

Parents' Newsletter

Issue 01 (monthly)



Dear Families

My recent Home School Agreement identified that the successful development of the school's students depends on an effective partnership of school, students and parent/carers, something that I am fully committed to achieving. With that in mind, welcome to my first newsletter which will herald the beginning of much improved communication between home and school.

Reflection on first term

Reflecting on my first term as Headteacher of Audenshaw School, I have been extremely impressed by the students' attitude to learning and the staff team's commitment to supporting our young people to achieve their best.

One of the first things that I did when I took up post as Headteacher was to update the school mission statement and to share my vision for our school with staff, in order to build a set of common goals and values and I would now like to share them with parents/carers.

Mission

The mission statement reflects the strong sense of identity that our school has, which has been built on a foundation of tradition, a strong disciplined environment and respect.

'The school aims to provide a **quality** education in a **caring** community based on an ethos of **respect, discipline** and a **relentless** pursuit of **excellence** in all that we do.'

You will see this mission displayed in various ways throughout our school and it's our overall reason for existing.

Vision

The vision that I have for Audenshaw and which is shared by governors and staff is that:

"Audenshaw School will be recognised as a fully inclusive, aspirational, high achieving centre of excellence, firmly rooted in the local community.

We will create, develop and maintain a challenging and stimulating personalised learning environment where no student is overlooked or left behind and where teaching and learning is high quality, inspirational and innovative.

We will consistently have high academic standards and expectations for every individual and continue to place considerable value on sport and healthy living and developing strong links with the community.

All members of the school community will

be valued and every success will be celebrated.

Audenshaw School will maintain a safe, secure and caring environment in which to work and learn."

Pledge to Staff

It's clear that this vision will not be realised without the hard work and commitment from the whole school community and to my staff I pledged that they would all:

- Have opportunities to develop and fulfil their potential.
- Receive innovative and effective training.
- Be supported, cared for, challenged and valued.
- Feel trusted and empowered to be creative and innovative.
- Participate in, contribute to and benefit from partnerships within the school and beyond.
- Have inspirational and accountable leadership at all levels.

In turn I have asked staff to ensure that they communicate high aspirations at all times and advised them that they are accountable for student outcomes.

Staffing

I know that some parents/carers are concerned about the current level of staff turnover. Members of staff leave their posts for a variety of reasons including: promotion (a sign of the school's strength in developing leaders); increased accountability (due to the change in leadership); retirement; as well as the same reasons members of staff leave any organisation. We continue to attract experienced teachers from other schools who bring with them successful, alternative methods for teaching and learning, as well as highly trained newly qualified teachers who bring cutting edge teaching methods and a wealth of new resources direct from the research universities. The school has been too insular for far too long. This change in staff will allow fresh ideas to replace and further develop the school's existing styles. It is healthy for an organisation to have a turnover of staff.

Pledge to Parents and Students

We have now started working towards a realisation of my vision and I will be ensuring that:

- All our students achieve to the best of their ability by creating a shared passion for learning. We will increase opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom.

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- All our students are supported to make outstanding progress across all curriculum areas and in the personal development through the provision of consistent, high quality, inspirational and innovative teaching and learning.
- The culture of high expectations for all students and staff within our school is strengthened through the promotion of the following values in all members of the school community:
 - * respect (for people and property),
 - * self-discipline,
 - * hard work,
 - * honesty,

Continued on page 2



Message from the Headteacher Continued from page 1

Pledge to Parents and Students

- * trust,
 - * fairness,
 - * tolerance,
 - * responsibility,
 - * moral purpose and
 - * resilience.
- The talents of all students are identified, nurtured and encouraged through more focused "able, gifted and talented" programmes and through creative, exciting and memorable experiences inside and outside of the classroom.
 - Success is recognised and celebrated.

Some of the ways that we are starting to do this are:

- The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is now back and running and Mr Holmes is the scheme's co-ordinator.
- Residential trip booked for February half-

term to France organised by Madame Lewis of the Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Department and a trip to Normandy in July 2014 arranged by Miss Bradbury to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Other trips are listed on the newsletter under "forthcoming events".

- During the October 2013 half-term the classrooms in the MFL Department were refurbished. During February 2014 half-term it is hoped that classrooms of both the Geography Department and Religious Studies Department will be refurbished along with the remaining part of the ground floor main corridor. New furniture for the dining hall is also currently being sourced.
- The school continues to work hard for its nominated charity Rueben's Retreat and opportunities are currently being explored for sixth form students to help lay a nature trail at one of our local primary feeder schools. The views of both the School Council and the School's Charity Committee will now be sought about whether to extend charity work further or whether students prefer to focus all their efforts on one charity

per year.

- Miss Shepherd is now Teacher in Charge of Celebrating Student Progress, which will involve the arrangement of a special awards evening during the summer term, an additional achievement/progress Vivos reward category, an awards board in school and much more.
- You will see much more of the students' successes, recognised and celebrated through the local press, the school's website and the internal television system in school.
- A homework timetable is currently being worked on, as is a Homework Policy, both of which will be shared with students and parents/carers shortly.

I hope that you will find this newsletter informative and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.



