



'An Academy to be Proud of'

# Newsletter

Summer 2019

Welcome to  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Main Entrance

Welcome children

later

# We are Proud to be Armfield

Since charity fundraising began at the end of January, Armfield Academy has raised a jaw-dropping £2,082.79 in aid of our five houses and their partner charities. Sapphire House has raised £903.51 in aid of Blue Skies Hospital Fund. Amethyst House raised £387.30 in aid of Street Life. Citrine House raised £314 in aid of Blackpool Young Carers. Ruby House raised £267.10 in aid of RSPCA. Finally, Emerald House raised £210.88 in aid of Trinity Hospice. Thank you to all of our exceptional students, parents, carers and members of the local community that have supported Armfield's charity efforts!

**Inside Stories** ..... a bumper packed third term!







Dear Parents/Carers,  
As we draw to the end of our first academic year, I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your

incredible support during our first year. Armfield Academy's has achieved a tremendous amount during our inaugural year.

Our success has been achieved through a combination of our staff, working closely with you, our parents and carers to really get the very best from our students, your sons and daughters, whom we are so proud of. All of our students, our reception children, soon to be Year 1s together with our soon to be Year 8s who continually, day in day out strive for high standards in their work, their attendance, their punctuality, their uniform and their behaviour. Most notably, we are a reading school and the standards, combined with the level of improvement across each phase has been remarkable. Your children are an absolute delight, a credit to your good selves and to our academy. Collectively, your sons and daughters have achieved over 80,000 praise points; you read that correctly... over 80,000 praise rewards for effort and attainment over the course of the academic year.

As you are undoubtedly aware our staff and students have got involved in countless activities including national events, charity work and various sporting competitions outside the classroom; to name but a few, our Year 7 girls football team won the Blackpool Interschools Competition, a fitting accolade

for Armfield; Jimmy would have been very proud... within the mixed indoor interschools athletics championship we came first and went on to represent Lancashire, which resulted in a 6th place overall; we came 2nd in the Blackpool Girls Netball and Basketball and our boys won the Blackpool Table Tennis Championship, who then went onto the Lancashire finals, finishing 4th overall. Our Code Club entered the Blackpool Robotics competition and we finished 2nd and received a cheque for £750 for the school, which is a tremendous achievement. In terms of fund raising, our students can be rightly proud of all the random acts of kindness they have done together with the considerable monies they have raised for local good causes; further details herein this summer newsletter.

I'm confident you would agree that Conlons, our building contractor, has delivered an amazing school ahead of schedule, for which we are truly grateful. However, we still have much to do. Over the summer we will be preparing the new buildings, fitting out the classrooms and building upon our experience in the primary school, which as you will appreciate will need to be returned to a fully operational primary/nursery facility. These are operational matters that the senior team and I will manage. Most importantly, from the perspective of the students and parents the bond and work ethic we have created must continue, especially as we grow and our youngsters mature. In this regard, we should make no apologies for our collective high standards. We will continue to focus on the quality of lessons and how our teaching delivers real learning in the classroom with continuous progress and achievement for each and every Armfield student.

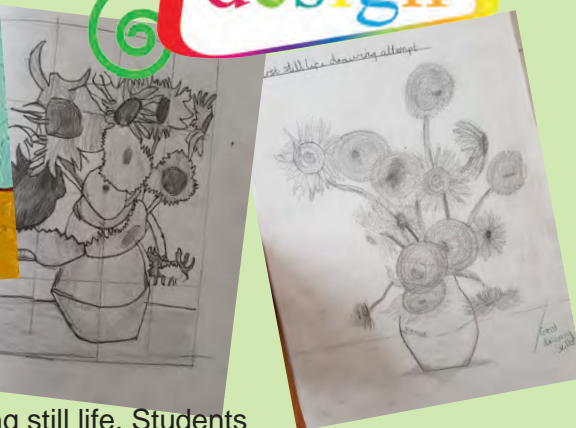
I thank you in advance for your support, especially with respect to 'prep', which will be regular and must be completed on time. As parents know, we ask the students every day, 'Why are We Here?', to which the students collectively reply with a clap and a stamp of their feet 'TO LEARN!', 'Why'... 'TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE', and we most certainly are. We welcomed our new Year 7 cohort recently and it was your sons and daughters, our soon to be Year 8s who championed 'The Armfield Way', reciting our mantra repeatedly, welcoming them into our amazing school. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 students, especially our new reception and nursery children who will be joining us at the start of the new term.

