

Parents' Newsletter

Issue 5 Autumn Term 2014



www.audenshawschool.org.uk

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Leadership and Management:

- Curriculum review and development
- Achieve Investors in People Award
- Improve sickness absence management policy and programme
- Improve Induction policy and programme.

In the October 2013 report Ofsted said *"the headteacher and other senior leaders have already taken decisive action to improve the quality of teaching and leadership at all levels"* and in their latest report this was further substantiated when they said *"performance management and professional development are used to support and challenge weaker teaching"*.

We now have a team of highly experienced, committed and dedicated professionals who are supportive of our School's vision and of improving outcomes for our students. September welcomed a number of new highly experienced teachers in maths, science, history and English and in January two new permanent teachers join us, one in maths and one in science.

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Dear Families,

The end of year is upon us. It has been a busy, but exciting year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every parent/carer who has supported us during the year.

Once again, our School has been a hive of activity with some notable highlights.

Our production of Joseph has been described by many as our "best ever production" and I couldn't agree more. Each night the cast received a well deserved standing ovation, with many of the audience moved to tears. We are already planning next year's production!



see page 3 for more about Joseph

This term also saw the launch of our second twitter account @AudenshawSchool which we hope will prove as popular as our PE Department's @AudenshawSport account.

I do hope that parents/carers have now had the opportunity to read the School's letter of complaint against the latest Ofsted judgement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your encouragement in our pursuit of the complaint. I expect to receive a response from Ofsted sometime in January.

Since the complaint was sent, the School's annual Raise online has been released and this provides further evidence to support the School's complaint. Raise online is a government data system that provides schools with a range of analyses. If we do not get a positive outcome from the complaint, we will be proceeding to the next stage using this additional evidence. Schools do not usually release Raise online to parents/carers but I feel it important to share the contents with you to ensure that you are able to fully understand where our School is in comparison to boys' schools and all schools nationally. With that in mind, I intend to write to parents/carers as soon as we return in January with this information.

Ofsted continue to recognise the transformation that has taken place in our School and in their most recent inspection report (2014) wrote that *"the headteacher, with her senior leaders, reshaped and refocused the school culture with the objective of enabling rapid improvement across all of its activities"*.

The 2013 Ofsted inspection team said: *"the new headteacher, together with the senior leadership team and the governing body has accurately identified the school's strengths*

and areas for further improvement through effective self-evaluation processes". During the 2014 inspection Ofsted again acknowledged that self-evaluation is **sharp** and **accurate** and areas for improvement **clearly identified** and **appropriate actions** documented. What does that mean? We *absolutely* know our strengths and areas for improvement and we are taking the *right action* to address those issues. We are getting it right; the foundation for success is now in place.

As with Raise online, we wish to be totally open about our school improvement. Our plans include, but are not limited to, the following outcomes.

Achievement:

- New structured schemes of learning
- Improved intervention for all students not on target
- Improved tracking and monitoring of students' progress
- Improved curriculum information and controlled assessment information on the school website for parents/carers
- Introduction of a virtual learning environment
- Creation of a learning resource centre
- Improved IT facilities
- Numeracy across the curriculum strengthened
- Improved cross-curricular links between subjects
- Development of revision skills.

Quality of Teaching:

- Tailored support and training for Middle Leaders
- Bespoke intervention for staff failing to record outstanding/good judgements
- Quality and quantity of homework monitored and improved
- Coaching programme for Middle and Senior Leaders
- Lead Practitioners assigned to specific curriculum areas to work with Middle Leaders to improve the quality of learning and teaching.

Behaviour and Safety:

- Become a Stonewall Champion School
- Achieve anti-bullying mark
- Raise profile of core values
- Continue to improve attendance rates
- Eradicate low level disruption in lessons
- Installation of CCTV
- Installation of electric gates to front and rear of school and biometric door entrance.



...continued from page 1

They are both highly experienced and with a proven track record in improving student outcomes. There are still a small number of permanent vacancies to be filled and I will be advertising these in January as Lead Practitioner roles to help attract the best.

September brought with it a number of changes in order to help improve student outcomes, including: Primary Teacher for year 7 and 8 English and maths catch-up, intervention teachers and assistants in English and maths, additional English and maths support for those students requiring it and a redesigned curriculum to better meet the needs of our students.

For our current year 11 students who are in need of additional support they are being mentored by a member of

staff and there are regular alert evenings for those students in year 11 not on target. The first year 11 mock exams took place a few weeks ago and there are a number of other mock exams scheduled next year to best prepare our students for this crucial year. Everything is being, and will be done, to secure the best outcomes for your child.

It is important to our School to support and help parents/carers in their role to support their child's learning. We have therefore made a number of improvements, including: employing a Parental Support Adviser/Learning Mentor, two Pastoral Support Workers, resourced further surviving teenagers programmes, improvements to the School's website, meet the form tutor evenings and provided parent

information evenings.