Mrs Saw, Headteacher

Meet the Headteacher

If you would like to meet with the Headteacher, Mrs Saw will be available every **Thursday from 3.30 pm - 6.00 pm** from now until the end of the academic year. **To make an appointment, e-mail**

talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk

or telephone: 0161 335 2126

Term Dates 2014

Start : Monday 6th January

Finish: Friday 14th February

HALF TERM **Monday 17th – Friday 21st February**

Start: Monday 24th February

Finish: Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM

Start: Tuesday 22nd April

BANK HOLIDAY **Monday 5th May (students not in school)**

Finish: Friday 23rd May

HALF TERM **Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May**

Start: Monday 2nd June

INSET DAY **Friday 4th July (students not in school)**

Finish: Friday 18th July

AUTUMN TERM

It is anticipated that the first day of term will commence on Monday 1st September 2014.

Key dates for January/February 2014

January

25th - Rugby v Bury

28th - Year 11 Mock Exam Results

6pm Parents' Evening 11A, 11L and 11D

29th - 7.30pm - Piano Recital - Miss Howarth

30th - 6pm Parents' Evening 11W, 11Y, 11N and 11S

February

3rd - 7th - Year 12 and 13 Mock Exams

14th - School closes for half-term

17th - School trip to France departs

(Date To be confirmed) *Interform Competition*

STEM Club is coming!

A STEM club is an AFTER SCHOOL group that gives students the chance to explore aspects of science, technology, engineering, and maths outside normal classroom activities.

STEM club isn't a homework or revision club, it is not designed to be about tests or exams. Activities will include practical experiments, investigation, group work, discussion and reflection.

Most of all, it will be fun.

For more details students should see Mrs Pearson.



Student and Parent Surveys

In November 2013 students and parents were asked to take part in a survey. The aim of which was to gather students' and parents' views on a variety of aspects of the school to see what they think is going well and which aspects could be improved to make school life even better.

Student Survey:

680 completed questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 57.5%.

The students gave a **"very good"** overall performance score (74.3%)

What's working well at Audenshaw School?

The students awarded the highest scores for:

- social health education;
- control of bullying;
- availability of resources;
- encouraging local community activity;
- suitable class sizes; and
- treating students fairly and equally.

What could be better?

The students awarded the lowest scores for:

- the delivery of careers advice;
- school communication;
- encouraging and listening to parents' views; and
- computer access.

Parent Survey:

801 completed questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 67.8%.

The parents gave an **"excellent"** overall performance score (81.3%).

What's working well at Audenshaw School?

The parents awarded the highest scores for:

- school discipline;
- developing moral values; and
- school facilities.

What could be better?

The parents awarded the lowest scores for:

- school communication;
- choice of subjects; and
- control of bullying.



I do hope that students and parents recognise that the survey and this newsletter is the first step to improving communication between home and school and that I am fully committed to ensuring that we improve this situation quickly.

I have read all the comments made by both students and parents and have set my Senior Leadership Team to work on investigating these areas, so that we better understand what the issues are to make lasting improvements. One way in which we will do this is by extending invitations to students and parents to join a number of focus groups to address specific areas.

Our School Council will also use some of this information to plan their work this year.

Students and parents will be asked to repeat the survey later this year, so the school can measure how well it's done to make improvements.

Mrs Saw, Headteacher

Year 8's Parents' Evening

The Year 8 Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 29th 2014 April for 8A, 8L & 8D and Thursday 1st May 2014 for 8W 8Y 8N & 8S.

We apologise that these dates were not included in the school calendar.

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Chair of Governors will be available on both these dates and at all future Parents' Evenings should you wish to speak with them.

Maths Help

In the light of the recent OFSTED report, Audenshaw School are providing students further opportunities to develop and apply their mathematical skills across a wide range of subjects.

French



Geography



Our students' numeracy skills are a huge priority at Audenshaw and so we are providing them with lots of opportunities to develop these. All students have logins for Manga High which enables students to access fun, interactive maths activities or to revise for topics when they are at home. It is something that as a parent or carer you can get involved in encouraging your child to do.

In addition, all our year 11 students have been given Maths Watch DVD's which are a great tool

when revising for their maths exam. Students have also been attending after school revision classes to boost their progress in the upcoming mock exams.

We want the students to enjoy using and celebrating their numeracy skills and they will have the chance to do this in the form competitions starting this term in addition to our mathematically gifted and talented students taking part in this year's UK Maths Challenge. Last year Miss McGivern and four year 9 students reached the final of the prestigious Edge Hill University mathematics competition and we hope to achieve success with this year's entry.

Visit this link to see why this is a beneficial tool for students to improve their maths.

www.mangahigh.com



Mangahigh is a cutting edge new games-based teaching resource, and its 'games' contain difficult maths with sophisticated pedagogy. All KS3 students now have a log in to **access this from home** where they can practice maths from a computer at home or in school.

where math
is just a game

Try it!

Miss Neary

WANTED ... Parents/Carers, to help run the Combined Cadet Force

Audenshaw School are looking for parents/carers who may be interested in volunteering their services to help run the Combined Cadet Force.

