



Newsletter

Autumn 2019

OFFICIAL OPENING

of Armfield Academy



Armfield Academy, gave a warm and musical welcome to the VIPs visiting for its official opening.

The gathering heard how keen Blackpool football icon Jimmy Armfield was on education, almost becoming a teacher himself, and how he would have loved to have been there to see the new school open as he was an advocate of giving children in Blackpool the best opportunities to succeed.

Duncan and John Armfield unveiled the plaque at Armfield Academy as the school had its official opening in the memorial hall. The plaque was in honour of the Blackpool and England right back and the great and the good of the town were treated to a moving ceremony featuring a tribute to Jimmy, who died in 2018, plus speeches and singing from the year seven and eight pupils – the first to be taught at the academy.

Year eight pupil Ruby acted as the master of ceremonies for the event, while head boy and girl Jamie and Ellie-Rose also addressed the packed room. The school's talented choir deservedly got a standing ovation for their performance of the school's song "Armfield State of Mind" led by solo singer Taya.

It was a fitting tribute to our wonderful namesake and we are grateful to all the staff and pupils who made it happen.



Inside Stories *our first term has ended on a high!*



ARMFIELD ACADEMY OPENS IT'S DOORS... A SECOND TIME



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw to the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelming support during our second Autumn term. Armfield Academy has gone from strength to strength since we first opened back in September 2018. As you will be undoubtedly aware, our building contractor Conlons, handed over the keys to the main secondary block on Lytham Road, back in July, ready for our September start earlier this year. We are now fully operational and your children, through their work and play have brought our school to life.

On the 11th October 2019 we were proud to host the official opening of Armfield Academy. Our guests of honour were Duncan and John Armfield, brothers and sons of our namesake, the late, legendary Jimmy Armfield, who I am confident would have thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings. Also in attendance was the Mayor of Blackpool, Elected Members of Blackpool Council; Colleagues from the Department of Education; Directors from our Trust, FCAT; Directors from Conlons. The entire event was introduced and directed by the Year 8 Student Leadership Team, hosted by Ruby (Yr 8). I can honestly say that the students did an amazing job and indeed presented one of the proudest moments in my entire career.

It was a truly memorable day, which was widely covered in the local media and BBC radio Lancashire. Your children did Armfield Academy and the wider community of South Shore, Blackpool really proud.

To mark the event the Student Council are raising money to pay for 120 trees, which have been planted along the Primary school fence, adjacent to Armfield Avenue. Each tree represents each and every Primary child currently attending Armfield in our inaugural year. With the support of the site team and in the presence of parents and carers the primary children had to plant their own individual tree, which will grow with them over the course of the next twelve years as they make their way through each phase of their school life.

Our staff and students have got involved in countless activities including national events, charity work and various sporting competitions; the Early Years children hosted two Christmas nativity performances; the students' school newspaper has grown into a full-blown publication; we have supported numerous charities, including Children in Need, Save the Children, two local homeless charities through the Blackpool Football Club Supporters Trust as well as hosting a Bingo evening for parents and the local community. Last, but not least, we welcomed Santa Claus and his donkeys back to Armfield to meet the Early Years Children before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform parents and carers that working in partnership with Blackpool Council Highways Department a new raised-hump Zebra Crossing will be constructed between our two sites at the major crossing point on Arnold Avenue. Work is likely to start in early January 2020.

We will finish for the Christmas holidays at 1:00PM on Friday 20th December. Students who are entitled to a free school meal can collect a packed lunch from the catering team before they leave the academy on their way out.

Armfield Academy will reopen on Monday 6th January at the normal time. Students are welcome to arrive from 8:00AM where they can take advantage of the free breakfast on offer. Students are expected to be at their muster station at 8:45AM, ready to be in form for a prompt 8:50AM start.

Once again, let me re-emphasize that should you have any concerns that you feel needs to be brought to my attention that you approach me in the first instance. Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Armfield Academy, I thank you for your continued support and I wish you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Kilmurray



UK Bebras
Computational
Thinking
Challenge



at Armfield Academy has enjoyed a wonderful second half-term! Students have impressed Mr Renouf and Miss Blackburn with their attitude, effort and understanding when studying the power of the King and the Church in Medieval England in Year 7 and the Industrial Revolution and Jack the Ripper in Year 8.

