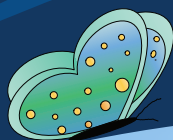




'An Academy to be Proud of'



Newsletter

Spring 2021



Our Friendship Bench
For kindness, conversation and laughter
please take a seat



Our Proud Moment



We are so excited that our highly anticipated friendship bench, envisioned by our Smart School Council, arrived just in time for the start of spring. Keeva, Jack, Oscar and Roxie organised a non-uniform day back in the Autumn Term to raise funds for their fantastic idea, which will help children who are feeling lonely at break times or need someone to play with. Thank you, families, for your generous donations helping our pupils to promote even more kindness in their school.

Inside Stories a bumper packed term!





Welcome to our Easter 2021 Newsletter. It is little over a year since I first wrote to you explaining that our school would be closing due to the global pandemic. At that time, I stated that there will be some challenges ahead, but, together, we will meet them 'head on' and nothing is insurmountable that collectively we cannot solve together; in the end we would come through this... and we are.

Since the very start, back in March 2020, we have worked together and we will continue to work together. We are solving the many issues that we face albeit one day at a time. Social distancing and lockdown are proving to be a challenge for everyone and I have every sympathy and admiration for all of you given the pressures placed upon parents and carers over the course of the last year and in particular the last few months. Hopefully, as we project forward the Prime Minister's 'Road Map', along with the gradual lifting of national restrictions, we can look forward to some semblance of normality. The staff and I are fully aware that it has been a difficult time for families and, in particular, our students - not to mention our younger children who struggle to really understand what is going on. One of the great joys over recent weeks has been seeing the students reacquaint with their friends and teachers and, of course, their learning in our classrooms not via a screen.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all personally. Your support for our staff in these unprecedented and challenging times has been unfailing; your kind words and countless messages to staff, changes to routines and schedules, 'Lockdown Learning' through the Virtual Learning Platform - all of which is in a landscape that is constantly changing at a national level. Despite reopening Armfield, our parents and carers have understood that school is far from normal with strict COVID restrictions, masks in the secondary, social distancing requirements all combining to create a very different environment. However, together we are getting there and it is my sincere hope that we will soon be able to relax our school restrictions and move further to getting the school back to where we were pre-lockdown in 2020, should the national guidance allow.



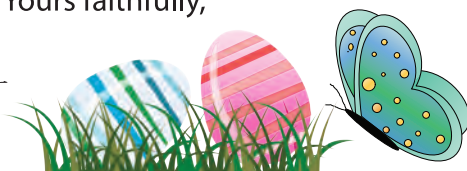
In the meantime, we will keep updating you through 'News You Can Use', ClassDojo and the school website. As we move towards the summer term we would like to schedule parental meetings for all our students and primary consultations have already taken place. We look to your patience and understanding as we organise them in such a way that is safe and within the framework of what is permissible at the present time. More to follow in due course.

Despite the challenges, we have continued to grow the school. We have made a number of outstanding appointments to the teaching staff for September 2021. In addition, parents and carers will be delighted to learn that Armfield Academy is oversubscribed for our fourth year of operation. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s and Reception children later in the year.

When the time is right I firmly believe that we need a period of reflection on the last twelve months. We do need to fully understand the impact on all our lives, our children, their education and what we can learn moving forward. We have all had to learn new skills in a very short space of time. We certainly have had to adapt and reimagine education. I am sure we would all agree that we have considerable work to do to ensure that our children make up the time lost in school whilst at the same time capitalising on the many new skills they will have developed via our on-line platforms and the work done with parents and carers over this period. We need to continue this dialogue and I really do welcome your thoughts and considerations.