During the summer holidays our Sixth Form was fully refurbished, the majority of our main school buildings were refurbished, IT provision has started to be transformed and we are currently formulating plans for the creation of a learning resource centre to facilitate students' self-study.

I hope that gives you a flavour of some of the improvements that have taken place during the last term and those planned over the coming months.

I wish all our families a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new 2015 school year.

*Mrs Saw
Headteacher*

We know that some of our readers prefer a paper copy therefore any parents/carers, staff or students who would like to be added to our hardcopy mailing list, please email talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk or ask your child to bring in a letter.

School Notice Board



Let's get organised! In order to help your child achieve their full potential, we need them to come to school with the right equipment. Please can you help them to do this by ensuring they bring with them: their planner (signed by parents/carers), pen, pencil, scientific calculator, ruler etc. Form tutors will be doing spot checks to ensure students have all their equipment. We want them to start learning the minute their lesson starts, so we need them to be fully prepared.



Attendance is important! A reminder that parents/carers should ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually. We request that medical/dental appointments are made out of school hours where possible. We encourage all parents/carers to **not** take any holidays in term time. Good attendance underpins academic achievement as well as social and emotional development. For more information regarding attendance please see our website.



Extra Curricular Activities

Our updated Extra Curricular Activities schedule is available on our website, you can also find here the Rugby Fixtures Schedule and the latest School Football League Tables <http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk/students>

Meet our Careers Adviser

My name is Miss Keogh and I am the Career Adviser based in Audenshaw School.

I am employed by Positive Steps, which is the company that has replaced Tameside Connexions.

I am in school every Monday and Wednesday.

I can provide career information, advice and guidance to students in year 9 to year 13 and help with Options Post 16 & Post 18, applications to school sixth form, college or apprenticeships.

Students that would like a careers appointment should give their name to myself or their form tutor and an appointment will be arranged at the earliest opportunity.

I offer a 'Careers Drop in' every Monday lunchtime 12-1.

I will also support parents/carers and will be attending Parents' Evenings at school.

I look forward to working with students, parents/carers and families at Audenshaw.

My contact details are 0161 621 9373 or email

lisakeogh@positive-steps.org.uk



Miss Keogh

School Production



Audenshaw School and local primaries came together this December to create a fantastic performance of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' showcasing their musical and dramatic abilities.

The live orchestra, directed by Miss Howarth, Curriculum Leader of Music at Audenshaw, supported the cast, made up



The main cast of Joseph

by students and staff across the school. She said "This is Audenshaw's first show to use a live orchestra, I'm so proud of their dedication and have been thrilled by the audience's reaction".

Working alongside 3 local primary schools, Aldwyn, Poplar Street and St Peter's, Audenshaw led workshops and were amazed at the commitment of the younger students who have practised so hard. Mrs Shepherd, producer of the show, said "Working with each of the primary schools has been wonderful, their voices are beautiful and it has been a brilliant addition to the show. I am overwhelmed by the response from each show and a sell out performance on the Friday evening was the perfect way to end our run of shows".

Miss Coles, who runs the choir at Aldwyn Primary School Audenshaw, said, "When our Show Choir was invited to



Mrs Saw with staff and students from Audenshaw School and St Peter's Primary School

musical production. The workshop which Audenshaw School provided was highly engaging and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed it. The Audenshaw students, who assisted their teachers in delivering the workshop, provided fantastic role models to the pupils of St Peter's and were an inspiration to



Mrs Shepherd, Miss Howarth, Jack Dolan, Alex Shaw & Lucy Harrison from Audenshaw School with Miss Coles and students from Aldwyn Primary School

perform in Joseph at Audenshaw, we couldn't wait to get started! The children have enjoyed rehearsing and learning the songs. They are wonderful singers and performers and have really enjoyed getting on stage and performing with the talented cast on their opening night!"

Miss Burns, who runs the choir at St. Peter's Primary School, Ashton-under-Lyne said, "We are all really pleased to be a part of 'Joseph' and we thank Audenshaw School for presenting our pupils with the opportunity to be involved in a large scale



Mrs Saw, Alex Shaw as Joseph and Ellie Leach

our younger pupils as their performances were so impressive". On opening night Audenshaw were very privileged to have local celebrity Ellie Leach, who plays Faye in Coronation Street, in attendance and after the show Ellie said, "I was really pleased to be invited by Mrs Saw, it was a fantastic night I couldn't believe the standard of talent that I saw, Audenshaw should be very proud it was an amazing show!"

Mrs Shepherd and Miss Howarth



Students from Poplar Street Primary School

It's official. We are a Stonewall Champion School!

Our school has committed to the Stonewall School Champion programme, as we believe that derogatory and hurtful language and bullying of all types is unacceptable.

