

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

Welcome to the last ACS newsletter of the 2022-2023 academic year. This year, more than any other year, we have had an extremely busy end to the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading through all the events and activities found later in this edition of Parents News.

First, we need to say good luck to all our students who will be collecting **examination results** this summer. Year 13 students collect their A-Level results on the morning of Thursday 17th August at Stanley Avenue, and the following week, the Year 11 students collect their GCSE results on Thursday 24th August at Stanley Avenue.

Autumn Term starts for ALL students on **Wednesday 6th September**. This is an extremely important day for our students as we set out our objectives for the year.

- **Years 7, 12 and 13** start at 8:20am. Year 7 finish at 3:00pm, while the sixth form students finish from 2pm onwards.
- **Years 8, 9, 10 and 11** start at 9:20am for an Extended Form Time. These year groups will finish the day at 1:30pm.

From **Thursday 7 September**, we are back to a normal school day with all lessons as normal - ALL year groups start at 8:20am and finish at 3.15pm. You can find details of the 2023-2024 school calendar [here](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the huge importance of their **child's attendance** to school. Recent research from the Department of Education has demonstrated that just a few days of absence can have a significant impact on examination results. The pattern is very clear – the more days missed, the poorer the student's outcomes are likely to be. Students and families should also note that there are already 13 weeks of holiday in an academic year of 52 weeks i.e. 25% is already given as holiday. Parents and carers should therefore expect that requests for leave during term time will be rejected unless there are highly exceptional reasons.

We always begin the school year with a number of **key priorities** for our staff and students. This year we will focus on continuing to improve our curriculum. To help support this, teachers have been working on their planning and resourcing of lessons throughout the summer. We are also keen to keep improving the literacy of our students, so there will be a continuous focus on speaking and listening (oracy) in lessons. Teachers will also focus on the way in which feedback is provided to students so they can continue to improve their knowledge, understanding and skills in lessons. We will also maintain a focus on student personal development. I am sure you are aware of the increase in the number of trips and rewards available to students over the last year.

Of course, there are important developments for parents as well. There has been a change in the **uniform policy** regarding the length of skirts from September. Students in Year 9 have also been provided with Alperton Community School branded bags free of charge, which means school bags are compulsory for Years 7 to 10. Please also keep an eye out for changes to the **MCAS app**. This mobile phone app is the most convenient way for parents to receive and pass on information relating to their children.

Please remember to check that your children are working on their **Academic Review Day targets** over the summer (this is especially important for Year 10 going into Year 11, and Year 12 going into Year 13).

Finally, please do make sure that you and your children have a great break over the summer and come back refreshed and recharged for the new year in September. Hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter to revisit the range of extraordinary experiences, successes and achievements of our students over the summer term.

The Brent Youth Ambassadors Programme



Over the past year, twelve Year 12 students have participated in the Brent Youth Ambassadors programme which provides young people with an opportunity to learn about leadership, community engagement and social issues. They have taken part in meetings with other local schools which involved students in discussions, workshops and activities aimed at developing young people's skills and knowledge.

Students had the opportunity to also participate in theatre group sessions that involved physical movement, improvisation and character creation, allowing students to explore their creativity and express themselves. Overall, these activities were not only fun and engaging, but they have also helped the students to develop valuable skills such as teamwork, improvisation, and creative thinking.

ACS students take part in the Artemis Profit Hunt Challenge



On Tuesday 25th April, two teams of our Year 12 students took part in the final of the 'Artemis Profit Hunt' challenge run by the Artemis Investment Management bank in Central London.

The students have been working on this programme over the past year and it was a unique experience for them to be working with professionals on a real-world business challenge: investing in the stock market by selecting and then managing a portfolio of 5 stocks.

Congratulations to "SO15" team who won the 'Runner Up Portfolio' Award as they made a 16.0% return on their portfolio, which was only a mere £3,907 behind the winning team. To put this into context the average market return this year was 6%, so the team outperformed the market 2.5 times! Congratulations as well to the "The Speculators" team who won 'The Best Presentation' Award.

This particular programme started in 2018 and Alperton students have participated since its inception. Over the past 5 years, fifty-two Alperton students have taken part in the programme and many of them have won various awards on offer.

Unique ACS Shakespeare Fayre

On 19 May, our English Department organised a wonderful Shakespeare Fayre for our KS3 students – an immersive Renaissance experience! There was an array of activities for students to take part in, from acting to sonnet writing, costume design and Elizabethan games. The students really enjoyed themselves and were excited to be able to ask questions about the challenges and affordances of the Bard's wonderful works.



