



# Parents' Newsletter

Issue 6 Spring Term 2015



[www.audenshawschool.org.uk](http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk)



@AudenshawSchool &  
@AudenshawSport

Dear Families,

***"The school presents as a calm, orderly and purposeful place of learning. Students treat their environment with respect. This is evident in the school site that is clean, tidy and litter and graffiti free."*** - Ofsted March 2015.

These are the words of the HMI who recently carried out a monitoring visit to our school. For quality assurance reasons, he was also accompanied by a Senior HMI who met with me and confirmed that ***"This school does not feel like an inadequate school"***.

The HMI also spoke with a number of students and he was informed that the school is on the up, that the quality of teaching is getting better and that students are facing more challenging work in lessons and teachers' expectations of them are higher.

Referring to the school's improvement plan, the HMI said "...the plan provides an effective road map for senior leaders to follow on the school's journey to good". This is yet again confirmation that the Senior Leadership Team's self-evaluation of the school is absolutely accurate and the school improvement plan acutely focused in bringing about rapid improvement.

The school has spent much time this year on supporting staff in the effective use of data. Our systems and procedures in this area are under constant review and continuously refined to ensure they are as robust as possible. To further support this, each of our Curriculum Leaders has linked with another school to have their department's year 11 assessment data externally moderated. The outcome of which was validation that the school's judgments are accurate. We will continue to work with these schools,

moderating data for each other across all key stages.

The year 9 Guided Pathways process is now well underway and I am delighted to say that we have further developed our curriculum again this year to better meet the needs of our students, including the introduction of computing.

Holding out for the right staff, whilst at times has been difficult, is paying off and we have 2 experienced science teachers starting immediately and a number of new staff joining us both after Easter and in September. The school has invested in 5 new external Lead Practitioners: 2 in English, 2 in science and 1 in maths who will work with the Senior Leadership Team to improve the quality of learning and teaching in our school. We also have a highly experienced maths teacher commencing employment with us in September who will also have an additional responsibility as a second Leader of Student Achievement. Other than any last minute resignations I am confident at this time that all teaching posts will be filled for September with permanent members of staff.

The school is a hive of revision activity with students embracing the use of resources such as GCSEPod and Show My Homework. The staff's commitment and dedication to improving student outcomes is abundantly clear with Saturday revision classes now a regular feature and plans being made for Easter and May half-term revision also. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their continued support and hard work.

We are immensely proud of our students and the commitment they are

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showing to their learning. They are working incredibly hard and this is reflected in the recent Outstanding Work Newsletter that you will have received, our in year progress data and the mock results of our students in years 11 - 13.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and the many exciting and varied activities and experiences that have taken place.

*Mrs Saw  
Headteacher*

**Our Mission** - 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.



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](mailto:talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk).

# Show My Homework

## A new way to record, track and monitor homework at Audenshaw School!

We are excited to have launched Show My Homework, an online tool to help you keep track of your child's homework. Show My Homework will allow you to see the details of the tasks your child has been set, as well as its submission status and grades.

It also includes:

- ✓ **24/7 access**
- ✓ **View quality and quantity of homework**
- ✓ **Translation into over 50 languages**
- ✓ **Apps available for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch & Android devices**
- ✓ **Receive automated notifications before homework is due**

To access your child's homework calendar for the first time, please follow the following steps:

- Go to <https://audenshawschool.showmyhomework.co.uk> and click "Login" in the top right hand corner.

- **For students:** Please enter the PIN you have been given into the PIN section (Please contact Student Services if you need these details again).

You will then need to set a password. Set it to something you'll remember and keep it a secret!

- **For parents/carers:** please enter the PIN you have been given into the PIN section (Please contact Student Services by email if you need these details again, [admin@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk), putting the subject as Show My Homework) You will need to enter your email address/confirm the email address we hold is correct, you will also need to set a password.

We have launched Show My Homework to students



through assemblies and in form periods they have been able to have any queries answered by their form tutor.

We hope that this service will provide parents/carers with a deeper insight into the homework your child receives. More importantly, we hope that it will improve your child's organisation, time-management, and help them to keep on top of their workload.

### Some feedback we have already received:

Year 8 parent - *"I'm loving it already! This tool is going to make things so much easier and less stressful for us both"*

Year 7 parent - *"What a fantastic way to help my son learn to get organised with his homework and if needed I can give him a gentle reminder!"*

If you'd like to get in touch with the school or provide feedback, please contact school via email [admin@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk) putting the subject as Show My Homework.

For more detailed information and instructional videos please see our website -

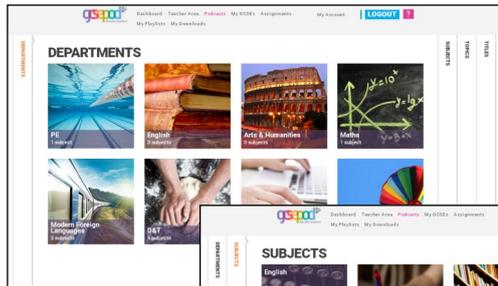
[www.audenshawschool.org.uk/showmyhomework](http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk/showmyhomework)