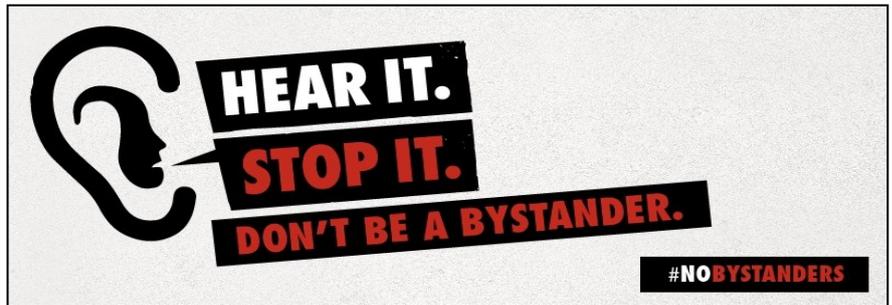
Bullying in our school is defined as:

"Bullying behaviour abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying" (Torfaen definition 2008). There are many definitions of bullying, but most have three things in common:

- it is deliberately hurtful behaviour;
- it is repeated often over a period of time;
- it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Our staff will now receive further training on how to identify and deal with bullying of all types and our students will be further made aware of the impact of homophobic language and bullying in general. Furthermore, the Peer Mentors and I will be running a scheme to ensure all staff, students and visitors can stamp out bullying by making a 'pledge' to not be a bystander to bullying.

Miss Breakell



Student Achievement

The Retainers Headline Club Academy!

On the 13th of September, The Retainers made their first appearance as headliners at Club Academy in Manchester. After three times supporting other acts, this was their first time to headline a night! The band first came together through our School's Rock Club and played their first gig at the annual school Rock Night at Audenshaw, before they started to land paid gigs at the Academy venues. The band is made up of four Audenshaw students: Benluca Bettoni (guitar and vocals), Chris Pollitt (bass guitar), Sasha Black (drums) and Cameron Bromley (guitar).

They performed a fantastic 40 minute set at Club Academy, built up mainly of original material but including the classic covers, 'What You Know' by Two Door Cinema Club and 'What If' by Bombay Bicycle Club. They gathered a crowd of around 200 people, and entertained them with both old and new material, starting on one of their new songs 'Misery and Daydreams' and ending on another new song 'Free House'. The night was a huge success and everyone had a great night.

Guitarist Cameron said, "Playing to 200 people was easily the best experience of my life, I can't wait for our next gig!"

Miss Howarth, Curriculum Leader of Music said, "It was great



to see The Retainers on the big stage finally in a headlining slot. They have worked really hard this year and deserve the success. The set was electric and it was great to see lots of Audenshaw students past and present bobbing up and down in the crowd. The Retainers are starting now to get a serious home fan base and will be ones to watch in the future. The music department are very proud of them!"

Matthew plays Cricket for Derbyshire

Audenshaw School student, Matthew Sonczak, 15, has been selected to play for Derbyshire County Cricket under 17's. Matthew could be found at Glossop Cricket Club from the time he was old enough to throw a ball! Coming from a sporting family he was taken down to the Cricket Club and Glossop Rugby Club following in the footsteps of his father and two older brothers. From an early age it was apparent that he had some talent as a bowler, Matthew commented, "I started playing cricket properly from the age of six and I've always enjoyed it. I was selected for Derbyshire when I was 12, mainly for my talent



Matthew & Mr Wilkinson

as a bowler. I've represented the county ever since and now I bat high up the order as well". Matthew has been a great asset to Audenshaw School's PE Department, playing both rugby and cricket with distinction. Mr Wilkinson, his form tutor and Rugby coach has praised Matthew's achievements he said, "Matthew is an incredibly pleasant student who is willing to take part in all the sport the school has to offer. He has already won the coveted 'Sportsman of the Year Award' and is also a member of the year 11 prefect team". Matthew is looking ahead to another season which may see him graduate to the senior Derbyshire County Cricket team. (This article featured in the Glossop Reporter & Chronicle)



The Retainers on stage

Student Achievement continued

Over the summer some of our Sixth Form students, Jack Dolan, Benjamin Charlton, Alex Shaw, Daniel Bowden, joined by former year 11 student Brandon Smith-Warner, had a once in a life time opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall London in the War Horse Prom.

During rehearsals for the Prom the students had the opportunity to spend a whole week in London working with director Melly Still from the National Theatre and Michael Morpurgo (War Horse Author) who gave them free tickets to see the War Horse Show; they also caught a performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night whilst they were there. They even managed to fit in some quick rounds of football in Kensington Park, the boys had a blast!

The War Horse Prom took place on the 3rd of August where the Audenshaw students were joined on stage by 37 other members of the Cambiata North West Choir in the debut performance of 'Some See Us' and the 'New War Hymn'. Our very own Jack Dolan had a solo performance in the 'New War Hymn' that was written 100 years ago by Henry Wood, the creator of the Proms. This was performed with Gareth Malone's Military Wives and the whole Prom was backed by the BBC concert orchestra conducted by the world renowned David Charles Abell. To top it all off the music was joined by the theatrics from the award winning War Horse production including the appearance of Joey, the puppet horse.

