



Parents' Newsletter

Issue 7 Summer Term 2015



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Dear Families,

Staffing

I am delighted to confirm that we are fully staffed for September. We have also increased our staff in Maths and English to allow for increased curriculum time in these subjects following changes to the National Curriculum and we have also introduced Psychology into the Sixth Form curriculum from September, due to an increased demand.

Against an alarming backdrop of nearly 50,000 leaving the teaching profession during last year alone, it is pleasing that our creative and robust recruitment campaign and the determination to recruit only the best have paid off. A number of highly experienced and qualified teachers join us in roles such as Lead Practitioner (Math, Science and English) and Leader of Student Achievement (Key Stage 3).

We also continue to employ a Primary Intervention Teacher to work in particular with our year 7 students, a Pastoral Worker and Parental Support Adviser all of which were new posts created last September. This year we have also employed an Inclusion Officer to further support our Pastoral Team and a Business Support Manager to work on improving our careers, work related learning, enterprise and Sixth Form Enrichment. The post holder will work closely with our Curriculum Leader of Business Studies/Work Related Learning and Head of Sixth Form to help improve that provision.

The turnover of staff this year is in line with previous years, for example, 4 years ago (2011) 14 permanent teachers left Audenshaw and in 2015 it will be 19. There are 32 teachers at Audenshaw who have been with the school since April 2011 or before so we continue to retain a large amount of 'Audenshaw experience'.

Inevitably, there has been too much supply and whilst supply teachers at Audenshaw School are subject to the same monitoring and expectations as our permanent staff, they do not have the same impact as permanently

appointed staff. I am sorry that it had to happen but making the necessary changes to improving the staffing meant it could not be avoided. Please be reassured that our use of data to track our students is more robust than it's ever been, as is the tailored intervention that is put in place for any student needing it.

Our evidence of the quality of teaching collected from lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutinies shows that the percentage of good or outstanding teachers has greatly improved from September 2013 and is much stronger than 2012 and before. Clearly this demonstrates that the changes taking place are having a positive impact and improving the quality of teaching.

The staffing structure now remains under constant review as does the curriculum, to ensure that they are constantly developing to better meet the needs of our students. However, I can give informed reassurance that we now have a team of highly experienced, highly qualified, committed and dedicated professionals who are very supportive of our school's vision.

Benchmarking of employee sickness absence for permanent staff shows that Audenshaw is well below public sector, private sector and education sector for 2014/15. This is testament to how well our staff are supported and cared for and how committed they are.

Progress/Results Years 11 - 13

This summer sees the first cohort of learners pass through their GCSEs and A Levels under the current SLT's leadership.

So what have we done better this year?

- Students have been tracked more rigorously at each assessment point.
- The number of assessment points has been increased in order to keep a closer eye on progress.

- Sharper and more tailored intervention has been put in place for those students needing it.
- Walking talking mocks were introduced in school for the first time.
- More mocks have taken place.
- Students have benefited from improved teaching.
- This year there has been no study leave - the year 11, 12 and 13 timetables were collapsed and additional revision put in place.
- Increased learning walks particularly for English, Maths and Science.

continued on page 2...

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.



...continued from page 1

- Increased resources have been provided such as GCSEPod.
- Mentoring of students by staff has taken place.
- And along with many other schools across the country we ran a Saturday school; another first for Audenshaw.
- **Students have been better prepared for their exams than ever before.**

Students have worked incredibly hard and embraced the changes made and opportunities extended to

them. This year's projected results look strong and it is very much hoped that our students achieve the grades that they so richly deserve.

I would like to thank staff for their hard work, support and loyalty to our school. They care passionately about their school, their work and helping your child achieve their potential. They continue to go above and beyond to move our school forward and this school is very fortunate and very blessed to have each and every one of them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their continued support, your kind words and encouragement and your recognition of staff going the extra mile means a great deal to us through what has been a hugely challenging time. The future is very bright now for Audenshaw School.

I, along with my staff and the Board of Governors wish you all a wonderful summer.

*Mrs Saw
Headteacher*

Farewell to Year 11

Our year 11s have now officially left school for the summer. They have been an absolute credit to themselves and the school throughout their time at Audenshaw and they should be immensely proud of all of their hard work and commitment to their studies.

Our new Saturday sessions' initiative bears testimony to this. We launched weekly extra revision workshops in February and they proved to be even more popular than we ever imagined that they would be. The attendance by our year 11s rapidly increased week on week; we began with 43 students attending our very first session; yet, at its peak, we had over 140 students in on one morning! The popularity tells us much about the high quality of the sessions provided by our teachers week on week but also about the commitment and dedication of this year's group of students. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive - a few have even called for Sunday sessions...

"It's like an extra day at school. Best for revision just before the exams to catch up on anything you don't know."

"I found this very useful, especially before exams on Monday. I was given much more than the usual one hour of revision."

Many of our students have also been making the most of GCSEPod, our new web based revision resource which offers students the chance to listen to podcasts covering the topics that they are studying in their chosen subjects. There has been an impressive 12,982 podcasts streamed by our year 11s alone in the last few weeks leading up to the exams, the most popular being 'Mitosis - Cell Division' which has been listened to by our Biology students. Our most frequent year 11 users were Joshua Lindsay, Alexander Carey and Connor Cole.

42 of our year 11 students were also carefully selected



Mr Doyle's full class of Saturday Revision students

for our Mentoring Programme which began in November last year, the criteria being that they were not quite yet fulfilling their potential! Each student was partnered with a member of staff and attended weekly mentoring meetings. Students were both challenged and supported by their mentors - the shared objective being to achieve the very best outcomes this summer. Parents/Carers of those students were also invited to attend our 'Progress Alert Evenings' so we could share our information on assessments with them. Thank you so much to all Parents/Carers who worked so closely with us during this process. Here is just a snippet of the feedback that our mentors have already received from those Parents/Carers who have been working so closely with us,

"Thank you for everything. We couldn't have got through the last few weeks without your support and help."

"We really appreciate everything you have done this year. Best of luck in your continuing work at Audenshaw to make it a great school."

"I can't quite believe he has nearly finished. It has gone so fast. I cannot thank you enough for keeping him focused at school."

We do hope to see many of our year 11s return to us in September to continue their studies. We would like to wish all of our students the very best success for the future. Very well done, gentlemen!