*Miss Warner  
Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Teaching)*

# Improving Attendance - Top Tips!

1. Establish good habits and routines that support your child's education. Read with them, do homework together and have set bedtimes.
2. **Make sure uniforms are ready for the next morning.**
3. Get organised in the morning and arrive at school on time.
4. **Take an interest in your child's education. Ask about school work and other activities.**
5. Ensure your child understands the benefits of regular attendance; to do well academically and also to enjoy time with friends.
6. **Encourage reading at home; have magazines, newspapers and books around the house or join the library.**
7. Try to avoid unnecessary absences. Wherever possible make medical appointments outside of school hours.
8. **Take family holidays in school holiday time only.**
9. Communicate with school; ring if your child is ill and send a note when they return.
10. **Build a relationship with school, attend parents' evenings, assemblies and meetings.**

Audenshaw School now subscribes to a service called GCSEPod which is completely free to your child. We believe this new resource will be of great benefit to our GCSE students during the next few crucial months. We



are initially rolling this out to our year 11 students

and will also be making this available to our year 10 students later on in the school year.

GCSEPod has over 3,500 teacher-written, audio-visual podcasts produced specifically for mobile devices and containing all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that learners need for GCSE success. The GCSEPod website can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the podcasts can be downloaded for offline viewing. The podcasts are also mapped to the curriculum and are designed to support students in the classroom, with their homework and during exam time.

All students have already been registered with GCSEPod and so simply need to activate their account and choose a username and password.

To access GCSEPod for the first time, students should

follow these steps:

- Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click "Login" in the top right hand corner.
- Click "New here? Get started".
- Tick the pupil box.
- Enter their correct first name, surname and date of birth as it is stated within SIMS, in the dedicated boxes and enter 'Audenshaw' as the school.
- Select a username and password (to be used when they next login) and select the subjects they study.

Once logged in, students can search for podcasts by keyword, by a specific exam or by subject area. Students can create their own personalised learning playlists which can be easily downloaded for offline viewing.

We recommend that you discuss GCSEPod with your child to ensure that they have the correct login details to enter the site and encourage them to make use of this service throughout the year.

More information and help guides can be found at our website [www.audenshawschool.org.uk/gcsepod](http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk/gcsepod).

For specific technical advice, please use the help pages on GCSEPod's website or email [support@gcsepod.com](mailto:support@gcsepod.com)

*Miss Warner*  
*Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Teaching)*

## Behaviour and Safety

In light of the government's focus on keeping children safe from extremism and terrorism, our whole staff have received appropriate awareness training.

On the 18th of March, our staff and governors received a bespoke INSET session delivered by Greater Manchester Police. Their aim is to work with schools to reduce the threats, risks and vulnerabilities posed by domestic extremists such as the Far Right, Far Left, extreme Animal Rights activists and Northern Ireland terrorism.

This training will enable us to identify the factors that make students vulnerable to



extremist and terrorist groups and how best to keep our students safe from these factors. The training will focus on the tactics used by a wide range of groups to entice students into extremist and possibly criminal behaviour.

Miss Breakell will deliver a follow up assembly, with all students, to ensure they are aware of how to stay safe and make the right choices

*Miss Breakell*  
*Assistant Headteacher*  
*(Behaviour & Safety)*

# The Use of Biometrics at Audenshaw

Following the successful installation of our biometric cashless dining system, which has now been running since February 2013; we have taken the opportunity to extend the biometric facilities to enhance the school's security. The school has now fitted a biometric access system for entry into the school buildings.

Going forward, we are looking at further ways to provide additional security for our students such as the introduction and use of biometric registers. These measures complement our outstanding Safeguarding Policy, ensuring that students are safe at all times.

## **More information about Biometrics and how the information is used**

We use a biometric recognition system at Audenshaw School so that:

- ✓ Your child has a speedy and simple purchase of food at break & lunch times.
- ✓ Faster service through the till queue.
- ✓ Less need to carry money at school.
- ✓ Your child is secure in school buildings behind automatically locking doors.
- ✓ No access to unauthorised persons.
- ✓ Scheduled access to each area for all staff and students.
- ✓ Rapid exit in emergencies.

## **What is biometrics?**

The biometric scan is used to create a **numerical template**, which we treat as biometric data. All our school data is stored on secure servers and removed when no longer required. We do not take or store your child's fingerprint on our system.

## **Consent**

All children at the school will be asked to provide written parental consent to their use of the biometric scanning technology.

Data will **NOT** be processed onto the system if:

- ✓ Written consent is not gained from either parent/carer.
- ✓ A verbal/non-verbal objection is raised by the student.
- ✓ Parents/carers withdraw consent, which they are free to do, at any time, in writing.

## **Data Protection**

- ✓ All data is stored on secure servers in a locked location.
- ✓ The stored data can only be processed with the particular software used to create it.
- ✓ All relevant biometric template data will be deleted from the system as soon as the user either leaves the school or withdraws consent.

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## **Electronic Gates**

As part of our continued programme of improvements, the school now has electronic gates in place at both the main and student entrances to the school. For your information, the student entrance gates will open at 7.20am and close at 8.20am every morning. In the afternoons, they will open at 2.35pm and close at 3.00pm.

Students entering or leaving school outside of these times should use the main entrance gates which are operated using a buzzer system which will be answered by our Receptionist. We would also like to take this opportunity to ask for your cooperation in keeping the flow of traffic on Hazel Street to a minimum. Wherever possible, please could parents/carers please drop off and pick up their children on the main road or other surrounding areas instead of using Hazel Street.