Here's what the students had to say about their experience,

"I enjoyed the busy work schedule to be honest... all the practising made me know it was the real deal" - Benjamin Charlton.

"It was great meeting and working with all of the amazing professionals" - Daniel Bowden.

"Working with the cast and directors at the national theatre was my favourite part of the experience" - Alex Shaw.

"The best part of the trip was getting to perform with the greatest people ever, and making some of the best friends I'll ever make" - Brandon Smith-Warner.

"It was thrilling to sing at the Royal Albert Hall and working with one of my favourite conductors, David Charles Abell, was a dream come true" - Jack Dolan.

Miss Howarth, Curriculum Leader of Music who was lucky enough to be there on the night said, "The whole thing was extremely moving knowing what was coming I started crying before the boys even got on the stage. The students were amazing and did Audenshaw School very proud". So what did they actually do in the prom? You'll have to wait and see, it's on television on Boxing Day 5.25pm on BBC2, so you will be able to see for yourselves!



Jack, Benjamin, Alex, Brandon and Daniel in their stage outfits



Jack, Daniel, Alex, Benjamin and Brandon enjoying their week in London.

Harry nominated for award

Year 8 student, Harry Rider has been shortlisted for the 'Tameside Young Achiever' award, following his brilliant performances in the swimming pool last year. Harry, 12, competes at the very highest level of the sport and is a member of the internationally renowned, Stockport Metro Swimming Club who boast a line of Olympians within their ranks both past and present. Harry excelled in the Arena League Championships last April and was a leading light throughout the year for the Audenshaw team in our first year of regular competition in 2013/14. He won five medals for the school in the Tameside District Championships in June as Audenshaw dominated the field to win by a record points margin. We wish Harry all the very best.



Harry

Audenshaw Students become Audenshaw Staff!

We are very proud as a school to say we have several members of staff who attended Audenshaw School or Audenshaw Sixth Form. Here's what some of them had to say:

I attended Audenshaw School between 1997 and 2002 and Sixth Form between 2002 and 2004. As an ex-student, I recognise the hard-working ethos and sense of responsibility and respect that Audenshaw



Mr Cunningham
aged 15

instilled within me. I always felt safe at the school and it was somewhere where, as long as you fulfilled your potential and worked hard, that you developed trusting and positive relationships with all teachers. After working at other schools, I always tried to bring a sense of discipline, hard-work and respect that I experienced as a student myself. When experiencing other schools and their values, it became extremely apparent that Audenshaw is unique in its approach – other schools are not as calm, orderly and respectful. By coming back here as a teacher myself, I feel lucky that I can assist students in fulfilling their potential, as many staff did with me all those years ago. It also means that I can continually remind staff such as Mr Howard, Miss Armstrong and Miss Warner that they are now not the 'up and coming' newer teachers anymore – they are the old, wise and more experienced members of the staff room!

Mr Cunningham

I came to Audenshaw to do music, as my first college decided not to run the course. However, the staff were really supportive and helpful. They supported me through all my time here.

I was very happy to get a job at Audenshaw. There's something about the atmosphere and the staff that makes it very welcoming. It's also great to be working alongside people that I went to the Sixth Form with!

Mrs Stevenson

My mum chose the school for its reputation of excellent discipline and the fact it was a single sex school so there would be fewer distractions! I was excited to start at Audenshaw because of the excellent sporting opportunities and because all my friends from Denton West End were going, I was in a form on my own which was great as I met 30 new friends straight away.

From the age of 14 I told my mum I would teach PE at Audenshaw. At 18 myself and Mr Young were members at Esporta now Virgin Health Club in Denton and we spoke about how brilliant it would be to work together at

Audenshaw. 7 years later that would be the case. Anyone wanting to teach, especially PE, would want to teach at Audenshaw for its outstanding reputation and highest of standards across a number of sports and I am happy to have achieved my career goals. My teachers were the inspiration that made me want to teach and it's great that I get to work along side some of them today.

Mr Brooks



Mr Brooks
aged 11

I came to Audenshaw in 1998. It was quite scary as I didn't know anyone and we also didn't know whether the exam results would be any good as the Sixth Form was so new they hadn't even had any exam results yet. I was the second year ever in the new Sixth Form. I came to Audenshaw initially as no where else in the local area offered A Level music and both my uncles had studied here and I was aware of its excellent reputation. I initially studied Music, English Literature, Maths and Further Maths. I was Blousey Brown in Buggy Malone when I was here and played in the school wind band. Mrs Stevenson and I were in the same form.

Miss Howarth

Despite many of my closest friends in primary school opting to go to other schools, Audenshaw was the only choice for me Audenshaw's traditional ethos and strong sense of discipline was appealing, but it was also the strength of the school's sporting programme that appealed to the sport-mad eleven year old boy I was. Audenshaw School has given me some of my fondest memories as both a teacher and a former student. Calling some of the teachers who once taught me by their first name still takes some getting used to!