*Miss Warner
Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning)*

Sixth Form Review of the Year

This academic year has been hugely successful for the students of Audenshaw School Sixth Form, both academically and in their participation in activities in and out of school. The Sixth Form students continue to be excellent role models for the students in the main school.

In the Autumn Term, it was pleasing to see so many Sixth Form students taking part in the school production, *Joseph*.



Mrs Saw & Alex Shaw as 'Joseph'

Alex Shaw, Jack Dolan and Lucy Harrison all gave impressive performances that were an inspiration to the younger students, both from our school and also from the local primary schools taking part. These students certainly have bright futures ahead of them on the stage.

For many Audenshaw School students, the next step, as they progress towards their career, is university. This year, the year 13 students have been particularly successful in gaining offers to study at the most prestigious Russell Group Universities. In particular, Holly Beddingfield has been offered a place to study at St Hilda's College, Oxford. I am always looking to build students' aspirations to continue their studies and this work is supported by the close links the school has with Corpus Christie, Oxford and also Pembroke College, Cambridge. Students, from the school, also continue to be successful at being offered places on highly over-subscribed Medicine undergraduate courses, with Jennifer Tainsh continuing this tradition this year.

The preparation for university started early for the year 12 students, as the whole year group attended the UCAS Fair in Manchester in March. This provided the students with the opportunity to look at the whole range of courses from the full spectrum of institutions.



Holly at Oxford University

With Mr Hardy's guidance, the students are now working hard on their applications: visiting several university open days, taking on essential work experience and completing other academic activities that go beyond their A

Level studies.

During the Spring Term, Sixth Form students also participated in a range of activities to raise their aspirations. In January, Lord Sharkey, who was instrumental in organising the Royal Pardon for Alan Turing, spoke to students about the work done in the House of Lords. Each week, there has been an Enrichment session for the year 12 students, with presentations ranging from how to access voluntary work overseas to the work done by the Teenage Cancer Trust. The sessions show students that there is a world full of opportunities for them to explore. Students have also received study-skills sessions from students from local universities, showing them how to make their revision time most effective and deal with the stress of exams.



Lord Sharkey & Sixth Form students

The students have worked really hard this term, with tailored revision sessions taking place right up to their AS and A Level exams. It is important that students get the chance to correct any misunderstandings that they have in their knowledge and go through papers with teachers, before they do their important examinations. I look forward to celebrating the students' successes when their results are published in August!

This year's Sixth Form Prom is set to be one of the best yet! It will be taking place at 'The Midland Hotel', in Manchester and I am sure that this will be a fantastic evening for all the students and staff attending.

In September, I am looking forward to welcoming our new year 12 students. Having met many of them during the interview process and at the Induction Day, I know that they will make a huge contribution to the life of our school. It will also be exciting to see students engaging with the new Psychology A Level course, with the number of students enrolling on it already very encouraging.

*Mr Herbert
Assistant Headteacher*

Restorative Justice Training

The aim of 'Restorative Justice Training' is to enable participants to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively practice Restorative Approaches in the school setting. All participants will be able to identify and practice appropriate Restorative Approaches in an informal setting; manage conflict and relationship issues; have the ability to develop preventative strategies and the skills to foster and develop Restorative behaviours with students, thus, assisting them to be more accountable and understanding of their actions.

Comments from staff:-

"Absolutely brilliant. Have asked if I can help by delivering the training to our feeder primary schools! Thanks for the invite."

"The RJ training was useful as it made you realise that you follow a lot of what was said already but also reminded you of the importance of working with the students to work out what needs to happen next.

"It was reflective so it reminded you of what the students might be thinking/feeling, i.e. the position that

they are in or the angle they are coming from, for example, home lives affecting their behaviour."

"I will definitely use it with students who are struggling with behaviour for learning individually and maybe collectively in Life Skills."

Students will receive comprehensive training which will enable them to help other students resolve conflict; skills which they could use in peer mentoring and take into the future. It will assist them with their own anger control as they will need to remain calm and impartial. They will gain responsibility and develop good communication and listening skills. All of this will help them improve their self-esteem and confidence.

Restorative Justice Ambassadors will be:- Ainsley Francis, Hasan Mohammed, Raymond Pond, Harry Donoghue, Zac Whitehead, Callum Rusholme, Lewis Wilson, Ryan Jaffray, Joshua Wright, Niall Pender, Liam Morgan, Bayley Farrell, Nathan Rowbotham, Adam Preston, Basit Amir, William Anderson, Jack Brown, Adam Creek, Jamie Forde and William McKenzie.

Mrs Amato

Audenshaw help Aldwyn say NO to Bullying!

Miss Breakell, Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Safety), recently visited Aldwyn Primary School to talk about Stonewall's 'No Bystanders' anti-bullying campaign.

The assembly was focused on anti-bullying issues and the impact of bullying. After the presentation, Aldwyn's year 5 and year 6 students signed pledges committing to stand by Stonewall's 'Hear it, Stop it' no bystanders campaign.

There were a great number of interesting pledges and promises made by students which included: finding time to talk about bullying; making sure to fill the day with positive comments to others and having the courage to stand up to bullies and tell them NO!

Mrs Caroline Charnock, Associate Headteacher at Aldwyn Primary School, said: "It was a fantastic opportunity for the schools to work together to 'Hear it and Stop it' and a great way to prepare Aldwyn's students for their move up to secondary school, while also enhancing our own anti-bullying ethos."



Miss Breakell, Mrs Charnock and Aldwyn students



Miss Breakell delivering the Stonewall message to Aldwyn

Project Pencil Case

During the Summer term, our students will be donating stationery in support of School Aid's 'Fill a Pencil Case' campaign.

Our Prefects will deliver an assembly explaining that each day over 40 million children across Africa are unable to access education due to a lack of basic equipment. It is our hope that we can donate lots of stationery items and send them to those schools in need.

Students will be asked to donate items such as pens and pencils, which will be collected by our Prefects and there will be prizes for the form that donates the most. Furthermore, it is a great way for students to use their VIVO points for the good of others as anything you buy from the VIVO shop in the two weeks of the campaign can also be donated.

Well done to Form 10D who have donated over 8,000 Vivos towards this fantastic cause!



Summer School!

