

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the ACS Newsletter. I am pleased to say this edition is packed full of the many recent extra-curricular opportunities and events on offer to our students.

As always, our students have performed brilliantly in competitive challenges. Our Year 12 students won the Artemis Profit Hunt Challenge, Kavya in Year 7 won a national World Book Day competition and our Year 12 Textiles students Hetvi and Aryan have been shortlisted for the Global Finals of the Junk Kouture competition, where they will face finalists from Milan, New York, Paris, London, and Abu Dhabi.

Science and maths feature strongly, as always with excellent results in both the Physics and Chemistry Olympiads. A special thank you to Dr Mahmoud who has organised an amazing series of masterclasses from university academics, as well as many events during the Science Week, and also leading on university trips such as the Year 13 visit to the molecular genetics laboratory at King's College London.

As well as appearances on BBC London News, where our sixth form students shared their views on the local and Mayoral elections, our students have also gone from strength to strength in the recent Brent athletics tournament gathering six Gold medals in track and field events. Congratulations to all students for these amazing achievements.

Parents of Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be very aware that we are in the middle of the GCSE and A Level examination season. I am pleased to say that the students have adopted a very focused and determined approach to the examinations this summer. The feedback after the examinations has been very positive and upbeat. We are focused on further improving our current national standings where we are in the Top 250 schools in the country for GCSE results and in the top 1% of schools for A Level results.

Our End of Year Examinations begin shortly after half term with Year 9 beginning on 10 June, Year 8, 10 and 12 on 17 June, and Year 7 beginning on 14 June. We will share the outcomes of these exams with you on a special Academic Review Day on Tuesday 16 July, where you will be able to discuss your child's results and progress. More information on schedules and revision can be found on the VIP Zone, which can be accessed from the Year page of the school website. If in doubt, please contact your PM or Head of Year.

We are all very much looking forward to Activities Week which begins on Monday 8 July where the students embark on a series of trips and challenges designed to develop team-building, independence, communicating and problem-solving skills - all very important to future employers.

A reminder that parents are not permitted to take children out of school unless there are highly exceptional circumstances. Children missing school are considered to be a safeguarding concern and are referred to

Brent social services. Brent will also fine parents who take their children out of school for unauthorised absences. If you do feel you have a legitimate reason to take your child out of school during term time, you must contact the school office and complete a leave of absence request. You can find more information on the importance of attendance [here](#).

Finally, with my upcoming retirement, I am pleased to inform you that the Governors have appointed Mr Christopher Dixon as the new Headteacher from September 2024. We look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

Engaging masterclass on electromagnetic waves with Sylvie Higgs



On Friday 19 January, Sylvie Higgs, Account Manager at Sumitomo Electric Euro, delivered two masterclass talks for our Year 11 and Year 12 students, which consisted of a presentation of artefacts, including a Robot, transducers, and a talk about electromagnetic waves and their application, such as an explanation of why radio waves are used for communication rather than visible light.

The talk also discussed the current and future use of AI in science, as well as the growing demand for photonics engineers, for which A level Physics and Maths are a necessity. This event greatly contributed to the enrichment of our students and was a very

useful learning experience, particularly the information about electromagnetic waves, which aligns with the curriculum materials covered in lessons for Year 11.

During the masterclass, Sylvie also spoke about the low number of girls taking physics at A level, and then going further onto studying a physics-related degree at university, including Photonics and Engineering. We hope that this and future masterclasses, dedicated assemblies and workshops, after-school clubs, careers talks, hands-on projects, and many other STEM activities that we organise in school, will inspire more students and further raise their interest in physics and science in general and encourage them to study it further at university.

Special workshop with fashion designer and university lecturer Matthew Coats



On Wednesday 1 February, our A-Level Textiles students had the rare opportunity to take part in a special workshop with Chanel ex-designer and fashion university lecturer Matthew Coats. He delivered a very engaging career talk discussing the many career opportunities within the fashion industry and worked with the students on different techniques on how to drape and build a mannequin. Many thanks to our Textiles department for organising this unique activity for our students.