Take care of you and yours, stay safe and please be kind to yourselves. Yours faithfully,

Mark Kilmurray



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



elf Day



On the last day of the Autumn term, Armfield Academy felt like we were at the North Pole as Santa's little helpers came for the day. As well as giving students an opportunity to embrace their inner elf, the feel throughout the school was one which felt like the normal, charitable Armfield, in a pre-Covid world. We were blown away with all students and staff who rose to the challenge, with outfits all looking amazing. It was a pleasure to walk around the whole school, seeing classes brimming with primary elves and many secondary elves who love the opportunity to be the best that they can. Dementia is a topic which is close to many of our hearts and we are delighted to say that, as a whole academy, we raised a very impressive total of £575 with a further £28.75 in gift aid. Thank you to all who donated to this event. We are very much looking forward to the next time we can sprinkle a bit of extra cheer into the Armfield community!



NURSERY



It has been almost one year since we entered our first national lockdown and what a lot we have learned!

Who knew that we would be able to directly beam into your homes to support the children's home learning? Who knew we had parents with super powers also? You and your families have all done such a marvellous job trying to manage the complexities of lockdown, ClassDojo and uploading photos and videos, home schooling, siblings, babies, puppies and your very own jobs too.



The resilient superstars of lockdown, though, were our remote learners. They were incredible and produced some fantastic work. Our favourite P.E lessons were with Jo Wicks, and Cosmic Kids Yoga was a big hit too. What flexible children you are! A lot of children enjoyed getting out in the fresh air and looking for signs of spring.

We were lucky enough to find a lot of ice in the nursery garden which sparked a lot of interest. We saw several of you zooming around your homes looking for 2D shapes and coloured items for collages too.

So many of you loved getting creative model making, printing with vegetables and also creating handprint pictures. One of our parents said she had never done as much arts and crafts in her life and has now become an avid collector of resources! The nursery team loved commenting on your Dojo posts and we didn't quite realise what a crafty lot of children you are!

All in all, and whilst keeping safe, you have impressed us with

The 'People Who Help Us' topic was a huge success and we saw some great fire engines that were made from recyclable materials. A couple of our children even had a visit from real police officers who talked to them about their job and the equipment they use.



your skills. Be it baking, counting, writing your name or constructing a huge tower made from cups! We can't wait to celebrate and reflect on all of this learning. We will also focus on the children's well-being and transition back into learning in school. As always, we welcome, nurture and care for your child and know they will enjoy being back in school with their friends and familiar routines.



Since we returned, Primary has launched the Armfield Daily Mile. The Daily Mile is a fully-inclusive, free and simple initiative which improves the physical and mental health of children. It's a social activity where the children run or jog, at their own pace, for 15 minutes every day and it improves focus in the classroom. We worked it out that to complete a mile we have to go around the playground and MUGA 16 times! We can do this! Children will take part in The Daily Mile along with their class teacher everyday.

New Look Primary Playground

The Primary playground had an amazing makeover during the Autumn half term. From early ideas to design to installation, we are so happy to see the project completed. We wanted open-ended floor markings that enable the children to create their own games. All staff are trained on how to best use the markings and support the children using them. This type of exercise helps to build stamina, resilience and team building skills whilst supporting the children's physical development. The design is called "Wolf and Black Widow" and the children have found themselves on an adventure by exploring the web-inspired tangled structures. The play apparatus is designed to strengthen children's coordination, balance and endurance as they use it. A path acts as an entry-exit point and the children have loved playing on their new outdoor play structure. Thank you to ESP Play for leading and supporting us every step of the way and for their workmanship and professionalism.



THE ARMFIELD WORLD BOOK DAY

We couldn't just let 'World Book Day' pass us by and what a fantastic day we had celebrating our love of reading. The Primary children took part in lots of wonderful activities and showed great enthusiasm. Our learners enjoyed creating their own story spoons, drawing their favourite story characters and sharing parts of their favourite stories to be included in the 'Guess my Book' competition. We had lots of fun and some received some fantastic videos of the children reading. Well done to the winners;

Early Years - Erin and Kloe
Year 1 - Zara
Year 2 - Amber

As well as the above activities throughout the week, the children took part in 'Are you a shared story reading star?' Children completed a number of different reading tasks including read in something silly, read to your pet and read in an unusual place. We were very sad not to have all the children together, but we will be sure to make next year even bigger and better!



