

Love

Grace

Fellowship

October 2018



Atherton Community School Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head Teacher

Dear Parents, carers and friends of Atherton Community School,

As we fast approach the half term holidays , it is always a pleasure to take time to reflect on the terms many successes. Last term has been jam packed with exciting opportunities for our learners. Our new policies for teaching and learning and behaviour are having a real impact across the school and there is a real 'buzz' around learning in every classroom which is fabulous to see.

Our mission for next half term is to see more of our families and carers in school, by opening up our newly decorated community room for family and community events or perhaps even popping in for a cup of tea and a slice of cake!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a lovely half term holiday and I look forward to seeing you in the new term.

Miss Povey

Message from the Head of School

One of my goals for the last half term was to ensure that Atherton Community School once again started to serve our community fully.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of our feeder primary schools in the last half term, meeting potential new students and also the staff at those schools. I have also visited all of the other secondary schools in Wigan, meeting the Headteachers and creating strong links to ensure that we move forward as a unified community in order to best serve the pupils here at ACS.

I have also met and spoken to lots of parents and I am very pleased to say that there have been extremely positive messages about the direction that ACS is travelling in and the distance we have moved as a school so far, in a very short time.

We have planned parental activities throughout the coming term and I look forward to welcoming you to those in the near future.

Mr Layzell



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KEY DATES

- 19th October 2018
school closure for HT
- 7th November 2018
year 9 parents evening
- 13th December
2018 Christmas Show
- 21st December
12pm school closure for Christmas

GROW A POUND!



This term, our year seven students have been tasked with the very exciting yet rather challenging project to 'Grow a Pound' and it is in full swing! With a flurry of ideas pouring from the year group and some healthy competition between forms we are bound to raise plenty of cash and so far Y7 are yet to disappoint.

Miss Buck and 7G were the first to take centre stage, spending their pound on the ingredients to stock their very own 'home-made lemonade' stand and they did a sterling job, raising a

healthy £44.50 which has been donated to Cancer Research.

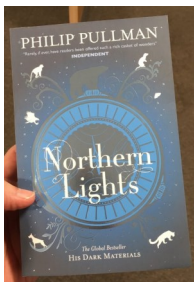
Next out of the stocks, 7B, Mrs McNamara rallied her troops together to create a chocolate hamper and collectively, after the donation of confectionary and sale of raffle tickets, raised just over £40 in aid of Francis House. On behalf of all the staff and children there, thank-you.

7R, are following closely behind with their 'guess the sweet jar' competition which looks set to overtake the previous forms with a figure exceeding £50 which once complete will be donated to Alder Hey.

Finally, Miss Wright and 7Y are mysteriously yet to spend their pound. No doubt they'll return after half term with a concept that not only oozes creativity and raises plenty of money for charity, but also leads them to victory to be crowned champions. Time will tell...In the meantime, we would like to thank all parents, students and staff for supporting the project.



READING UPDATE



Our form time reading programme is now well under way. Our students start every day with a fifteen minute independent or guided reading session in their form time. Feedback from staff and pupils is incredibly positive and we should soon start seeing the benefits school wide of a regular diet of reading. If you would like a list of books or guidance with helping your child to read at home, please contact our Head of English, Mrs Green



TRANSITION SUMMER SCHOOL

As the six weeks drew to a close, most pupils would have been organising their school bags in preparation for the new school year, or catching up on sleep, however the new cohort of Year 7 at ACS were spending their last week of the holidays acclimatising themselves to their new surrounding at Atherton Community School.



Research concludes that pupils who access secondary curriculum content ahead of their planned start date and attend summer schools make the transition from primary to secondary school more successfully and can gain up to a 2 month advantage on those pupils who do not.

Mr McKie, Head of Transition and Year 7, along with a team of subject specialists in Spanish, English, History, Geography and PE, organised a 4 day summer school which was focussed around the recent European Athletics Championships.

Upon arrival pupils were split into four countries and the new students were encouraged to work together collaboratively and demonstrate our school ethos of Grace, Love and Fellowship and form new friendships as the days progressed.



The first two days pupils sampled some of the new year 7 curriculum content from various subject areas, with the week coming to a climax with a mini European Sports Championships, where pupils utilised their skills in net-

ball, dodgeball and handball to either participate, report or review their fellow peers.

Over 60% of the year 7 cohort attended the free summer school and the week was a huge success and has set pupils up with a smooth transition from year 6 to 7.

Pupils were asked about their experience and responded 'I feel much more confident about coming to secondary school now', 'I know my way around school already', 'I have made some new friends and had great fun', 'I really enjoyed the variety of subjects and loved learning new things'

2018 OPEN DAY

2018 open day was a roaring success with over 150 families visiting us to see what ACS has to offer . The day was as engaging as always with a huge variety of activities available for children and families to try out. If you missed our open day and would like a tour of the school, please contact Mr Layzell our Head of School to arrange.



TLC'S



At ACS we believe the key to being a fantastic school is to have fantastic staff in front of every class, in every lesson. Mrs Gibson who is heading up Teaching and Learning across the school launched our very first Teaching and Learning Community (TLC) this term.

The first TLC was a huge success, staff got to share best practice, steal ideas from each other and eat cake whilst doing so!

Over the coming term we will be focussing on feedback in books following on from our first TLC and will start to see some high quality dialogue between our teaching and our learners. Watch this space!



AIMING FOR THE STARS

On Friday 5th October 10 high achieving yr11 students were invited to Leigh college for a maths masterclass, where they were challenged through a series of engaging higher level problems. The first task was for our students to split into 2 teams of 5 team Duck and team Huevo (Spanish for egg).

Session 1 started with great focus and engagement as the teams of 5 working together to solve a selection of 12 problems that not only challenged them mathematically but also posed questions with real life context involved.

After the first session was completed students were given the opportunity to visit the college canteen and although this was a simple rest break, it gave them a chance to mingle with current college students and members of the masterclass from other schools. The second session was that of a relay, where each team would only receive the next



question after having submitted a correct answer. Again in their teams of 5 they were posed problems this time in the style of the GCSE exam questions they will soon face.



At the end of the day the scores were tallied and the results of the relay were given first, Team Duck were in second place (more than 20 points behind first place) and Team Huevo in third. It was commented by the college tutor that in a long time he had not seen such great determination and problem solving skills and that in fact on the first sessions problems Team Duck had successfully gained the full 60 marks. We had finished the masterclass as champions, in 1st place Team Duck and in 3rd place Team Huevo. Well done everyone!



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