

Around The Academy....

Teachers Make The Grade

Congratulations to a number of our teachers who have passed professional awards recently.

Miss Stevenson and Miss Rawson both gained National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) awards; and Mr Buchanan gained National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML) award who said, "I have gained lots of different skills in middle leadership that will hopefully improve the progress of all of our students."

All three are rightly proud of their achievements, which have taken almost two years and proved anything but easy to pass.

AQA Award Winners

Two Year 10 students, Kennedy and Demi, have recently received AQA awards for Peer Support for Young Victims, Babysitting, and 100 hours of Volunteering.

As members of a female group supported by 'UR Potential Community Interest Company', they have gained valuable experience and life skills, while improving the lives of those in their local community.

Both girls thoroughly enjoy their time in this group recommending young people to go along and see what can be achieved. Demi said, "It's good to know that I'm doing things to help my community and at the same time I'm learning too".

URPotential is a Community Interest Company and not for profit organisation. Their values are based on community cohesion and the development of communities who take the lead, believing in supporting individuals to fulfil their potential and reach their dreams.



GOLDEN TIMES AHEAD



I really cannot believe that we have reached the end of another academic year at Aspire, it seems to have flown by so quickly. I am immensely proud of the positive spirit that pervades the Academy day in and day out. Aspire is a great place to learn and work and this has become more evident throughout my first year as Principal. I am particularly pleased that the improvement initiatives that we developed have become embedded in Academy life.

*Every hour of learning at Aspire is called the **GOLDEN** hour and there are 5 a day, 25 a week, and 975 a year. Our expectation is that students apply themselves to their challenging work for each one of the golden hours to achieve 'success nothing less!' Your support is essential in helping us secure their successes and we wish to continue strong communications between school and home to help us build a strong foundation for an effective partnership.*

*Our basic expectations are high standards of behaviour, excellent attendance, and high expectations for academic outcome. After consulting staff, students, and parents we introduced a mobile phone ban on site and it has been a fantastic initiative to support the **GOLDEN** climate for learning. Students are now not distracted by their phones and they even talk to each other in unstructured times!*

Mrs L Shuttleworth-Brown
Academy Principal

Students help traffic police

Aspire students were helping the local community by educating drivers on the dangers of speeding during a visit by police officers in July.

PCSO Leigh invited traffic police to set up a roadside speed camera outside Blackpool Aspire Academy and if a car was found to be speeding PC Clarke guided them into the dropping off point behind the bus stop, where Aspire students informed the driver of facts relating to speeding and how dangerous it can be to other road users and pedestrians.



English Faculty

Annual Spelling Bee Competition

Friday, 30th June saw Team Aspire do battle in the FCAT Annual Schools' Spelling Bee competition held at the Blackpool Sixth Form campus, which was bursting at the seams with

keen spellers, all buzzing with excitement at the prospect of taking the coveted Golden Bee Trophy home!

In preparation for the competition a huge list of difficult words were displayed in each form for students to practise, which encouraged some of our less enthusiastic spellers to get involved as well! Each English teacher nominated two students as their



representatives, with Team Aspire being created from these talented spellers. Each lunch time was spent with Ms Brown practising their spellings in readiness for the big competition and the dedication of our team was undeniable.

There was some tough competition from other schools such as Hodgson and Unity and the eventual winners Montgomery. Team Aspire were unfortunate not to get a placing, only missing out on third place by one point! However, Team Aspire are determined to claim the trophy next year and are already preparing by helping to organise next year's interform spelling bee in school, ensuring that not only do Aspire bring the spelling bee trophy home, but that we all become even better spellers!

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our anti-bullying campaign goes from strength to strength in Aspire; with Year 11 moving on, new positions have opened up and there are no shortage of willing students ready to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

From September Miss Turnbull will be welcoming new recruits who will be starting their role as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who will be situated in the library, canteen and yard each break and lunch time.