Mr Young



Mr Young
aged 11

Science

Theme week

The end of the Summer term saw Key Stage 3 students take part in our Commonwealth Games themed week, where all their lesson that week were based around the Commonwealth Games. The diversity of the lessons was vast and included the activities such as designing, producing and tasting an isotonic sports drink, and analysing and designing streamlined athletics equipment in science. In History, students designed commemorative plates. English produced the commentary and information booklets for the various sporting events and Geography studied the legacy of the Games and the impact on the local communities.

The climax of the week was a showcase event where students from each year group worked together to present the best of their work to parents/carers, staff and governors. James Gee, Ben Amato and Matthew Bailey also planned and delivered a spectacular presentation to demonstrate what they had learned during the week. The theme weeks have been a huge

success this year due to the hard work and dedication of our students. Their love of learning shone through as they were able to link everything they had learned to a current sporting event and something which would directly impact their life during the Summer.

Scientist of the Term

Adil Anwar was awarded the first ever 'Scientist of the Term' award for his outstanding work in our Summer poster competition. This Term's award goes to Monish Rizal for his outstanding effort and dedication in science lessons. Monish is in year 7 and has only been in the school for a very short time, however, during that time he has demonstrated his love of science through his excellent classwork, homework and extended projects, particularly the production of a very intricate cell model and an assessed poster task on organs and organ systems. Well done Monish!

For more details of after school science clubs and revisions sessions please see our website.

Miss Guilfoyle

Geography

Geography Postcard Competition

The Geography Department would like to thank all staff and students who sent in postcards over the summer holidays. We received postcards from as far as Japan and Jamaica in addition to many entries from the UK. The winners of the competition were: Joseph Worthington, Jack Davies and Philip Brady – all from year 11. Students can see the winning entries on display in Mrs Sykes' classroom (MG11).

Year 8 get creative with the weather!

Students in year 8 are currently studying their first topic on Weather and Climate. For one of their homework activities they were asked to write a poem about the weather. Here are two excellent examples from 8D:

The Typical Weather by Sam Jackson

Wind blowing through the trees as the leaves rustle and the branches bang together.

Every step you take the water on the ground splats and scatters.

Air hot and humid as though the sun is only a mile away.

Thin layers of dew make the grass shimmer in the morning light.

Hail making the roof sound like it will collapse any minute now.

Eerie atmosphere as all the weather conditions calm down.

Rain trickling down the window as other drops crash into them like an obstacle course.

Weather Poem by Harrison Loftus

When it rains it blocks the drains.

We stay indoors where we can keep warm.

England pray for some sun.

When it comes, kids rush for some fun.

On the beach you see people with ice-cream,

And teenagers moaning when parents tell them "put on sun-cream".

When it snows, kids listen for "Ho Ho Ho"!

They run around having a snow ball fight,

Even though it's morning, it looks like night.

Plan what you're doing NEVER!

You don't know what you're doing, it depends on the WEATHER!

Year 10 Geographers build Favelas!

On Tuesday the 13th of October year 10 Geography students got first hand experience of building Favelas. Students in Mrs Sykes' class were asked to collect rubbish/scrap materials from home to bring to class. At the start of the lesson all the materials were taken to the hall and the class were split up into groups, they were then given 45 minutes to construct a Favela using what they had learnt in class to help them. The students did a fantastic job, working together as a team to create realistic models.



Geography students with their creations

Here are some student comments from the lesson.

"It was enjoyable and it gave us a better idea of what a favela looks like".

"I think it was good building the favela because it made us work as a team".

"It made me think about how the Brazilians have built their own habitable buildings out of materials they have found".

Mrs Sykes

English - Extreme Reading 2014

The second year of our Extreme Reading competition has been even more daring than the first. Thank you to all of you who spent time creating crazy and creative ways to be photographed reading. Our English display boards are going to be impressive and we have given you a selection here of the entries from both students and staff for you to enjoy!

It was a difficult choice to pick out the winners this year but after lengthy discussions we decided upon the following winners. In third place Josef Smillie 7N – scaling dangerous heights to read on top of a post; second place went to Malik

Jawad 7A for braving the freezing fountain and in first place we award Farron O'Hare 8D for wakeboarding his way to victory!

Farron really enjoyed his windsurfing/reading experience. He said: "It was a lot of fun and it felt like I was walking on water". He explained that though he did get thoroughly soaked, it was worth it for the entertainment. Farron was not satisfied with his third

the high wire: "I really like extreme sports. I raced my son and husband to the top!" She mentioned that the whole experience was rather hair-raising, "The wire was very thin and the weather was quite windy. Even though I had a harness on, I was moving around a lot!" She managed to smuggle the book up tucked in the pocket of her shorts ready for the perfect photo opportunity!

Mr McMorine read 'Life of Pi', he had this to say, "It's a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001.