The half term began with Armfield's second annual Super Learning Day. All students were off timetable for the day on Monday 11th November. Year 7 students explored life in the trenches, the development of weaponry and the spread of disease. In contrast, year 8 built on their previous knowledge by looking at advances and improvements in medicine, troops from within the British Empire and why their own men sometimes shot British troops. It was an outstanding day of learning, reflection and remembrance and year 8 will be able to use this knowledge during our Battlefields Tour in June 2020! A special thanks to our Head Girl, Ella, our Deputy Head Girl, Emily and our Deputy Head Boy, William, for their attendance at the cenotaph along with Mr Kilmurray, Mr Renouf and Miss Blackburn.



Have a safe, happy and relaxing Christmas break and we will look forward to another half-term filled with brilliantly fascinating and, at times, horrible history! Can you spot any of your work

on our outstanding work
so far display?

Don't forget to follow us on
Twitter at @ArmfieldHistory



In one of their computing lessons this half term, students have participated in the Bebras challenge. This challenge is designed to introduce computational thinking to students in an interactive and engaging way. It is run in over 40 countries and is very popular in the UK.

In year 7 and 8, 286 of our students took part and competed against over 210,000 other students from across the country. Our results were brilliant with a high percentage receiving a merit or distinction. 6 of Armfield Academy's students came in the top 10% of that number and have been invited to participate in a further online round to enhance their computational thinking skills.

One of our year 7 girls' results placed her amongst the best in the country, and so she has been invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford. She will get an opportunity to explore Hertford College, experience academic lectures and take part in the second stage of the Bebras challenge and the awards ceremony.

Every student who took part should be commended for their effort. A huge well done!

NURSERY

Whilst it has been a very busy term in nursery, it's also been rewarding to see the children's confidence blossom as they develop their own unique ideas. We have been learning about the seasonal changes, nocturnal animals and those which hibernate. The children delighted in getting messy and making their clay owls too. They also enjoyed making pumpkin soup. This introduction to cookery allowed the children the opportunity to work as part of a group; taking turns, sharing equipment and discussing the chopped up vegetables. The soup tasted delicious too!

Barnaby, our class bear, has really enjoyed going home with the 'Star of the Week,' and sharing weekends with different children. They enjoy sharing their weekend news with their peers. As part of our strong home-school partnerships, we thank you for attending the parent's evening and welcomed the positive feedback.

We have spent the last month practising songs and making props for the Christmas show which was a tremendous success, with many a happy tear shed by those who came to watch.

Every half term we introduce new stories and familiar tales to the children in order to develop their love of stories and to learn about story settings and characters. We are currently reading a story called 'Ridiculous'.

Finally, we have been learning all about Christmas and the Nativity story and was recently amused by a little boy who told us we couldn't say the word 'Jesus' as his mum says it's a swear word. As winter is fast approaching, we are looking forward to investigating and exploring the frost and ice in the nursery garden and experimenting with ways to melt ice cubes also.



We wish you all a peaceful Christmas & look forward to seeing you all in the New Year

On Sunday 24th November

Mr Renouf, Mrs Hall and Mr Evans, along with 15 Armfield Academy students braved the mud, wind and rain to take part in the Blue Skies Elf Run 2019 at Heron's near Blackpool Zoo. All students were excellent representatives of the school and showed great resilience and teamwork to complete a tricky course! A special well done to Dylan and Kieran for leading the way for Team Armfield. At present, Sapphire House has raised over £500 to be added to their charity contributions to Blue Skies Hospital Fund, improving patient care in Blackpool and across the Fylde Coast.

Thank you all and well done – Armfield certainly is an academy to be proud of!



Community News

R

The Reception children have had a fabulous term and have settled into school life well.

Throughout the term we have been very busy getting to know each other and our rules and new routines. During the first half term we learnt about the importance of Harvest and thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves. We enjoyed reading about the Little Red Hen and her unhelpful friends.

We talked about the importance of friendship and looking after each other, the children made bread together for sharing. The beautiful season of Autumn inspired us to paint some lovely autumn pictures using reds, golds and oranges. The children made their own leaf man after reading the book.

We have celebrated and raised money for MacMillan through a very successful coffee and cake event, wore odd socks for Anti Bullying Week and joined Pudsey to raise money for Children in Need.

The Children have been working really hard at learning their letter sounds to help us to start to read. The classrooms are full of lovely activities and challenges and the children are always very busy.

After October half term we celebrated Bonfire Night and remembered those who fought in World Wars. The children have enjoyed learning outside and making owl habitats. The weeks are flying by and we are very much looking forward to our Christmas break having performed our 'Nativity' and been lucky enough to go to the Marine Hall to watch the pantomime Cinderella.

Happy Christmas to all our children and their families. See you next Year.