Our Ambassadors are trained to identify bullying in different forms, how to support students who

are experiencing bullying, safeguarding and how to prevent bullying. They also learn that bullying is not confined to school and its victims are not limited to young people.

Here at Aspire we have a zero tolerance approach to bullying, whether it be physical, verbal, or online, and our Ambassadors are shown how their new skills can be used against bullying in the wider community.

If you are interested in joining The Anti-Bullying Team - please see Miss Turnbull in C5.



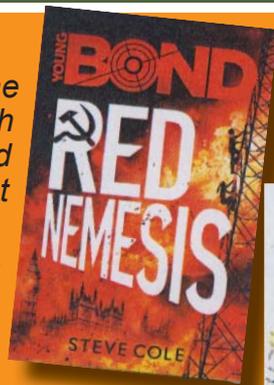
DEAR Time

Aspire Academy is driving up the standards in reading through its DEAR Time initiative and is asking all its students to get lost...in a book!

DEAR Time - that's Drop Everything And Read - is dedicated time in the academy where everyone hears the 'DEAR' bell and has to stop what they are doing and read their book. All over the academy students and staff alike are to be found reading a book of their choice.

DEAR Time is ensuring that everyone gets involved in reading and that everyone is able to discuss and recommend the many books students and staff are bringing in. In an exciting development, the academy has asked all Year

7 students to choose a book of their choice, which will be delivered to them in form time in September, ready for a brand new year with lots more students enjoying their reading!



Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in English: Kieran (Year 7), Vilaxshi (Year 7), Joseph (Year 8), Molly (Year 8), Brandon (Year 9), Patrick (Year 9), Hannah (Year 10), Jasmine (Year 10), and Travis (Year 10).

Expressive Arts Faculty

Aspire Gospel Choir record charity single



Max Fox, an ex-student and choir member, and now professional singer with The Jerseys, a Four Seasons tribute group, contacted Miss Mackay after the Manchester atrocity in June, to ask if the Aspire Gospel Choir would like to take part in a joint venture to raise funds for the victims by covering Westlife's 'Angels'.

Without hesitation, Miss Mackay said yes, and the track was quickly recorded.

The single was released within a week to the download charts and is still available from all good download stores.

Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty

In Year 7 Drama lessons, students have been taking part in a scripted play called, 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty'. They have learnt



how to memorise lines and deliver them on stage in character. As well as performing in a theatre style, using the drama studio, they have been filming their plays on location at indoor and outdoor points around school, including the field, the memorial garden at the front of school, in corridors, and on the yard. Students have been using iMovie on the school iPads to film, then edit, their movies where they can include filters, text and music.

Sports Day 2017 and Athletics Championships

The 2017 Aspire Academy Sports Day on the 7th July was a great success with almost all of our students competing in one or more events. The weather was kind to us and allowed some excellent performances to be seen.

The results were as follows:

Year 7 awards - Ryan Nicholl and Demi Leigh Faulkner and the winning form was 8A.

Year 8 awards - Bobby Keen and Shania Parwez and the winning form was 9S.

Year 9 awards - Brandon Rogers & Nicola Barber and the winning form was 10P.

Year 10 awards - Danny MacDonald and Shardee Egerton and the winning form was 11P.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and to every student who competed so well.



Our students also competed well at the Blackpool schools athletics championships at Stanley Park on the 14th July with excellent performances from Stuart Bremner (1st in Discus) Luke Aindow Owen (1st in 800m) Wen Chen (1st in Javelin) and Lewis Godley (1st in triple jump).



A Most Frightening Experience!

On April 27th our Year 11 Btec Performing Arts students performed a play called 'Stage Fright' written by Mr Moore. Students played characters who were Variety Show performers. Acts included magic, singing, comedy, dancing and clowns. The story brought all the characters together at an audition in a haunted theatre. However, the spooky twist at the end of the show was that the characters were all actually dead and were auditioning to enter heaven or hell! Yvette Fielding from TV's Most Haunted, sent a good luck video to the cast which was played at the beginning of the show!



Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in Expressive Arts:

Katie (Year 7), Sarah (Year 7), Dylan (Year 8), Holly (Year 8), Michael (Year 9), Ciaran (Year 9), Scott (Year 10), Colbie (Year 7), Morgan (Year 7), Zoe (Year 8), Triniti (Year 8), Oliver (Year 9), Wiktorija (Year 9), Matthew (Year 7), Kai (Year 7), Charnai (Year 8), Chloe (Year 8), Charlie (Year 9), Dylan (Year 9), Jess (Year 10), Amber (Year 10), Demi-Leigh (Year 7), Ryan (Year 7), Robert (Year 8), and Ella (Year 8).

Science Faculty

Aspire is out of this world!

Students from Aspire and many other schools from the local area were given a unique cosmic experience this half term. Thanks to the Ogden trust, a planetarium was set up in the drama studio that gave our young people a chance to explore space and know what it is to be like an astronaut.

Alongside this, two workshops were set up in our labs that enabled pupils to see the science behind space and planetary exploration. One workshop was dedicated to "Getting There". The whoosh bottle experiment showed students spectacularly, the amount of energy stored in rocket fuel. Similarly, the physiological pitfalls of space exploration were demonstrated by using a vacuum pump. In the absence of air, our blood would actually boil! Our spines would expand, only to contract again when returned to Earth in such a way as to leave air pockets in the bone. It is the reason why so many astronauts experience fractures due to its weakened structure.

The showpiece however was liquid nitrogen. The extreme cold has very unusual effects on objects including increasing the strength of magnetic fields, giving the appearance that some objects can float.

The second workshop focussed on what happens when we get to another planet. A rover was set up, a robot that has the ability to learn its surroundings. This enables it to explore an alien surface, collect samples and lessen the chance of it becoming damaged. A gravity field well and UV paint were also demonstrated alongside the spectacular Van der Graff generator, an object that exhibits the effects of static electricity.

A special thanks should go to Mr Chadwick whose diligent planning ensured that the days

ran smoothly. Former Aspire head of science Mrs Bradley was in charge of the set up assisted by volunteers from Baines and Blackpool Sixth Form A-Level students that helped make the days so memorable. I would also like to mention how mature members of our own astronomy club were at guiding the visitors around the academy. They were a credit to us.



The Colour Of Light

Year 6 students were taught all about light being introduced to the electromagnetic spectrum and visible light. With the help of some handheld lights in various colours the young scientists soon grasped the idea that all light travels as waves, and that wavelength defines the various regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The photo to the right shows the students attempting to create white light from the three primary colours of red, green, and blue.



Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in Science:

Kai (Year 7), Ryan (Year 7), Robert (Year 8), Lauren (Year 8), Michael (Year 9), Ayman (Year 9), Georgia (Year 10), and Joshua (Year 10).

Humanities Faculty

FCAT Humanities Quiz 2017

On Wednesday, 28th June, four of our GCSE History and Geography students from the new Year 10 took part in the inaugural FCAT Humanities Quiz hosted by Blackpool Sixth. Zac, Holly, Daniella, and Olivia competed against Hodgson, Montgomery, and Unity Academies, answering a series of questions about History, Geography, Religious Education, and Law.

In the first round Aspire suffered only one defeat, coming at the hands of Hodgson Academy. In the other matches, Aspire recorded convincing victories over Unity and Montgomery. In the semi-final Aspire were drawn against Unity and once again recorded a convincing and impressive victory.



The Final presented a re-match against a very strong Hodgson side and despite a hard fought contest, Team Aspire were unable to overcome their opponents.

Daniella, Holly, Olivia and Zac conducted themselves brilliantly and demonstrated an impressive array of knowledge.

Fairtrade Tuck Shop

This term Mr Butt has been running a tuck shop every Thursday to raise money and promote Fairtrade products within Aspire.