This will enable us to make sure your children are as safe as possible in the immediate vicinity of the school grounds as well as being courteous to our local residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or email [talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk).

# Student Achievement

## Holly receives offer from Oxford University!

Holly Beddingfield was ecstatic when she found out she had been offered a place at Oxford University. Holly, who is currently studying art, English and geography A Levels at Audenshaw, said, "I was really shocked and quite emotional, when I received an email offering me a conditional place to read English at St. Hilda's College. I really thought I didn't stand a chance as all the other students I met the week of my interviews were of such high calibre".

"Before I came to Audenshaw Sixth Form I hadn't thought about applying to Oxford but my first term in year 12 someone from admissions at Cambridge and Oxford came into speak to students who had done well in their GCSEs. This talk inspired me to apply. My Auntie used to live in Oxford so out of the two this was my preferred choice".

Holly, having had interviews at 3 Oxford colleges, Merton, Lincoln and St Hilda's, during her week in Oxford was thrilled to receive the offer, she said "St. Hilda's is well known for English and writing, it is famously linked with strong women, one being Laura Mulvey, who is a feminist film theorist and also Victoria Hislop who is a number one bestselling author". "All my family are so proud, especially my Nana she keeps telling all her friends about it!"

Holly's dream career path is to be a Freelance Journalist and also have some of her short stories published one day.

Neil Herbert, Head of Sixth Form at Audenshaw School said "We could not be prouder of Holly's achievement she has worked so hard and we wish her every success for the future".



Holly outside the Bodleian Library at Oxford University

## Silver Donkey

Just after half term a group of music students performed in the debut performance of "The Silver Donkey" at the Bridgewater Hall. Jonny Winbow, year 10, Jack Dolan year 13 and Benjamin Charlton year 13 all took critical roles in this new musical. This was held in association with **Chetham's School of Music** the largest specialist music school in the UK.



Benjamin, Jonny and Jack at The Bridgewater Hall



Benjamin, Jonny and Jack with Silver Donkey

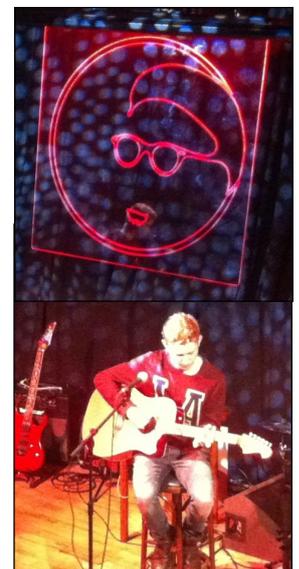
The orchestration was written by one of the Sixth Form students at Chethams and another of them took the lead part. Jack and Jonny also joined the main cast by being soldiers and they even had multiple solo parts between them. Benjamin was the lead puppeteer of the production taking charge of controlling a puppet donkey with Miss Howarth also joining him. He successfully brought life to a puppet wooing the audience into an emotional connection with the donkey. This performance was a great opportunity for all involved and all of our students say they learnt a lot from the talented students at Chethams and can't wait to do something similar with the school again!

Article written by Sixth Form student Benjamin Charlton.

## Toby performs at The Band on the Wall

Year 11 student, Toby Thorpe, recently played at the Band on the Wall in Manchester at an open mic night to promote young talent. He played guitar with his friend singing and later on took his regular spot behind the drums in his band Scala, where he played alongside Adam Fendall on bass guitar, a fellow Audenshaw student who left school last year.

They were phenomenal and definitely ones to look out for in the future!



Toby playing guitar

## Better Communication

Audenshaw School has recently purchased the SIMS in touch messaging system. This allows us to send text messages and emails to parents/carers directly via our school database thus improving home school communication and allowing further opportunities to involve parents/carers in their child's learning.

Please ensure you keep us up to date with any changes to your email, telephone and address contact details.

## Most Able and Talented

The start of a new year is also a new beginning for the Most Able and Talented programme at Audenshaw School. Our vision is clear, this school will be an aspirational, high achieving centre of excellence, which based on the fantastic students that we have, I am in no doubt that we can achieve this.

As a result, the focus of the remaining academic year is to create a 'thirst for knowledge' amongst the students and the aspiration to go into further education and achieve the qualifications that our students deserve. With that in mind, there is now a Most Able and Talented page on the website that outlines a calendar of events that students across the year groups will participate in, and useful information and websites for you to help your child develop their learning outside of the classroom. For more details, please go to our website [www.audenshawschool.org.uk/mostable](http://www.audenshawschool.org.uk/mostable).

Since January there has been a Most Able and Talented event every month, in order to offer students regular opportunities to enrich their learning. The first event held by the Most Able and Talented programme was the visit of Lord Sharkey, a Liberal Democrat peer from the House of Lords, who visited the school to deliver a presentation on the work of the Lords to our Most Able students in Key Stage 4 and 5. This was a fantastic experience for the students and Lord Sharkey praised their range of questions, from lowering the voting age, to Lord Sharkey's role in organising the Royal Pardon for Alan Turing.



