

ACS PARENTS NEWS

Monday 28 January - Friday 1 February - Issue #16



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the parents of our Year 10 students who braved the cold weather to join us for Parents Evening last Thursday. We have calculated attendance to be over 90% in spite of the Artic conditions! Thank you for your support.

A reminder that we are always keen for parents to volunteer to support school activities e.g. examination invigilation, escorting student trips, reading with students etc. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit our Volunteer Page on our website for more information.

Sixth form ICT students visit Bett Exhibition at ExCell London



On Friday 25th January 2019 a class of 15 Sixth Form students studying ICT at A Level visited the Bett Exhibition at the Excel Centre in London. Being exposed to over 800 leading companies and 103 new tech start-ups, the visit was very inspirational for these students who aspire towards a career in this ever growing industry.

The students attended a number of lectures during the event which allowed them to learn about different ways in which technology benefits society at an individual and group level.

They became involved in discussions about Cyber Security with leading companies and learned about innovative ways in which technology helps to detect a breach in customer security.

The students met with representatives from leading companies including Google, Adobe and Microsoft. They had a enjoyable learning experience whilst also gaining an insight into how these companies use their technology to help students by making education accessible to everyone.



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RESPECTFUL

The evergreen giant redwood trees (Sequoia sempervirens) of California are often so high (400 feet) that their tops cannot be seen clearly from the ground. Interestingly their roots remain near the surface soil and do not go deep. So how do these majestic trees withstand strong storms with ease? The answer is '**co-operative growth**'. The trees grow in close proximity to each other. The roots of a tree spread out in all directions (extending up to 100 feet from the trunk) and get tangled up with the roots of the neighbouring trees. The intertwining of the roots of the trees which grow together protects each tree from harsh winds or raging floods. Some trees in redwood forests have lasted for up to two thousand years.

How do you show **respect for our school community** and ensure we work together to stay strong?

Eco-Schools



ACS has recently joined the Eco Schools programme, a large educational programme involving over 50 000 schools from 67 countries. The programme aims to raise awareness of environmental issues and to encourage students and the community to adopt an eco-friendly attitude on a daily basis.

During the first meeting of our Eco Committee, the members carried out an Environmental Review Plan covering 10 environmental topics and has drawn an Action Plan focussing on the following three main areas: Waste, Water and Litter. The Eco Reps are already successfully running a weekly

recycling programme to reduce paper waste as well as encouraging teachers and students to recycle more paper. Also, all plastic coffee cups for the staff and plastic take-away lunch boxes were both replaced by recyclable materials in order to reduce single-use plastic.

Our sixth form students take part in the "Safe Drive Stay Alive" workshop



On Thursday 10 January, the whole of Year 12 attended an event at The Harrow Arts Centre called 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive'.

The students were collected from school by several coaches and were introduced to the host for the day who really connected with the audience. The students were then shown a harrowing film highlighting the outcomes of poor driving and how it can adversely affect the lives of loved ones as well as all of the people involved in the accident. Young drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash on the roads, often due to inexperience and a lack of

knowledge of the risks. The Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign reaches out to new and pre-drivers in an emotive and hard-hitting way in order to help influence behaviour and attitudes while driving on the road.

Students found the session to be a very moving experience whilst also gaining a valuable insight into the real life dangers of driving. Hopefully, ACS 6th formers will now approach driving with a greater level of maturity and will understand the importance of always wearing a seat belt and remaining completely focused while being responsible for a motor vehicle.



Are you a parent or carer who is worried about your child? Do you find it difficult to talk to your child about what is important to them?

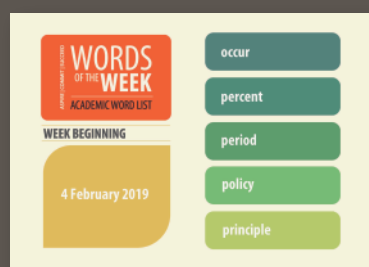
Here are some **Conversation Starters** to help you to get talking with your child.

The booklet can be downloaded from our website under the [Mental Health & Wellbeing section](#) or by clicking on the right-hand side image.



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 image below:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
ALL	Tuesday 2 April - All students Celebration Assemblies
11	Wednesday 3 April - Year 11 Year 11 Targeted Parents Evening
ALL	08 April - 22 April All students - Easter Holiday