

# ACS PARENTS NEWS

Monday 18 March - Friday 22 March - Issue #22



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we welcomed a number of visitors to our school. On Wednesday we received very positive feedback from our annual Challenge Partners review. They thought our inclusion and provision for key groups was an Area of Excellence. They were also impressed with our School Improvement Strategies and thought our students exhibited outstanding attitudes to learning. We will shortly receive a written report which will give us more detail about their findings on teaching, learning and assessment and any recommendations for improvement.

We also welcomed a group of twenty two Norwegian Headteachers to our school on Tuesday. They described us as a 'super school' and are very keen for us to host their visits to the UK.

Well done to the Sport and Health team who oversaw the GCSE practical examination last Monday. The examination schedule continues into next week with the A Level Photography examination.

## Special presentations delivered by students from Jesus College, Cambridge University



Our Year 11 and Year 12 Most Able students attended two informative and inspirational presentations, delivered by students from Jesus College, University of Cambridge. They learned about life at university, prospects for future employment and the advantages of studying for a degree at Cambridge University.

The Year 11 presentation focused on encouraging students to think carefully about what they would like to study at university, taking into account course structure, teaching style, examinations and later employment prospects. Our pupils were told to think carefully about their A-level choices in relation to the course and university choice. The presentation also highlighted the importance of exploring extra-curricular activities.

Our Year 12 pupils were given an overview of the application process at Cambridge, and how it differs from other universities. The presentation discussed the academic strengths that Cambridge are looking for in students, as well as offering practical advice on what students can be doing now to strengthen their applications. This included underlining what Cambridge admission tutors are looking for in a personal statement and how this may differ from other top universities. Pupils were also offered an insight into the interview process and what happens after the interview. Both presentations also included a Q&A session, which helped to address issues relating to accommodation, finance and life at university.

Many thanks to Jesus College, University of Cambridge, for delivering these truly inspirational and informative presentations. We hope to encourage more of our Most Able cohort to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors and become Oxbridge students.

# R

# READY

Many sports have a **READY** position at the start of a sequence of play. In tennis, players face forwards, both hands on the racket, ready to respond to the serve. Mountain bikers stand with a slight bend in the knees for extra control of the bike. In volleyball, the player balances forwards to gain the momentum to react to an upcoming play. These ready positions help the player respond quickly and gain an advantage. Similarly, we need to adopt our own routine to help us make the most of each day. A good night's sleep the night before, away from mobile phones; checking we have perfect uniform and all the equipment for the day ahead; leaving home in good time; eating a healthy breakfast so that we can concentrate - this is our **ready routine**, which sets us up, every day, to do our best.

# Year 8 students develop their debating skills in a series of expert workshops

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, our Year 8 students developed their debating skills in a series of workshops led by experts in the field of Debating from the English-Speaking Union. This organisation was formed in the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding. We too believe that all of us need to learn how to listen and evaluate the points of view of others. As a global community, we believe that we need to learn to disagree without being disagreeable, and we strongly believe that our children need to learn that what they think and what they have to say really

matters. The workshops were highly informative, allowing the students to develop their self-confidence, self-awareness, resilience and empathy. Teachers have been transferring the skills the students developed into their lessons and one Year 8 class have already started to debate the case for and against reducing our use of cars as transport.

**COMING SOON!** The winning teams from each form will be taking part in an exciting inter-form debating competition in the Hall.



# Two teams represent Alperton in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition

Two teams of Year 8 and Year 9 students represented Alperton in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition on Saturday 9 March. It was the students' first experience of the legal system and they found it very enjoyable and engaging. They were well prepared for their competition as the Liaison Magistrate, Tim Harris, had organised a visit to Willesden Magistrates' Court for them in advance of the competition and they learnt a lot by observing other trials. Additionally, the English and Drama teachers, Ms Sidharh, Ms Jaffrey and Ms Wallace offered their support with the presentation.

The year 8 and 9 students studied a specially written case, and took on the roles of magistrates, defendants, witnesses, lawyers, legal advisers and ushers. The teams defended

and prosecuted the case over two rounds, winning three cases, with a split decision returned on the fourth case. They were supported and judged by experienced and practising magistrates, who were the legal advisers on the day. In his role as Defence Lawyer, Darshan (Year 9) was judged to be the best performer in Team One. Ilayda (Year 9), taking on the role of Prosecution Lawyer, was the winner in Team Two.

Tim Harris congratulated both of our teams for their commitment and skill and said: "the hard work you all had put in was so obvious in the way you performed". He also thanked them "for making this one of the best heats we have ever run at Willesden. It has never been closer in terms of the scoring".

## Dates for your Diary

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
12 13	Thursday 25 April - Year 12 & 13 Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening
7	Thursday 2 May - Year 7KLNQPR Year 7KLMPQR Parents Evening
7	Thursday 9 May - Year 7STVWXY Year 7STVWXY Parents Evening
8 9 10	Thursday 16 May - Year 8,9,10 Year 8, 9, 10 Steps to Success Evening

## ACS Eco Committee takes part in the Great British Spring Clean



This week our Eco Committee took part in the largest school litter pick up in the country - the Great British Spring Clean - joining five million other Eco School students involved in the campaign. Our students cleaned the canal near Sainsbury's. Everyone had great fun getting rid of loads of rubbish!

## Words of the Week



WEEK BEGINNING

25 March 2019

complex

compute

conclude

conduct

consequent