Staff winner- Mrs Sykes



1st Place - Farron O'Hare 8D

place success last year and his determination has definitely paid off for him this year.

To add an extra challenge to the competition, we offered a staff prize this year to see if we could stand up to the student entries. The staff did not disappoint! We gave students the task of choosing the winner from the top



2nd Place - Malik Jawad 7A

entries. These included Miss Daly reading with a bull, Mr Tupman reading on his bicycle and Mr McMorine on top of a house. All students from years 7 to 10, voted in assemblies and all votes were tallied. Their choice for first place was Mrs Sykes, who found time to stop and read in the middle of a daring high wire assault course. A very deserving winner! Mrs Sykes explained why she ended up on



Mr McMorine

The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker".

Mr Tupman read 'How I Won The Yellow Jumper' by Ned Boulting, he said, "It's the story behind the glamour of covering cycling's biggest race. It is a tale of one man, a suitcase full of smelly socks and his battered Renault Espace on an annual three-week assignment following the Tour de France. This was a book I enjoyed reading so much I didn't want to finish it. It was informative, amusing and recommended for anyone with an interest in cycling".



Mr Tupman

I read 'I am Pilgrim' by Terry Hayes, which is a novel about the life of a secret agent. He explains a number of his top

secret assignments and describes just how close they can come to failing and what will happen to the world if he does fail. Quite intense (and at times very stressful!).

We look forward to celebrating the enjoyment of reading throughout the school year.

To see more of the Extreme Reading entries please go to our website.



Mrs Watkinson



3rd Place - Josef Smillie 7N

Mrs Watkinson

PE Department and Sports

Football

The Audenshaw football teams have made an incredible start to the season by winning all 11 of their opening games of the season across the age groups. This included a 15-0 success over neighbours, Droylsden Academy in the under 15 age group. The year 10s won the national cup 3 years ago and will be looking to emulate their own accomplishments again this year. Thanks to Mr Watt, Mr Gillespie, Mr Jennings, Mr Brooks and Mr Young as well as Mr Noble for their coaching of the teams.

The Audenshaw School football teams are enjoying their best start to the season ever, winning all 12 of their opening 12 games.

The School Football league tables are available to view on our website <http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk/footballleaguetales>

Year 7 Football

The new year 7 team have made an impressive start to their ESFA National cup campaign in the new 9 a side format wins over Mirfield Free Grammar School and Rossett School, Harrogate sees them cruising into the 3rd round. The impressive year 10 team are also making short work of the opposition in all competitions recently beating Bramhall 5-0 in the National Cup.

We appreciate all the support we receive from parents/carers with the extra commitment to extra-curricular sport and we would like to see as many students as possible attending training and practice sessions. Please see the new extra-curricular timetable on our website.

www.audenshawschool.org.uk/students

Inter Form Sports

The race for the most impressive trophy of the year began in earnest last week with the lower school cross country race. 3 runners from each form took to the field to battle out for year group honours and to contribute to the overall form points competition.

Year group winning runners were: year 7 – Josef Smillie, year 8 – Sufyan Amjad, year 9 – Oliver Richardson

The form winners were: year 7 – 7N, year 8 – 8S, year 9 – 9N. This gives N a narrow overall lead over S and D. The next competitions are: 6 a side Football and Rugby 7's.

Rugby

Under 16 success at St Ambrose

The first silverware of the rugby season went to the year 11 students in the under 16 team at the Peter Whiting 10's at St Ambrose. The pool stages saw the Audenshaw team beat the hosts but a draw and a narrow loss saw them progress into the plate competition on points difference only. A close semi final win over Rydal with a last minute try from Joe Worthington saw them progress to the final against Wilmslow, who are always a strong opponent and also found themselves in the plate on points difference as well. Audenshaw were caught out almost from the kick off and Wilmslow took a very early lead but a superb catch from the kick off by Jake Lawlor set up an immediate reply from Audenshaw. 'Man of the tournament' Joe Worthington scoring in the opposite corner. He added another before leaving the game with a twisted ankle. A superb solo



Team talk with Mr Rose

effort from Ewan Roach finished off the Wilmslow resistance. The win has given the team the confidence and collective belief to compete this season as the 2nd XV playing against team made up of mostly Sixth Form players. They have started this era of senior rugby very well with a draw against Bolton and a tough but determined defeat to an enormous Crossley Heath team before beating a talented Altrincham team with a performance of unbelievable intensity. The squad has been bolstered by several players new to rugby and some players returning to rugby for the first time since the lower school.

Crossley Heath 12 Audenshaw School 31

The under 15's travelled to Halifax to face Crossley Heath School at Old Crossleyans RUFC. The visitors arrived in a confident mood after a standout performance on Saturday morning against Altrincham Grammar and were to earn another hard fought victory in the Yorkshire rain. James Barber produced an outstanding display in the second row and was a decisive influence on the Audenshaw win. Ryan Williams showed flashes of the form that he displayed in the Lancashire Cup Final and James Smillie was a threat as always at inside centre with surging runs throughout the game. The man of the match accolade, however, went to wing sensation Jay Patel whose match winning try was just reward for an excellent overall performance.