Year 8 Trip



Our Year 8's had a great insight into the careers advice and options through the use of the website and app. A panel of people with modern jobs that reflect the world we live in, were interviewed by BBC radio presenters. A selection of media influencers, code computing website designers and a marketing lead professional showed our pupils what they must achieve in order to reach their aspirations. Our young Armfield Students behaved impeccably as always and were an absolute credit to our school. We would like to thank Hodgson Academy for their kind invite. We look forward to working with them in the future.



Year 1

Hello and welcome back to all our lovely readers. Year One has been a hive of activity throughout this busy first term at Armfield Academy. The children have settled in well to Year One life and have taken new learning in their stride.

During the first half term, Year One's topic was 'Superheroes'. A big hit all round! Children read the story 'Supertato' and created wanted posters for The Evil Pea. Where is he now? Nobody knows. Please keep on the lookout for him. In science, we uncovered our senses and in maths we focused closely on sorting, ordering, recognising and adding numbers. On the last Thursday of half term, we had a Spooky Spectacular, where children took part in spooky party games and danced to scary music. A great end to a very busy eight weeks of school life.

During the second half term, Year One have been enjoying our new topic 'Once Upon A Time'. Children have absolutely loved reading 'The Big Bad Pig' and 'The Three Little Wolves! In class, they have hot seated the main characters, orally rehearsed the story with a partner and are now in the middle of writing their endings. The story is now a firm classroom favourite at story time. Alongside listening to Traditional Tales, the children have been discovering materials in science.

They can name and describe materials and know which materials will float and sink.

The second half term also marked another super learning day in the Armfield calendar. This one was themed around Remembrance. Throughout the day, children in Year One took part in poppy themed activities and read the story 'Flo of the Somme'. An opportunity for the children to reflect on the animals that helped during the war.

As we near towards the end of this half term, we gear up for Christmas. The children have been practising hard for their carol concert and have been learning songs and actions off by heart, ready to perform to parents. In class, we are learning about the Christmas story and having lots of creative Christmas fun, before we break up on Friday 20th December.

What a fantastic half term we have had in our new building, welcoming our new year 7's and doing lots of different Maths activities. Year 7's have been doing lots of work on sequences and algebra with year 8 looking at fractions, ratio and proportion.

We have been using a new website called Mangahigh to compete with classmates as well as having a TT Rockstars house challenge. Next half term we will be launching Hegarty Maths with the year 7's as well refreshing this with year 8.

Open evening was a particular highlight as we had lots of entries for our murder mystery 'Who killed Mr Dipentagram?'. A massive thank you to our Armfield detectives who assisted the year 6 pupils with the investigation.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Armfield Maths

This term, staff and students have been very excited to start using our brand new facilities. Students have all started this term using Bunsen burners and carrying out lots of practical investigations.

We are slowly building up a strong bank of equipment which is used to enhance the learning of our budding scientists. Year 7 have started the year learning about particles and their behaviour. They have enjoyed watching cans collapse and investigating if they would like an elephant to stand on their feet. We have recently been learning about how cells within organisms are adapted to carry out special functions and how reproduction in both animals and plants works. Year 8 have been studying the body and how to stay fit and healthy. After investigating the effect of exercise on their bodies, each class have enjoyed enhancing their prior learning from primary school about forces and space. Discussions have been focused around is there life anywhere other than on Earth and this has supported the time some students spent in the planetarium last year.

On Monday 18th November, Mrs Davison and Mr Bache accompanied 14 year 8 young ladies to an event organised by the 1851 Trust. The trip was held at Fleetwood Nautical College and centred around STEM activities and positive role models. Students had the opportunity to make sails and test them in the college's wind tunnel.

We welcomed a travelling roadshow hosted in conjunction with BAE systems, Royal Navy and the RAF on Wednesday 25th September. Students were treated to an interactive show focused on communications and data. The 'Are we connected?' show covered areas such as how mobile phones connect people around the World, how computers talk to each other and how we talk to our devices e.g. Bluetooth. Year 7 and 8 were introduced to the real life application of some of the most recent communication technologies within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy.

Science club, run by Miss Patten and Miss House, has been running every Tuesday from 3.05pm every week. Students have carried out different challenges and enjoyed using glitter to make galactic mobiles! Miss Patten, however quickly found the joy of glitter to be short lived and is still finding it all over her room!

As last year, our talented science students have completed a science themed Christmas card and the top three have been entered into a competition run through the Ogden Trust and Blackpool Sixth Form College. We are very excited with both our primary and secondary student entries. Fingers crossed that we can take one of the overall prizes!