This year will be the first Audenshaw School Summer School for our new year 6 students who will be starting year 7 with us in September. We have secured funding for a small cohort of students and are really looking forward to working with them and finding out how they feel about the 'big move' to secondary school.

The week long Summer School will include a range of sporting, creative and educational activities. Each day will focus on enjoyment, developing transferable skills such as: team building, confidence, determination and communication as well as improving literacy and numeracy skills.

The Camp will also be a great opportunity for students to meet each other and make new friends ready for September. The week will be rounded off with a celebration assembly.

Primary Feeder Schools

Our Primary Intervention Teacher Mrs Martin, has been visiting local Primary Schools working with year 5 and 6 students in their classes.

Mrs Martin said, "We are working on Maths and English workshops that are an introduction to secondary school learning. Whilst at the Primary Schools I am able to introduce the values of Audenshaw and answer any questions or concerns from students regarding transition.

Alongside this, I am building a positive working relationship with our feeder primary schools. We are sharing schemes of work and working collaboratively to aid the transition process for the students. Audenshaw will be using this information provided by primary schools to develop new schemes of work that accelerate the learning process for students by providing a steady progression in learning from primary to secondary school.



Mrs Martin with Poplar Street Primary School students

I am also working with year 6 Most Able students who will be attending Audenshaw School in September 2015. In order to highlight the strengths and talents of these students I have invited Audenshaw staff from the particular curriculum areas to attend these workshops; this will aid teachers in pitching lessons correctly to engage these students and accelerate their progress. This is just the start of this process but I feel that we are already making huge strides towards a successful transition programme between Audenshaw and our feeder Primary Schools."

Review of this Year's Trips

Audenshaw School has had a fantastic year of extra-curricular events for students of all year groups. There have been seventy trips this year that have ranged from subject specific day trips, residential trips, rewards trips, university aspiration trips and subject challenges where students have competed against other schools in the Greater Manchester area. Throughout all the trips, it has been commented by other visitors and schools that our students are polite and friendly and can be relied upon to get involved in all the activities offered to them. They are, without a doubt, a credit to the school. As there have been so many activities that our students have experienced, it would be impossible to write about them all, so here is a snapshot of what our students were involved in this academic year.

Subject Specific Trips

There have been 40 subject specific trips this academic year, ranging from visits to the Bridgewater Hall to watch the Halle Orchestra, AQA revision workshops for years 12 and 13, to visiting the London Art Galleries. In the field of Science and Technology, students have had the opportunity to participate in two Starchaser rocket launches and even met an astronaut at the Museum of Science and Industry! This focus on the study of Space will culminate in students in year 7 building their own rockets in the last of week of term in July.



Student with Astronaut Chris Hadfield

As a school we have some fantastic artists and in order to enrich their learning, students were able to participate in a visit to the London Art Galleries and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Year 11 student Ryan Thompson said that, "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



Music students at Chetham's School of Music

to develop my own GCSE artwork."

In Music, students have had the opportunity to visit the Bridgewater Hall on a number of occasions, as well as the Royal Northern College of Music and Chetham's School of Music, with student Oliver Stead thanking Miss Howarth for organising the trip to Chetham's because it was so much fun! KS4 Science students had the opportunity to hear presentations from renowned professors Sir Robert Winston and Alice Roberts, with students commenting that it had made them think of studying the Sciences at A Level and beyond. The Geography department, in particular, have been busy this year, leading a number of field trips across the Key Stages, in order to enrich students' understanding of Physical and Human Geography, with visits to Malham and Castleton.

Residential Trips

The future Sergio Agueros and Joe Harts of Audenshaw School had the opportunity to participate in a football trip to Ajax where they trained at Ajax's training facilities and even meet Edwin van der Saar, a former player from another team in Manchester! In July, students studying History will be travelling to Belgium and France to visit the trenches of the First World War, which is particularly poignant due to the recent centenary of the First World War. The trip is also particularly beneficial for their future controlled assessment in year 11. Students who have participated in this trip in previous years have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the trenches and learnt a great deal, which I'm sure the current year 10s will agree with in July.



Students training at AJAX



Edwin van der Saar & Mr Young

Aspiration Events

This year has seen an increased emphasis on raising awareness of students striving to study at University, in particular at the prestigious Russell Group Universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge. As a result, there have been a number of opportunities for students to visit a wide range of Universities, including a KS4 trip to Cambridge University and two Manchester University campus visits for KS3 and 4, where students had the opportunity to tour the John Rylands University Library and the Manchester Museum. Whilst the students had the opportunity to get involved in subject specific activities, they were also given guidance on what the best A Levels are to study and the updates on student finance. A number of KS3 students have also attended University Taster Days at Manchester and Sheffield University, which involved activities such as Linguistics and Geography workshops. Meanwhile students at Sheffield University had the opportunity to study Japanese and build bridges out of spaghetti, with student Jamie Forde tweeting the school to say that he was having a great time!

Subject Challenges

There have been numerous opportunities for students across the Key Stages to compete against other schools in the borough and Greater Manchester in various subject specific challenges, in particular English and Mathematics. Students in year 12 competed against students from independent schools across Greater Manchester in an A Level Maths challenge, beating the previous year 12's result with their excellent team work and Mathematical prowess. Students in year 9 will be competing in the North West Big Bang event at the end of June, where two teams will be embarking on a technology challenge followed by workshops focused on the study of the Sciences. Finally, students in year 10 will be competing in the Brains of Tameside Competition, with Captain James Smillie leading fellow Audenshaw brains Matthew Allot, Dylan Mistry and Luke Wagstaff to show off their knowledge of twentieth century History, sport and knowledge of the History of Tameside.