*Danielle, Daniel, Lord Sharkey, Miss Bradbury & Mr Harrison*

Another aspect of the More Able and Talented programme is assisting students in exam preparation, and as the GCSE exams are fast approaching, the Most Able and Talented of year 11 are now participating in Mentoring sessions every two weeks, which will focus on study and revision skills as well as a question and answer session with some of the curriculum leaders on how to achieve the A/A\* grades in those subjects. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to gain confidence in their preparations for their GCSE's. Finally, it is incredibly important that our students have an aspiration to go on to higher education and with that in mind, students from year 7 will have the opportunity to attend University events in Manchester and further afield this academic year. Audenshaw School is also known for the high number of students that go on to study at Oxford and Cambridge, including our current Head Girl, Holly Beddingfield who has been offered a place at Oxford University to study English (see page 3 for more details on Holly) and in order to make that opportunity more accessible, an Oxbridge and Medicine Pathway has been set up to identify students in Key Stage 4 and 5 and offer targeted support and enrichment opportunities through our links with Sidney Sussex College Cambridge and Corpus Christie College Oxford. This is an exciting time for the Most Able and Talented students at Audenshaw School and through the hard work and enthusiasm of the students, it is sure to be a successful end to the academic year.

*Miss Bradbury  
Teacher in Charge of Tracking,  
Monitoring and Developing  
Opportunities for our  
Most Able Students*



*Lord Sharkey talks to our students*

# Saturday Revision Sessions

With the run up to the GCSE exams approaching, we have organised for the school to be open every Saturday so that students have a place to revise, but also so that they can attend subject specific revision. This has proven to be immensely popular with 90 students attending every week.



*Mr Doyle's full class of revision students*

Students are provided with a study room to complete private revision and the staff are on hand to offer subject specific help if needed. In order to fuel their revision, the students are also provided with a light brunch and we have a competition running each Saturday where students can win vouchers! The year 11's have found the study sessions to be extremely beneficial as they can complete worthwhile revision at the weekend, with the knowledge that there are staff there to assist them if they are stuck.



*Miss Dootson, Miss Bradbury with students*

*Miss Bradbury*

## Art

On the 4th of March, 30 GCSE and A Level students excitedly travelled to London with the art department to visit both the National and Tate Galleries.

Students were able to view the work of famous artists both past and present relating this directly to their coursework and examination studies. While at the Tate Gallery students took part in artist lead workshops which encouraged them to consider the notion 'What is Art?' and interact with the work on display.



*Students and staff in Trafalgar Square, London*

Year 11 student Ryan Thompson reviewed the day, 'Visiting London with the art department was a truly memorable trip and I definitely recommend taking up the opportunity for anybody studying art at GCSE or A Level. This trip allowed me to visit galleries and take part in activities that I probably wouldn't have done on my own. This meant that I was able to learn more about different artists and styles which has helped me immensely to develop my own GCSE artwork. The main highlight of the trip for me was the visit to the National Gallery which allowed me to view all kinds of historical pieces originating from as early as the 1300s. This has helped to improve my knowledge of traditional artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Van Gogh'.

*Mrs Anders*

*Curriculum Leader of Art*

### Artist of the Term - Jan/Feb

**Ciaran Walsh - year 7**

Ciaran has created overlapping patterns which have been developed from his observational drawings of Autumn leaves. He has used wax crayon to outline the leaves using cold colours and added watercolour paints in hot colours. Ciaran focused on using tonal and blended colour in his painting. The dark blue background was added as a contrast to the bright, autumn colours.

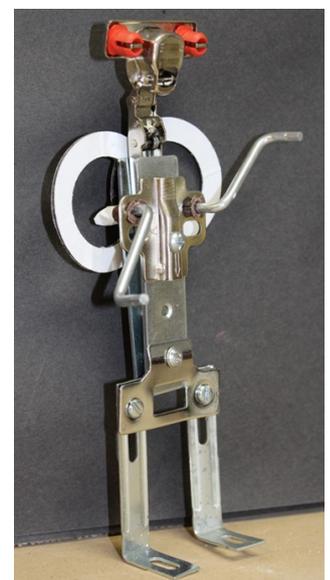


### Artist of the Term - Mar/Apr

**Daniel Martin - year 9**

Daniel produced an excellent junk sculpture for his Ann Smith inspired homework.

He successfully used his found materials to create his sculpture, evidencing an excellent understanding of the artist's style.



# World Book Day 2015



As a school, we came together to celebrate another World Book Day by getting into the spirit of reading in all areas of the school.

Our lovely kitchen staff had a lot of fun thinking of ways they could use their favourite books in the day's special menu. They cooked up a selection of mouth-watering book-themed meals, including a delicious 'James and the Giant Peach' pudding and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' chocolatey goodness.



We also joined in with the World Book Day phenomenon of the #shelfie! Students took selfie photos in front of their bookshelves and added them to the Twitter feed run by World Book Day. Our students and staff were proud of showing off their impressively stocked bookshelves. Miss McGivern wowed with her strength by supporting a bookshelf bursting with novels, while Miss Dootson's vast collection of Manga novels has to win the prize for 'Most beautifully lined up neat and tidy bookshelf display' (see photo below). A number of students joined in too. Check out the school's Twitter feed (@AudenshawSchool) to see the full collection.



We rounded off the day with a final celebration of reading. At 2pm the whole school dropped everything to enjoy some precious time reading. Students and staff put away whatever they had been working on to dedicate some quality time to get lost in a book.