**We will finish for the Summer holidays at 3:05PM on Friday 19th July 2019. Armfield Academy will reopen on Thursday 29th August at the normal time.** Students are welcome to arrive from 8:00AM where they can take advantage of the free breakfast. Students are expected to be at their new muster station, in their new school, in full school uniform, wearing appropriate footwear at 8:45AM, ready to be in form for a prompt 8:50AM start; ready to learn. Staff will be on hand to direct them as appropriate.

Once again, on behalf of all the staff at Armfield Academy, I thank you for your continued support and I trust you will have a good summer.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Kilmurray



In art, we have been studying still life. Students have had a go at a real life drawing session, drawing still life objects placed in the room. We have looked at how to use a grid to create accurate and realistic drawings. We have studied Van Gogh's paintings and even had a go at our own versions! The year 7s have shown some excellent drawing skills this half term and I am excited to see their skills develop into year 8!

In DT this term, the year 7s have been busy learning all about food technology and have done some great baking in our brand new kitchens!

We have learnt all about food hygiene and what we should be eating to keep a healthy and balanced diet. Students have designed their own recipe book full of the recipes that they have used this term so that they can try it again at home. This term we have made fruit salad, scones, cookies and flapjack!







# Maths

Pupils enjoyed working with Blackpool & Fylde College when they came to Armfield to deliver a 'Trading Trainers' session. They were required to work in teams to design a trainer logo then produce as many trainers as they could to sell, while keeping an eye on the market price which changed weekly. Teams also had the opportunity to purchase more resources and gain rewards for keeping a 'tidy shop'.

Individual qualities shone as pupils displayed fantastic business skills including leadership, marketing, strategy and sales. They particularly liked the imitation money which made it feel more realistic and gave them an extra incentive.

Chloe, Christian, Liam and Ruby represented Armfield in the Year 7 Blackpool Maths Challenge achieving a very impressive second place, losing by the very small margin of only 2 points. They showed great team work and mathematical thinking across five rounds of problem solving activities. Well done to you all!!

## Sports REPORT

PE & Sport at Armfield Academy this year has been extremely busy with a variety of sports participated in extra curricular clubs, fixtures and Blackpool Youth Games.



### Lancashire County Table tennis Finals - Wednesday 8th May (Garstang)

Boys won the Lancashire schools cup at South Shore to get through to the finals and came up against some brilliant teams from around the County. The boys battled hard and were constantly improving as the day went on.



- 3rd overall at the girls tag
- rugby girls competition
- Y7 town sports overall 2nd (1pt separated 1st&2nd)

- BYG boys Indoor climbing 2nd
- BYG boys dodgeball 4th
- Girls football 1st place
- Girls rounder's 2nd place



### Blackpool School Games 2019

Lots of competitions for our children this term! Well done to everybody who competed in girls rounders, boys dodgeball, boys foot golf, boys climbing and mixed athletics. An ever bigger well done for our girls football team who won our first trophy at Armfield Academy - Year 7 and 8 school games champions!

### Girls Tag rugby Comp - Fleetwood Rugby club

Coming 3rd overall, all the girls worked very hard and showed great team togetherness. Being there first time playing tag rugby as a team outside of school quickly came together to be one of the best teams on the day.

Both girls and boys have represented Armfield Academy in lots of different sports. The success from the students comes down to resilience, commitment and hard work before, during and after school. We also made history with our first all through academy sports day which was won by Ruby House (lower phase) & Sapphire House (upper Phase). Our sporting success at Armfield has been outstanding and we aspire to continue on this trajectory as we move into the next academic year.



# SCIENCE

Wow! What a spectacular first year we have had! Despite not having access to laboratories, I hope that you will agree that our young scientists have not missed out this academic year, undertaking a variety of investigations, learning key concepts and practically experiencing the wonders of science. We are all now looking forward to expanding our practical work, particularly using the Bunsen burners in September.