If you are qualified, have the necessary skills or are interested in helping to run the joint cadet force, comprising of:

Sea Cadets

Army Cadet Force

Air Training Corps

then please contact Audenshaw School at: talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk.

The CCF aim to provide challenging and enjoyable activities for young people living in the UK and certain locations abroad and to better prepare them for their role in the community. Not only do cadets have the opportunity to learn new skills and engage in adventurous activities in disciplined and well-structured organisations, they may also gain BTEC qualifications based on their achievements. These qualifications equate to four GCSEs and may help them in their future education and career.

Adults who volunteer to help with the cadets also have the opportunity to receive useful training and gain recognised qualifications.

Cadets have the chance to learn new skills and engage in adventurous activities in disciplined and well-structured organisations based on the traditions, values and standards of the Armed Forces. Cadets can also work towards a range of nationally-recognised qualifications which will help with their future education and careers.

Student Contributions



Keeping it Clean Scheme ...

Last term, form 7D expressed an interest in contributing to the School and came up with 'Keeping it Clean'. As a form, they decided that they would like to spend one form time and break time once a week litter picking in the yard. A great idea and I am proud that they wish to set a good example!

Miss Goodall, Form Tutor 7D

Christmas Carols from the Brass Band



During the festive period, Audenshaw School Brass Band treated movie goers to various Christmas Carols, playing at Cineworld in Ashton-U-Lyne.

After playing and setting a 'festive mood' in the cinema, the band were rewarded with a preview of the movie Frozen .

Well done to all those involved!

OAPs' Party

With a sprinkling of glitter and shimmy of tinsel, Audenshaw's annual OAP Christmas Party rocked back into town with an abundance of glad tidings.

The Sixth-Form Head Boy and Girl team pulled off the most successful party the school has seen. On a bitterly cold day, the sight of appreciative visitors felt like a log fire warming the hearts of the students who had helped to make this year's party a roaring success.

The party started off with members of the Student Leadership Team serving tea and coffee to the OAPs, as they mingled with fellow partiers from various local care homes. They were further greeted by the school's brass band, orchestrated by Miss Howarth, playing many of the favourite Christmas carols and songs. An hour after arrival hotpot was served, which truly warmed the souls of the OAPs who were overwhelmed by the love and care afforded them by the Audenshaw students.

As the food started to settle, the children of Audenshaw Primary School joined the festivities singing Christmas hymns and carols whilst dressed as little elves: The OAPs fell in love with them instantly. Following the primary school children were a selection of Audenshaw's own finest musicians and singers who delighted the audience with some quirky Christmas tunes.

Whilst this year's Leadership Team really innovated the OAP party, they realised they couldn't do it without the annual fixture of Mrs Kinsey's bingo. Decked out in a magnificent Christmas cardigan and bringing her own unique twist on bingo phrases, Mrs Kinsey brought a little bit of festive joy to the lucky winners. To conclude this triumphant day, the raffle took place to win hampers or boxes of chocolates, which really rounded the day off on a fun note. The OAPs left Audenshaw School with their bellies full and their hearts even more full with the joy at how well they had been treated.

Daniel Potts, Head Boy

Well done to the Year 13 Head Boy and Girl Team.

Geography Department launches competition

Over the course of the next few weeks the Geography Department will be incorporating competition into their lessons. This year this will be integrated into lesson planning and will focus on Years 7, 10 and 13.

Year 7 will look at recycling, Year 10 sustainable housing and Year 13 hazards. We look forward to announcing the winners before Easter.

The Geography Department

Audenshaw Students are taught lesson live from USA

Year 9 were treated to a spontaneous but rewarding experience recently in ICT.

One of Audenshaw School's international partner links is Newtown School, Pennsylvania, USA. During the lesson, their teacher offered to live stream his students presentations on the 'history of the computer.'

Audenshaw students watched each presentation and responded to each using an online questionnaire. Their results were shared in graph form for all to see and analyse.

Audenshaw students plan to swap and do a similar presentation to their American counterparts soon.



Mr Shanker, I.C.T.

Art Department

Resident Artist - *Ian Murphy*

Practising artist Ian Murphy came in for the day during November and worked with all Art AS and A Level students. He delivered a series of workshops demonstrating different ways of creating surfaces and drawing techniques.

The work produced linked directly to students' coursework projects and was a unique opportunity to work with and gain insight into the life of a practising artist.



'For many of us this was the first time working with a real-life artist with access to their personal tuition. The doors it opened for us creatively have added to our work massively, proving that with art, the opportunities really are endless'.

Holly Beddingfield, 12J



Year 7 Art Club

Year 7 work inspired by Jon Burgerman

For the last couple of sessions, Year 7 students have looked at an artist called Jon Burgerman, and started to produce work inspired by his cartoon illustrations. They selected objects around the classroom to draw, such as old paint brushes, glue sticks and scissors and turned these mundane objects into characters by giving them facial expressions and character!

Students have loved doing this style of work and have really enjoyed developing their drawing work by doing some polyprints of their characters. They are now in the process of cutting the characters out and presenting their work in a similar style to Burgerman's work thinking about layout and composition.