Miss Warner and Mrs Thomas enjoyed wandering around the school snapping photos of the reading as it happened. Mr Rose was especially looking forward to having some quiet time with his latest read: 'Simply Rad-The Kris Radlinski story'. Mrs Sykes commented: "All the boys in my form really enjoyed their reading time". Check out the website to see the photos from the day.



You don't have to wait for next year to carry on the enjoyment! We would love to receive book reviews for the Library website of books you enjoyed reading on the day. Remember that

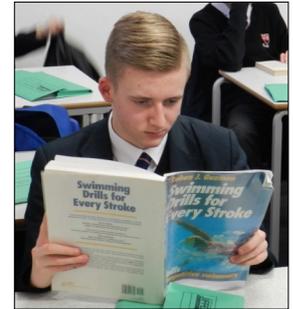
VIVO are awarded to the best ones submitted. You can also browse and make yourself a reservation on the Library website so that you have your next book lined up and ready to go!

Happy reading!



Miss Dootson's #shelfie

Mrs Watkinson  
Teacher of English



# Geography

## Year 12 Geography Students studying Ebola

At AS level, year 12 students study the global distribution and impacts of infectious diseases. This year they have completed an investigation into HIV/AIDS and also extended their learning by looking into Ebola. Examiners at A Level are looking for students to show breadth of knowledge and understanding of what is happening in the 'here and now'.



*Students designing their Issue Trees and pictured right the finished tree.*

Mrs Sykes' class spent one lesson learning about the causes, impacts and management of the Ebola Virus and demonstrated their learning by producing Issue Trees in small groups.



*Mrs Sykes*  
*Second in Charge of Geography*



*Students on Malham Tarn*

## Year 12 Field Trip

On the 26th of February, year 12 geographers accompanied by Miss Armstrong and Mr Musgrove visited Malham Tarn in North Yorkshire.

The purpose of the day was to collect primary data on river dynamics. This will supplement their work for their AS Unit 2 studies on geographical skills.

Also it will be invaluable research for their physical geography for unit 1.

The day was successful despite the antecedent rain on the ground. Students used sophisticated techniques and equipment and also developed their understanding in the classroom back at the study centre.



*Students on Malham Tarn*

*Miss Armstrong*  
*Curriculum Leader of Geography*

## Year 9 students visit University of Manchester

On Wednesday the 11th of March 2015, 10 year 9 students accompanied by Miss Armstrong visited the University of Manchester, the trip was organised by Miss Bradbury as part of the Most Able & Talented programme.

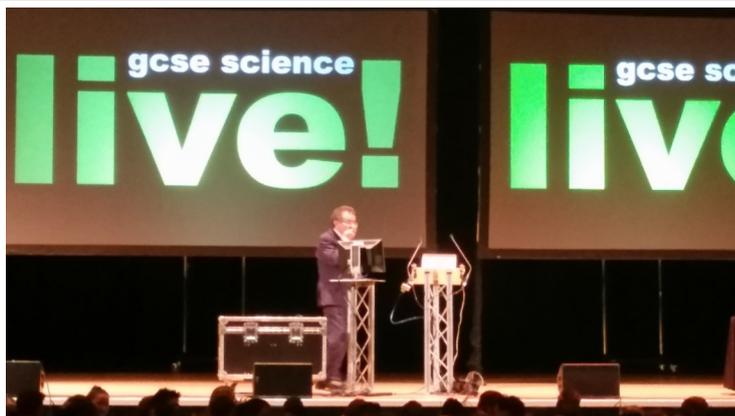
The students were given a talk on the value of geography in society and that geography graduates are amongst the most employable students. Activities included a tour of the campus and glacial simulations in the excellent refurbished laboratories within the geography department. We look forward to developing more links with the University and their Ambassadors.

*Miss Armstrong*

# Science

## Students visit GCSE Science Live!

Year 10 and 11 students went along to City Hall, Sheffield to take part in Science Live. It was a great day where students got practical advice on how to do well in exams, from an experienced chief examiner. The boys also got to see and hear world-renowned scientists as they gave lectures about their everyday amazing and exciting work. Professor Alice Roberts (as seen on TV) showed us her research on Nariokotome Boy, a 1.5 million year old skeleton, and Professor Lord Robert Winston (pictured right) spoke about the ground breaking developments in pre-implantation genetic diagnosis.



*Dr Robert Winston speaking at GCSE Live*

The boys' behaviour was exemplary and their attitude to learning first class. It was a fantastic experience. I really enjoyed the day and I think the students did too my favourite speaker was Dr Jim Al Khalili and his talk on time travel. All the speakers were interesting and passionate about science and the tips from the chief examiner were great.

*Mrs J Kelly  
Teacher of Science*

## Science Competition

Over Christmas students in years 7, 8 and 9 were given the opportunity to enter our science competition.

Students were asked to design and build a space station to allow astronauts to live in space. The quality of entries were absolutely outstanding, and the judges had a difficult decision on their hands!

Year 7 students Myles Clough and James Harkins were chosen as the overall winners and their fantastic creations can be seen below.



*Myles, Mr Benbow and James with their creations*

As their prize, the students were taken to watch the Starchaser Rocket Launch in Macclesfield along with almost 200 other secondary school and university students from across the North of England.

Unfortunately, the launch did not quite go to plan and the rocket only reached 30 feet before crashing back to earth.

However, a fantastic day was had by all and we have been invited to attend the next launch in the summer. Watch this space.