Year 12 students win the First Prize in the Artemis Profit Hunt Challenge



On Tuesday 30th January 2024, three teams of our Year 12 students took part in the Artemis Profit Hunt Challenge and delivered three very engaging presentations about their favourite stock. The students have been preparing for this since October and they had to present to a panel of three judges from the Investment Bank. The students competed against eleven other schools from across London.

The competition was very tough and all the teams involved did an amazing job. I am therefore delighted to announce that the team called 'Faith in Finance', who were representing ACS, won the FIRST prize which consisted of a £50 Amazon gift voucher for each member of the team. Their particular presentation was informative, professional and engaging and they answered the questions given to them by a panel of experienced Artemis investors so eloquently. They were truly fantastic ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to all students who took part in the competition.

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.

Great results at the Intermediate Physics Olympiad

Between 29 January and 2 February, over 91 of our students from Year 8 to Year 11 took part in the Intermediate Physics Challenge. As a school we did really well, as we did in the Astro Olympiad competition last autumn. Please see below the breakdown of our results:

- Gold Award: 5 students
- Silver Award: 20 students
- Bronze: 46 students
- Commendation: 20 students

Overall our pupils have done really well by taking part in a problem solving challenge that is sat across the UK. At ACS we have a rich and diverse enrichment and extracurricular programme in science and other subjects for our students to enjoy and explore as they make their way from Year 7 to Year 13.

Students takes part in an exciting week of activities during British Science Week



Many thanks to our Science Team for organising an exciting week of activities for students at the beginning of March to celebrate British Science Week. Below you can read more about some of the workshops and activities students took part in.

Dome Planetarium

On Wednesday 13 March, Mr Lakhani and Dr Mahmoud organised a whole day event for the entire Year 8 group to celebrate British Science Week. Each form had the opportunity to take part in a one hour session in a huge Dome installed for the day in our Main Hall for students to learn about space and the wonders of the galaxy, including a James Webb Space Telescope. The hour consisted of various events, including a Q&A session towards the end, giving the students the chance to ask questions about the workshop and space in general.

Year 11 Physics Competition at St Helens Independent School

On Friday 8 March, four of our Year 11 students took part in the Year 11 Physics Competition at St Helens Independent School, alongside students from 22 other schools across the country.

The day consisted of an escape room challenge, a calculation relay, and an experimental challenge. Overall, our school came 2nd in the competition, which shows just how great our school and students really are.

The day also included career talks by leading female physicists, and we were glad to hear that three of the students who took part in the competition are now considering taking the subject at A level. We are also very glad that our school has been invited to attend the competition next year.

Masterclass on Geophysics

On Tuesday 12 March, Professor Neuberg, leading lecturer at the University of Leeds, visited our school and delivered a very engaging and inspirational talk on geophysics to a well-attended audience of students and staff.

Professor Neuberg talked about the different fields of activity of geophysics, and how geophysics can be used to help us prepare for natural disasters, specifically earthquakes and volcanoes. We also had the chance to learn more about the modelling used to gather data in Professor Neuberg's research and to hear the sound of earth seismic activity.

At the end of the talk, Professor Neuberg highlighted that geophysicists are in high demand and that their graduates find employment immediately after graduating, which is very encouraging for those interested to pursue a career in geophysics.



In spite of the train cancellations and delays he was faced with on his journey from Leeds, Professor Neuberg was glad he attended the talk and said he would be very happy to visit ACS again next time he is in London to deliver similar masterclasses.

History team organises inspiring Castle Exhibition at Ealing Road Library

On Friday 22nd March, the History team ran a fantastic Castle Exhibition in the Ealing Road Library. The gallery included the works of our lovely Year 7 students, who have built some impressive motte and bailey castles. These were displayed alongside a selection of the library's best castle-related books to promote extra reading.

The best castle-maker won a £50 Amazon voucher and the runner up a book prize. A big thank you to the History team for organising the event and well done to all students who took part in the competition.



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Please click on the image below for the latest edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter with tips and advice on how to keep your child safe.



Alumni Day with Rishi Rao



On Monday, 18th March 2024, we had the pleasure of welcoming to our school former student Rishi Rao, who left Alpertons in 1996. Rishi is the owner and

managing director of an IT automation business, providing various IT solutions, including Microsoft Office.