During science lessons this term, we have been particularly impressed when students completed the Mojo Island task. After learning about renewable energy resources, students were challenged to provide electricity to a small island off the coast of Africa. Not only were they able to justify their electricity choice, students also drew cross curricular links from their growing presentation skills which they had recently learned in English lessons and successfully applied these to their work. Students have spent several lessons investigating acids and alkalis. Completing lots of practical work, we have tested household substances with a variety of indicators and investigated different ways to make neutral salts. Lots of keen meticulous chemists in the making!



On Friday 26th April, Mrs Hall and Mr Bache were delighted to take 4 students to the Salters Festival of Chemistry hosted by Lancaster University. Our students were competing against 7 other schools in two challenges, one set by the Salters Institute and the other Lancaster University. Students carried out work for the first time in a full laboratory and used techniques learned in the classroom to solve problems. In the afternoon, as the judging took place, we were able to watch some exciting demonstrations about the air, including some with dry ice and liquid nitrogen! Although we did not achieve a top 3 place in either of the challenges this year, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being at a university and are looking forward to next years event.



## Welcome to Armfield

The Ogden Trust

We were delighted to host the first Ogden Trust workshop of the year on Monday 13th May. Year 7 students spent an hour in the hall watching and interacting with different demonstrations and listening to degree level students talking about their research. This has been hosted in conjunction with Lancaster University and we are grateful for their support in boosting engagement with science further. The partnership also holds competitions which we have entered at different points of the year. We are delighted to have had so many winners from Armfield Academy across all the schools who took part from Wyre and the Fylde Coast. From Year 7, Ellen, Alfie and Chloe were invited to an awards evening where they picked up trophies and certificates. Special awards were also given to our scientists of the year on the evening where they also enjoyed a lecture from Professor Steve Rossington. A huge well done to our Reception Scientist of the Year - Mason, KS3 Chemist of the Year - Tom and KS3 Physicist of the Year - Jamie. The science team are incredibly proud of you all!





Through the Ogden Trust partnership, we were able to take 48 students to visit the travelling planetarium on Friday 5th July. Students were taken on a journey to the moon to celebrate 50 years since the first moon landing and learnt more about the technology which took them there. Once they had finished learning about the universe, students were taught how to identify the many constellations within our night sky and a bit about their history. Our students, as always, came up with intelligent questions and showed their desire to further their current understanding, whilst critically analysing the concept of space travel. After an hour in the inflatable planetarium, all students were invited to participate in small physics practicals, which were hosted by students from both Lancaster University and Blackpool Sixth Form College. A 'hair raising' time was had by many (including some staff) when learning about static electricity on the Van der Graaf generator!

Mrs Hall cannot wait to get our own in school. We are extremely grateful to the local Ogden Trust partnership for the experience, which many students have cited as their best trip to date.



Eco club started after Easter with the help of Mrs Cramer, Mr Bentley and Mrs Hall. We have a core group of students who are determined to make a difference to the environment. Split into 3 groups, we are working on projects which will hopefully make a difference to not just our school setting but the environment as a whole.

The first group are working on sustainability and tackling issues around the school site. Another group is working on building an outdoor classroom and reflective area for our early years and KS1 students to use, hopefully with raised vegetable beds and full of sensory plants. The final group has been researching and designing how to build a natural pond which we will allow to mature and then the whole school can use the facility to study as part of Ecology lessons in science. It will be interesting to track the changes to the wildlife in the pond as it matures over the coming years.

We appreciate that these projects are long term and are looking forward to making a lasting impact on Armfield Academy which will be of benefit to those who follow in our footsteps.

We will be fundraising for equipment over the next academic year and would be immensely grateful if you are having a clear out and would like to donate any gardening tools and/ or appropriate plants.