*Mr Benbow  
Second in Charge of Science*



*James and Myles at the Starchaser Rocket Launch*

# History

## Year 7 Middle Ages Knight's Shields

As part of our unit on the Middle Ages, the boys in 7S and 7D were asked to make Knight's shields for their homework. Then, using what we have learnt in the previous lesson, we all went onto the yard to practise some of the battle formations used. The three we practised were: the circle, deep formation and shield wall.

*Miss Dootson*

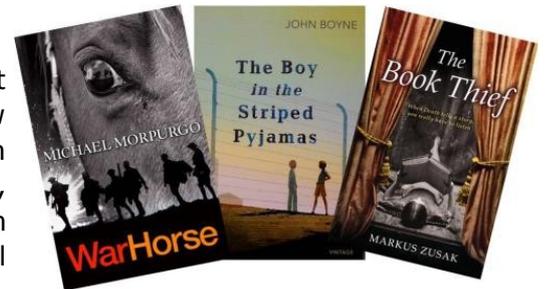
*Teacher of History & Politics*



*Miss Dootson and students with their shields*

## History Competition

The history and politics department launched their 'Historical Short Story' competition in December 2014. The thinking behind this new initiative was to combine the creative writing skills and literacy taught in English, with the rigour of historical research. The competition entrants, which were made up of the entire Key Stage 3 cohort, were judged on their spelling, punctuation and grammar coupled with historical accuracy.



The standard was very high across the board which made it even harder for the judges to make their decisions. After a lengthy process of shortlisting the finalists were whittled down to the following winners:

**Year 7:** Adam Owen - The Munich Air Disaster

**Year 8:** Jamie Mistry - The Khmer Rouge

**Year 9:** Charlie Pownell - World War Two Thriller

**Overall:** Ben Visram (year 8) - The Jewish Holocaust

The winners were read by Mrs Saw who gave them her approval after being moved almost to tears by the thoughtful yet harrowing writing of the winning story.



*Jamie, Charlie & Adam*

*Mr Wilkinson*

*Second in Charge of History & Politics*

# Sixth Form

On the 12th of February Dr Burt, a tutor from Pembroke College, Cambridge, delivered a presentation about applying to the more prestigious universities.

The talk was attended by many of our students and several from neighbouring schools. Mr Herbert, Head of Sixth Form at Audenshaw said "With the employment market becoming so competitive, it is vital that our students are able to gain places on the top courses at the most selective universities".



*Dr Burt, Toby, Pranay, Laine and Mr Herbert*

# Mathematics

## Year 12 Mathematics Tournament

Taylor Bradshaw, Luke Piper, Alex Hughes and Lee Wyche were ready to go and face the mathematical might of eight other teams of most able students from various independent schools in the Manchester area.



*Lee, Alex, Miss Daly, Luke and Taylor*

We had a lot to live up to, last year's team had come second to bottom and we were hoping to better this achievement. The tournament consisted of three rounds each lasting 25 minutes. In the first round, the boys had to work in pairs. They were shown examples of continued fractions and were asked to change various numbers. This was clearly a challenge, but they split the problems up between them and gave it their best shot.

The second round was a cross number puzzle, but one in which not a single clue was much help. Some examples of the clues are: "a power of 2", "a prime factor of 12345", "8 less than a square number" and "a Fibonacci number". Taylor and Lee wrote down all the numbers they could think of and Alex and Luke tried to fit them on the grid. Talking to teachers from other schools I discovered that some of the teams were seasoned professionals and had met up the previous month at a maths challenge in London. Certainly these teams seemed to be filling in the cross number with confidence.

The final round was a collection of problems and the

boys had to work as a team to answer as many as they could. I particularly liked the question: "Kylie Minogue has just finished a fantastic novel and it has inspired her to mix up some paint. She mixes black paint with white paint to see how many different shades of grey she can make. One shade is made using one part white and two parts black; another shade is made using one part white and four parts black. She decides to mix equal quantities of these two shades to make another shade. What is the ratio of white paint to black paint in this third shade of grey?" It was a very enjoyable afternoon. The boys worked well together, and it gave them the opportunity to meet the calibre of student they will be mixing with if they chose to study mathematics at one of the top universities. Team Audenshaw put in a really good effort and I am very proud to report that they finished sixth, beating three teams and so most definitely exceeding their target. The winning team was Manchester Grammar School.

*Miss Daly*

*Second in Charge of Mathematics*

# Business Studies

## Audenshaw School students visit Gericke

On Friday, our year 13 business students visited a local engineering firm Gericke, as part of a research topic for their upcoming exam. Along with an insight of the history of Gericke from the Managing Director, Peter Brickenden, we enjoyed a morning in the drawing room investigating 2D and 3D drawing. Some of our students also study design & technology so they got to compare the different programmes used and found out about the role of the designer within the process.



*Peter Brickenden answers questions from our students*



*Peter Brickenden talks to Audenshaw students and staff*

We also visited the 'Test Centre' allowing the students to trial some of the machinery! The tour of the factory floor however was incredibly useful as it showed each student the concepts they had learned in theory over the past 2 years in a real life situation. There were plenty of opportunities for questions and the M.D. was happy to be put in the firing line! However, the quiz at the end really demonstrated that the students had been focusing on the tour for the whole morning. Who knew that researching UK Manufacturing could be so much fun!