How do you promote a love of reading and a passion for books when your students are in 'lockdown' and your library is closed? Well, the Secondary English department decided not to be deterred and promoted 'World Book Day' through its virtual learning platform – Google Classroom. When students woke up on Thursday 4th March, they found five competitions waiting for them to digitally engage with.



For those of a dramatic disposition, a book scene role play task was set. Using popular apps, such as Tik Tok, book-lovers were challenged to re-create a moment from their favourite book and video it with sound effects. We received some excellently-polished clips, from Matilda to Macbeth.

The Harry Potter fraternity and a real offering of tasks. If imagination was the order of the day, students could

design their own Harry Potter potions in an instruction and method task; for those who wanted to hone their non-fiction-writing skills, a letter of complaint activity about a faulty wand was an option and, for those of a persuasive nature, a chance to plead with Hogwarts management about moving houses from Slytherin to Gryffindor was available through a speech-writing challenge.

Fans of the TV show 'The Masked Singer' were posed with a slightly-different dilemma – 'The Masked Reader'. Teachers were 'emoji-ed' and had their voices distorted whilst reading extracts from classic children's literature – the students having to guess who was who. It was much harder than they envisaged. Quiz addicts within our Year 7, 8 and 9 cohorts were given the chance to pit their wits in two digital challenges – one themed on character silhouettes and the other on literature 'dingbat' puzzles. Students, now almost at expert level with regards to remote learning, used their Google Classroom accounts to send in their answers. While the day may not have been our usual celebration, especially with the absence of dressing up and being together as one at school, it still passed along successfully. The event coincided with our launch of the myOn.co.uk digital library platform, where our students read 3.4 million words in the opening week, amounting to 183 hours of e-reading. The English department was very pleased with this – as well as the general enthusiasm for 'World Book Day' – despite the challenges presented to reading by the pandemic.

myON
by Renaissance®



Virtual Art Exhibition


In Art and Design, we have entered our Year 7, 8 and 9 students into the Young Seaside Arts Exhibition 2021. This year we had to exhibit the artwork virtually due to Covid. Our winners were selected by Mr Evans and were Imogen from Year 7, and Pippa from Year 8. Well done girls!



Don't forget to view the exhibit at
www.blackpool.ac.uk/young-seasiders




Google Meet Helps to Keep Armfield Fit



The light at the end of the tunnel seems to be getting closer and it has been fantastic welcoming all of our students back into Armfield Academy. Our pupils have been excited to participate in practical physical education again, competing and playing alongside friends. The start-up of extra-curricular clubs has also been a joy for both teaching staff and students; we are now looking forward to continuing this into the summer months...

Since Christmas, our students have worked fantastically well on the work set through our online learning platform. Year 7 students have spent time researching rules and tactics around



some of the new sports they will be looking at upon their return, these include hockey and basketball. Miss Cairns has also taken Joe Wicks' job delivering more practical PE lessons through our virtual learning platform. Some of our key worker children helped Miss Cairns design and deliver some of these sessions, many showcasing their skills through the Google Meet platform.

Year 8 students have also been involved in some practical fitness training sessions; these have been delivered by Mr Height from his garden, which I would say is brave given the weather we have encountered! Year 8s have also completed some more theoretical work which has focused around our 'Head, Heart and Hands' curriculum.

As well as this, the PE department has teamed up with the science faculty in a national competition for our Year 8 and 9 students. This involves designing a healthy meal plan, ingredient list and recipe for a chosen athlete. We will see if any of our entries have made it into the final selection amongst other schools nationally...