Rewards Trips

Students at Audenshaw School are known for their excellent work ethic, particularly the prefects and as a result Miss Dootson took the prefects on a rewards trip



Miss Daly & year 12 student who took part in the Maths Challenge



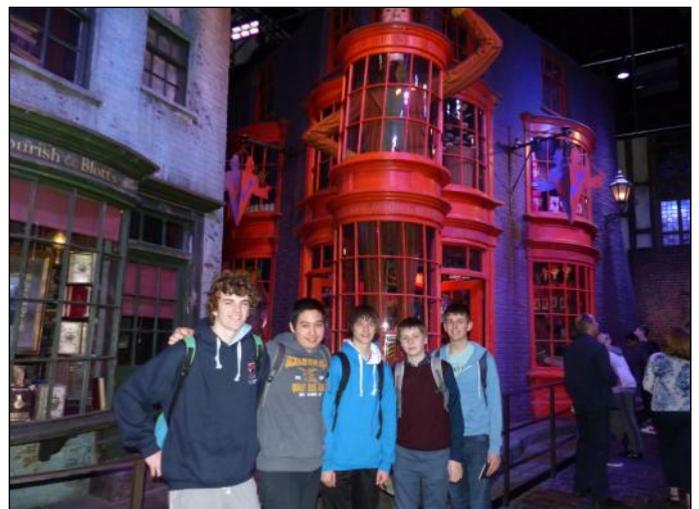
Students at Cambridge University

to Alton Towers during the Easter Holidays. Meanwhile, year 10 and 11 Most Able students who had made exceptional progress across all their subjects, had the chance to visit the Harry Potter Movie sets, with Ellis Robson commenting that it was excellent as it was a once in a life time experience!

Miss Bradbury



Students practising their wizardry skills at Harry Potter Studio Tour!



Students visiting the Harry Potter Studio Tour

Our School's IT Update

A boy said to me recently, "Sir, the computers in this school are older than me!" It made me laugh but he was not too far wrong. In actual fact the network is not 14 years old, however, the computers are very tired now and the software that they run is well past its sell by date.

Having worked in schools for over 15 years it took an opportunity as exciting as this one to inspire me to change jobs and undertake a 120 mile round trip everyday travelling to Audenshaw.

The school is making a massive investment and will be implementing a fantastic, new, cutting edge IT solution that will never again fall out of date as development is at its core. This is an opportunity not many schools have, to provide a real transformational impact on Teaching and Learning.

The development will begin over the summer and should be complete by the end of October 2015. I am very excited and hope the students and staff will be too!

Coming soon: Super fast broadband; the latest high speed Wi-Fi; new computers; new HD interactive touch screens; state of the art filtering and firewall; the latest Microsoft and Adobe software and best of all access to everything 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via any Internet capable device!

*Mr Morton
IT Manager*

Most Able and Talented

It has been an exciting few months for More Able students at Audenshaw School. Year 9 have participated in two Manchester University Insight Days; one based around the study of Geography and one based around Languages and Linguistics. The students found the workshops to be very interesting and it really broadened their horizons when it comes to studying at University.

During the Easter holidays, eleven students from years 10 and 11 visited Cambridge University to experience what it would be like to study at a high ranking Russell Group University. The students learned about the types of courses available to them and which subjects at A Level were particularly beneficial for the application process, such as English, Maths, History, MFL and the Sciences. The speakers also dispelled some of the myths surrounding the selection process. After the workshops, the students had the opportunity to walk around the University and see the types of accommodation and sports facilities that would be on offer to them.

During May Half Term, as a reward for their hard work and progression this year, More Able students in Key Stage Four were taken to the Harry Potter Studio Tour. The students were given a brief history of the making of the films in the actual Great Hall set, which included the costumes of all the major characters. With their Harry Potter Passports in hand, the students then spent three hours walking around all the main sets from the film, including the Gryffindor Common Room and Diagon Alley. At Platform 9 3/4 the students practised running through the wall so that they could catch the Hogwart's Express and they even had a go at flying on a broomstick. We also held our very own Audenshaw School, wand duelling tournament where Lewis, Bhunit and Callum were victorious. After sampling Butterbeer, the students then concluded the day by buying plenty of Harry Potter souvenirs!



Students at The University of Sheffield

Finally, the remaining two months of the term are going to be particularly busy for the More Able students. There are two visits to Manchester University for students in years 8, 9 and 10, where they will be having campus tours and the opportunity to ask questions to current University students, and five year 9 students will be taking part in the Future Scholar Awards visit to Sheffield University. In order to expand students' horizons in the fields of Science and Technology, year 9 More Able students will be participating in the North West Big Bang event at St. Bede's College, Manchester. Audenshaw School is also competing in the 'Brains of Tameside' competition where four year 10 students will be showing off their knowledge of a range of subjects from Maths, the 2015 General Election, to the History of Tameside. In July we have Mrs Ruth Barnett, a Holocaust survivor, coming to speak to students in years 9, 10 and 12 about her experiences on the Kindertransport and finally, students in year 7 will be building rockets and learning about space travel. Collectively, the More Able students have made fantastic progress this year and with the opportunities made available to them this term, will now have aspirations to aim for the highest grades and study at University.

Miss Bradbury

TALL Awards

On Thursday 23rd April, Audenshaw School students, Lewis Braithwaite, Alex Law, Louis Currie, Tanvir Syed and Sarthak Sinha were invited to attend the 'Tameside Leading Literacy (TALL) Awards Ceremony' as they had all been nominated in the Key Stage 3 categories.

Many congratulations goes to Alex Law who came second overall in the competition for his story! Along with a certificate Alex received a personalised engraved trophy for his story, entitled: 'The Hall of the Devil'. Alex has made great progress this year and worked hard to create a piece of writing that used varied vocabulary and superb use of figurative language.

We could only nominate five students and out of the many that we read (thank you to all those who submitted a story) we were impressed by Lewis' story, entitled 'A Walk in the Park', which used a range of figurative language, ambitious vocabulary and a clever switch from first to third person perspective. Tanvir also worked very hard on his story, which began: "Run! He...he's coming!" A thrilling story about two characters and the murder of the woman in white!

It was lovely to see that both Louis Currie and Sarthak Sinha were highly commended for their stories and both received certificates. Louis' story was called 'The Haunted Maze' and it was clear that this had really caught his imagination and he carefully used paragraphs, a range of punctuation and interesting detail to engage the reader. Sarthak wrote an extremely long and detailed story, in which his central character was Death! He used an impressive range of vocabulary and tried very hard to maintain a clear and compelling plot-line.

It was wonderful to see that so many students got involved in this competition and very well done to our five nominees! We hope these students' achievements will inspire students to write, re-draft and create fabulous pieces of work and encourage even more students to enter the competition next time.