Miss Pringle, Art

Burgerman's work



Artist of the Month



*Hamaad Hassan
of 10D*

Artwork inspired by Manchester based artist Ian Murphy who led a workshop at Audenshaw School in November.

Miss Pringle, Art

Inter-Form Sports Cup 2013/14



What is the Inter-Form Cup all about?

This year a new format for inter-form sport at Audenshaw will begin, as we feel that inter-form competitions should have greater status within the school.

New Inter-Form Sport Programme:

Key Stage 3 competitions will run for the full academic year.

Inter-Form sport weeks will take place where competitions will be held for a specific sport for years 7-9.

Each student may participate in a maximum of 2 events all year. We hope that almost everyone will have the chance to participate in at least one.

Events will be advertised at assemblies and on school tv screens.

Vivos will be awarded to the students involved in the winning team / runner-up of each of the competitions.

Points can be earned depending on finishing positions of forms in each of the competitions (1st place = 7 points, 7th place = 1 point).

A year group trophy will be presented to the sports' captain of the winning forms for year 7, 8 and 9.

The Inter-Form Cup (pictured above) will be presented to the year 10 sports captain of the winning form over all 3 year groups (e.g. combined points total of 7A, 8A and 9A).

Results to date of the Inter-Form Sports Cup so far this year after 2 events: included are the individual cross country results and football results for each year group then the overall standings:

CROSS COUNTRY

<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>
1.7S	1.8D	1.9N	1.7S	1.8W	1.9N
2.7A	2.8N	2.9Y	2.7Y	2.8A	2.9L
3.7D	3.8L	3.9D	3.7L	3.8Y	3.9D
4.7Y	4.8W	4.9A	4.7A	4.8S	4.9A
5.7W	5.8S	5.9W	5.7W	5.8L	5.9W
6.7L	8A & 8Y DID NOT PARTICIPATE	6.9L	6.7N	6.8D	6.9Y
7.7N		7.9S	7.7D	7.8N	7.9S

Football

INTER FORM CUP OVERALL STANDINGS

After 2 Events

POSITION	FORM	PTS Yr7	PTS Yr8	PTS Yr9	TOTAL PTS
1	D	6	9 (2 nd)	10 (2 nd)	25
2	A	10 (3 rd)	6	8	24
3	N	3	7	14 (1 st)	24
4	S	14 (1 st)	7	2	23
5	Y	10 (2 nd)	5	8	23
6	W	6	11 (1 st)	6	23
7	L	7	8 (3 rd)	8	23

CROSS COUNTRY

Year 7 Top 3

1. EVANS (7Y)
2. VISRAM (7A)
3. CLARKE (7S)

Year 8 Top 3

1. KALU (8L)
2. RICHARDSON (8N)
3. MARTIN (8L)

Year 9 Top 3

1. PATEL (9N)
2. WHITEHEAD (9Y)
3. DAVIDSON (9D)

Below is a proposed schedule for 'Inter-Form Sport Weeks'.

These dates/events are subject to change

SPRING TERM

Wednesday 22nd January

Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM

Monday 28th April – Friday 2nd May

Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May

Monday 9th June – Friday 13th June

Monday 16th June – Friday 20th June

Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July

Yrs 7 & 8 Badminton

Rugby Yr 7

Indoor Athletics

Table Tennis

Swimming Gala

Cricket Trios

Sports Day & Presentation

INTER-FORM SPORTS COUNCIL

(Made up of Year 10 form sports captains)

A Liam Kennerley

L Luke Hassall

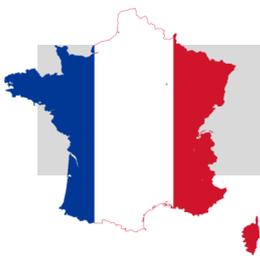
D Ellis Robson

W Connor Barwin

Y Fraser Jones

N Joe Worthington

S Sam Dean



Modern Foreign Languages



Visit to the European Christmas Markets



On Thursday the 19th December 2013, the MFL Department organised a trip to the European Christmas Markets in Albert square, Manchester.

The MFL teachers invited the hardest workers in their Yr 9 classes to come on a reward trip to the Markets.

Students had the opportunity to experience different countries and cultures as the markets have stores from all over Europe, mainly German, French and Spanish. Students enjoyed sampling food from other countries and some even tried out their languages skills on the traders!

This was the perfect way for Yr 9 students to end a term of hard work.



Phrase for the month (Spanish)

Mucho gusto / Encantada (informal / formal)

= Pleased to meet you



Mrs P. Duffy, Head of MFL

Music - Exam Results



These students took external music exams just before Christmas and all passed with flying colours

Jenny Tainsh, Yr 12	Grade 7 Clarinet Merit
Josh Cheung, Yr 7	Grade 4 Violin Distinction
Cameron Bromley, Yr 10	Grade 4 Guitar Merit
Daniel Dickinson, Yr 10	Grade 4 Trombone Pass
James Swindell, Yr 10	Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
James Brown, Yr 10	Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
Tom Stanley, Yr 9	Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
Sam Cunliffe, Yr 9	Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
Ethan Dowse, Yr 9	Grade 2 Guitar Merit
Aiden Tevlin, Yr 10	Grade 2 Guitar Merit
Haydn Williams, Yr 11	Grade 2 Jazz Saxophone Merit
Harry Hind, Yr 10	Grade 2 Trombone Merit
Matthew Bailey, Yr 7A	Grade 2 Cornet Merit
Alex Law, Yr 8	Grade 1 Cornet Merit
Thomas Haughton, Yr 8	Grade 1 Euphonium Merit

Congratulations to you all!