Our Year 9 students have been linking their learning with elements of the Key Stage 4 option OCR Sports Studies. All of our Year 9 students were excited to choose their options upon their return to school - and have now had an insight into PE beyond Key Stage 3. As well as the online learning, our



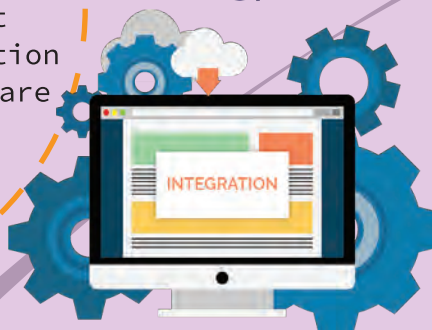
learners have been completing 'no screen time activities' to help get some time away from their respective devices. Mrs Sherwood and Mr Walters have also been delivering practical fitness sessions through the Google Meet platform.

We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our students back into the building and we are now excited for what the summer term will bring!



YEAR 9

In Year 9, we have been studying the unit 'Software and Hardware'. We have looked at different Operating Systems, application software and utility software as well as digital footprints and the way you can be portrayed online.



Year 7

In Year 7, we have been looking at using our IT skills to get creative and have now moved on to input and output devices.

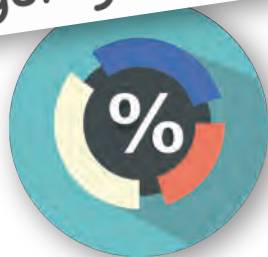
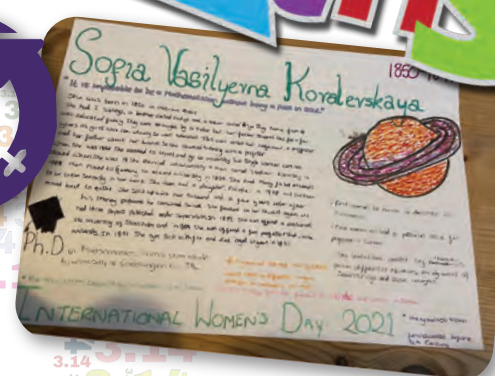


The Armfield maths department is extremely proud of the resilience and determination our pupils have shown, this term, after the majority of them were asked to complete their work remotely!

YEAR 7

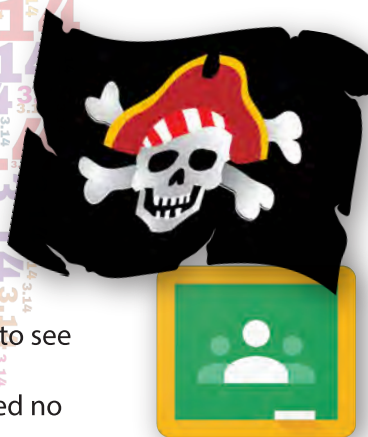
Our Year 7s have been continuing their lessons from home with live lessons, drop-in and feedback sessions every week. It's been great to see such hard work and commitment while studying negative numbers and solving equations. You can see some of this amazing work on the display board on the ground floor.

Last week, we celebrated International Women's Day, which resulted in some fantastic posters about famous female mathematicians and engineers.



YEAR 9

Our Year 9 pupils completed tasks on Google Classroom and Hegarty Maths - as well as attending live sessions. They covered topics and units they had never been introduced to before and met them with enthusiasm and maturity. As a reward, pupils were invited to an online Pirate Game on Google Meet during February half-term. It was great to see that, despite being at home, they remained competitive and showed the teachers involved no mercy when it came to walking the plank.



Students in Year 8 have covered several topics via our virtual learning platform, working really hard on both Google Classroom and Hegarty Maths. We have been really impressed with many of the students' efforts to excel in maths during lockdown.

As we have returned to school, learners in Year 8 have been studying percentages and are now completing a project based on real life percentages. In the project, the students are given a job role and a salary. They then make calculations and decisions about the rest of the aspects of their lives, such as which house they can afford/want, their monthly income after deductions, mortgage options and holidays. We are looking forward to seeing the finished projects!

