



'An Academy to be Proud of'

Newsletter

Easter 2019



Banishing bullying on Valentine's Day

An anti-bullying 'cake-off' took place on Valentine's day at Armfield Academy, where students decided to 'spread love and positivity'. English teacher Mr Moon said "staff, parents and pupils were encouraged to bake tasty treats, which carried a theme of friendship or revealed an anti-bullying message".

He said: "As our system is a popular and thriving aspect of our academy, we ran it as a house competition. Our five houses, named after precious gemstones, won house points for the most cakes entered and then, at lunch time, slices were sold to raise money for each house's local charity.

In total, 127 cakes were submitted, which is extraordinary given our school capacity is just over 200 pupils." He added: "While issues of bullying and friendship fallouts have been scarce since we opened our doors in September, it is still important to reaffirm anti-bullying messages to our pupils whenever and wherever we can.

The way the pupils engaged with the initiative demonstrated their understanding of how we should treat other members of our school and wider community."

Left-over cakes were donated to local nursing homes.



Inside Stories a bumper packed second term!





Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw to the end of the Easter term I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during the Spring Term. Armfield Academy has taken huge steps forward since we first opened earlier this academic year. When we return after Easter we will be making use of our brand-new design technology facilities, brand-new ICT suites and brand-new textiles suite and food technology kitchen, enabling the students to broaden their opportunities within their curriculum. We will still be using the Memorial Hall and our amazing sports hall for formal assemblies and sports activities.

We are really excited about the hand-over of the remaining academic block, which we can assure parents is on time; we look forward to receiving the keys towards the end of the summer term, ahead of schedule. As promised at the previous Parents' Day, once we are in receipt of all the new buildings we will invite you into school for a full tour of the entire secondary school. The Year 7 students have repeatedly asked me for this as they are rightly proud of their academy.

Since our last newsletter our staff and students have got involved in countless activities including national events, charity work and various sports competitions, many of which are discussed in this newsletter; the students have achieved great results in Netball, Football inter-school competitions and Lancashire Inter-School Athletics; the whole school community took part in a Bake-Off Cake, which raised monies for a number of local charities, as well as recently hosting Armfield's Easter Bingo evening for parents and the local community.

Most importantly; learning in the classroom. Together, we must ensure that we maintain these very high standards; quality first teaching and learning in the classroom; sustained learning and continuous progress and achievement for each and every Armfield student is paramount; outstanding attendance (at the time of writing whole academy attendance stands at 96.5% and 97.3% for the Year 7's); we reflect as a whole school, every Friday afternoon; Reflection Friday challenges the students to think about the week and question what has gone well, cite three things they have learnt, but moreover honestly appraise where they feel they need to work a little harder; we are actively promoting self-reflection within their personal learning journeys, which will support them as they move through school into Key Stage 4 and eventually into college and University. In this regard, I thank you wholeheartedly for your support, especially with respect to homework and reading. Every Armfield student is tasked with various homework assignments and they are required to read for a minimum of twenty minutes a day, every week. Their enthusiasm to learn and engage with their lessons continues to be really encouraging. However, it is time for a break. I wish the students a great Easter and a good rest because when we return for the summer term, we start again, right back to day 1; standards and high expectations.

Parents/Carers: please note your diaries. We will be finishing for the summer holidays at 1:00PM on Friday 19th July 2019. 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. I will write to you nearer the time, however, we are giving you notice well in advance of that date in order that you can make necessary child care arrangements as appropriate.

Armfield Academy will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April after the bank holiday 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, on behalf of all the staff at Armfield Academy, I thank you for your continued support and I wish you a very happy Easter.

Yours faithfully,
Mark Kilmurray



In Design Technology this term, we have been studying textiles. We have been learning about all the different tools and

equipment that are used in sewing and we have developed skills to be able to do a running stitch and a back stitch. We have designed our own under the water scene and we have experimented with tie-dye for our backgrounds. Our scene was then sewn on with felt to create our final piece!

After Easter, we will be using the new building and learning about food technology. The Year 7's will be learning about food nutrition and healthy diets and will be learning to cook simple dishes to take home!

In Art this term, we are learning about African art. We have been looking at what African masks look like and had a go at designing our own mask designs. Each student has designed a final mask and created this out of cardboard. We have cut out shapes to create layers for our mask, which we have painted with different colours. We have learnt about African symbols and patterns that are found on African masks, and we have added these to our final piece to show the stories of our characters.

