



The Sun Shone for Sports Day!

All of the children worked extremely hard on their Sports Day, especially in the very hot weather. They took part in a carousel of activities, including the egg and spoon race, beanbag toss, sack race and others. They earned many well-deserved points for their house teams. Well done to the overall winners, Amethyst house!

Inside Stories a busy summer term!





Dear Parent/Carers, I am so thankful for the hard work, determination and resilience that our parents, carers, students and staff have shown this academic year.

I cannot tell you how lovely it was to see our younger children and students return to school last September and then again in March earlier this year. Our students overall,

once again, have adapted extremely well to the necessary changes required to keep everyone safe. They have followed the systems without hesitation or complaint, which allowed us to restore some degree of normality quickly and focus on our core purpose of teaching and learning.

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister has again announced that students should be offered 2 onsite tests in September. In order to facilitate a prompt return to the academy and not to lose any learning time, we are arranging for all secondary students to receive the appropriate Lateral Flow Tests. Please refer to the letter sent by Mr Hallam last week; a copy is available on the school website.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. Please ensure that you have consented for your child to be tested in school.

Important Reminders:

With regards to uniform; (including footwear, make-up, jewellery and mobile devices):

As an academy, we must seek to reverse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our children's education as quickly as possible. In the very best schools, almost all conversations are about learning and how staff can support students to be more successful. By having high and clear expectations, we remove the need to constantly discuss the things that simply 'get in the way'.

For the avoidance of doubt, I have included here a summary of what is included in our policy. I would ask that parents, carers and students note in particular the points about make-up, jewellery, shoes and mobile devices.

All students must wear the full academy uniform at all times:

School shoes must be plain black school shoes made of a polishable material. We do not permit high boots, ankle boots, high visibility buckles/bows/coloured laces or tags etc. Trainers or canvas shoes are not permitted.

School trousers should be plain charcoal school trousers. Trousers that are 'skinny fit', tight or short length are not permitted.

Skirts must be the Armfield tartan, they must be worn

correctly (not rolled up or fastened to higher than the intended length) and must always be worn with plain black/charcoal tights (minimum of 60 denier).

Socks should be plain black/grey ankle socks.

School shirts/blouses must be plain white, formal shirts. These must be tucked in at all times.

The academy blazer is to be worn at all times, including in corridors and open spaces/dining halls etc. Please note that sleeves must be rolled down (students can remove blazers in classrooms with teacher permission).

Students must wear the academy ties/bows. The top button on the shirt must be fastened and the tie worn appropriately.

Make-up must not be worn

Outdoor coats must be removed once inside the academy building.

Jewellery must not be worn. A wrist watch is the only permissible exception

No bottles, planners or any other large items (including food) are allowed in blazer pockets. These items must be placed in the student's bag.

Students are required to bring a school bag every day.

No phones, smart watches or any other electrical devices are allowed to be used during the school day – this includes after school activities.

Energy drinks, of any kind, are not allowed in the academy.

Students who breach the policy will be asked to address the issue raised. Jewellery and mobile devices will be confiscated and stored in reception. Parents can collect them at the end of the day. A one hour detention will also be issued. Detentions may also be issued for other breaches of the uniform policy.

With regards to the first day back

We are really looking forward to seeing all the students again in September. Please refer to the letters sent by Mr Hallam and Mrs McKinnon last week for the specific details for each year group.

The younger children and the vast majority of our students have been a true credit to our parents, carers and the community. I am so proud of them all and how we continue to work together to get through the ups and downs of this global pandemic. Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic (hopefully sunny) summer. Please remember to take care and stay safe and I look forward to seeing students fully refreshed in September.

Stay safe,
Mr Kilmurray



Euro 2020 House Challenge

In a recent all-through house competition, students from our nursery right the way up to our Year 9 cohort embarked on a cultural capital project where they were tasked with transforming their classroom doors into an info-hub. Each class was given a Euro 2020 country to adopt for the week. From there, they had to work as a team researching their designated nation. They looked at the national flag, the cuisine, the currency and the country's geography and history. Some forms went a step further and presented information on language and the notable people originating from these respective nations.

Each door had its own specific style. Some were interactive, providing 'take away' quizzes or flag-colouring competitions. Others encouraged passers-by to practise speaking phrases in the native tongue of the particular countries. One form even provided food to nibble and erected a huge Christmas tree, showing our students exactly what their nation is famous for. A few forms even went a step-or-two further by recording themselves singing a famous song from their country, including a very polished rendition of an ABBA song.

Judging these was hard – especially given the variety – and, in the end, classes who focused on Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Germany and North Macedonia won prizes, as well as house points.