On the back of the International Women's Day Festival, which we attended in March, our role model, Kate Shane, very kindly invited us to have a breakfast meeting with herself in the iconic Tower Ballroom on Friday 3rd May. Kate then escorted the girls to the top of the tower where a few conquered their fears of heights, even managing to get to the highest possible point, 401 feet above sea level! After they had looked over the bay, the 16 girls were able to visit Madame Tussauds and The Sealife Centre. From the variety of events these young ladies have been able to attend, their self confidence and resilience has increased. Most importantly, this has been applied in the classroom and I very much look forward to seeing them further develop into strong women.



Please do follow our adventures and learning on twitter @armfield\_sci

Our young historians have had an exceptional end to the year, with approximately 92.5% of students currently working on-track or above in relation to their target grade. This statistic is testament to their hard-work, dedication and commitment throughout the year; Mr Renouf and Miss Blackburn could not be more proud of their emerging skills and knowledge as our first year together draws to a close. The last term has seen the department explore religious turmoil in Tudor England, the glorified defeat of the Spanish Armada by Elizabeth I's forces and the emergence of the Stuart Dynasty, including: the Gunpowder Plot, the increasing danger of witchcraft and witch trials, the English Civil War and the eventual execution of King Charles II!

Mr Renouf will be looking to appoint History Heroes to help our new Year 7 cohort transition smoothly into their study of KS3 history. Students will

begin the new year with a study of slavery through time, with a specific focus on Trans-Atlantic slavery. Have a relaxing and well-deserved summer break, don't forget to receive departmental updates via our Twitter page (@ArmfieldHistory).





As a part of Code Club, this year we entered a competition for Lego Mindstorms. The idea of this competition was to build a robot and use it to complete a set of challenges. Some of these challenges required coding and others required the robot to be remotely controlled using infrared.

On the 28th June, we took two teams to Blackpool and the Fylde College to compete against 6 other teams who had students in year 7, 8 and 9. Both of Armfield's teams performed beyond expectations, under pressure and against students who were older and had more experience.



Despite this, one of our teams (Sir Stevemman III) managed to place 2nd, winning £750 for the computer science department, a trophy for themselves and a Love2shop voucher each!

All of the students have put in hours of their own time in order to make the day a success and they have represented the school fantastically.



## Nur sery

The nursery children have had a very busy term. They have learnt even more about farm animals and tasted some delicious ice-cream on their trip out to Old Holly Farm.

Watching caterpillars morph into butterflies as part of their topic on Life Cycles was captivating for them and recently they visited the Blackpool Sea Life Centre to learn even more amazing facts

about sea creatures! Did you know that an octopus has 3 hearts? Our children do! Congratulations are also in order as 3 of our Nursery children's artwork has been displayed in the FCAT offices. We even had a trip out to see the pictures and meet the lovely staff too.

We wish the nursery children and their families a lovely summer break and look forward to welcoming some of you back in August. For those children whom are due to start 'Big School', we wish you lots of luck and know that with your passion and enthusiasm for learning, you will thrive just as you have at Armfield. It has been an honour and privilege to get to know and teach such superstars! Dream big and shine bright.

The Nursery Team



## Rece ption

What a year it has been in reception class. Over the year the children have learnt new skills in reading, writing and maths and made lots of new friends. We have been on a visit to Old Holly Farm, where we observed first hand the milking process and spend some time in the milking shed where we handled the equipment and learn't about how it is used.

During the summer term some caterpillars arrived in the post and we watched them turn into Tortoiseshell butterflies. When they had been in the net for a few days we set them free in the Reception garden. Our favourite experience of the year was when five duck eggs hatched into ducklings. We had 5 beautiful noisy ducklings to look after and we were even able to watch them enjoying a bath and splashing around in the water. We have enjoyed performing our end of year assemblies for our parents and families where we shared all our learning our favourite time in reception and sang our favourite songs. The last few weeks have been spent talking about and preparing the children for their transition to year one. We are all very proud to be the first ever reception class at Armfield Academy. Happy Summer everyone.

Keep up to date with school life  
Follow our Twitter account @armfieldFCAT





# House Challenges



What a year! 40 house challenges, 15 'principal puzzles', 28.8 million words read, 11 charity events, £2082 raised, a Sports Day spectacular... need we go on? Our amazing house system concluded on Monday when our various winners were announced in the end-of-year 'Champions' Assembly'.