*Mrs Shepherd*

*Teacher of ICT & Business Studies*

# Design and Technology

In GCSE Catering students have been taking part in their final practical assessments, here's Declan and Jacob's meals!



**Left** - Declan Norton Pownall with his Vegetarian Lasagne and Tiramisu to follow.

Declan made his own roux and pasta excellent job Declan!

**Right** - Jacob Morrison with his Salt fish fritters with jerk prawns, chicken and pumpkin soup, jerk chicken with rice and peas, very nice Jacob!

The practical sessions form half of the marks for their year 11 GCSE Catering coursework.

The standard of the work from the students taking part was excellent, the boys should be commended on their organisation, mature attitude and consistently high outcomes.



*Mr Tupman*

*Teacher of Design & Technology*

## Stem Club

On Thursday the 12th of March STEM Club took part in the Final Bake Off in the 5 Minute Mug Muffin Challenge.

Students had to produce their very best, tried and tested muffin recipes with their very own special ingredients.

The Bake Off was a great success and we had winners in two categories, Appearance and Taste.

We had some extra special adjudicators to judge the winners, thanks to staff, Miss Guilfoyle, Mr Bond, Mrs Coffey, Mr Hayward and year 11 student Cameron Bromley. All students worked extremely hard on this and all had great fun experimenting with creating their best recipes!

**The winners were:**

### **For appearance**

- 1st Thomas Mound 9W
- 2nd Qasim & Safyan 7D
- 3rd Mike Jones-Reavey 10L

### **For taste**

- 1st Joshua Roberts 8W
- 2nd Jamie Mistry 8W
- 3rd Miss Clark!

*Mrs Pearson*  
*Second in Charge of*  
*Design & Technology*

*Miss Clark*  
*Teacher of Science*



*Mug muffins*



*Mrs Pearson and*  
*Miss Clark*



*Miss Guilfoyle, Mr Bond & students*



*Students sampling the mug muffins!*

## Swimming

The Audenshaw School Swim Team finished 2014 with a record medal haul from the Tameside Championships on the 17th of December surpassing even their 2013/14 spoils! The team has developed immeasurably under the leadership of captain, Aidan Tevlin and now regularly competes on the North of England Schools fixture programme with opposition including Stockport Grammar, Sandbach School, Bradford Grammar and The Grammar School at Leeds. The Tameside Championships provided the perfect stage for the Sharks to showcase their talents and the claiming of medals in 20 of the 21 events including 6 golds from a possible 6 in the relays confirmed Audenshaw's status as the top achieving school. Well done students!

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The Audenshaw Sharks travelled to St Ambrose College on the 28th January, where they retained their 100 per cent record for 2014/15 with a hard fought 94-92 success over St Ambrose. Well done to all students!

The Audenshaw Sharks headed to Stockport Grammar on Tuesday the 3rd of March, the Tameside champions are likely to face their stiffest test but will be brimming with confidence after the recent performances of the team.

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*Alex, Rory, Harry, Jolan with their medals and coach Aidan*

The Audenshaw Sharks Swim Team were crowned **Champions of Greater Manchester** at the Sainsbury's School Games held at the Manchester Aquatics Centre on the 24th of March. Audenshaw claimed gold with St Ambrose finishing with the silver and Manchester Grammar, the bronze medallists. I would like to thank team captain, Aidan Tevlin and former student, Ellis Campbell for their tireless work with the squad. We have now qualified for the national championships for the first time ever and remain unbeaten in all competitions in 2014/15 adding the county title to the district championship that we won in December and this only our second season of competitive swimming!!

*Mr Rose*

## Football

Our year 7 5-a-side football team were crowned Greater Manchester Champions on the 17th of January when they won 6-0 against Oldham Hulme, Man of the Match was Jack Hinchy. They went on to represent Greater Manchester in the North West Final on the 7th of February where they unfortunately came away defeated, but have pride in knowing they were the only team to take a point off the winners. The boys involved were Josh Schofield, Jamie Saint, Jack Hinchy, Caleb Affleck, Alex Moss, Joe Turner, Ethan Whitbread and Jake Phelan.



*Year 7 5-a-side team*

They also made it to the last 16 of the National Cup where they lost out to Sandbach School.

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The Audenshaw U12's continued their excellent 2014/15 season with a 5-0 victory over Thomas More School in the Tameside League on the 28th of February. They will be looking to add the Tameside League, Cup and Greater Manchester Schools trophies to their haul for the year.

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On the 10th of March the Audenshaw U12's successfully reached the final of The Greater Manchester Schools Cup after a 3-2 victory over North Chadderton High School. The goals came from Adam Owen, Alex Moss and Jack Hinchy with Jamie Saint collecting yet another Man of the Match award. Well Done Boys!

*Mr Brooks*

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The Audenshaw U15's defeated Hyde Technology School 5-1 on the 18th of March with a commanding display in the Tameside League Fixture. Burnley star, Aiden Hopkins, who was featured in a recent "Sportstars" article on the website, was the star of the show, contributing four goals for his team, the other goal was added by Alex Maloney who also played superbly. The year 10 boys have only lost one game all year and next face St Matthew's in the semi final of the county cup. Well done boys!