Mrs Chandler



Students at the TALL Awards held at Astley Sports College

Year 11 Celebration BBQ

Students in year 11 have been working very hard over this year in preparation for their GCSE exams. The Saturday Study Sessions have been running now since the end of February and there have been around one hundred students attending each week! This hard work and dedication will undoubtedly pay off in their GCSE exams. To celebrate all the hard work and dedication made by year 11, we held a BBQ on Saturday the 6th of June for all of year 11 students and staff. There were food stalls offering various wraps and churros for dessert, and students participated in various party games including a penalty shootout and a potato and spoon race!

To conclude the celebration, the Retainers, a superb band made up of year 11s, performed a set in the dining hall. We wish all year 11 well in their future studies and careers!



Students enjoying the BBQ food



Students taking part in the potato and spoon race!



Year 11 band The Retainers



Cucina Staff

Student Achievement

Year 13 student Jack Dolan, recently performed in Oldham Coliseum Theatre's production of Les Misérables, here's what he had to say about it:

"Les Misérables is one of my favourite musicals, so I could not pass up the opportunity to perform the role of Jean Valjean with the renowned Congress Players, at the amazing Oldham Coliseum Theatre. I was especially excited for two reasons: the first being that my voice has improved and is better trained since I first played Valjean in 2013, so I could really enjoy the acting side of performance and work on fine tuning the characterisation of Valjean. The second was that Oldham Coliseum is a professional theatre. The Coliseum has a large stage, which is exciting for a performer as you really feel focused with so much space to move and perform; adding real diversity and quality to the performance. Furthermore, the cast and I were incredibly excited for the audience as the theatre has excellent sound and lighting equipment, which also facilitated for a ten foot high video wall to be installed and a revolving stage, making the show a visual spectacle."

Miss Howarth, Curriculum Leader of Music, had the pleasure of going to see Jack in action, she said: "Jack was absolutely brilliant as lead character Jean. He had rave reviews with one reviewer saying, 'He had the voice, stage presence and gravitas that performers twice his age with three times his experience would kill for!' Jack is going to Birmingham Conservatoire in September with an unconditional offer to study to be an operatic tenor and you can really see why in this performance!"



Jack on stage as Jean Valjean



The Les Misérables cast

Goodbye Year 13!

On the final day before half term, we had the opportunity to celebrate with our year 13 students before their A2 exams began. Students and teachers spent the morning hearing some "words of wisdom" from Mrs Shepherd and Mr Herbert before enjoying pizza and pop and taking plenty of 'selfies'. It was a really enjoyable morning, allowing them to reminisce about their time at Audenshaw, particularly for some of the boys who have been with us for 7 years! Following in previous years' tradition, all year 13 dressed in their year 11 uniforms!

Here are some of photo memories from the day.



Art

Annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition

The Art department are looking forward to their annual art exhibition, where a selection of the work of all GCSE and A Level students will be on display.

These students have worked incredibly hard throughout the duration of their courses and have produced some outstanding pieces of work. We look forward to celebrating their hard work and success and sharing their work with you on Wednesday the 15th of July.

The exhibition will be open for viewing in the dining hall before and after the summer concert.

Artist of the Term - May/June

Jamie Tilston - Year 8

Jamie has worked in the style of Abby Diamond really well and has used watercolours carefully showing good control. He has accurately drawn the proportions within his work. Well done Jamie!

Miss Pringle



Artist of the Term - June/July

Ellis Allen - Year 8

Ellis has made brilliant progress this year and has really gained confidence in his work. In his Pop Art style self portrait Ellis has shown good control through his use of paint. Well done Ellis!

Mrs Anders



History

In April a group of 20 year 12 and 13 students accompanied Miss Dootson and Miss Kelly on a trip to the People's History Museum, in Salford. The aim of the trip was to provide them with some primary materials in preparation for their British History exam. The course covers British Political and Social Histories. Students firstly watched a workshop about a Local Suffragette, Hannah Mitchell, who was born and lived in Ashton-under-Lyne. This also covered her relationship with the infamous Pankhurst women!

Students then were granted access to the archives. In the archives they were able to handle and read anything that the archives had to offer, some of the more popular primary materials requested were: The original Labour Manifesto of 1945; a letter from Tony Blair to his local MP; the minutes from a meeting with Herbert Asquith and leading Suffragettes on women gaining political equality and finally a letter written and signed by Margaret Thatcher about the Falklands. Students were then given free-time to explore the exhibitions around the Museum itself.

Miss Dootson

Crime Awareness Day

On the 17th of March, year 9 participated in a Crime and Safety Awareness day. The students were visited by an organisation called Prison Me No Way! (PMNW!).

PMNW! is a national educational charity who raise awareness among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime. The events of the day were conducted by Phil Wilson and his team of prison officers, an ex-gang member and a gang unit police officer. Their aim is to make an impact on the lives of young people and turn them away from crime and its consequences using a collection of inspiring workshops. As explained by the officers, 'When it comes to telling the truth and getting its message across constructively, PMNW! takes no prisoners.'



Students performing role plays on 'Corporation Street'

boys really enjoyed the interactive nature of the day – including the role plays on 'Corporation Street' and getting to go inside a prison cell. Some of the most memorable moments for the boys were meeting and questioning ex-Manchester gang member Matthew, who gave personal testimony of events in his life as a gang member – including the death of his brother. The students also met an officer from the Xcalibre gun and gang police squad, who gave them an in-depth insight in to the catching and imprisoning of gang criminals in Manchester and many felt they learnt things they would never get the chance to otherwise!

Phil Wilson from PMNW! had this to say about his visit to Audenshaw, "The students in year 9 were a credit to themselves as well as to the school and it was good to see all abilities rewarded in the closing session, which just goes to show that with a little encouragement and a unique approach, everyone can benefit.

Let's hope that some future difficult choices and decisions the students will invariably have to make have been made just a little bit easier knowing the consequences that could await them."

Miss Vose



Miss Vose and Phil Wilson from PMNW!

The students visited six different workshops throughout the day, which included, anti-social behaviour, gang crime, drugs and what its like to be in prison. Having spoken to the boys through Student Voice feedback, the



Left: Outside & Inside of Prison Cell. Above: Students in Prison Cell.

RE

The students studying Full Course RE voted on the ever controversial topic of whether we should have the death penalty in the UK. The initial vote showed that our boys were very diverse in their views; 'NO' received 32%, 'YES FOR MURDER' received 24% and 'RETAIN THE PUNISHMENT FOR SEVERE CIRCUMSTANCES' received 44%. They then had the chance to listen to a representative from each view point and question them. Finally, after intense scrutiny, we held a second vote and we were as drawn as before! 'NO' receiving 36%, 'YES FOR MURDER' receiving 28% and 'RETAIN THE PUNISHMENT FOR SEVERE CIRCUMSTANCES' receiving 36%.