Safety First Drop Down Day

On Thursday 20th April, we welcomed to our school the London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police and London Ambulance Service who came to deliver workshops to our Year 9 students about road safety, how to keep away from violence, and what services are available in emergencies. A big thank you to Ms Cathcart for organising the event and to all the staff that supported on the day.



Music Trip to the Royal Albert Hall

The music GCSE group along with some talented year 9 students attended a performance of Mahler's Symphony No.2 as part of a Philharmonic Orchestra performance titled Transcendences. The music was thought-provoking and emotive. The students gasped at the sights of the Royal Albert Hall and the streets of Kensington as they took in the sights.

At the end of the performance, which received a standing ovation, a few audience members took the time to come over to congratulate our students on their impeccable behaviour throughout the 2 hour sitting.

DT Work of the Month

Our Design & Technology department has put together an exhibition of artworks created by our students. Please take a moment to check out below the best entries of the month and get inspired by the creativity of our students.



DT - WORK OF THE MONTH
July

Safeguarding Newsletter

Please click on the link below for the Summer edition of our Safeguarding newsletter. This edition focuses on *Online Safety over the holidays* and provides information for parents about what you can do to keep your child safe. You can also find help and advice regarding the *Cost of Living* and useful information about mental health and wellbeing.

The fourth business breakfast at Alperton Community School



In May, Alperton Community School invited more local employers to have 'breakfast' at our Ealing Road school in order to network, discuss potential career opportunities for our students and to continue to build long term relationships with local employers.

We had representatives from KM-DC, John Lewis, US charity and Telford Homes. The staff were greeted by four Year 9 students, Helena, Sophia, Hamza and Devam, who introduced themselves to the guests and talked about the school and their career aspirations. The guests also discussed about ways they could help ACS, such as career talks, work place visits, work experience opportunities and attending drop down days such as interview skills, CV writing and what to expect from a job.

The breakfast was another success and the employers were all very keen to work with the school and our students in the future. We look forward to hosting more business breakfasts with other local companies as this will continue to provide our students with opportunities to learn about what work is really like and what it takes to be successful in the workplace.

ACS students visit the Financial Times Headquarters



On Wednesday, 3rd May, 17 Year 10 students visited the Financial Times Headquarters in Central London. The trip offered a unique opportunity for our students to gain an insight into the inner workings of the world's most influential financial news organisation as well as the different careers that can be found within the company.

As the students entered the building, they were greeted by the friendly staff and were immediately struck by the fast-paced and dynamic atmosphere. They were given a presentation providing an overview of the organisation's history, its role in the global financial landscape and the impact of digital technology on modern journalism.

They had an interactive discussion with different staff members demonstrating a broad range of careers including journalists, editors and experts from different financial departments. This gave the students a chance to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the intricacies of financial reporting. Students were then given an exclusive tour of the FT's newsroom and got to see the innovative software, data analysis tools and the multimedia platforms used by the staff.

The visit was a really enriching and eye-opening experience which provided a valuable insight into the world of finance and journalism as well as the different careers that can be found in such an organisation.

'The Financial Times trip was very interesting! It was educational and informative. It explored a wide range of jobs that are possible in the industry. It really made us think about our future and potential jobs that we may be interested in. We also had a tour of the building and got to see different parts of the organisation. Overall, this trip was a very interesting experience.' (Tajari, Y10)

ACS students enjoy a fantastic experience at Wembley Stadium

On Wednesday, 24th May, 30 Year 12 students went on a tour of Wembley Stadium as part of the Football Association Careers and Mentoring programme that is run by **Spark!** charity. The experience not only provided the students with a glimpse into the heart of English Football but also offered a valuable insight into the diverse range of careers within the football industry.

The students received a warm welcome from the Football Association and **Spark!** charity and the passionate guide accompanied them on the tour providing an introduction to the history and significance of the stadium. The tour included a visit to the player's tunnel, dressing rooms, the media centre as well as walking on the footsteps of football legends and picturing themselves in the midst of a thrilling match or grand event.

The students gained a real understanding of the wide range of careers available in the football industry and engaged with professionals from different areas of expertise such as journalists, event managers and the marketing department.



Inspiring visit to Cambridge University



On Thursday, 22nd June, 30 Year 7 Alperton students visited Cambridge University. This trip was a great opportunity for the students to immerse themselves in academic excellence, explore the historic campus and gain an insight into university life. Walking through the historic courtyards and majestic halls, the students were stunned at the architecture and rich heritage. The guides shared fascinating stories regarding the university's significant contributions to

education and society.

There was an opportunity for the students to engage with some of the graduates, which allowed them to understand student life, the admissions process and the diverse extracurricular activities available on campus. The friendly and approachable university students encouraged our Year 7s to dream big and pursue their passions. The highlight was walking across Cambridge to the museum where there were displayed different artefacts and exhibits, which gave a fascinating glimpse into history, science and culture.

