

ACS PARENTS NEWS

Monday 7 January - Friday 11 January - Issue #13



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term 2019. I hope you all had a good break over Christmas and your children are ready and refreshed for the new term.

Although the spring term is relatively short, a number of very important parent events will take place on Thursday evenings. As well as Year 8, 9 and 10 parent evenings, there will be a targeted Year 11 evening in the first week of April. The Year 8 options evening will take place on 14 February and the Year 9 options evening will take place on 7 March. These are very important events – we want every student to be confident they are making the right choice of subject for the right reasons. We want every parent to understand the choices being made and what is at stake in terms of future academic achievement.

Of course, our most important aim throughout the term will be to prepare students in Year 11 and Year 13 for their summer examinations. A frightening thought, but we are only 13 weeks from the start of the exam season!

Finally, thank you to all the parents who attended the first of the two Year 8 parent evenings. Attendance last Thursday night was around 95%. A reminder that our second Year 8 parent evening will take place on Thursday 17 January for 8STVWX.

Our art and textiles teacher Ms Zafirakou appointed MBE in the New Year Honours



Photo: Highlights with Ms Zafirakou after being awarded the Global Teacher Prize 2018

Our art and textiles teacher Andria Zafirakou was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours 2019 for her services to education and young people in Brent.

Ms Zafirakou said it was a "wonderful surprise" to receive the honour and that she is delighted to see that the teaching profession is finally being recognised and celebrated.

Ms Zafirakou became the first UK winner of the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize earlier this year. She was selected from over 30,000 nominations and applications from 173 countries around the world.

After receiving the award, Andria used the funds to set up a charity, Artists in Residence, that promotes creative subjects in state schools throughout London.

In an interview with BBC News, Andria said that reflecting on her 13 years as a teacher at Alperton Community School, her most valuable memories are "those wonderful individual stories of children who have succeeded against the odds".

"I do not see this as an honour I have done all by myself. I see this as something I am receiving on behalf of my school community."

PLEASE NOTE!

EXAM CERTIFICATES FROM SUMMER 2018 EXAMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE SCHOOL EXAM OFFICE.

Reminder that if certificates remain uncollected after 31st of March 2019, they will be returned to the exam board or destroyed as per JCQ requirements. Please therefore make a collection prior to this date.

Engaging ELD House Day 2018

On Thursday 20 December 2018 our students enjoyed an exciting and engaging Extended Learning Day organised by our newly launched House teams and Heads of House.

The ELD House Day 2018 was designed by students for students and it focused on our community ethos by celebrating Christmas and taking part in age old family activities such as board games, quizzes & Christmas movies. For our most hardworking students, we organised a number of exciting trips to some of the most iconic landmarks in London.

Many thanks to all teachers and staff for their enthusiasm, resilience and hard work in organising such a successful day.



Library Newsletters

The January edition of our Library newsletters has just been released. This month we are introducing the first edition of our Stanley Avenue site:

SA Library Newsletter



ER Library Newsletter



Words of the Week

Recently our students were introduced to an Academic Word List to further develop their vocabulary and literacy skills. The list contains words that are needed by students to access and understand academic texts over a wide range of subjects. To aid their learning we created a poster introducing five new words each week. To see this week's entry, please click on the right-hand side image.



R

RESILIENT



The Oak Tree by Johnny Ray Ryder Jr

A mighty wind blew night and day
It stole the oak tree's leaves away
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark

But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around
The weary wind gave up and spoke.
How can you still be standing Oak?

The oak tree said, I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two
Carry every leaf away
Shake my limbs, and make me sway

But I have roots stretched in the earth
Growing stronger since my birth
You'll never touch them, for you see
They are the deepest part of me

Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure
But now I've found, with thanks to you
I'm stronger than I ever knew.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8	Thursday 17 January - Year 8 Parents Evening 2
10	Thursday 31 January - Year 10 Parents Evening
10	Thursday 7 February - Year 10 Targeted Parents Evening
8	Thursday 14 February - Year 8 Year 8 Options Evening
ALL	18 February - 22 February All students - Half Term
9	Thursday 07 March - Year 9 Year 9 Options Evening
11	Wednesday 3 April - Year 11 Year 11 Targeted Parents Evening
ALL	08 April - 22 April All students - Easter Holiday