



Ash Villa School Newsletter

Lincolnshire County Council



Address: Ash Villa School, Willoughby Road, Greylees, Sleaford NG34 8QA

Tel: 01529 488066

Email: enquiries@ashvilla.lincs.sch.uk

Website: www.ashvilla.lincs.sch.uk

A warm welcome to our first newsletter of the 2017/18 school year.

It has certainly been a very busy term with many visits and events taking place alongside the day-to-day work in school. We have had visiting tennis, football and dance coaches, trips to musicals and sailing to name but two and visitors to school speaking about various religions and inspirational speakers.

This term the school has held two fundraising events - a Macmillan Coffee Morning and Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who supported them and also to the staff and students for their hard work organising them both.

This newsletter is also the first opportunity I have to comment on our Ofsted inspection which took place in July, after the summer term newsletter had been written. The school received a grading of Outstanding, a wonderful achievement and reflection of all the hard work that the governors, staff and students put into the school to make it what it is.

Throughout this term I have been so impressed by our students, both in the work they produce and their conduct in school with staff, on trips and also with visitors to the school. Our students deserve great credit for what they achieve at a time of personal challenge.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors of Ash Villa School, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

Leigh Bentley, Headteacher

Terms 1 and 2

We are pleased to announce that the students listed below have received an achievement award for consistent work and behaviour during the Autumn term. Congratulations to you all for your sustained effort in school.

Rose, Amber, Imogen x3, Chiara x3, Elodie x4, VK, Amber, Charleigh, Jack, Hannah.

Christmas Baking

This year our students have again made a spectacular Christmas cake. This process started back in October with the final decorations being added in early December. In addition the students have been busy creating a range of Christmas bakes including custard crumble mince pies and maids of honour.

Mrs Raeburn, Class Teacher.



Football

Recently on Friday afternoon at Ash Villa School a lady called Michelle



Marshall from Lincolnshire Football Association has been coming to play football with us. The session have included doing warm ups with the footballs, playing mini games and participating in small matches with each other. It has been a really good experience and lots of fun for everyone involved. I am very grateful for this activity being on offer and I hope there are more sessions to come.

Charleigh, Year 11.



Macmillan

On 29th September Ash Villa School arranged a



Macmillan coffee morning. The students worked hard to bake lots of cakes and biscuits. We also decorated the room and set out all the cakes as well as our amazing show stopper Victoria sponge. On the day there were games and a raffle (which had lots of fabulous prizes). Everyone had a lot of fun and participated including the doctors, governors and admin staff. It was a lovely day and we raised just over £200 which is an amazing amount for a small school like Ash Villa School. Elodie, Year 12.



Volunteering

This term we have made memory boxes for the residents at St Andrews Care Home. I made a box for Tony. He likes motorbikes so I decorated it with lots of different pictures of motorbikes for him to look at. I hope this reminds him of the days he used to ride his own motorbikes. In another session with Steph from the volunteer centre we did some 'micro-volunteering'. This is where you can give up some of your time by creating something that is for someone else, similar to the memory boxes. This time we created Halloween themed art for children that are terminally ill in hospital as part of the Post Palls scheme. The aim of this was to make the child smile for a few moments, it was nice to give up my time to make someone else a bit happier.

VK, Year 11.



The Big Draw

On Friday 20th October a group of our students spent the day at Newark Aviation Museum to participate in the National Arts event called 'The Big Draw.' The day was funded by the



Arts Council of England and consisted of two art workshops with professional artists. The first workshop saw the students making shadow boxes, while in the afternoon we sat amongst the aircraft in the museum's large hanger, creating Zoetropes. In addition to the art, the students had plenty of time to look around the museum itself

and to experience sitting inside some of the aircraft. There were museum guides on hand to talk through the history of the exhibits.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable day out. Thanks to the Arts Council for making it possible. Mrs Raeburn, Class teacher.

HIV Talk

On the 20th of November Lizzie Jordan made a special visit to our school, and spoke to us



about HIV. She spoke about the signs and symptoms and what HIV actually is, and how it can affect people with the disease. This talk was very inspiring as Lizzie herself had HIV, this changed my pre conception and I then realised that anyone can have HIV. I learnt that someone that is HIV positive can lead a very normal life, due to the modern day medical advances. Overall, I enjoyed the talk and found it was very beneficial.