Proving that capital punishment is still a much contested issue.

Miss Vose



Students listening to the different viewpoints

Geography

On the 10th and 11th of June year 10 Geographers visited Oldham town centre to collect primary data for their Controlled Assessment.

We had glorious weather and the students were able to complete land use maps, environmental quality surveys, tally charts and take photographs.

Students will now collate their data, along with secondary research. In doing so they will be able to complete their work, early in year 11, looking at the impact of the new Princes Gate Development.



Mrs Sykes & Mr Musgrove



Students completing their surveys in Oldham

Miss Armstrong

Audenshaw School's Geography department took its year 7 students on two trips to Dovestones Reservoir last week. The aim of the trip was for students to use their map reading skills to navigate in an upland area. Students were given some expert guidance from North Outdoor Interventions. On Tuesday 16th of June students from forms 7A, 7L and 7D successfully navigated up Chew Valley, through a series of check points using OS maps. Some of the group went on to navigate around the Reservoir, though there was a bit of trial and error!

On Thursday the 18th of June students from forms 7W, 7Y, 7N and 7S were forced to take different routes due to antecedent conditions. However, they also got the opportunity to learn some survival skills from the Mountain Leaders - including how to fashion a splint from the natural environment and how to use the OS map to help guide Emergency Services. The students all had a great time and got to try out their skills in real life situations.



Year 7 students at Dovestones

Mrs Sykes

Science

National Science Week

Science week this year focused on the importance of local innovations in Science. For example, the computer – the first one, called Baby, was built in Manchester. The splitting of the nucleus of the atom, which was first done at the University of Manchester by Ernest Rutherford.

A variety of different projects were undertaken. Several students studied Alan Turing and the work he did on cracking the German Enigma machine. He actually wasn't born in Manchester, but studied and lived a lot of his life here, living in Wilmslow at the time of his death. McVities also got a mention, and why not, without them you tea dunkers out there would be lost!

The aim of the project was to research a local invention, inventor or ground-breaker business that has had an effect on their life. Once they had researched this, they then had to produce a poster explaining what they found out.

Some excellent entries were submitted and all involved really enjoyed looking through all the remarkable Science that has come from Manchester and its surrounding areas. Well done every one!

Dr Daniel

Balloon Buggy Competition

During Science lessons students had the opportunity to design a balloon powered space buggy. Students then built these buggies at home to take part in a competition after school. The students that entered made a tremendous effort and the resulting models were outstanding. The variety of ideas was extremely impressive and can be seen in these photographs.

The buggies were tested against three criteria: speed, distance and creativity and there were ten winners overall in years 7 and 8. The prize is for students to see a research rocket being launched near Jodrell Bank telescope in Cheshire. The 4m long rocket is called Tempest and will be taking unique aerial shots of the telescope as well as carrying air quality testing equipment for Manchester University.

Miss Clark



Stem Club students with their creations!



Students racing their buggies

Business Studies

As part of their BUSS4 unit, we took our year 13 Business group to Atherton to visit a 3M plant. Students got to grips with the operations involved in manufacturing on a global scale, meeting different graduates and their site Production Leader. After reluctantly leaving their mobile phones at security, the students were taken on a tour around the factory floor witnessing first hand the theory they have been discussing in lessons. The students got to discuss elements such as TQM and JIT with the team and gathered lots of useful ideas for their research question on their final ever Business exam. Good luck Team Business!

Mrs Shepherd



Year 13 students at 3M Plant

Business Studies (continued)

Stock Market Challenge!

We had the opportunity to take ten year 10 students to the Stock Market Challenge held at Manchester University. The boys were split into 2 teams competing with other schools across Manchester. Their challenge was to invest money according to different market conditions throughout the day in order to end up with the most money. Buying and selling shares became very intense, and risky decisions were having to be made. For one team this paid off – coming 4th out of the 17 teams. Adil Anwar also won an award for Best Market Analysis.

Mrs Shepherd



Students at Stock Market Challenge

Mathematics

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The UKMT organises national Mathematics competitions and other Mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school students. This year, some of our year 8 students enjoyed success in the Junior Maths Challenge, with three students receiving a Gold award, which places them in the top 7% of students who participated nationwide. One student, Gideon Holt, also received the Best in School award, and was invited to take part in a further Junior Kangaroo Maths Challenge. Only students who score very highly on the Junior Maths Challenge are invited to take part, so well done to Gideon!



Students who took part in the Junior Maths Challenge

The UKMT certificate winners are:

Gold

Gideon Holt

Ben Amato

Lewis Bickley

Connor Smith

Anas Khan

James Clayton

Meikaeel Haris

Jamie Tilston

James Coffey

Maxwell Smith

Daniel Bennett

Silver

Edward Ogden

Alex Needham

Connor Bailey

Caine Edwards

Bronze

Osama Mallah

Charlie Fletcher

Hari Fitton

Jack Craven

All the boys who were awarded certificates should be extremely proud of themselves, as the questions asked on the UKMT challenges are notoriously tricky!

Can you solve this example from the 2015 Junior Challenge?

One of the following cubes is the smallest cube that can be written as the sum of three positive cubes. Which is it?

A 27 B 64 C 125 D 216 E 512

Answer on the back page!

Miss McGivern

MFL

Learning to lead and leading to learn...

The MFL department is delighted to announce the launch of our Audenshaw Language Leader Award, which will run from September 2015 as an extra-curricular enrichment activity for selected students from all Key Stages. This programme is supported by Routes into Languages, a consortium of universities working together with schools and colleges, to enthuse and encourage people to study languages.

The programme involves students developing their teaching skills and making 3 visits to a feeder primary school to teach languages. Students will also become language ambassadors for the school and will help to raise the profile of Audenshaw's MFL department within our community.

The scheme will enable students to gain leadership skills and develop the confidence, self discipline and resilience they need to face the challenges of Higher Education and the world of work. Above all, it will also showcase the amazing language ability of many of our students in French, Spanish and other languages spoken by our students.

This is an exciting time for the Audenshaw MFL department! Further announcements will be made through the school website and twitter.