YEAR 8

Pi Day

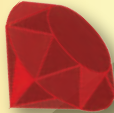
We celebrated 'Pi Day' by taking part in a house challenge along with some 'Pi Day' maths starters. Students had to memorise as many digits of pi as they could and then recall them. As well as individual winners in each form group, we had winning forms from each year group. Well done to all students who contributed significantly to your form score!

Google Classroom

YEAR 7



Our Year 7 students proved anything is possible with the Fantasy Writing scheme of work this term. Despite being unable to travel this year, students have transported themselves to magical forests bustling with life, coastal scenes with landmarks impossible to imagine and countries we wish could exist. As a class, we have gone on terrific adventures with Centaurs, Mermaids and heroic spider crossbreeds, all with one goal in mind- to find the lost gemstone.



After our 'Tulip Touch' scheme of work, we thought it was only right to give them the opportunity to put what they have seen into practice. We revisited important terminology such as: personification, similes, metaphors and, more significantly, tried to get into the habit of using them within our own work. As a class, we discussed the effect of weather, characters and settings as we began to dissect what made our favourite books so effective. This term, it was important that all students had the opportunity to enjoy what they write and have creative freedom over their work. Every aspect of the classwork is their own and this is something they should all be immensely proud of. Throughout every twist and turn that this term has had to offer, the Armfield class of 2020 has proven time and time again that their creativity and imagination is alive now more than ever. As for the honourable mentions, there are too many to name. However, here are just a few examples of what Year 7 has to offer. Well done to all!

Troops of goblins stormed the city walls and the crops were disturbed by the chariot wheels and large bare feet. They cut down trees with ease and started ramming them against the large, wooden gates of the city. This was a very unfortunate event for the town, as most of them were mere farmers. The remaining warriors ushered the townsfolk into a leftover bunker from the last war, it was a tight squeeze, but they all managed to huddle up. It was in perfect timing as well. As soon as the battered trap door closed down came the gates. Huge beasts with hideous claws marched their way to where the warriors were standing.

Brooms were lit once more and thrown at the creatures' heads, they melted in despair as their ashes became fertiliser to the grass. - Jessica, 7F

'The knight that had fallen was now a lost soul rummaging through the forest searching for revenge.' - Aliyah, 7F

Every man counted, every second counted, each breath counted... The Vikings prepared for battle, they sharpened their knives and clenched their fists. They covered themselves in mud for camouflage. The chanting of the Vikings echoed in the eerie atmosphere. They heard the trolls in the distance. Every breath intensifies. Feeling powerful, the Vikings turn around to see the trolls charging towards them. The ground started to shake and everything came down to this. The adrenaline pumped through their veins as they knew time had come - JP, 7A

It has certainly been a busy term in Year 8 English with lots of fantastic remote learning taking place, all themed around the topic of travel and employment. Students have been developing their non-fiction reading and writing skills and we began with an adventure on the world-famous Orient Express! Students conducted research into what it would be like to journey on this luxurious train and then wrote an imaginative review of their experience.

Following on from this, pupils then received an insight into the process of seeking employment by applying for a job as a steward/stewardess on board The Orient Express. Students considered the skills required for this particular role and were then tasked with filling in an application form, complete with a personal statement. The next step in the employment journey required students to write a formal letter of application and then, in the final part of the process, they had to imagine that they were attending a formal interview and imagined the types of 'open questions' they would be asked, and the answers they would need to give in order to be successfully appointed.



Wherever possible in English, we teach students literacy skills which will benefit them in the real world, and this topic has provided students with valuable experience which they will be able to use in the not-too-distant future when they come to apply for work or higher education.

The final part of our topic has focused on the use of rhetorical devices where students have been challenged to use language to persuade a reader to stay in a hellish hotel and analyse an advert attracting visitors to their hometown. The students have worked incredibly hard this term, in very difficult circumstances, and we are extremely proud of the resilience and commitment to learning which has been shown.