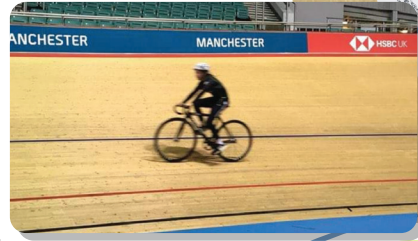
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VELODROME

THE VERSATILE VENUE

Two groups of Armfield pupils rode in the tyre tracks of some of the world's best cyclists this term, when they took to the boards of the Velodrome at The National Cycling Centre in Manchester. There were thrills as well as a handful of spills as our young cyclists got to grips with the nuances of riding fixed wheel racing bikes with no brakes, but it was nothing Team Armfield couldn't handle. Even multiple Olympic gold medalists Ed Clancy and Stephen Burke looked nervous at the thought of following us onto the track for their training session. I hope we haven't knocked their confidence too much as they prepare for Tokyo 2020.



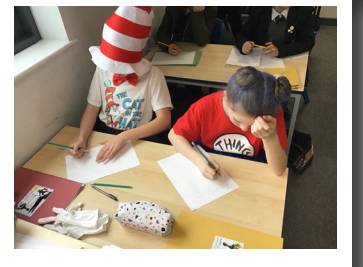
MATHS

Pupils have spent most of this half-term on the topic of fractions. They have developed their knowledge and understanding of fractions as well as looking at new approaches and problem solving.

In maths we also enjoyed designing our 'Adventure to the Gemstone' board games, as part of our World Book Day activities. There were lots of fantastic ideas and fun was had by all!!



We have introduced an Armfield 'numeracy puzzle of the week'. Pupils should submit an entry/solution and a winner will be chosen from all the correct answers. The house with the most entries across a half term will also win points towards the whole school house competition. Good Luck!



"They ran, they hid, they shook with fear!"

THE GIGANTOSAURUS was coming near!

The Nursery children have been very busy learning lots of interesting facts about dinosaurs. Mostly our topics are child-initiated in order to maximise learning outcomes. The children have been learning new vocabulary, loved finding out information through stories and songs, and especially loved the story of 'Gigantosaurus' and enthusiastically, they all joined in with repeating familiar phrases. They have been highly engaged in their role-play in the Dinosaur Look Out, constructed amazing dinosaurs using a variety of media and materials, and even made up their own dinosaur names in the writing area. We are excited to find out where the children's ideas will take us next!



Sports REPORT

Indoor Athletics Competition

On 5th February, pupils from Year 7 represented Armfield Academy in the girls and boys indoor athletics competition held at Stanley Park Blackpool. All schools in Blackpool competed in track and field events as well as team relays. The boys team came 2nd place and the girls team came 1st. This is an amazing achievement for the first ever athletics completion for Armfield Academy. The girls team were then invited to compete in the Indoor athletics county finals on Wednesday 13th March, where schools all over Lancashire competed. Overall, the girls came 7th out of 13 schools across Lancashire, well done to all involved.



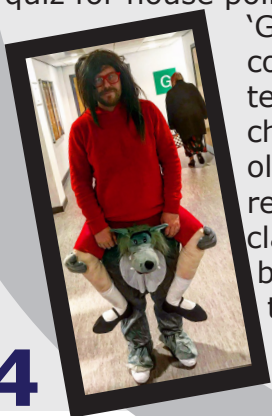
THE ARMFIELD WORLD BOOK DAY



The fantasy-lesson menu gave our learners ownership over the day, which allowed them to engage with their keenest of interests.

The English option was to write a battle scene using verbs and adverbs; the science lesson allowed every student to concoct a magic potion with chemicals and, in the art workshop, the pupils designed mythical settings based on descriptive language. Also available on the day was a languages session centred on writing Latin spells, a geography lesson exploring the geology of precious stones and a plethora of fantasy-themed puzzles and activities in maths, computer science and history. It is hoped these sessions gave students a context of this popular genre of fiction which they can feed into their imaginations when they write creatively in the future.