Madame Lewis

Mother Tongue Other Tongue

Students from Miss Green's years 7, 8 and 9 language classes competed in a National Foreign Language Poetry competition run by Routes Into Language. The competition celebrates cultural diversity and supporters include Poet Laureate Dame Carol Ann Duffy and professional boxer Amir Khan.

Our own school finalists had their work sent off to be judged alongside poetry from all over the country in many different languages.

The competition is split into two categories. The first, 'Mother Tongue', invites students to write about a poem, lullaby or song in a foreign language which holds significant meaning to them.

The 'Other Tongue' category invites students who are learning a new language, to write a poem in the language that they are learning.

Although our students did not win the competition this time, the work they produced was of an exceptional standard and students really enjoyed the lessons and competing in a national competition. With a new focus on authentic texts, Miss Green looks forward to our new entries for next year.



Amir Khan supporting Mother Tongue Other Tongue 2015

Languages Spelling Bee

Four budding year 7 students seized the opportunity to show off what they'd been learning in French lessons since starting at Audenshaw School. They took part in the regional finals of the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The 7S students: Aanish Butt, Mohammed Hassan Raja, Ravi Joshi and Joshua Singleton, travelled to the university with their French teacher, Miss Green, and spent the morning participating in their heats.

The afternoon was dedicated to the grilling finals. Our team performed extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Miss Green organised the trip and is already looking forward to launching next year's competition.

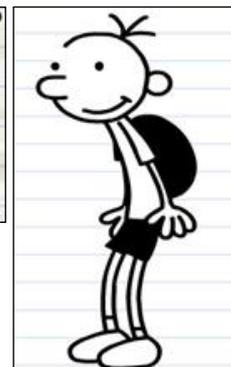
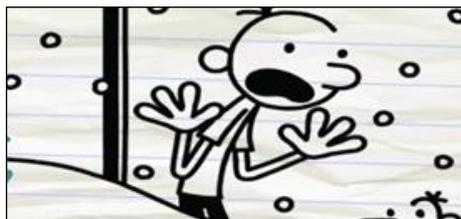


Miss Green with students at the Spelling Bee

English

Library Summer Writing Competition

This term's Library competition is a creative writing competition inspired by the ever popular *Diary of Wimpy Kid* series. We've challenged students to have a go at mimicking the hilarious, casual and at times utterly cringe-worthy writing style of Jeff Kenney. Students have been asked to write a funny short story with illustrations or a comic strip exploring a funny situation. You can use the characters from the series or you could create your own tragic characters. It can be based on school or it can be about life outside school. The main thing is that it makes your reader giggle!



Closing date for entries is July 3rd so students need to start thinking about what they could write about and give it a go!

If they need some help or inspiration, students are welcome to come to the 'Writing Clinic' in MG15 on a Wednesday after school. They can try out their ideas on staff or get some pointers from Jeff Kenney himself via his YouTube 'How to' clips.

Here's an extract of a review from student Jack Williams 8S -

"I am so glad that I started reading Jeff Kinney's books again because they are so interesting and funny. These are the only books which I have read time and time again and never found them boring. I find Jeff Kinney to be an amazing writer as his stories contain so many funny and interesting chapters that appeal to me."

Mrs Watkinson

Extreme Reading 2015

Once again the summer is approaching and time for the annual Audenshaw Extreme Reading Challenge! For those who didn't take part last year, the English department would like photographs of students reading somewhere unusual. The photographs will form part of a display in the English corridor.

The first prize is an evening out for two which includes a meal at Nandos plus cinema tickets. There will also be a number of runner up prizes so there's a lot at stake. This year's winner will also be given the chance to spend £20 on new books for the school Library.

All entries should be emailed to school by the first week back in September 2015, to the school's Library email address: lib@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk

Alternatively, entries can be sent to the school's Twitter account [@AudenshawSchool](https://twitter.com/AudenshawSchool) or printed pictures can be handed in to the Library.

Obviously, we encourage students to keep safe (I wouldn't recommend dangerous stunts!) but we are really looking forward to seeing who in school has such a passion for reading that they will do it anywhere and everywhere! Hopefully, this will bring a little extra fun to the Summer holidays.

Mrs Watkinson



Last year's winner Farron O'Hare

Win up to £5,000 in Book Tokens for our School Library!

National Book Tokens are giving away **£5,000** of book tokens to one lucky school. Even better, the student who enters the winning school will also get £100 of National Book Tokens!

Anyone can win £2,500 for their chosen school, but if you have a **National Book Token** Enter the card number when you enter & they will double the prize to £5,000!

To enter please go to <http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools#.VYpgMNJVikp>

Music

Friday the 29th of May saw the most important day of the brass band calendar, as brass bands from all over the world took their turns marching and competing around Tameside and Saddleworth in the Whit Friday parade and contests. Audenshaw School joined bands from as far afield as Australia in competing for prizes.

Preparation began some weeks ago with the students learning two new marches for the competition: The Great Escape, to be performed on the march down for department, and Slaidburn, to be performed on the stand as the contest piece. In the week before the competition the students rehearsed every day after school and did some dedicated march practice outside in the school yard.

As the school was on half-term break Thursday afternoon became dedicated march practice as the students learned to march in time and fall in and out correctly as their final preparation.

On Friday morning they accompanied Abney United Reformed Church on the walk through Mossley where they delighted the crowds with renditions of True & Trusty, Oh When the Saints, The Muppet Show theme and Disney Marches all in perfect step.

In the evening, we performed at 10 out of the 11 Tameside Whit Friday Contests, unfortunately we could not get in at Heyrod despite turning up twice to



Audenshaw Brass Band performing at Aldwinians RUFC

play! We were at an advantage in our school minibus as we were able to travel down many local roads the bigger buses couldn't attempt but we still got stuck at several venues when huge amounts of bands turned up to play at the same time. The students were particularly relieved at the long wait in Top Mossley which allowed them to enjoy some well needed fish and chips!

We had an amazing time with some fantastic performances and perfect deportment. On only their third time competing in Whit Friday they managed to take home two 2nd place Youth Prizes at Carrbrook and Dukinfield and most notably the OVERALL department prize at Aldwinians beating all other bands that competed there.