Year 9



'The Man Who Eats Road Kill!'... well if that didn't put you off your breakfast, lunch or evening meal, we're not sure what would! This was the title of the documentary that hooked our Year 9 students in this half-term as we embarked on our 'Non-Fiction Viewpoint Texts' scheme of work. Kicking off with the controversy surrounding the consuming of roadkill allowed students to really develop their own voice and opinions before exploring the importance of acknowledging counter arguments - no matter how strong their perspectives may be!

Moving through writing unit, Year 9 pupils have had the opportunity to develop their own viewpoint writing as well as acknowledging and analysing the opinions shared by others - notably those of famous faces and influential voices, such as Marcus Rashford and Barack Obama. Throughout the scheme of work, opportunities to hone in on a variety of sophisticated writing skills and techniques has seen their work flourish. If you are the parent/carer of a Year 9 student, ask your child what 'hypophora' is... Oracy and the power of speech has added another dimension to the learning this term; offering students an outlet to share and rant about current affairs and community conflict - all vital life skills and communicative strategies that students will find beneficial across other subject and curriculum areas. We strongly suggest that Year 9 students should now come with a warning: Approach with caution and armed with skills for debate... if you dare!

Spring is a time for new initiatives, and in the MFL department at Armfield we have certainly enjoyed developing our online curriculum this Spring Term. We are so impressed by how well many of our students have engaged throughout the half term, learning about the French education system in Year 7, daily routine and food in Year 8, and exploring education and future plans in Year 9. Students have been joining us for live lessons, accessing content pre-recorded by their class teachers, and, most importantly, getting competitive in our weekly slot of French bingo. 'LOTO!'



Languages for Life

As Year 9 were hurtling towards their Options ahead of Key Stage Four, the MFL curriculum provided the opportunity to explore future careers that language learning can offer. In their lessons, students produced 'Where Languages Could Take Me' fact files. Mrs Bunker delivered an assembly exploring the benefits of language learning for future aspirations. One recent job advertisement that particularly piqued the interest of many was for a Family Communications Officer for Man United! During National Careers Week, which took place during the first week of March, all secondary students learned from two former Blackpool students, who are now employing their languages to great effect in their successful careers in China and Germany.

Culture Boost

Alongside exploring aspects of Francophone culture within their curriculum topics, we seized the opportunity to boost cultural awareness by celebrating La Chandeleur. Lessons were prepared, recipes were shared, and were delighted to see students' results. We have some expert crêpe makers at Armfield!



Un Grand 'Merci!'

We would like to thank all of our students for their fantastic attitudes to learning during this term. Your perseverance, resilience and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and nor have your good manners and patience with staff and your peers.

La Rentrée

We have loved welcoming you back into school – and just in time to celebrate La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie on 20th March, which celebrates the cultures and lifestyles of all French-speaking countries. To acknowledge your hard work during this second rentrée, we are launching an MFL rewards competition. Two students from every French class in Years 7-9 will be selected for a reward in light of their enthusiasm and commitment. They will receive prizes for their efforts on the final day before we break up for Easter.



Going Global

One of the most exciting initiatives of this half term was taking part in an international poetry recitation competition. This involved students working incredibly hard on their pronunciation and delivery of a poem assigned by the competition convenors. We are delighted to share that seven entries from Armfield are being put forward to the competition final on 26th March, competing with students from all over the world, including countries such as Russia, Dubai and Jordan.

ARMFIELD GEOGRAPHY



Year 7

We have been looking at the chocolate industry and how the beans are grown and then turned into chocolate bars for us to eat!!

Year 8

This term we have studied ecosystems across the world and how they work and what can be found in them.

Year 9

Our Year 9 students have been looking at the link between war and Geography – some interesting facts.

FACT

Contrary to what people may think the Easter Islands are not made of chocolate and filled with Easter rabbits, but is a volcanic island near South America.



We've been getting busy in...