Adding to the spirit, students were invited to attend the day dressed as a book character and they were also tasked with transforming classroom doors into colourful book covers. Other students chose to enter a Harry Potter quiz for house points and many entered a 'Guess the Character' competition based on the teachers' fancy dress choices. In the afternoon, the older students visited the reception and nursery classes and read a range of books in different voices and tones.



Given the power and value of reading and the popularity of mythical films and literature, we decided to make World Book Day a fantasy-genre 'Super Learning Day'. Students were taken off timetable and offered a pick'n'mix menu of workshops linked to fantasy stories. The workshops were delivered by different subject teachers, giving a real variety to our Year 7 cohort. Having selected their own personalised timetable of lessons, our students moved enthusiastically from class to class, absorbing ideas in each subject in preparation for a mythical story they proceeded to write in English lessons the following week.

WORLD BOOK DAY MENU

Our World Book Day theme is **FANTASY**. You will be writing a story titled *'The Adventure to the Gemstone'*.

BOOK DAY 20 In order for you to prepare for writing your story, you must select 5 workshops from the menu. You will attend these workshops during World Book Day; they will help you to create your story ideas.	Mythical Spells A lesson creating mythical French spells for your story using magic from Harry Potter and Latin root words.	Gemstone QUEST An opportunity to create a board game themed on your fantasy story. You activity will be maths-themed, challenging players to tackle puzzles to find the gem.	You will spend one hour in a laboratory, creating enchanted potions for your gemstone story. POTIONS	Battle Scenes A writing workshop focusing on how to use verbs and adverbs skilfully in order to create engaging battle scenes in mythical stories.
A session exploring where your gemstone comes from. An investigation into how it forms and its history. GEOLOGY	MEDIEVAL KINGSHIP This workshop will focus on The Legend of King Arthur: How can actual historical events and kings inspire mythical stories and legends? This history-themed task is designed to help inspire your character choices.	ART FANTASY SETTINGS Using extracts from famous mythical stories, you will design a fantasy setting for your story.	Using ICT, this session focuses on editing together a front cover and back cover blurb for your gemstone adventure. FANTASY BOOK DESIGNS	LORD OF THE... A preecious lesson journeying into the mind of J.R.R. Tolkien and how World War One influenced him.



GRRRRR!



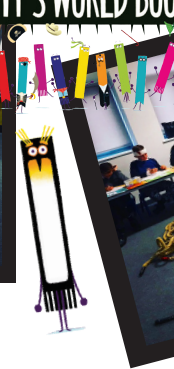
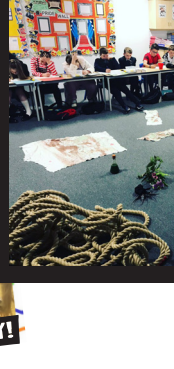
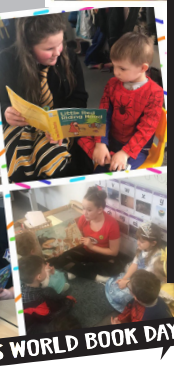
SHARE A STORY TODAY



WHO IS YOUR BOOK HERO?

'Super Learning Days' are fantastic for providing educational and thematic value to pupils' understanding of topics.

They also massively help to develop a positive school culture, which is something we can confidently say already exists at our new academy. We give a big thank you to parents and carers who supported their children – and the school – with this initiative. £99.50 was raised for World Book Aid International, meaning a school in a third world country will now receive 49 new books as a result of everyone's efforts.



SHARE A STORY

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



International Women's Day

We have been delighted to be involved with Blackpool's first ever women's day festival. Expertly organised by The Washington Group, we have been matched with our role model, Kate Shane, who is the director of the Merlin cluster in Blackpool.

Nineteen girls opted to be part of this exciting venture and questioned Kate about her journey to the top. As a team, we have created a piece of art about her which was then on display at the festival. Kate is excited to learn more about them and their aspirations and we are looking forward to meeting her again.

On Saturday 9th March, Mrs Hall, Miss Blackburn and Miss Franks accompanied 17 of our young ladies to Blackpool Sixth Form College. During the day, they took part in a variety of workshops and activities to help empower them and raise aspirations further. It was a pleasure to see the girls pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones and conquering fears. As usual, Armfield Academy students set the bar high and displayed our excellent ethos throughout the day.