EURO2020

The nursery children have had a very fun and exciting summer term. Despite the masks, visors and socially distanced activities, they have been resilient learners and have taken everything in their stride.



After the Easter holidays, the children showed care and concern for living things in the environment and were able to look after some tiny caterpillars and stick insects.

They even tickled us when we held them too! Culturally, we celebrated St. George's Day with some wonderful role-play and also enjoyed hearing all about Eid celebrations from a couple of the children. In nursery, the children just love to dress up! We had a lot of fun on 'World Number Day', dressing up as numbers and raising money for the NSPCC charity.

After the half term, we welcomed into nursery a sensory soft play area and had lots of fun developing our gross motor skills whilst climbing, balancing and manoeuvring ourselves in the ball pool. As an extra special treat, we also had an ice cream van visit us and we got to buy delicious Mr Whippy ice creams with sprinkles and sauce. The nursery staff just had to try them too!



This term, we were so fortunate with the sunny weather and this allowed us to take part in the Daily Mile outdoors; most days on the field! We have also loved

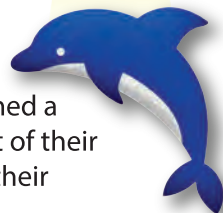


using the parachute outdoors and playing games with it, mimicking waves on the sea. This has linked to our learning about rock pools, sea creatures and ocean life. The nursery children have thor-

oughly enjoyed learning facts! Did you know that a dolphin sleeps with one eye open?

Finally, we would just like to thank you all for really engaging with the ClassDojo app. The children have gained a lot more confidence speaking in front of their peers and talked passionately about their photographs that had been posted.

We wish all the nursery children and their families a lovely summer break and look forward to welcoming some of you back in the autumn term. For those children who are due to start in Reception in September, we wish you lots of luck and know that with your enthusiasm, you will embrace the next chapter in your learning. It has been an honour and privilege to get to know you all. Dream big, little ones.



The Nursery Team



Reception enjoyed a very special visit from 'Little Zoo To You.' The children were able to see (and touch!) a number of different reptiles, amphibians and insects. We enjoyed finding out lots of interesting facts about snakes, frogs, beetles, spiders and snails. For instance, did you know that frogs swallow with their eyes? All of the children were very brave and even those who seemed a little unsure at first showed great courage when it was their turn to touch the visitors.



Reception





OUR NEW PRIMARY LIBRARY

Recently, the primary library has undergone a makeover. In keeping with our 'natural' environment around school, we wanted to create a library which is calming and relaxing for our children to read and research inside of. This has been a huge success and is a big hit with our children already.

Inside the library, we have invested heavily in 'topic' books ranging from rivers and oceans, to Romans and wild animals. Furthermore, we have continued to build on our Accelerated Reader programme and children can now select texts from a wider range of books in the library to take home and read.

In our newly refurbished library, you will also find 'reading for pleasure' and 'author' baskets stocked full of exciting reads for our children to enjoy. In the meantime, watch out for an exciting library launch coming soon to Armfield Academy!



RECOMMENDED READS

<https://www.booksfortopics.com>

Books for Topics is a fantastic website which recommends 'top reads' for each year group in primary school. We will be sharing their 'Summer Reading Bingo' competition with parents soon, as it links nicely with our House Point system.

LITTLE WANDLE LETTERS & SOUNDS

This year at Armfield Academy, reading has been a huge focus across all phases. To ensure all teachers were well equipped to teach reading at Armfield Academy, we invested heavily in Letters & Sounds Training and resources. This has enabled teachers of reading to deliver high-quality phonics and guided reading sessions to our pupils. Children really enjoy these sessions and love talking about the texts they read about. As we continue on our reading journey, in September we will be working closely with Professor Teresa Cremin and her team on a 'Reading for Pleasure' project across the academy. During this year-long project, we will embark on creating a 'reading culture' and ensuring that all of our children and young people develop and foster a lifelong love of reading.

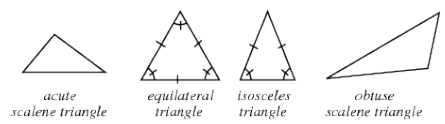


VIRTUAL EXPLORERS

Year 8 pupils have continued to work hard this term and have grasped a fabulous understanding of the past tense. Miss Linney has been very impressed by their application of knowledge in different contexts. Pupils in this cohort have also developed their cultural knowledge and understanding, and whilst we currently cannot visit France, we have virtually visited Les Catacombes and many places in the south of France. The resilience demonstrated by many of our learners has been admirable and they show great potential for flourishing in French throughout their time at Armfield Academy.