*Mr Young*

# PE Department and Sports

## Rugby

It has been a truly exceptional season for our rugby programme and in terms of on field success. The Under 16's have enjoyed a year of great development winning the plate at the St Ambrose Tens and listing Rossall and Kirkham amongst the teams they have overcome. Our Under 15's were successful in reaching the fifth round of the NatWest National Vase and the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup as well as the cup finals of both the Dean Schofield Sevens, The Bolton School Sevens and The King's School, Macclesfield Tournament.

The Under 14's reached the Lancashire Cup semi-final and their defeat of Lymm High School in the regular season fixtures goes down as one of the most significant results of the last five years. The Under 13's have truly been the flagship team of 2014/15, becoming only the third team in our history to contest the Lancashire Cup Final after the U14's of 2007/08 and the U14's of 2013/14. They also reached the fourth round of the national cup and the cup final of the Woodhouse Grove Sevens. The Under 12's have developed superbly this year, listing the likes of West Hill School and Bolton amongst their victories.

Rugby football is an integral part of the fabric and culture of Audenshaw School and we are extremely proud of the efforts of our players and staff in what has been a superb season. Our players display the virtues of honesty, fair play and sportsmanship in all of their exploits and we look forward to driving towards even greater success next year.

*Mr Jennings*



*Audenshaw's under 13's team*

## Primary School Cluster: Basketball

Audenshaw Primary School emerged victorious from the annual primary cluster basketball competition on the 4th of February after a thrilling final against Aldwyn Primary School. The event was very well attended with 12 teams taking part and some superb matches for the spectators to enjoy. Audenshaw Primary have developed as a major force this year and have added the title of basketball champions to their list after also winning the indoor athletics event in January. Forthcoming competitions include cricket, athletics, rounders, end zone and netball in the coming months. Many thanks to Audenshaw students who helped out at the event.

*Mr Donnelly*

## Former student's sporting achievement!

Former Audenshaw student Zach Clough was voted the Bolton Wanderers' Player of the Month for February.

The striker celebrated his 20th birthday last Sunday and has made a real impact at the Macron Stadium since the beginning of the year.

Zach first came to prominence with the team when he scored their winning goal against Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup in January.

Zach's performance on that day was rewarded with a two year contract extension, and his exertions on the pitch were praised by his manager Neil Lennon, who regarded Zach as a 'special player.' Zach, who came into school 2 days



*Zach and Mr Donnelly*

after his FA Cup winning goal told Mr Donnelly, "I'm so pleased to have signed a new contract with

Bolton, I've been training with Bolton since I was 8 years old and am so grateful for the support I have received from them and also my school, being allowed to go to day release while I was a student at Audenshaw School has only helped me in my journey to playing football professionally".

Mr Donnelly said, "We are so proud of Zach and what he has achieved, we look forward to following his career. Zach was always hard working and dedicated, it is extremely rewarding to see him progress and he is an excellent role model for our students who are looking to follow in his footsteps".

# Governor Profile



## Governor: Mr Bill Thorpe

I am married to Anne with two sons, a daughter and 3 grandchildren. I am currently a Civilian Enforcement Officer for the Magistrates Court.

I attended Audenshaw School from 1957 - 1962, whilst it was still a grammar school and was the first in my family to attend, but since then, 2 brothers, 2 sons, cousins and nephews have followed in my footsteps and to my delight, my grandson will attend this September.

I left school and went into telecommunications where I worked at British Telecoms for over 30 years.

I played rugby at school and went onto join Aldwinians RUFC, where I played for the 1st team up to the age of 42 and carried on playing for lower sides until the age of 48, when I was forced to retire with a neck injury.

I was Chairman of Aldwinians for 30 years, with a 2 year break when I was President of the club.

I enjoy my role as a Governor at Audenshaw, I am on the newly formed Standards Committee where we work with Mrs Saw in overseeing and monitoring the rapid increase in progress throughout the school.

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](mailto:audenshawgovernors@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk).

## Mr Tupman's Recipe

### Barbecued Chicken Fajita Skewers

#### Ingredients

##### **For the fajitas:**

- 2 limes, plus wedges to serve
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed or finely grated
- 4 chicken breasts
- 3 mixed coloured peppers
- 1 red onion

##### **For the guacamole:**

- 2 ripe avocados
- 1 lime
- 6 cherry tomatoes, halved

##### **To serve:**

- warmed tortillas
- chopped coriander
- soured cream or yogurt
- chilli sauce

#### Instructions

1. Make the marinade: In a large bowl, juice both the limes. Add the oregano, spices, olive oil and garlic, and mix together. Dice the chicken, then stir it through the marinade, and set aside.
2. Prepare the vegetables: Deseed the peppers and cut the onion in half.
3. Make your skewers: Carefully thread alternate pieces of chicken, peppers and onion onto your skewers. When you've used up all the ingredients, set aside. Can be made several hours ahead and chilled until ready to cook.
4. Prepare the guacamole: Stone and peel the avocados, then tip into a bowl with the other ingredients. Use a potato masher to mash everything together and tip into a serving dish.
5. Cook the skewers: Heat a barbecue or griddle pan. Cook the skewers for 10-12 minutes, turning, until they are cooked all the way through, turn the skewers with a pair of tongs. Serve the skewers on heated tortillas with the guacamole, soured cream, chopped coriander, lime wedges on the side and chilli sauce for those who like a touch of spice.



#### **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 us via: [talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:talkback@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk).

*Mrs Saw, Headteacher*