Dr Daniel is running the London Marathon

Audenshaw School's Charity of the Year for 2013/2014 is Reuben's Retreat.

Dr Daniel is taking part in the London Marathon in support of the Reuben's Retreat charity.

The reason for this charity is very sadly down to the founder, Nicola Graham, losing her son tragically from cancer at age 23 months. Nicola tells us;

"Reuben's Retreat is a charity which was set up in memory of a beautiful, cheeky, cuddly, loving, and gorgeous chappy who went to heaven aged 23 months. This charity works hard to help families who find themselves in the same situation Reuben's family found themselves in. Reuben's Retreat's mission is to provide a facility within the countryside in the North West of England which offers self-catering accommodation with recreational activities for families who are impacted by their children having life threatening or life limiting illnesses. In addition, Reuben's Retreat will also support those who have lost a child due to illness by providing counselling and support to the family"

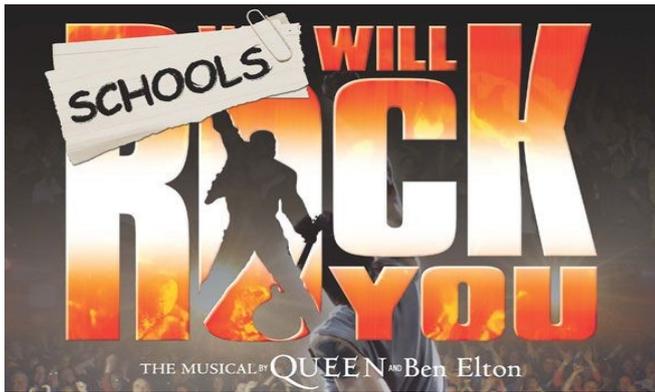
To donate, either go to:

<http://www.justgiving.com/RDLon2014>



or text **DOCD78** and an amount of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to **70070**. Thank you, **Dr Daniel**

School Production



Every year the school performs a musical and it's a great opportunity for the main school and sixth form to work together on a production.

We Will Rock You is a musical written by Ben Elton and is based on the music of Queen. It has been performed in the West End and we performed the school's version. A musical involves very long rehearsals and requires cast members to sing, dance and act!

We held auditions in September and started rehearsals straight away. Everyone in the school was welcome to audition.

The sixth form students took the main roles alongside Thomas Jackson in year 10. We then rehearsed two nights after school until December.

Excellent performances from the lead characters who were Chris Wilkinson 13N, Jennifer Tainsh 12C, Jack Dolan 12L, Lucy Harrison 12N, Andrew Smith 13H, Hayley Holtom 12K and Thomas Jackson 10A.

The lighting and sound was run by Ms Howarth and the sixth form students.

The stage and props were organised by Mrs Parker and Mrs Pearson, with some help from the cast.



Full Cast/Crew List

Galileo - Chris Wilkinson 13N

Scaramouche – Jennifer Tainsh 12C

Killer queen – Lucy Harrison 12N

Khashoggi – Jack Dolan 12L

Pop – Andrew Smith 13H

Britney – Thomas Jackson 10A

Meat – Hayley Holtom 12K

The Bohemians

Big Macca – Robert Pack 11Y

Justin Timberlake – Ethan Gregory 10D

Christina – Connor Akker 11Y

Alanis – Oliver Stead 7N

Jackson Five – Luke Caldwell 7N

Bowie – Ryan Thomas 7A

Madonna – George Holtom 10W

P Diddy – Chris Wright 8L

Cliff Richard – Richard Penny 8L

Bob - Hasnat Khokar 11S

WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION!

Help and advice for parents/carers

Are you entitled to apply for free school meals?

If you get any of the following support payments, your child may be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Parents who are in full-time education.

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals.

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals, you will need to fill in an application form. Further information and application forms are available from the <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/meals> for residents of Tameside or for all other districts, please contact your local authority. Please make sure you can show documentary proof of any support you are receiving.



Are you entitled?

Surviving Teenagers

Surviving Teenagers' Programme

This is a 6-8 week course which aims to help parents improve the way that they communicate with their teenagers and to provide them with effective behaviour and discipline strategies. The objective of the programme is to provide parents with parenting for life skills, which they can use to improve their parenting with lasting effect.

Each session is for two hours one evening a week run by fully trained Learning Support Assistants. During the course we cover a range of topics including: hormones – teenage development, connecting, anger management and discipline and boundaries.

We are currently in the middle of our first ever course and the parents who are attending are describing the sessions as: “thought-provoking”, “reassuring” and “helpful”. Parents discuss a variety of topics and learn helpful strategies in a confidential, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere.