MATHS



YEAR 7

This term, the Year 7s have covered a range of topics such as fractions, construction of triangles with compasses & protractors and, more recently, probability. It has been an incredibly fun term with lots of experiments, games and hard work by all students in the Year 7 'bubble'. There have been some outstanding contributions to lessons from our learners (too many to list!), so I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown to our students over the past school year; they are a credit to yourselves and I look forward to welcoming them back in September in perhaps more 'normal' circumstances.

Mr Brown

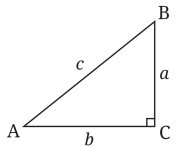
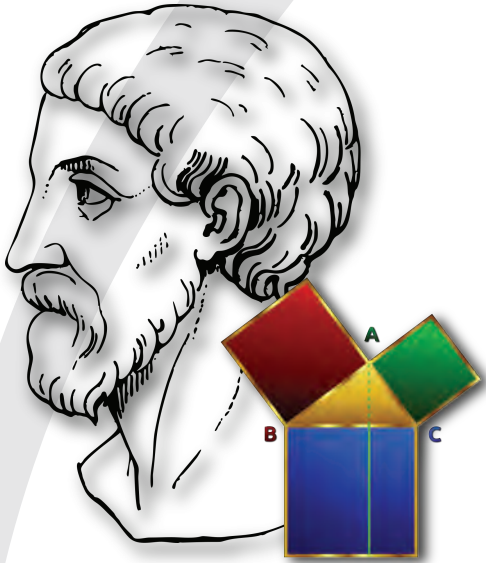
YEAR 8



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Our most recent work in mathematics has encouraged our Year 8 cohort to focus on skills linked to sequences, algebra and indices. There has also been attention given to rounding and estimation, as well as standard form and angles. Students have shown a fantastic effort in lessons and an excitement to be back in the classroom for the term since home learning. It has been great to be back!

Mrs Porter and Miss Williamson



YEAR 9

What a thoroughly enjoyable term it has been in the Year 9 'bubble'. We finally got to find out who this Pythagoras chap was - and why he was so obsessed with right-angled triangles! Pupils have worked extremely hard and continued to show fantastic resilience both working in school or at home, when necessary. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Harrison to the Y9 bubble, who is the new KS4 Maths Lead and it has been exciting to plan for the pupils' KS4 Maths journey in whichever pathway they will follow.

Mrs Beach, Mr Hallam Mr Walters and Mrs Harrison

pupils volunteered to record themselves reading a story involving maths for the primary classes. The readings were fantastic and the primary children loved them. A big thank you to all for taking the time and effort to do this!

All year groups took part in a 'Number Detective' challenge throughout the day. We had many excellent entries and those who successfully solved the most number mysteries were placed into a raffle to win a £10 voucher. Well done to all!



NSPCC

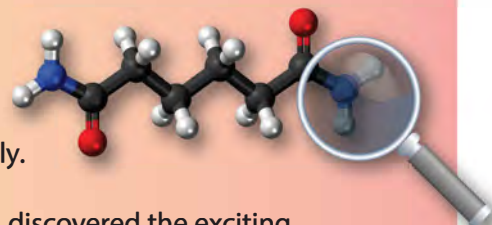


What we've been learning in...



What a year we have had in the science department! Despite everything that has happened, we have been incredibly fortunate to still have access to our incredible laboratories and supported by our fabulous technicians, students have still undertaken a huge number of practical investigations to support their learning.

Our most experienced scientists, Year 9, have been learning about the structure and bonding of elements and how this affects the properties of the material. They rose to the challenge when provided with mystery substances to identify based on the learning which had taken place previously.



Year 8 have learnt about chemical reactions and then discovered the exciting phenomena of electricity and magnetism. We have been very impressed with the developing abilities of our budding scientists and how well they have constructed circuits from schematic diagrams. A hair-raising time was had by all when looking at static electricity using our Van der Graaf machine.

Our youngest scientists in Year 7 went all Bear Grylls on us and now know how they could extract water from urine amongst other techniques to survive if they needed to in the wild. They have then discovered the wonderful periodic table and studied the properties of particular groups. I am sure many parents and carers will fondly remember watching the reaction of alkali

A standard periodic table of elements, color-coded by groups. It includes element symbols and names.

metals with water. My challenge to Year 7 remains the same as in previous years, 'to master the periodic table song'.

The last half term has seen the welcome return of our very popular science clubs. Year 8 have been encouraged by Miss House and Miss Patten to discover and develop their love for science and investigations. Year 7 have been inspired by Mr Walton and challenged to take part in activities which have required precise measurements and the application of skills learnt in class. We fully welcome new members to join the clubs as we move into the next academic year.