Swimming

Squad training after school on Thursdays has been going strong since the start of the year and the programme of Galas will take the team back to Stockport, Bolton and St Ambrose as well as new trips to Leeds and Bradford Grammar Schools. Some very talented year 7 swimmers have joined the team and we eagerly await the results.

And finally... Look who dropped in to visit, England Cricketer Stephen Parry!

Stephen was a student at Audenshaw and was in the same school year as our current PE teachers Mr Young and Mr Brooks. Stephen said, "It was lovely to come back and visit school and his old friends. Audenshaw School always supported my progress through Cricket and I will always be grateful for that. I know lots of children would dream to do my job and it just shows what you can achieve if you work hard enough".



Mr Young, Stephen Parry and Mr Brooks

History

Normandy Trip - 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

During the first week of July, in honour of the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, we took 67 year 10 History students to Normandy, France.



Students enjoying their trip

After an early start on the Thursday morning, we proceeded to France via the Channel Tunnel. The students were in excellent spirits and excited to see the beaches of Normandy. The stops on the first day included visiting Merville Battery where the guides introduced how the German army established the defences along the Normandy coast and the students had the opportunity to explore the preserved German bunkers. The students also visited Pegasus Bridge and Sword Beach to learn about the initial attacks on the 6th of June.

On day two the students had a busy day exploring the beaches along Normandy, including Pointe du Hoc, the German Battery at Longues sur Mer and Omaha Beach, which was used in the filming of 'Saving Private Ryan'. The students also visited a



Students and staff extreme reading at Normandy

number of D-Day cemeteries including Ranville Commonwealth Cemetery, La Cambe German Cemetery and St Laurent US Cemetery. Whilst at Ranville Cemetery, the students searched for various graves including the first soldier to die during the D-Day Landings. As a treat, the students then had a picnic and a paddle in the sea to cool down.

The final day the students visited Juno Beach and completed an extreme reading picture next to a 'Churchill Tank' and then visited Arromanches to see the Mulberry Harbour and watch a 360° film that tells the story of the Normandy Landings. The last stop was particularly poignant as we visited Bayeux Cemetery where a student from Audenshaw School is buried, Edgar Davy was twenty years old and was part of the Royal Artillery Regiment. A service was held and the students laid a wreath on his grave.

The students learnt a great deal about the Normandy Landings which will be very beneficial to their future studies and both staff and students alike had a great time! *Miss Bradbury*

Art

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The Art Department went on a visit to YSP near Wakefield this term. The park has been described as a 'gallery without walls' which gives people an opportunity to respond to, and to think about, sculpture in relation to the designed landscape.

The visit, for year 9 and Sixth Form art students, comprised two sessions. In the morning, a guided tour explores some of the sculptural works on display around the park and provides stimulus for the afternoon session an open-air, artist led workshop. Students worked in teams to create large-scale sculptures and used a wide range of sculptural materials, processes and techniques. In past years this visit has always proved to be a really enjoyable day for our budding year 9 artists and this visit was no different. Our students have loved the competitive nature of the sculpture building and have learnt things we have little chance of covering in the classroom.

The visit also gave our Sixth Form artists the opportunity to engage first hand with the work of a wide range of contemporary sculptors. This was extremely valuable as they start to think about the written study that must accompany their personal study.

Mrs Parker

Artist of the Term - Sept/Oct



Ben Amato - 8A

Ben based this piece of work on textiles artist, Elaine Hughes. This homework is very impressive because Ben has thought about the composition of the collage, about how he can use recycled materials in the style of the artist and how he's experimented with text in a creative way. A very creative and imaginative homework. Well done, Ben.

Artist of the Term - Nov/Dec



Bradley Jones - 10L

Bradley has made an excellent start to the GCSE course producing a highly developed pencil drawing of an eagle, which successfully captures the varied textures. Great work Bradley.

Sixth Form

Sixth Form Students are inspired by Oxford

Students who were identified as having the aptitude, drive and ambition to study at one of the country's top universities were invited to the Oxford University talk this week at Audenshaw Sixth Form. Brendan Shepherd of Corpus Christie College, Oxford, came to speak to students about what it takes to gain a place at an elite higher education institution. Topics of discussion included: applications, life at Oxford, the interview process and possible financial help open to applicants. The talk was followed by an intensive Q&A session where Oxford Outreach Officer, Mr Shepherd, was hit with a barrage of inquisitive year 11's and Sixth Formers who were keen to enquire further.

Mr Wilkinson, in charge of providing opportunities for the Most Able students at Audenshaw School, said that Mr Shepherd was "impressed by the enthusiasm shown by Audenshaw's brightest young minds". This talk is the beginning of a continued link between Audenshaw School and Oxford University which is aimed at increasing the number of students who go on to study at one of the top seats of learning in the world.