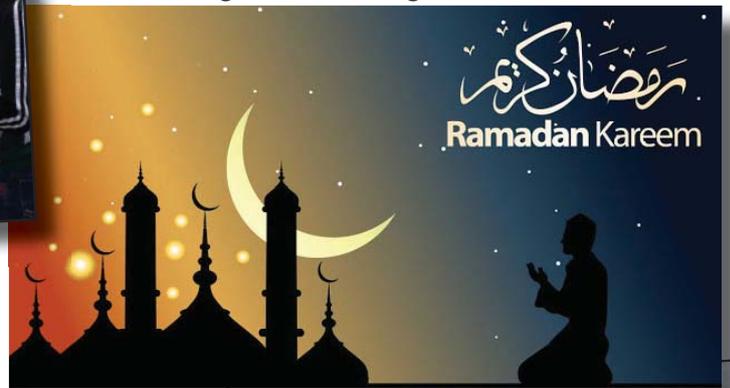
Selling many varieties of biscuits, sweets, and cakes, the tuck shop is in the Food Technology room every break time.



Ramadan Comes To Aspire

This term the Year 11 GCSE options class was investigating the Islamic religious practice of Swam (the month of Ramadan). Students were extremely intrigued by the reasons why Muslims must take part in this practice.

During the month of Ramadan Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. This is performed by all Muslims around the world. The reasons for this to experience the hardships and the suffering of the people who are in poverty. The month also requires Muslims to be generous and kind and not to get aggressive or negative in any way. The reasons of displaying these characteristics is to have a lasting effect throughout a Muslims' life.

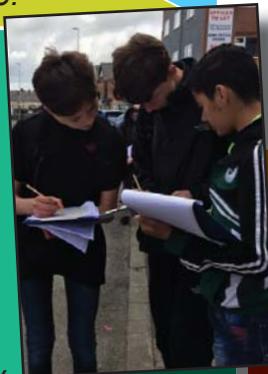


Data Collection

On Wednesday 7th June our Year 10 GCSE Geographers conducted their fieldwork in the Blackpool area. They collected data on both the human geography of Blackpool and the physical geography of Cleveleys, during a very busy day.

Fieldwork is a compulsory element of the new Geography GCSE course and the vast majority of Aspire students conducted themselves with respect and resilience in the less than ideal weather conditions.

Students investigated both tourist attraction location and sea defence management strategies, collecting primary data in preparation for an examination in Summer 2018. Both staff and students had a great day and the data collected was of an excellent quality. Well done Year 10 Geographers!



Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in Humanities:

Mitchel (Year 7), Kieran (Year 7), Katie (Year 8), Julie-Ann (Year 8), Wen (Year 9), Patrick (Year 9), Billy (Year 10), Leon (Year 10), Simon (Year 7), Will (Year 7), Julie-Ann (Year 8), Jacqueline (Year 8), Daniella (Year 9), Patrick (Year 9), Joshua (Year 10), Chloe (Year 10), Jed (Year 7), Amelia (Year 7), Samantha (Year 8), Aimee (Year 8), Wen (Year 9), Holly (Year 9), Hannah (Year 10), Chloe (Year 10), Hannah (Year 10), Scott (Year 10), and Melissa (Year 10).

ICT and Technology Faculty

Cake Bake For Victims

Year 11 Eden felt so moved by the terrible terrorist events that happened in both Manchester and London that she decided to organise a Cake Bake in order to help the victims.

Despite being busy with her studies, Eden managed to persuade both staff and students to help by donating and cooking cakes to sell, although everybody approached was more than willing.

Over £90 was raised and has been donated to the UK Solidarity Fund.

Pictured is Eden with Miss Isherwood just before the Cake Bake began.



Codebreaker

Key Stage 3 students have been learning the delicate art of Computational Thinking and how to be logical in solving puzzles. Can you solve this one?

Answers to Miss Matthews for a mystery prize!