As a department, we have always been keen to work with local colleges and build relationships to help our students really stand out from others. This term, Year 9 have been invited to take part in a project centred around bees run by Blackpool and Fylde College in collaboration with Future U. Bees are on the decline and students have been tasked with investigating conditions which the bees prefer. They have decorated bee houses to investigate a chosen variable and then taken these to a location to make observations. Students have then regularly observed the bee houses and produced a report on their findings. The best report in school has been forwarded to the project organisers as part of a competition between local schools.

FUTURE

We have been provided with an exciting opportunity for our Year 9 students to work with Future U over the coming months

and moving forward this will include more learners as they embark on KS4. Future U is all about empowering young people with the knowledge and opportunities to succeed, with the aim of overcoming barriers to progression by offering an engaging programme of events and outreach activities. You can find further information about them here: <https://www.lancashirefutureu.org.uk/>



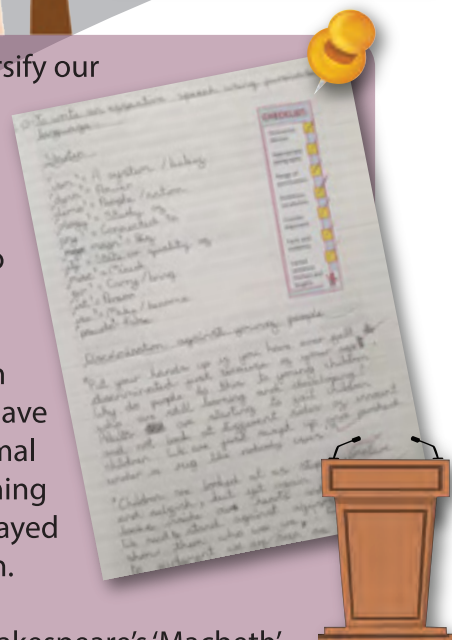
Keep up to date with school life
Follow our Twitter account
[@armfieldFCAT](https://twitter.com/armfieldFCAT)

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT EXPLORES DIVERSITY

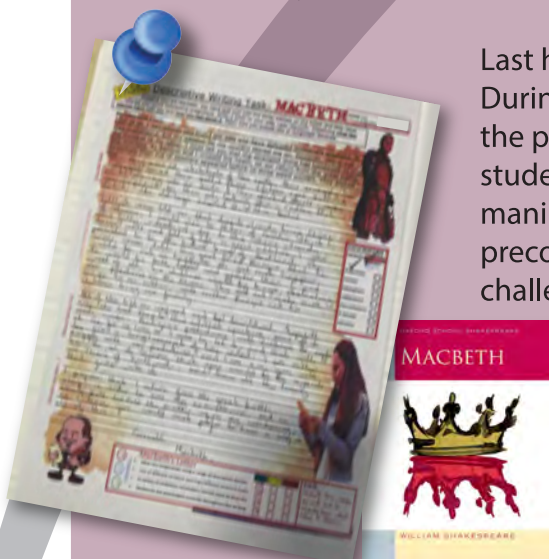


One of the English department's key objectives this year has been to diversify our curriculum, offering our students an education which mirrors the changing shape of the society we live in. When studying books, plays and poems, we have been conscious about broadening the cultures and perspectives we explore, focusing on the voices of a cross-section of people and their representations in literature. We believe it is important to maintain our British values and, in particular, equality and democracy.

In Year 7, our pupils have been probing the concept of diversity in modern Britain. So far, they have analysed speeches on the theme of ageism and have created their own speeches in response. Currently, we are working on formal letter writing on the theme of racial diversity. Students have enjoyed learning about these highly pertinent topics - and their enthusiasm has been displayed in the work they have produced and the discussions they have engaged in.



Last half term, our Year 8s studied William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. During this scheme, they studied one of the main female characters in the play – Lady Macbeth. As the 'bubble' studied the play, many students interpreted Lady Macbeth as a very powerful and manipulative character – this toyed with, and pushed, any preconceptions that students had of 19TH Century England, challenging the context behind the play that students had researched - such as patriarchal (male-dominated) societies and 'The Chain of Being'. As a 'minority character' due to her gender, our learners grew to admire Lady Macbeth's influence, which prepared them for their final essay which critiqued how she broke stereotypical ideas of gender expectations.



Our senior Year 9 students have been pensively surmising the presentation of two diversity-related themes - power and marginalisation - within their recent study of the novella 'Of Mice and Men'. Using the 'Wheel of Power and Privilege', pupils were able to sensitively explore the impact of marginalisation on characters within the story and the wider world. Students have been empowered with the understanding of how our differing identities can impact positively,

and negatively, on our experiences and opportunities in life. It has been a delight to discuss, debate and witness students' passion for change with regards to the ostracism they identified as being somewhat prevalent within the contemporary world.