This educational trip will live long in the memories of our students, with the hope of igniting a lifelong love for learning and serving as a powerful motivator to strive for academic excellence.

'When I heard the news that I was going to Cambridge I was super excited, as I had never had an experience like this. It was a long journey but in the company of the teachers and my friends, it went really quickly. When I first saw Cambridge University, I was amazed at how big it was. We were then given a tour by an incredible student who told us about herself and shared fun facts about the university. However, my favourite place was the Museum. Although we did have to walk, the roads were super clean and the shops looked amazing. In the museum, I saw old items that I never knew existed. Overall, I loved this trip and I am now looking forward to going to university to get a great degree.' (Palak, Year 7)

Brent School Nursing Summer Newsletter

Please check out the newsletter below from Brent School Nurses for lots of tips and advice on how to keep healthy over the summer.



**ALPERTON
SCHOOL
LETTINGS**

**All our facilities can
now be booked
ONLINE!**



**Should you wish to check our
availability and make a booking,
please visit our:**

SCHOOLE HIRE WEBSITE

For more information you can also contact our School Office.

The Brigade Major's Review

As a token of the Army's appreciation of the school's continued support to the British Army's Youth Engagement programme, ACS were very honoured to be invited to attend a special event at the Brigade Major's Review on Thursday 1st June. The event took place at the iconic Horse Guards Parade providing a unique opportunity for spectators to witness the timeless traditions and disciplined excellence of the armed forces.



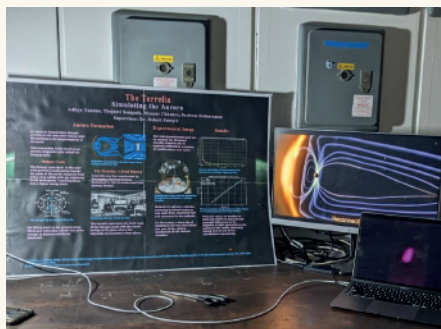
STEM trip at Brunel University

On Friday, 9th June 2023, 15 Year 8 students attended a STEM trip at Brunel University to take part in an event called 'Dead on Time'. The students worked in teams with other local secondary school pupils and were assigned challenging crime scenarios to investigate. The event provided a hands-on experience in several areas of forensic science, including fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling and blood spatter analysis. The students were amazed by the sophisticated equipment available at the university's laboratories and were given the opportunity to utilise these tools themselves. The students really enjoyed the trip and motivated them to further explore STEM subjects.



An Imperial March

On Tuesday 20 June, thirty-five Year 11 and Year 12 students attended the *Physics Project Open Day*, hosted by the Imperial College London. Students attended two lectures by top university researchers. The first lecture was about the European Space Agency's 'Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer' mission, and the second, about Solar Power. In between lectures, our students explored hundreds of Physics projects displayed by first-year undergraduate students developed in partnership with researchers. Please see below a detailed account of the visit written by one of our Year 11 students.



It was a temperate Tuesday morning when 35 Year 11 and Year 12 Alperston students left for Imperial College London to attend a Physics Project Open Day. Not even the crowded and sweltering Piccadilly Line could quash the excitement. After some time walking, we finally arrived at the prestigious Physics campus. The air itself felt light, knowledge racing through it like delocalised electrons.

Imperial College London's annual Physics Project Open Day aims to help aspiring young Physicists gain insight into the demands and expectations of reading Physics at a world-class institution. During the first year of studying at Imperial College, undergraduates partner with researchers to innovate and design a project within their chosen field such as electrical circuits or infrared astronomy. A showcase of these projects to fellow university students, staff and visitors, such as ACS students, makes for a thrilling event. The day at Imperial began with a lecture on the potential existence of extraterrestrial life. We were told about the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE Project) and how a spacecraft launched on the 14th April 2023 studies three of Jupiter's huge icy Galilean moons: Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. The project manager Vincent Poinignon, described how "The goal is to investigate whether there are liquid oceans under these icy crusts which might harbour organic components or even life." We learnt how this extraordinary project consisted of 11 scientific experiments, with a vital instrument having been built at Imperial College itself. It is astounding to think that this university, merely 7.4 miles away from school, is where life changing things happen.

The second part of the day invited us to scatter like billiard balls to the countless different projects that the undergraduates had been working on. The intricacy of the work was truly magnificent: ultrasonic levitators, liquid-mirror telescopes, self balancing gyroscopes, the construction of lasers, voice changers, even detecting muons – one of the fundamental subatomic particles. With more than a hundred projects to see and interact with, this treasure chest of learning was entrancing. Physics seemed as big and majestic as Space itself. We didn't even feel hungry till we discovered we'd be getting a free lunch!