CRACK THE CODE



CODE

A NUMERIC LOCK HAS A 3 DIGIT KEY

HINT

6 8 2

One number is correct
and well placed

6 1 4

One number is correct
but wrong placed

2 0 6

Two numbers are correct
but wrong placed

7 3 8

Nothing is correct

7 8 0

One number is correct
but wrong placed

Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in ICT and Technology:

Holy (Year 8), Ella (Year 8), Abdullah (Year 9), Wiktoria (Year 9), Georgia (Year 10), Natalie (Year 10), Kieran (Year 7), Lewis (Year 7), Gabriella (Year 9), Bradie (Year 9), Shahrazed (Year 9), Kaja (Year 9), Charlie (Year 10), Natalie (Year 10), Katie (Year 7), Matthew (Year 7), Jamie (Year 8), Mollie (Year 8), Shahrazed (Year 9), Michael (Year 9), Richard (Year 10), Natalie (Year 10), Leanne (Year 10), Jodie (Year 10), Charlotte (Year 10), Sophie (Year 10), Harley (Year 9), Alex (Year 9), Kaja (Year 9), and Ayman (Year 9).

Maths Faculty

Maths Challenge

On Thursday, 6th July, four of our Year 7 students went to Highfield to compete in a Maths Challenge: Matthew, Megan, Sarah, and Kai.

They had to face five rounds of challenges, including a particularly challenging Mental Maths round all about Blackpool Tower.

Round 1- Problem Solving

Round 2- Mental Maths Challenge

Round 3- Collective Memory

Round 4- Observation

Round 5- Acrostic

The students were a credit to the school and although unfortunately ended up losing to Highfield, they did their best and showed great team work and resilience through the whole event.



Blackpool Sixth has launched a new initiative called The Excellence Academy, which has been specially created to support our most academically able students in their studies and prepare them for entry to the country's top universities.

The programme began with a series of four exciting and



academically challenging sessions led by the Blackpool Sixth's Oxbridge Consultant in June after school.

Year 9 students Michael, Patrick, Kai, Leah, and Shahrzad were the our five high achiever students selected to take part.



This was an excellent opportunity for our students to work with other highly able students from different schools and explore engaging academic material from a range of disciplines and develop crucial college-level study skills.

Maths Challenge 2

These two questions are asking the same skills, however as you can see the level of problem solving as well as an increase in literacy is needed to complete this foundation question.

It is important that our students really focus on learning not only the skill, but how that skill can be applied if they are going to be successful in their GCSE exams.

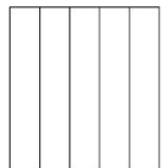
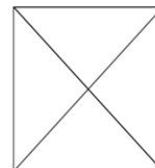
Reading for understanding is an essential skill that has become even more apparent in Mathematics since the new specification, so students need to make sure they are practicing their reading skills!

Increased Problem Solving

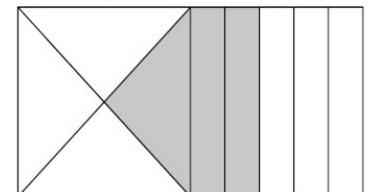
New version

Here are two identical squares.

The first square is divided into four equal parts. The second square is divided into five equal parts.



The two squares are joined together as shown to make a rectangle.



What fraction of the rectangle is shaded?

Old version

Work out $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{5}{9}$

Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in Maths:
Kai (Year 7), Amelia (Year 7), Nathanicha (Year 8), Molly (Year 8), Thomas (Year 9),
Tilissa (Year 9), Hannah (Year 10), and Georgia (Year 10).

Modern Foreign Languages Faculty

What Do Our Teachers Think?

Languages...What do the teachers think? In this term's newsletter we talk to the English Faculty to find out about their language learning experiences...

Miss Cowgill

I absolutely love learning languages and find it so rewarding. I completed both French and German at A-Level and then continued with German at degree level. This allowed me to go and work in Germany for a year which was a fantastic experience. Living in a new country and becoming fluent in a new language allowed me to learn more about others' cultures and is actually just a lot of fun! I hope to continue learning new languages all the way through my life with Spanish being my new challenge!