Amethyst House  
'Members of the Year':  
Callum B (Y7),  
Mollie (Y7)  
& Kason  
(Reception)



Citrine House  
'Members of the Year':  
George (Y7),  
Raihana (Y7)  
& Libby  
(Reception)



Emerald House  
'Members of the Year':  
Ethan (Y7),  
Masie (Y7)  
& Mason  
(Reception)



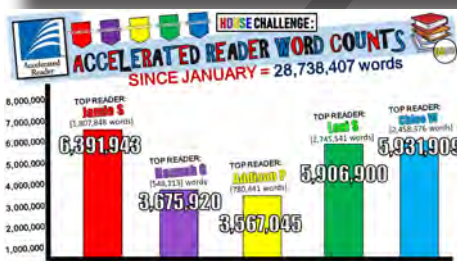
Ruby House  
'Members of the Year':  
Jamie (Y7),  
Maisy (Y7)  
& Harper  
(Reception)



Sapphire House  
'Members of the Year':  
Kieran (Y7),  
Ella N (Y7)  
& Roxie  
(Reception)



## ARMFIELD HOUSE FUNDRAISING TOTALS



One of the many challenges when setting up a new school is establishing specific learning cultures and attitudes towards self-development. As Armfield Academy moves forward, a spotlight on two areas of our literacy objectives will move forward with it and grow – the school's reading culture and the development of students' vocabulary.

Since January, all Year 7 pupils have embarked on the Accelerated Reader programme. The core aims of this initiative are to motivate each pupil to increase their reading diet and to develop both their vocabulary range and comprehension skills. With a strong focus on independent reading, it has been the academy's intention to use Accelerated Reader to enhance enthusiasm for reading, given the proven link between strong reading ability and academic success.

It is pleasing to report that, since the Armfield Academy's involvement with Accelerated Reader at the turn of the year, our secondary cohort has, collectively, read over 1,850 books and nearly 28.8 million words. As a result, a number of students' reading ages have developed by one year or more and the year group's average reading age has progressed by 8 months (beyond expected development). This has been a huge effort – and one which could not be achieved without students, form tutors, English teachers and parents/carers working in tandem.

However, research has shown that July and August are the two months in the calendar year when young people read fewer books and for a lesser period of time – despite having more free time and opportunity. Often, without the positive messages and encouragement from schools during the summer holidays, children read less and, as a result, their reading development falters or stagnates. Therefore, we ask you, as parents/carers, to maintain the strong and successful reading culture we have established this year. During the summer break, whether it be at home, on holiday or whenever your child says 'I'm bored!', we implore you to 'keep the reading ball rolling' by providing opportunities for your son/daughter to read and motivating them (and rewarding them) when they do so.

Suggestions are already being taken on how to make next year's house competition even better.

The work of William Shakespeare is of huge significance in British culture. The influence of The Bard's imagination, his metaphors and his plays' themes are as telling today as they were when his stories were performed at the Globe Theatre in the 1500s.

This term, Year 7 pupils at Armfield Academy have studied one of Shakespeare's most famous narratives – 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Before embarking on their analysis of this enchanting tale of love, tradition and calamity, they conducted research about the time period Shakespeare took his inspiration from. They explore patriarchy, sexism, attitudes to love and the hierarchy of power within Elizabethan society.

Once students were familiar with the contextual issues which underpinned this era, they read the play and became lost in the magical world of Puck, Oberon, Titania and the rest of the forest's fairy kingdom. To stretch and challenge each learner, lessons focused on the impact of soliloquies, the dominance of a male character through imperative verbs and monosyllabic word structures – and also the use of figurative language devices to express emotion.

After a rigorous series programme of study, the Year 7 pupils undertook their first ever end-of-year English literature exam, writing an extended essay-style response which will set them in good stead for their future examinations. As a reward for their efforts in what was an (often) intense unit of work, pupils ended the term with a drama activity – performing a TV advert where they attempted to 'sell' the love potion featured in the early scenes of the play. Each performance was original and persuasive; the students had great fun expressing themselves.



EnGLISH