Their next challenge is to travel about the local area, using a travel ticket kindly donated by Blackpool Transport and take an interesting picture to share on social media. As part of the project, the girls are now producing a report about how the festival has helped them. We are also very grateful to Merlin Blackpool for sponsoring our girls to take part in what we hope will become a yearly event.



After a fun few months of French, pupils are making excellent progress. Pupils have built on their learning week on week and they now have a solid knowledge of French. They are able to use a variety of tenses and possess a great range of vocabulary. Throughout this half term, pupils became more confident using adjectival endings when talking about family and friends, were able to say what is in their town as well as using negatives to say what isn't as well as using cognates to identify new vocabulary to talk about their free time. To aid vocabulary recall, Pupils often participate in games against each other where there are definitely some competitive individuals! This half term has also seen the introduction of Latin club, which is a brilliant way to improve English, French, History and Science as well as being able to learn a new language! Pupils have impressively introduced themselves, their family and given themselves a Latin name.

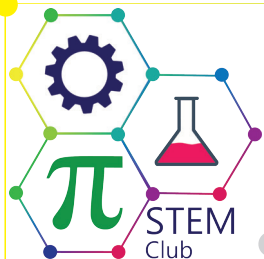


SCIENCE

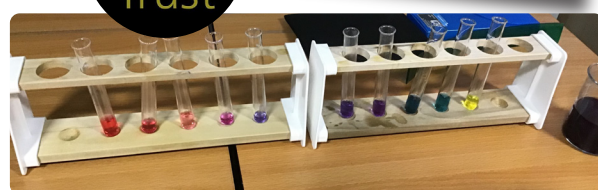
Before Christmas, students were asked to design a science themed Christmas card by Blackpool Sixth Form College through the Odgen Trust. Mrs Hall was very impressed by the standard of entry

and gave Mr Kilmurray the hard task of picking the top 3 from the school. These were entered against all other local KS3 schools and we are delighted that Ellen won overall second place. She will be formally presented her certificate at a red carpet event later this year. A huge well done to Ellen and all the entries. Now to aim for overall first place in the Easter card competition!

The Odgen Trust



Mrs Hall and Miss Brimelow were delighted to take Cara and William to Blackpool and Fylde College on Friday 25th January where they were tasked with explaining what STEM activities we have been completing in school this year. Miss Staples put together an amazing display highlighting some of the fabulous work the school has achieved already in STEM activities.



We returned on Friday 1st March, and although we did not take one of the top prizes this time, both students were role models and spoke with enthusiasm.

STEM club has continued to thrive this term and students have worked diligently on a variety of tasks which have challenged them to think outside the box and work as a team to overcome hurdles. The favourite so far has been making our own indicator and using this to show the full range of the pH scale. Mrs Williams had a hard choice deciding on a winner. Students are currently working on a project where they are planning to colonise Mars - watch this space! After Easter we are looking at creating an outside teaching area and sensory garden for the use of all pupils. We would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted tools or plants.

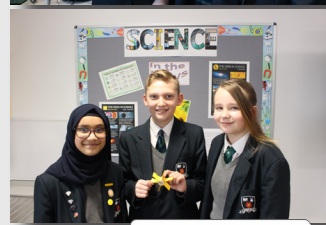


B&FC Visit

Despite having limited resources until the laboratories are ready in September, as a science department we have been keen to implement as much practical work as possible to assist in providing

an exciting and engaging science curriculum for our wonderful year 7 cohort.

As an introduction to the Energy unit, on Tuesday 26th February, we had a visit from Nicole Dean, one of the science tutors at Blackpool and Fylde College. Throughout the day, Armfield Academy students were able to find out about the problems we as a country face in producing enough electricity and challenged to think about alternative, more renewable energy sources. Students had the opportunity to design their own blades for a wind turbine and then test their turbine to see how much energy was generated. The engagement from students was fantastic and they enjoyed being challenged by a college tutor. We look forward to further working with Blackpool and Fylde College over the coming months with a few more exciting projects.



COINCIDENCE?

IF:
1-A
2-B
3-C
4-D
5-E
6-F
7-G
8-H
9-I
10-J
11-K
12-L
13-M
14-N
15-O
16-P
17-Q
18-R
19-S
20-T
21-U
22-V
23-W
24-X
25-Y
26-Z

KNOWLEDGE

11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 =
96%

HARDWORK

8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 =
98%

Both knowledge and hard work are important, but fall just short of 100%. However...