On his arrival at Ealing Road, he was met by two Year 8 students, Mya and Shaheem, along with Mr Rayleigh, who gave him a full tour of the new building. The students asked him many questions about his current role and how he manages to find new clients, as well as the different techniques he uses to ensure he always has work as a self-employed.

He then gave an impromptu careers talk to a number of sixth formers which was very personal and inspirational. After lunch, he visited our Stanley Avenue school and two of our Year 12 students, Fahima and Aisha, gave him a full tour of the upper school.

It was yet another wonderful day welcoming back another amazing former student who was very complimentary about our school and our students.

King's College London Educational Trip: A Journey into Molecular Genetics!

In April, our Year 13 Biology students embarked on an extraordinary educational trip to King's College London (Guy's Campus), diving deep into the fascinating world of molecular genetics. The experience was nothing short of inspiring, offering our students a unique opportunity to engage hands-on with the cutting-edge of scientific research and innovation.

Under the guidance of Professor Guy Tear, our students mastered the use of a Gilson micro pipette, a fundamental tool in any modern lab. The precision and skill required to manipulate microscopic volumes of liquid were met with enthusiasm and determination, laying a strong foundation for more complex procedures.

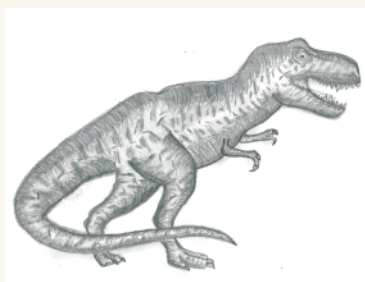
The highlight for many was setting up a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify a specific taste receptor gene. This gene, called 'TAS2R38', codes for a taste receptor in our taste buds which is responsible for our sensitivity to bitter tastes. PCR represents a technique which is at the heart of genetic engineering, biotechnology, and forensic science. Our students not only learned the theoretical underpinnings but also applied their knowledge in real-time, experiencing the thrill of scientific discovery first-hand.

Analysing their PCR results on an agarose gel provided a visually stunning moment for our students. This technique, essential for DNA analysis, was a gateway to understanding how scientists separate and visualize genetic material. The sight of DNA bands under UV light was a powerful reminder of the beauty and complexity of life at the molecular level.

Obtaining these results not only confirmed the success of their experiments but also provided a profound moment of connection with the work of professional scientists. It was a vivid demonstration of how far they had come in just a short time, from learning the basics to applying sophisticated techniques in a real research setting.

We're incredibly proud of what our Year 13 Biology students have achieved and are excited to see how they use this experience to shape their futures. Their journey into the world of molecular genetics at King's College London has been a testament to the power of hands-on learning and the endless possibilities that await in the world of science.

World Book Day Dinosaur Drawing Competition



A big congratulations to Kavya in Year 7 for winning the national FFT 11-14 World Book Day Dinosaur Competition. This is an external, national competition organised by FFT Education and Kavya's drawing was selected as the best design in the age 11-14 category.

Well done to all students who participated. Please click [HERE](#) to view Kavya's design and some other wonderful works created by our students that were submitted for the competition. Many thanks to Ms Kabir for organising this exciting activity and for preparing the students.

Excellent results at the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad Challenge 2024



Four of our Year 13 chemistry students recently participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad Challenge. They completed an extremely challenging 2-hour written paper that required them to apply their understanding of chemistry to real-world situations and concepts, pushing their problem-solving skills to the limit. We are delighted to announce that our students performed exceptionally well, achieving one gold (top 8.3% nationally), two silver (top 25% nationally), and one bronze award (top 36.8% nationally).

The UK Chemistry Olympiad Challenge is designed to challenge and inspire students, enabling budding chemists to push themselves further and excel in the subject. Students develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively, and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to all of our students for their outstanding achievements.

ACS students and staff celebrate literature at Shakespeare Fayre

On Tuesday 23rd April, the library hosted another excellent Shakespeare Fayre event! We had an incredible turnout from KS3 students, who thoroughly enjoyed the assortment of activities and prizes on display! Each table boasted a distinct activity: quill writing, spell casting, renaissance foosball and so much more. Thank you to staff members who joined in the festivities.

