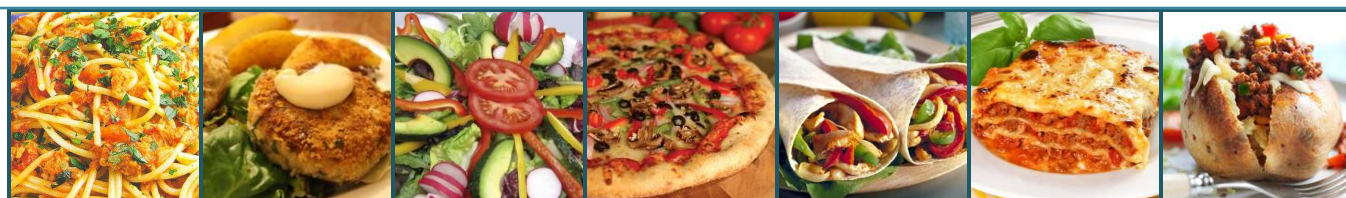
Hence no further square numbers appear in the sequence

1 ²	=	1 × 1 = 1
2 ²	=	2 × 2 = 4
3 ²	=	3 × 3 = 9
4 ²	=	4 × 4 = 16
5 ²	=	5 × 5 = 25
6 ²	=	6 × 6 = 36
7 ²	=	7 × 7 = 49
8 ²	=	8 × 8 = 64
9 ²	=	9 × 9 = 81
10 ²	=	10 × 10 = 100
11 ²	=	11 × 11 = 121
12 ²	=	12 × 12 = 144

P. E. DEPARTMENT

TERM 4/5 CLUBS

	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Mon	Fitness Session – Miss Despins Basketball	Cardio/Weights Fitness Suite – Mr Dooley Cricket – Mr Rowe Basketball – Mr Keith	Cricket – Mr Keith Football – Mr Carroll Rounders/Softball – Mrs Ward Duke of Edinburgh- Mr Dooley
Tues	Fitness Session – Mr Keith Basketball	Badminton – Miss Despins Table Tennis – Mr Dooley Dodgeball- Mrs Ward GCSE catch-up/Cardio/Weights room- Mr Keith	Rowing – Ms Dowson
Wed	Fitness Session – Mr Dooley Basketball	Basketball – Mr Keith Table Tennis – Mr Mensah/Mr Stenning Cardio/Weights Fitness Suite – Miss Despins Girls Nike Training Club- Mrs Ward	JiuJitsu – Mr Wandl
Thurs	Fitness Session – Mrs Ward Basketball- Mr Dooley	Cardio/Weights Fitness Suite – Mrs Ward Boys Basketball- Mr Dooley KS3 football- Led by CAS students/Miss Despins	Fitness – Mrs Ward GCSE Catch-up- Mrs Ward
Fri	Fitness Session – Mrs Ward Basketball – Mr Dooley Table Tennis	Cardio/Weights Fitness Suite – Mrs Ward Volleyball- Mr Keith Basketball- Miss Despins Badminton – Mr Dooley	



	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)	Salad Bar (small bowl with multi choice)	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)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	Any sandwich (max price £1.50)	
5	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Fruit Sponge and Custard	Chocolate & Mandarin Puddle 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	



Meal Deal (Option 1 + 2 or 5) £2.25 students/£2.47 staff Main Meal only £1.95 students/£2.15 staff

Lunch Rota next week: 1.05 Year11/Year 89 1.15 Year 910 1.25 Year 7 1.35 Year 8