Our next course will start in February and if you are interested in taking part please contact Mrs Amato at amatos@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk providing us with your name, mobile number and e-mail address.

Thank you
Mrs Amato, Learning Support Assistant

ATTENDANCE

Audenshaw School is celebrating its best ever attendance for the autumn term in the last 5 years.

The week before the Christmas break the school's attendance stood at **96.7%**. This is the best attendance figure the school has had compared to the same period over the last 5 years.

Good attendance underpins academic achievement as well as social and emotional development. The school places great emphasis on the importance of attendance and encourages all its students to attend regularly and be punctual as this will not only benefit them during their school life but will also prepare them for the demands and expectations of further education and employment.

During the summer term of last year, the school introduced the reward system Vivo which enables staff to reward students with points across all areas of the curriculum and the wider school community. Students can then save up their points to buy themselves rewards from the on-line Vivo shop.



The school has linked this reward system to its attendance procedures and students receive weekly rewards for 100% attendance and punctuality. The students have been very enthusiastic and are fully engaged with this new system and we are reaping the rewards.

Every Day Counts

A guide for parents/carers to managing sickness absence from school

At this time of year, it becomes more common for students to become ill, resulting in absence from school. However, every missed day of school learning affects students' progress and achievement, as well as their overall enjoyment of school. **Every day counts.**

Obviously, no-one wants a child to come to school if they're too unwell to be here or their illness is contagious and they may infect others. However, often it is simply a case of a student being "under the weather" and not quite themselves. School is preparing young people for their futures, including the workplace. Employers will not hire staff who are regularly off work, so it's important we prepare students to be successful employees.

When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school, ask yourself if you would take a day off work if you felt the same. Often the answer is **No**.

If you decide your child is well enough, telephone the school or write a note to their tutor, so we can:

- Monitor how they are throughout the day
- Inform their form tutor
- Easily contact you should the need arise.

If you decide they are not well enough to attend school, please telephone us to tell us they are off school and the nature of their illness. If your child is frequently absent due to illness we may request medical evidence from you.

If your child's absence becomes too high, you may be invited in to school to discuss ways in which we can support you in improving your child's attendance.

It is vital we all work to ensure every child's attendance is excellent; and parents have the most important role to play here.

If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor.

Thank you for your support.

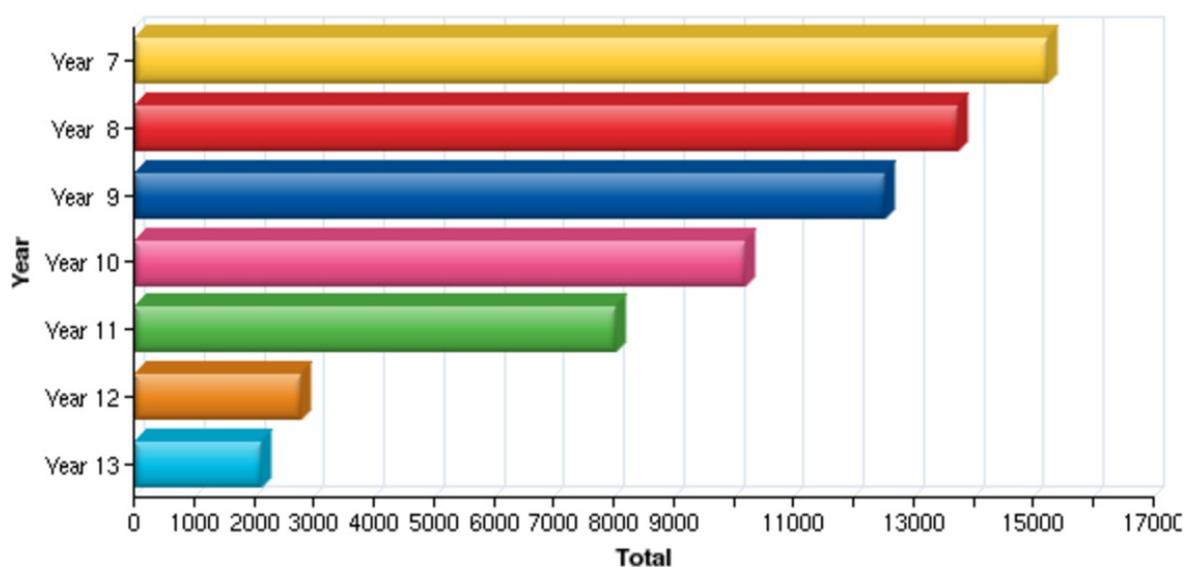
School Reward Scheme

Vivos are a great way for you to be recognised for all your hard work and effort in school. Staff at Audenshaw School will reward you with Vivo points for things such as, producing outstanding work or consistently giving 100% effort. Students can even earn Vivos outside of the classroom for their contribution to sport or the school and wider community. You are even rewarded, on a weekly basis, for having 100% attendance.

Students can log on to their secure Vivo account at anytime and check what they have been rewarded for and by who. They just keep a track of all of their rewards and choose to spend them in the online shop or donate them to our partner charity [Reuben's Retreat](#).