ATTITUDE

1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 =
100%



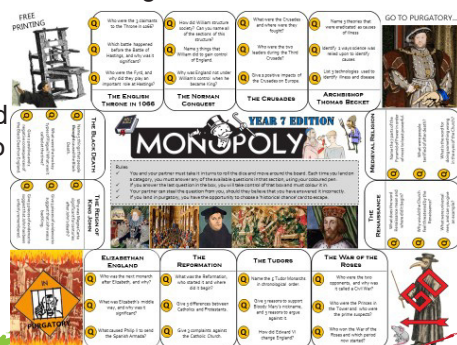
ATTITUDE IS A LITTLE THING THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.



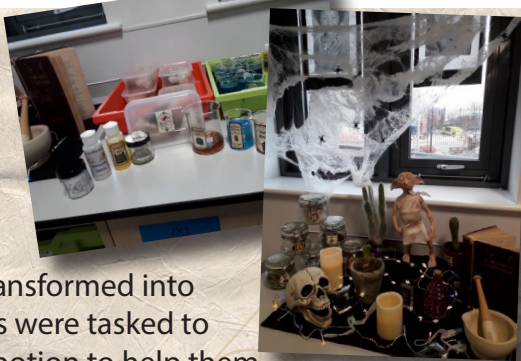
It's all happening in

History

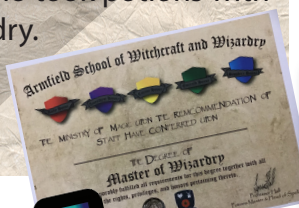
This half-term has been another busy period for the Department of History here at Armfield. Mr Renouf has been investing lots of time into preparing for next year, and the Year 8 scheme of learning, as well as new and improved ways to revise, remember and prepare for assessments, in order to avoid the pre-test dread! Miss Blackburn has been working hard to use quizlet to boost the use of key vocabulary and concepts within history lessons. However, as always, the most significant contributions have been made by our truly exceptional students. Their enthusiasm, focus and effort in history has been fantastic as we have explored topics, including: the War of the Roses, the Renaissance and the Tudors. Mr Renouf will be introducing 'history heroes' after the Easter break for those students that consistently go above and beyond what is expected in history – look out for more information, coming soon. Our budding historians continue to make fabulous progress, and have been reminded of the importance of their 'attitude' when approaching difficult challenges. After the Easter break, we will be studying: the reigns of Edward VI, Bloody Mary and Elizabeth I, before looking at the infamous Spanish attempt to invade Britain using the Spanish Armada...



As always, be sure to check our Twitter page (@ArmfieldHistory) to keep up-to-date with news, ideas and updates on the world of history here at Armfield. You may also wish to contact Mr Renouf via email (b.renouf@armfield.fcat.org.uk). Have a happy, safe and relaxing Easter and thank you for your continued support.



During World Book Day, science was transformed into Hogwarts! Students were tasked to concoct their own potion to help them in the quest to the gemstone. Mrs Cramer did an amazing job sourcing the ingredients, some of which are incredibly rare and hard to obtain. With a few unexpected reactions along the way, the variety of potions created was fantastic and we are very impressed with the creativity. Professor Hall was delighted to award those who took potions with their Degree in Witchcraft and Wizardry. Mr Kilmurray was just as impressed that nobody blew up the classroom!



SCIENCE this term

In science we have been learning about the structure and organisation of the body. Students have been wowed with the digestive system and many enjoyed watching a model of this important process which involved a good pair of tights! Possibly the highlight of the year,

students enjoyed learning about the structure of the heart with all being given the opportunity to dissect one. Mrs Hall was incredibly impressed with their safe working and enthusiasm to see the chambers. Many even had a pull on the heart strings. It was lovely to see many staff dropping in to have a go, despite some being more squeamish than others. I cannot wait until I can show students lungs inflating!

Science has now moved to learning about energy stores and the pathways which energy can move between. Again, Mrs Hall has been impressed with the students maturity as we have used alcohol burners for the first time. Staff and students now cannot wait until the laboratories are ready and we can use the Bunsen burners.

Please do follow our adventures and learning on twitter @armfield_sci



During the week we have been looking at journeys. Students have been challenged to create a poster as part of a competition to showcase a journey. This has been incorporated into a house challenge with Heads of House picking their best to be entered into a national competition. Inter-house posters have been ranked and house points awarded. Students have also been tasked with designing and making a 'train' to carry cars across the channel tunnel.