Brendan Shepherd said, "The University of Oxford is committed to educating the brightest and best students in the country and, as such, is keen to receive applications from schools from across the country. As part of our assessment of students' applications, the key things looked for are academic



Daniel Craven, Mr Herbert, Shreesh Sinha, Brendan Shepherd, Cameron Bromley, Mr Wilkinson and Holly Beddingfield

ability and potential; a student's enthusiasm for and engagement with their chosen subject. These are not aspects governed by a student's background so applications are encouraged from any students who possess a genuine and engaging interest in their subject. Visiting schools across the country, we hope to meet students like this and encourage them to consider Oxford as a viable option for their future".

Mr Wilkinson

Badminton a big hit at Audenshaw!

Sixth Form students have been keen to organise their own societies and clubs this academic year. These include the Debating Society, the Shakespeare Society and Mediscience Society. The most popular has been the Badminton Club with about 20 Sixth Formers attending every Thursday after school.



Mr Herbert

Sixth Form Badminton Club

Music

Piano Recital

Wednesday the 15th of October saw 10 of our students perform in our annual piano recital. Performances were heard from students in all years, from beginner to A-Level. Mr Thompson kicked off proceedings with a stunning performance of Debussy's *Girl with the Flaxen Hair* and Luke Piper in year 12 closed the concert with a flawless performance of *I Giorni* by composer of the moment, Ludovico Einaudi. Daniel Bradley in year 10 used the performance as a warm up to his grade 1 piano exam and Will Harvey in year 13 to his A Level performance. We are hoping to make this a bi-annual event and have another one planned in the new year.

Manchester Cathedral Charity Concert

On the 9th of December our Sixth Form barbershop group and Glee Choir performed at Manchester Cathedral in a special concert in aid of Medequip4kids a charity that provides specialist medical equipment for children's wards.

It was a very busy concert with lots of local school choirs, a brass band, Glossop string orchestra and a dance troop from Bolton all sharing the bill. Our students were allocated a 7



Miss Howarth, Mr Thompson and the Piano students.

minute slot in which the Glee Choir performed Lady Gaga's Telephone before being joined by the rest of the Barbershop to perform 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas'.

Miss Howarth

Governor Profile



Governor: Alan Beech

I am married, with a son at Audenshaw and a daughter at Fairfield, a keen amateur astronomer, geocacher and co-owner of FC United.

Having spent my school days at Two Trees, trying hard to avoid doing too much work, I succeeded, and left school with only physics and maths 'O' levels to my name. I was lucky and was offered an electrical apprenticeship with Crossley Engines.

It wasn't until I started work that I realised that my education was the most important thing I could have had, and I'd wasted it. I belatedly knuckled down to 14 years of hard, part time work at college, whilst working on my electrical apprenticeship. I eventually qualified and completed my BSc. I am now a Chartered Electrical Engineer, owning my own electrical design services company, working on major infrastructure projects throughout the country.

It was the late realisation of what I'd missed and all the catch-up I had to do, that made me determined that my children would have every opportunity to do better at school. So I decided when my first child started school, to offer my experience to the governors at St Anne's Primary school, I still sit on the board today, 9 years later.

When an opportunity arose to continue as a governor at Audenshaw, I jumped at the chance and I have been constantly amazed at the dedication and hard work of all the staff, governors and students ever since.

It gives me great pride to feel that I can help in any way, to enthuse and encourage children to enjoy their school years and come out in the end with more than I did.

If you have any questions about the role of School Governor, or indeed any matters you wish to raise, please get in touch via the school at audenshawgovernors@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk.

Mr Tupman's Recipe

Easy Cheesy Frittata

Ingredients

2 spring onions, ends trimmed off
4 tablespoons of frozen peas, defrosted
1 courgette, halved with the ends cut off
2 slices of ham
100g feta cheese

Equipment

Scissors
2 x Large mixing bowl
Grater
Spoon
Whisk
Pastry brush



Tupman's Top Tip

Serve with a side salad and crusty bread.

Instructions

1. Switch on the oven and set to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Snip or cut up the spring onions and put them in a bowl. Add the peas to the bowl.
2. Grate the courgette, one half at a time, then add it to the bowl.
3. Cut the ham into pieces with your scissors, if you do this over the bowl it will fall straight in.
4. Break the feta into the bowl by crumbling it with your hands.
5. Crack the eggs into a bowl and, if any bits of shell fall in, scoop them out with a spoon. Whisk the eggs until the yolks are mixed into the white.
6. Pour the eggs into the other bowl and stir. Brush a round ovenproof dish, about 16cm across, with oil. Tip everything into the dish.
7. Put the dish in the oven for 30 minutes or until the egg is set.

Feedback I hope you've enjoyed this newsletter!

I welcome your views and feedback so should you have any comments on the contents of the newsletter, please contact me via: talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk.

Mrs Saw, Headteacher