

13th July 2018



Success nothing

Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again we reach the end of a really busy and very successful year at Aspire. There are many highlights of this academic year far too many to mention in full. However, some are so momentous that they need to be shared. Four young scientists from Aspire received prestigious awards from the Ogden trust in recognition for their excellence in Science. We are very proud of these students but to have them recognised by such a prestigious charitable organisation as the Ogden Trust is something very special indeed. This is testament not only to the students' ability and hard work but in our drive to raise our academic standards. Patrick Lancaster received the Ogden Trust Award for Physicist of the year. This was presented to him in a ceremony at Lancaster University. Kai Maddocks won both the Key Stage 3 Physics Award and the Physics Particles Project Award for his outstanding subject knowledge in this area. Michael Lakeman received the Key Stage 4 Physics Award and Matthew Taylor the Key Stage 3 Chemistry Award. I cannot wait to see how bright these stars will shine in the future, their future surely looks to be **GOLDEN!**

Continuing the science theme, our STEM club took part in the Lego-Mindstorm robotics challenge. The robot had to complete various challenges such as following a line autonomously, picking 'fruit' from a tree and moving it to specific places depending on the colour of the it, navigating a maze, stacking blocks into a tower and scoring goals on a miniature football pitch! The team came a well-deserved second.

The History faculty took their first trip to the battlefields of the Somme with a group of year 9 and 10 budding historians. They laid a wreath at the memorial of 'The Missing' on behalf of Aspire. The visit was a huge success, the students were exemplary and they are now planning a trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz, watch this space!

Students in year 9 prepared from scratch a buffet including homemade vol au vents, scones with cream and strawberries and fish cakes. Parents joined them to enjoy the fruits of their labour, it was delicious. Next time we hope that more parents can join in the celebration.

Our Art department have worked with year 8 and the Blackpool Sixth Form to produce a beautiful sculpture of a bird made out of copper. It is currently on display in Lytham Art Gallery and we are looking forward to having back at school so that we can all enjoy it.

Sports Day was a tremendous success with over 400 of our students taking an active role. The day culminated with a staff versus student relay race, where the staff were well and truly beaten by our talented year 10 students. Better luck next time old timers!

Aspire summer show was the best yet. *The Magic of the Musicals* was a massive hit with the students, parents and staff that supported us. Over 400 people came to watch, our biggest audience to date. I am eagerly awaiting the next extravaganza that Miss Mackay has in store, it will be on the 13th December so make a note in your diary!

Students from Year 7 and 8 took part in a spelling bee with all local Secondary Schools, we are delighted that this year we came a close 2nd, next year the top spot will be ours! However, the staff did

come first in their competition (I should think so too!).

Mrs Taylor, Miss Morgan and Mr Brown took our Debating Team from year 9 to the regional competition in Manchester with a large number of schools across the North West. Excitingly, we came first in one of our debates and runners up in the other two. This was our in our very first debating competition and I am hoping that we will continue to take part and do even better next year.

The GCSE examination period went without hitch and the conduct throughout was fantastic. We could not have asked for more and we are wishing them all the best with their results and their future plans.

Our **GOLDEN** hour model has permeated throughout the academy and students are now working hard on harder work to ensure they achieve 'success, nothing less'. We recognise that increasing the challenge of the work requires students to apply themselves without distraction and so we have introduced silence is **GOLDEN**. Whenever students are working independently, they work in silence so that they can concentrate totally on their work. This has been exceptionally successful and we look forward to the next addition to our **GOLDEN** hours.

The **GOLDEN** culture at Aspire continues to underpin everything we do and I am so proud of all the students that have earned their bronze, silver, gold and even purple **GOLDEN** culture badges this year. 493 students alone have received bronze awards which is 79% of the school! A further 369 have received their silver and 213 their gold badge. I am thrilled to see the young people wearing all their badges with pride. The introduction of GULP (give up loving pop) has been tremendously successful and students are drinking more water and other healthier alternatives as a result; surely this can only be a good thing?

Please can I remind you this summer, when you go out to buy school shoes, that they **must** be black shoes, not trainers and that the length of skirts needs to be no higher than just above the knee. If students are wearing socks they **must** be black only and **to the knee**, not above the knee. An increasing number of students have been misplacing ties, so could I suggest a spare tie and the ties to be clearly labelled with the student's name.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 20th July at 1:20pm - School closes for summer

Thursday 23rd August – GCSE results day

Wednesday 29th August at 8:40am - School re-opens for the start of term

Monday 3rd September to Wednesday 5th September – Residential trip for Year 7 to Anglesey

Tuesday 18th September – Photographs for Year 7 and any new starters

Thursday 27th September 3:30pm to 5:30pm - Year 7 settling in parents meeting

Tuesday 2nd October - School closes at 1:20pm for Open Evening

Thursday 15th November – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd November – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 26th November – Pre Public Exams start for Year 11

We are all looking forward to well-deserved summer break so that we can recharge our batteries for the beginning of the next fabulous academic year at Aspire. I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing holiday and remind you we start back on **Wednesday 29th August!**

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown
Principal