This has required hard work and problem solving as they tried to easily load and unload, hoping that no passengers are lost along the way!



FUN PACKED LEARNING

Early Years has been a busy hive of activity, jam packed full of lots of exciting learning opportunities for our pupils. At the beginning of the half term we read the story The Three Billy Goats Gruff, re-enacting the story outside, building bridges using our block play and constructing miniature plasticine bridges inside using match sticks. A great 'funky fingers' activity if you ever need one.

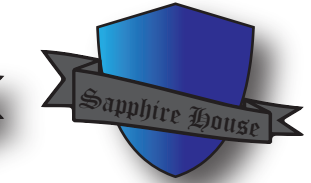
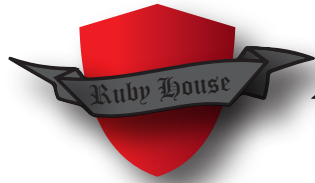
The following week, we celebrated 'Shrove Tuesday', much to the excitement of the Reception children. We used the cooking room upstairs and modelled how to make a pancake. Reception joined in with the mixing of the ingredients and of course tasted them (The best bit!). Chocolate spread was a firm favourite. Afterwards we talked about this in class and wrote the instructions in our writing books. Towards the end of the week we celebrated 'World Book Day'.

Children in Reception pulled out all the stops and their outfits were absolutely AMAZING! In class children listened to many stories including ones read to them by Year 7 students, created book marks in the creative work shop and made finger puppets for their own stories. A fun day had by all! During the third and fourth weeks of this half term the

dinosaurs returned! In P.E. with Mr Height children have been learning to move in different ways and in music we have used instruments such as 'tambourines' to stomp around like dinosaurs. In class we created 'junk-model' dinosaurs and took part in a 'dino-hunt' outside, using our counting skills to create tally charts. We also made shape dinosaurs practically, dinosaur fossils in playdough and skeleton dinosaurs using white paper straws.

As we near towards the end of this term we are beginning to notice signs of spring, discussing what we see outside and the changes that are occurring. In class we are observing daffodils and drawing them, talking about the different parts of a plant. To finish off this fun packed term we will be looking at Easter, why we celebrate it and making chocolate nests.

Armfield House System



At the beginning of the term, we launched our house system and it has grown to be the heartbeat of our academy. All staff and all students from nursery through to Year 7 have been split into five houses – Ruby House, Amethyst House, Citrine House, Emerald House and Sapphire house. Our houses are named after precious gemstones because this is how we view everyone who is part of our academy – unique, valuable and with the ability to radiate a room with their presence.

The ethos behind our new house system is to ensure that staff and students feel part of a team. We want our young people to develop their communication skills, improve their ability to overcome challenge with resilience and also accomplish things by leaning on the support of each other. Lead by a Head of House, each team has a newly-appointed student body comprising of two Captains, two supporting Ambassadors, two Charity Representatives and two Sports Captains. As well as presenting themselves as role models to their teams, these students are tasked with motivating fellow house members and increasing challenge participation – as well as ensuring their house wins as many points as possible.



Armfield Academy students can earn points in a variety of ways. Every Tuesday, they are encouraged to take part in a sporting house challenge at lunch time. Thus far, this has covered a range of physical activities from a 'tug-of-war' event to a footballing 'crossbar challenge'. Later in the working week, students can expect a competition from an academic subject. Recent challenges have involved a collage portrait task, a 'fruity' solar system scaling activity and a 'cake-off' competition. In an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, house results are then revealed in assembly – Harry Potter style!

To ensure our system reaches out positively to the community our academy serves, each house has chosen a local charity link and has been given the objective of raising as much money as possible during the academic year. Our students have already been visited by administrators from each charity and have developed working relationships with these organisations. We are very excited about future initiatives.



When students return after the Easter break, we will be introducing further ways in which house points can be obtained. Firstly, students will be awarded RAOK (random act of kindness) points if they are caught showing kindness within the academy. Secondly, pupils' Accelerated Reading data will be used to award bonus points at the end of every half-term. We would therefore like you to support our message that kindness and reading are important by instilling these concepts at home whenever and wherever you can.