The day ended with a lecture on the Sun, and specifically, its sunspots which are temporary 'spots' which alter the amount of solar flares released by this ball of dust and gas. This has made scientists theorise that sunspots may be a natural cause of climate change. Alperston's inspired young Physicists then split into smaller groups, some of whom stayed for a while longer at the university to learn from even more projects whilst others enjoyed a final stop in the surroundings of the university campus, including Hyde Park where the students were able to bond on their final day together before the holidays.

It is one thing learning about a subject from a textbook, but something completely different when you actually see it happen before your very eyes. A huge thanks to Mr Lazaroo who led and coordinated this trip alongside Mr Raj and Ms Khalil. This truly was an imperial march that Alperston Community School took to this outstanding university and it has inspired many students to study Physics in greater depth. As a friend of mine exclaimed after the first lecture, "This is what life is about!" (Tariq, Year 11)

Year 10 students visit the Metaverse at Accenture Headquarters



On Tuesday, 4th July, 15 Year 10 students visited the Headquarters of Accenture for an ICT workshop. The students were introduced to new and exciting technologies as well as the *metaverse*, an interconnected virtual reality space that merges the physical and digital

worlds. Students were shown its potential on industries such as gaming, entertainment, education and commerce. They had to come up with innovative solutions to a specific problem and had the opportunity to practice their team-working skills and thinking 'outside of the box'. Students also met with Accenture's technology consultants and specialists who taught them more about the metaverse and showcased the many and varied careers within the industry.

This trip was an amazing experience for our students as it exposed them to the forefront of technology and inspired them to envision the possibilities of the digital world. The trip should now ignite a passion for innovation and prepare the students to navigate the exciting world of technological advancements.

ACS celebrates Culture Week 2023



At the beginning of July, our school celebrated Alperton Culture Week 2023, an amazing event which engaged students in various activities, workshops and performances to celebrate and learn more about each other's culture and heritage.

During a special assembly on Tuesday, students learned about many of the different countries and nationalities around the world, their traditional food and costumes and other cultural aspects.

On Thursday, students and staff took part in the Traditional Culture Dress Day and were invited to attend school in their traditional garments showcasing their culture and heritage. Many students also prepared various dance and musical performances throughout the week. It was a wonderful experience for everyone. Many thanks to Ms Anane for organising this wonderful event.



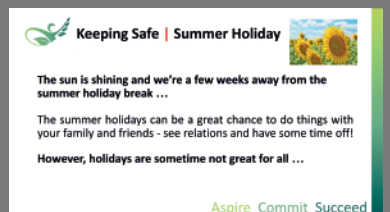
ACS Vegetable Garden

In February the year 7 students made pots out of newspaper and potted some salad leaves, chillies, courgettes and tomato seeds. They have been putting together a garden as part of their enrichment programme and some of the rewards of their efforts can be seen below!



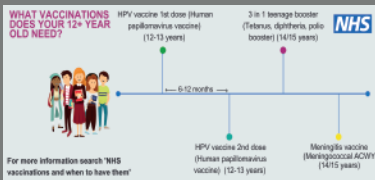
Keeping Safe during Summer

Below you can find a guide with some useful information about how to stay safe this summer holidays and a few suggestions about activities and workshops available in your area that you and your child can enjoy during the summer.



Immunisation information for secondary-school children

Please see below some useful information for parents from the NHS about vaccinations for secondary school children, including a timeline illustration about what vaccinations are needed and when to have them.



KS3 students take part in fun and engaging Activities Week

In July our KS3 students took part in our annual Activities Week programme, engaging in various workshops, trips and activities, while developing their team building and problem solving skills and also their creativity.

They took part in some amazing experiences, such as Sports Day, trips to Central London, Character Day, Army Day as well the Dwell and careers experiences and STEM workshops. The Year 7 students also took part in the 'Soap Box Challenge', a fun and creative workshop that engaged students in designing, manufacturing and marketing a soap product. Congratulations as well to our Y9 students for creating these amazing T-Shirt Designs about ocean pollution!



Students were very excited to take part in so many different activities and to learn new skills.

Many thanks to all staff for all their hard work and to Ms Ernestine for organising such a successful and inspiring week. Below you can see some photos taken during the week.

Our New School Website

We have recently launched a new school website and we hope that you are finding its new features and layout more engaging and easier to navigate. Some of the new additions are a new Translation Tool and Accessibility Tool to enable access to a wider audience. We have also added a new Parents Dashboard section with quick links to various documents and sections of the website to make information more accessible to parents and carers. Various other updates have been made and new features added, so please take some time to explore these new additions and familiarise yourself with the new layout.