SCIENCE

Our budding scientists have continued to blow us away this term, despite the majority of the time being through remote learning. Staff have listened to feedback and adapted whilst learning new skills. We have been incredibly proud of the hard work which the vast majority of the students have inputted despite the challenging circumstances.

Over the term, our Year 7s have been learning about cells and energy. Year 8 students learnt about the body and how we can keep it healthy, including how we gain energy from our food. The Year 9 cohort has been revisiting two topics from Year 7 (atomic structure and energy) as a starting point and then building upon their knowledge to understand the key points of chemistry and physics.

The science team is very competitive and, as a result, have been seeking out multiple opportunities to enter both local and national competitions. Before Christmas Year 7 and 8 students designed scientific Christmas cards with the top 3 going forward to be judged against other schools that form the Ogden Trust Partnership of the North West. Fingers crossed for some top placings again this year! Miss House has led on two opportunities, with our top entries being forwarded to Baylab as part of their national competitions. The first challenged students to think about healthy and balanced diets. Run in collaboration with the PE department, students were tasked to design a healthy meal.

The
Ogden
Trust



Drawing on their knowledge of the heart and body systems, we have been wowed with menus which would not be out of place in Michelin starred restaurants. All secondary students have been tasked with designing their own lab coat. We have been blown away with the standard of the entries and selecting the top 5 from each class became an incredibly hard task. These have all been entered and are hopeful that we will win the overall competition, the school prize being a class set of lab coats!

Over the Christmas break, we had 2am Designs come and install the artwork which our amazing technicians have been working hard on. Bespoke to our school, the science corridor now allows students to take a journey through space with information about each part of the solar system. Coinciding with the physics topic of space, we hope to inspire the next generation of astronomers and astronauts! To follow up on this, as part of careers week, we tasked all students in the department to think outside the box and discover STEM based careers which they might previously not have known about. We have been excited to help students discover the wide and diverse jobs which are available and help inspire them to follow dreams and aspirations.

We have been provided with excellent video resources from our local links. The Ogden Trust in partnership with Lancaster University and Future U have recorded some



exceptional video material to support the development of the physics curriculum and also a range of videos for our primary students to watch. These videos use equipment which we do not currently have in school and form part of the travelling roadshow, which we have hosted previously. We are excited to start using these in class when appropriate. One of our local colleges, Blackpool and Fylde, has recorded videos of some exciting practical techniques where they hope to support learners who may not have had access to the school laboratories over the last few months. They have given us permission to share the link if you would like to watch and discuss with your children. Please note, some of the content may not have been covered so far in school with all year groups.

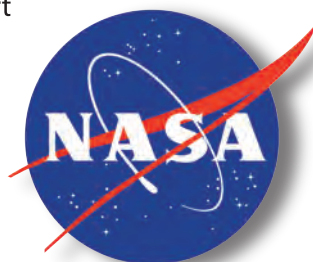
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR5AVZehwFgLn_POPBIZHZL2OJ44ewyAk



Friday 5th March saw the start of Science Week. The theme for this year is innovation for the future. This week coincided perfectly with the students returning into school and face to face teaching. As a department, we have looked at

global events and ideas to inspire whilst challenging our young minds. Students in years 7 and 8 were given a task to complete, direct from NASA! As Perseverance landed on Mars, this has sparked them to start thinking about how we could colonise the planet, with the main concern being how food would be produced. Students were asked to carry out an investigation into the factors which affect the growth of plants, with a focus on the colour light which the plants received.

Carefully watering each plant with the same amount of water each day, students have nurtured their plants and taken precise measurements of their daily height. Across the class and indeed the department, results and findings were shared and an individual report back to NASA was produced. Year 9 students were welcomed back with a CSI task. A body had been found in



Salterstown University. Due to the amount of call outs the team had recently received, the police asked for Armfield Academy's help. Not one to turn down a

challenge, we accepted, so received multiple samples from the crime scene for analysis. Students have been judged on both their teamwork skills and the quality of their written reports and successfully managed to crack the case.