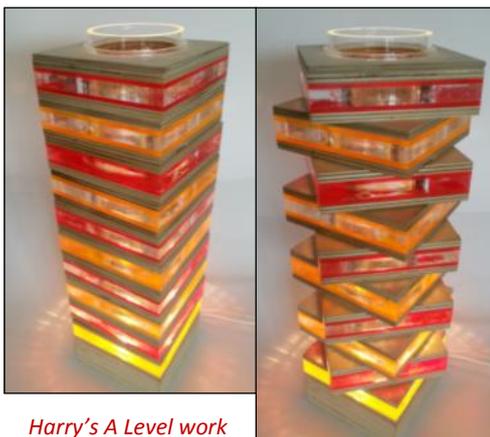
Miss Howarth

Design and Technology

As the year 11 GCSE course draws to a close we can honestly say that this year's cohort of students have worked extremely hard to secure high quality finished products, this has involved a commitment of additional time after school and on Saturdays.

The photographs of Product Design and Resistant Materials work (right) illustrate the massive range of project work undertaken. Whilst most schools only have a handful of students completing a GCSE in Design & Technology, we have all 196 students studying one of four D&T disciplines.

The A Level course has produced some very interesting outcomes with a wide variation in lamp and amplifier designs being produced. Harry Welsby has produced a lamp (pictured left) which



Harry's A Level work

shows how a simple design can be given an interesting twist to produce very attractive, commercially viable products.



Above: Selection of students' GCSE work

STEM News We are taking a group of 12 year 8 and 9 students to the Tameside and Oldham STEM challenge day, which will be held at Ashton Sixth Form College. This will be an all day event on Monday 13th July and we hope the boys have a great time. Watch out for photos and news of the day on the @AudenshawSTEM twitter feed.

*Mr Bond
Assistant Headteacher / Curriculum Leader of D & T*

Cricket

Following a defeat in their first game the year 7 Cricket Team have bounced back in style recording two excellent wins and progressing to the quarter final of the Lancashire plate competition.

At local rivals West Hill the home side chose to bat first and completed their 20 overs with a total of 70. The pick of the bowlers were Jamie Saint (with an outstanding 4 overs) and Toby Lees (who caused a lot of problems with his spin bowling). Audenshaw came into bat full of confidence with opening pair captain Ethan Bradshaw and Lewis Saville getting off to a good start. The wicket off Saville saw a few quick wickets but then the total required came quickly after Daniel Ridgway came in and clubbed a swift 25. Audenshaw won with 5 overs to spare. Man of the Match, with a superb captain's performance was Ethan Bradshaw.

The next fixture was away at Our Lady's School, Preston. Audenshaw batted first reaching 90 off our 20 overs. Bradshaw, Saint, Ridgway and Ben Ebbrell all contributed well with the bat after a few early wickets. The home team were bowled out for less than 60. Jamie Saint registered only one wicket in his 4 overs but the batsmen found him impossible to play, scoring only 3 runs from his overs. This, along with his 25 runs earned him the man of the match award. The team now play Ormskirk School in the next round.

Mr Donnelly

PE & Sports Round Up!

This year we have had some fantastic sporting achievements. Mr Rose will be writing his annual sports report at the end of this term when all sports come to a close and this will be available on our website for you to read. In the meantime here are a selection of some of the Key Sporting Achievements in this Academic Year 2014/15:

Athletics

Oliver Richardson - 300m County Champion

Sam Dean - Javelin County Champion

Bethany Pearson - Hammer County Champion

Cricket

1st XI - Lancashire Plate Winners

Football

U12's - 19/2 games won. Tameside League & Cup double, Tameside and Greater Manchester Five a Side Champions, County Cup Finalists, Last 16 ESFA National Cup

U13's - Greater Manchester Cup Finalists

U14's - Tameside Cup Semi Finals

U15's - Tameside Champions, Last 16 ESFA National



Year 7 Football Team (under 12s) winning the Tameside League Final!

Cup, County Cup Semi Finalists

Football (continued)

U16's-Tameside League and Cup Double

Hockey

Liam Kennerley - England U16's

Rugby

U13's - Lancashire Cup Finalists, Woodhouse Grove Sevens Finalists

U14's - Lancashire Cup Semi-Finalists

U15's - King's School, Macclesfield Sevens Finalists, Dean Schofield Sevens Finalists, Bolton Sevens Finalists

U16's - St Ambrose Tens Winners 1st XV Lancashire Plate Semi Finalists

We look forward to the 2015/2016 season!



Under 13s Rugby Team

Governor Profile



Governor: Mrs Glynis Miller

I am an experienced Governor and chaired the Admissions Committee for a number of years. I am presently a member of the recently formed Standards Committee which oversees Curriculum and Admissions. In addition I sit on the Attendance and Appeals Panels

There have been many highlights in my time as a governor one of them being the visit of Princess Anne to the school.

My educational philosophy is simple 'every child should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential in whatever field they chose and have an understanding of their achievements'.

I work in the private sector where I have extensive experience in the small, medium enterprise sector employing a small team of skilled engineers. I own and run my own business in the motor trade. I am an experienced and long standing Director of those companies.

I have two granddaughters aged 5 and 3.

I support Aldwinians RUFC.

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

Strawberry Pavlova

Ingredients

For the meringue

- 4 egg whites
- 250g caster sugar
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp cornflour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

For the topping

- 500g strawberries, hulled and halved
- 200g redcurrants, stalks removed
- 3 tbsp icing sugar
- 350ml double cream



Instructions

1. Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Using a pencil, mark out the circumference of a dinner plate on baking parchment. Whisk the egg whites with a hand mixer until they form stiff peaks, then whisk in the sugar, 1 tbsp at a time, until the meringue looks glossy. Whisk in the vinegar, cornflour and vanilla.
2. Spread the meringue inside the circle, creating a crater by making the sides a little higher than the middle. Bake for 1 hour, then turn off the heat and let the Pavlova cool completely inside the oven.
3. When the meringue is cool, chop 100g of the strawberries. Mix them with half the redcurrants and 2 tbsp icing sugar. Place in a food processor, blitz until smooth, then push the fruit mixture through a sieve. Whip the cream with the remaining icing sugar and spread it over the meringue. Put the remaining fruit on the cream and finally pour the sauce over the whole lot.

From Page 15 Junior Maths Challenge Answer - Solution D

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.

Mrs Saw, Headteacher