Miss McGovern

Learning languages has allowed me to explore different countries and cultures and gain a plethora of new experiences. I achieved the Scottish equivalent of Spanish and French at A Level and also studied Spanish for my first year of university alongside Law. My language skills have allowed me to work as an activities organiser in summer camps for children from all over the world.

Mrs Johnson

I did GCSEs in French and German at school and they have both stood me in good stead over the years on holidays around Europe. We went on excursions to both countries and we also did lots of students exchange trips. My favourite phrases were 'Entschuldigen Sie Bitte' and 'Parlez plus lentement s'il vous plait' (I just loved the way they sounded!)



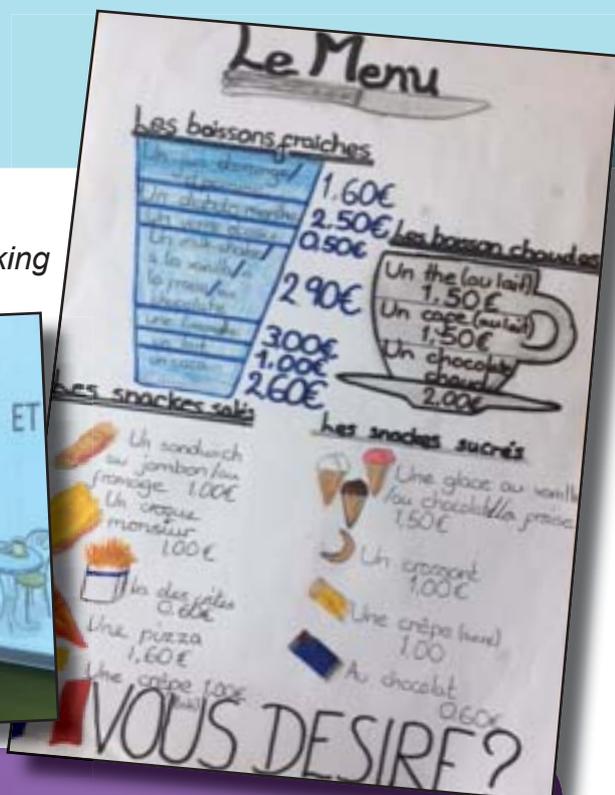
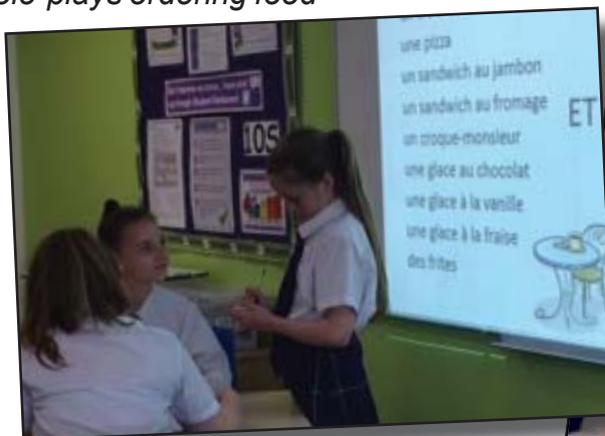
ابحرم
 Bonjour!
 алло!
 今日は!
 你好
 Ciao!
Hello! Hei!
 ihola!
 הילוש

Year 7 Talk The Talk

Our Year 7 students have been working hard on their speaking skills by taking part in role-plays ordering food and drink in the café.

They have also researched and designed authentic French café menus.

Role-play tasks are now a compulsory part of the new GCSE French speaking examination.



Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have collected awards in French:

Ryan (Year 7), Matthew (Year 7), Holly (Year 8), Katie (Year 8), Holly (Year 9), Leah (Year 9), Sadie (Year 10), and Joshua (Year 10).