Students should look out for opportunities to earn bonus Vivos such as the Headteacher's Award or for being a Reading Ambassador, these opportunities will be mentioned in Year Assemblies.

Vivos by Year Group as at 17 January 2014



The national School rewards platform Audenshaw School

Top ten earners from the start of the academic year:

	Name	Year	Total
1	Cannon, Jordan	Year 9	326
2	Norton Pownall, Declan	Year 10	247
3	Mistry, Jamie	Year 7	231
4	Foster-Nicholson, James	Year 7	213
5	Singleton, Lewis	Year 11	196
6	Edwards, Jake	Year 8	187
7	Sharples, James	Year 9	181
8	Holt, Gideon	Year 7	175
9	Taylor, Jack	Year 8	172
10	Boardman, James	Year 7	170



Extra Curricular Activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.10 - 8.45 am	Music Theory Club Miss Howarth MU 23	Music Theory Club Miss Howarth MU 23	Choir Miss Howarth MU 23		Choir Miss Howarth MU 23
Lunch time			Chess Club Every 2nd lunch Miss Green, MU37		
2.40 - 3.35 pm	Homework Club Mrs Downing MU 30	Homework Club Mrs Downing MU 30	Homework Club Mrs Downing MU 30	Homework Club Mrs Downing MU 30	Homework Club Mrs Downing MU 30
	Social Club Mrs Downing, MU32	Social Club Mrs Downing, MU32	Social Club Mrs Downing, MU32	Social Club Mrs Downing, MU32	Social Club Mrs Downing, MU32
2.40 - 3.30 pm	(Week 2) Yr 7 Science Club, Miss Clarke	(Week 1) Yr 7 Science Club, Miss Clarke	Yr 10 Science Club, Miss Clarke		
2.45 - 3.30 pm		Yr 7 Art Club Miss Pringle MU49		History & Politics Society Miss Bradbury, SF11 fortnightly	
2.45 - 3.45 pm			Yr 7 Table Tennis Mr Trigg Dining Hall Wk 1 ALD Wk 2 WYNS		
2.45 - 4.00 pm	Keyboard Club Mr Thompson, MU26	Young Enterprise Club Mrs Shepherd, Conference Rm 1		Maths foundation GCSE revision Mr Watkinson MG7	Barbershop Group Miss Howarth Hall
	Brass Band Miss Howarth, Hall			Brass Band Miss Howarth, Hall	
				Yrs 8 & 9 Stem Club Mrs Pearson/Mrs Simpson,	
2.45 - 4.00 pm	Yrs 10 & 11 Weight Training Mr Donnelly, School Gym	Yr 8 Table Tennis Mr Donnelly Hall		Yr 9 Basketball Mr Brooks Sports Hall	Yr 8 Basketball Mr Brooks/ Mr Jennings, Sports Hall
	Yr 7 Basketball Mr Brooks/Mr Jennings, Sports Hall			Yrs 8 & 9 - Weight Training Mr Donnelly, School Gym	Yr 7 Lacrosse Holly Walker (Yr 13) School Field
2.45 - 4.15 pm	Yr 9 Rugby Mr Rose School Field	1st XV & 2nd XV Rugby Mr Rose/ Mr Jennings School Field	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Football, Mr Young/ Mr Watt, School Astro Turf	Swim Team Training Mr Rose at Denton Pool	Yr 9 Rugby Mr Rose Astro Turf
		Yr 7 & 8 Rugby Mr Young/ Mr Brooks, Astro Turf	Yr 9 Rugby Mr Rose School Field	1st XV Rugby Mr Jennings School Field	Yr 11 Rugby Mr Donnelly Astro Turf
				Yr 7 & 8 Rugby Mr Young/ Mr Brooks, Astro Turf	
3.00 - 4.00 pm			Jazz Club Miss Howarth Main Hall		Rock School Mr Thompson Music Department
3.00 - 4.30 pm		Yr 10 Rugby Team Training Mr Wilkinson/ Mr Benbow, School Field			Yr 10 Rugby Team Training Mr Wilkinson/ Mr Benbow, School Field
			Saturday	Rugby fixtures All yrs, PE staff, See fixture list	

Notes: Fairtrade Club see Mr Shanker various days and times

Information correct as at 17th January 2014

SPORT

OTHER

MUSIC

Awards

Fairtrade



Audenshaw School is delighted to report that they have been awarded Fairtrade status for the third year running. This status acknowledges the effort and dedication of both students and staff in recognising the importance of purchasing and using Fairtrade goods in learning and teaching in different subjects. It is also embedded in parts of the school curriculum and in the food/drink Cucina serves in the canteen.

In order to raise awareness of the Fairtrade cause, there have been a number of student led Fairtrade meetings as well as assemblies delivered by the Committee to younger groups of students.

We celebrated World of Fairtrade Day in May by making a large jacket from Fairtrade wrappers made by the students. Fairtrade fortnight was recognised through raising awareness at parents' evenings and more year assemblies.

Recently, the Committee have introduced the Fairtrade idea to Chinese teachers visiting the school.