Shanika, Year 12

Children in Need

On the 17th November we celebrated Children in Need



with a coffee morning at Ash Villa School. The week leading up to it we did lots of baking, including mince pies, cookies, a large chocolate cake and I made scones. Lots of staff and governors came to support the charity too taking part in the raffle and games. My favourite game to watch was drawing Pudsey blindfolded! We also did a quiz created by Elodie that Joe and I won! Overall everybody had a brilliant morning and we managed to raise £185 for Children in Need. Chelsea, Year 13.



Smoking Awareness

This term at Ash Villa School, we have completed a BIIAB Level 1 Award in Smoking Awareness. The aim of the week was to spread some realization around smoking. Some of the things we learnt about were: who smokes, reasons to stop, linked health problems, the cost of smoking, second hand smoke, what is actually in a cigarette and why they become addictive. We participated in many activities to test our knowledge before the lesson and to test what we had learnt after. I enjoyed learning lots of facts and statistics and I also found it interesting how so many shocking things could be associated with the simple idea of smoking. I think this was a great way to spread awareness on this topic and would join in in doing another course like this in the future.

Charleigh, Year 11.

Torchlight project

On 13th October, Kevin Braddock, who started The Torchlight System Project, came to visit Ash Villa School. He talked with us about his experiences with mental health illnesses and the “major depressive episode” which saw his life change completely. He spoke about how it impacted all aspects of his life including, his work and social life. Kevin also touched upon his suicidal thoughts that he had to face during this period of his life and how he overcame them by opening up to people and being honest about his sufferings. His hopes for The Torchlight System Project are to help others dealing with similar issues.



As we had spoken about some heavy topics, Kevin ended his visit by giving us all an example of his Practice Cards. The pack contains cards that each have a different suggestion or action to do which encourages positive daily habits. For instance, one card asks you to learn to let things come and go and another asks you to think of your own positive action. I think we all found these quite interesting and useful as everyone needs a little positivity in their lives. We are also excited for Kevin's next visit to us in the near future and to discuss with him more about The Torchlight Project. Chiara, Year 13.

Tennis

This term we have been having tennis coaching by Richard from Grantham Tennis Centre. We started with tennis lessons on our multi use games area on site, then progressed into the full court at the tennis centre. Richard was a brilliant coach, making the sessions fun and interesting with many games that helped to develop our skills. It was fantastic to get the chance to play on both the indoor and outdoor courts. We are looking forward to going back next year. Miss Tetley, HLTA.

Tony Butler amazing animals

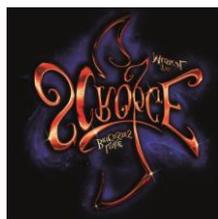
On the 7th December we had a visit from Tony Butler and his amazing animals. He has lots of animals for us all to look at and hold. This included, 2 tarantulas, a bearded dragon, a corn snake, a millipede, a toad, a white African hedgehog, and a tortoise. I held all of the animals, but snakes are my all-time favourite animal so I enjoyed holding that one the most. The corn snake was mutated so he was a complete one off, he was quite heavy to hold and I could feel him slightly constricting. A lot of people were scared of the tarantulas but I think everybody overcame their fears and held at least one of the spiders! Everyone really enjoyed themselves and it was my favourite thing I have done in school so far!



Jack, Year 11.

Scrooge

On the 6th December we visited the Curve Theatre at Leicester to see Scrooge the Musical, based on Charles Dickens' much-loved A Christmas Carol. It was a creative feel-good story about hope and the kind of happiness that money can't buy. This was an absolutely fantastic show that was upbeat and enticing throughout. All of



the staff and students had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon the show put us all in a festive mood. Miss Tetley, HLTA.

Hinduism Workshop

On the 30th November, Sunita Patel held a Hinduism workshop for the day at Ash Villa School. Sunita brought many things with her to make the day exciting – she was also dressed in a Sari upon arrival. Our first session in school involved being introduced to Hindu Gods in which Sunita stated we were free to ask questions regarding her belief and provided insight on her childhood and her favourite god. In the second session all students paired up to create a traditional Mandala drawing using chalks and glitter, of which are now on display. The third session I enjoyed the most as everyone had the opportunity to dress up in traditional Indian clothing including Sari's- everyone had to the opportunity to explore the culture through clothing and Bollywood dancing which was often humorous and good fun. I would like to learn about other religions in the same way, overall a very good day. Amber, Year 13.



Peter Pan Pantomime

We finished off the Autumn Term with our annual trip to Grantham Guildhall Theatre to see Peter Pan. Great fun was had by both staff and students who enjoyed the interaction and entertainment the pantomime provided. Polka Dot Productions once again delivered a fabulous show. Mrs Raeburn, Class Teacher.