A special thanks to Dr Sabur for designing costumes for members of staff, to Ms Vekria for all her help with setting up and to Ms Rahman for orchestrating the entire event. Also a big thank you to all the students who took part in the event and for the time they've invested in this tremendous celebration of literature.



Y13 students interviewed by the BBC ahead of the London Mayoral Elections

At the beginning of May, our Y13 students were interviewed by the BBC reporter Yasmin Rufo to find out their views, as first time voters, on the London mayoral elections.

The students were asked what they considered to be the most pressing issues in London at the moment and how these should be tackled. Most students expressed their concerns about the difficulties caused by the current rise in the cost of living, and how it is affecting all areas of life, from housing, to transport and healthcare. Although not all students were confident that the new candidates will be able to fully address these issues, they are hopeful action will be taken to improve the current situation.

Well done to all students for articulating their opinions so well in the interview and many thanks to the BBC for giving the students this opportunity. The interview featured on the BBC news and below you can find a short clip with highlights and photos taken during the event.



ACS students organise football tournament to raise funds for UNICEF

Our dedicated BTEC Business students invested considerable time and effort into organising a charity event aimed at supporting UNICEF. Through their hard work and commitment, they successfully ran a football tournament event that not only showcased their skills, but also exemplified their compassion and dedication to making a positive impact in the community.

We are thrilled to share that the event was a success, resulting in the admirable collection of £164 for UNICEF. This accomplishment is a testament to the students' determination and creativity and it truly reflects the values we aim to instil in our learners.



Year 10 students visit SEGRO's Heathrow Cargo Centre



On Wednesday, 24th April, a group of our Year 10 students visited SEGRO's Heathrow Cargo Centre located at Heathrow Airport. The trip served as a follow-up to a previous workshop students had attended earlier in the year, which explained what SEGRO is and the types of industries and careers available to students, if they worked for this particular company, such as logistics, property and construction.

Heathrow Cargo Centre is one of the busiest cargo hubs in the world and students learned about the logistics of global trade, including how goods are transported, stored and processed at a major

international airport. The students even got a behind-the-scenes look at the operations, including how packages are loaded onto planes and shipped to destinations all around the world. Our student Pinak, said: *'SEGRO is one of the most enjoyable and helpful trips that I have ever been on. I was so excited to see the warehouse that was filled with people working hard and seeing packages coming in from different countries around the world. At the end of the tour, we were also given food and bags to take home with us.'*

Overall, the trip was both educational and exciting for the students, giving them a real world glimpse into the complex systems that keep global commerce moving, as well as the multitude of careers opportunities that are available with SEGRO.

KUMON MATHS & ENGLISH STUDY



Kumon Wembley Central Study Centre is offering Free Registration on the Kumon Maths and English Programmes between 1 May and 30 June 2024. For more information, please [CLICK HERE.](#)

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ACS students perform extremely well in the Brent Athletics competition

Congratulations to our Y7-Y10 students who took part in the annual Brent Athletics Competition at Willesden Track. The students demonstrated excellent teamwork and represented the school really well. They competed in a variety of track and field events, culminating with the 4×100 relay. Pupils were given the opportunity to apply what they had learnt in athletics lessons to good effect and Alperton walked away with some notable performances.

Joel in Year 7 won Gold in the 200m, and Tzeisilnta in Year 9 won Gold in the 1500m. The Boys Year 7 Relay team came in second place. Marlow won the Year 8 Shot Put, Ahmed walked away with the Year 10 – 1500m title, Sanjith in Year 8 won the 300m, and Hridayni in Year 10 won the 800m. Other notable performances were from the relay teams and the various students who made the track finals. Well done to all students who took part in the competition!

ACS Students shortlisted for the Global Finals of the Junk Kouture competition

The global finalists of the Junk Kouture competition have been announced, and one of the two teams who represented our school in the London finals has now been shortlisted for the Global Finals. This is a truly fantastic achievement and we are really proud of all the hard work, creativity and commitment our students have put in throughout the competition. The shortlisted designs will represent London at the third Junk Kouture World Final, details of which will be announced soon.

The talented students whose design work is to be showcased globally are Hetvi and Aryan in Year 12. Please click [here](#) for a presentation with more details about their artwork. Below you can also watch the video of the World Final announcement.