Etwinning award

Very recently, the school has been awarded a UK eTwinning prize for a project on Climate Change. This involved Audenshaw School working in collaboration with schools in France and Germany to establish ideas on how each can cut its carbon emissions.



Careers Fair 2013

For the first time in a number of years Audenshaw School hosted its very own Careers Fair.

Twenty eight companies from across the country attended, including Manchester University, Tameside College, KPMG, Barratts Homes, the Police and Armed Forces and a vast number of Apprenticeship training organisations.

The evening was a real success, with over two hundred students attending the event. A number of students secured interviews for potential apprenticeships on the night, and a lot of students were able to gain some inspiration as to what they wanted to do after life at Audenshaw School.

Following on from the Careers Fair, a sixth form student now has the potential to start a post eighteen apprenticeship with a very large multinational business.



We will keep you posted on any other developments from the careers fair in due course.

Mrs Marsh, Head of Work Related Learning

Library



Eclipse Library update – January 2014

As we start the New Year, the Library team are eager to make sure that anybody who needs a book can get what they are looking for.

Access to the Library

All students have had their introductory lessons now and so should have the basics on how to use the Library website. Anyone who is struggling can ask at the Library for help. Whether it's a forgotten password, a book they want to reserve or just want some advice on what to read next. We are open at the start and end of the day and at breaks and dinners.



Consent forms

Consent forms need to be returned if not already done so, we have spares ready and waiting. Once a completed consent form has been handed in, students are ready to start borrowing! 761 books have been loaned out so far this academic year and we are keen to see this figure rise.

Vivos up for grabs!

We are currently running a raffle every fortnight for year seven and eight students. Each time students borrow a book, their name goes into the draw. Once a fortnight, we draw one year seven and one year eight winner and they are each awarded 50 Vivos. *Reservations must be kept up to date to be in the running!*

Vivos can also be earned by submitting reviews on the website of books read. Make it entertaining and include useful details in the review that will help someone decide if they'd enjoy the book or not.

Having problems logging in at home?

If students have tried using the website at home and they aren't having any success, we have computers available in Homework Club. Or if they know which book they are looking for, they can just turn up at the Library door and ask if we have it in stock.

Don't wait any longer?

Students don't need to be without a book. We are adding books to the catalogue regularly so students can keep up to date by checking every week or so.

Browse our Manga collection.

Get into reading in 2014

Check out the graphic novels we've got in stock.

We have audio books students can listen to on cd.

Recommended Reading

Recommended Reading for this month, suggested by *Mrs Bailey* of Student Services.

Title: *Gangster Granny*

Author: *David Walliams*

Plot: Ben hates going to his Grandma's house at the weekend as he thinks she is boring and smells of cabbage. One day, he discovers she is an international jewel thief and together they plot to break into the Tower of London and steal the Crown Jewels! *Ben finally learns to appreciate his Grandma!*

Recommended For: All ages (anyone)



Governor Profile



Chair of Governors: Mr Terry Hall MBE

On leaving School, I joined BT as an apprentice where I became a technical engineer before moving into project management. I worked on some of the company's biggest national and European projects, managing teams of Senior Project and Programme Managers.

I first became involved with Audenshaw High School (as it was then) in the late 1980's, when my son was a student, through the PTA and I became the Chair of the Parent's Action Group in early 1988. This was an off shot of the PTA set up to oppose the proposed closure of the school. We were successful and the rest, as they say, is history.

I was honoured to become the Chair of Governors in September 1988, the post I still hold today. We became the first school to become a Grant Maintained School (a school within the state sector but funded directly from Government).

Oversaw the transition to Foundation School in 1997 and conversion to an Academy in 2010 and so much more in between.

Awarded the MBE for Service to Education in 1997, member of the National Trust, Life Member of Ashton-Under-Lyne swimming club (former captain) and Honorary President of Ashton-Under-Lyne swimming club. National Leader of Governance (NLG) with the NCTL (National College for Teaching and Leadership) since 2012.

I am particularly interested in how school prepares young people for the world of work, and how value for money is achieved in education.

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



Wholemeal Scones

Ingredients

100g wholemeal flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ginger
75g margarine
100g plain flour
½ tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
½ egg
100ml milk

Equipment

Mixing bowl
Baking tray
Rolling pin
Pastry cutter
Measuring jug
Whisk/fork
Pastry brush
Mixing spoon
Flour dredger

Cup
Measuring spoons
Scales

Instructions

1. Put the oven on 200°C.
2. Mix flours, baking powder, salt, sugar & ginger.
3. Add the margarine and rub it in.
4. Break an egg into a cup, then whisk.
5. Measure the milk in a measuring jug.
6. Pour half of the egg into the jug and mix.
7. Pour the egg and milk mixture into the bowl and mix to form the dough.
8. Turn it out on a floured surface and knead.
9. Roll out to about 3cm thick.
10. Cut out and put on a greased baking tray.
11. Brush the tops only with egg.
12. Bake for 10-15 minutes.

TIPS

If the dough is too moist, add a little more flour from the dredger.

Feedback

I hope you've enjoyed reading my first of many newsletters!

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