

THE ACADEMY OF
**ST FRANCIS
OF ASSISI**

NEWSLETTER

November 2018



St Francis' Feast Day
Celebrations



World War I
Field Trip



Author Alan Gibbons
Visits Our Academy

BARCLAYS "GIRLS ALLOWED"
A FABULOUS EXPERIENCE FOR YEAR 8 GIRLS



Welcome to our latest Academy Newsletter. There are so many things that take place both inside and outside of our Academy that enrich our students' lives and we are proud to celebrate them through our website and this magazine.

In this issue we have another great selection of activities and events that have taken place over the last half term. Year 8 girls took part in a very successful day organised by Barclays to encourage women into IT roles; two Year 10 students represented our Academy on a First World War centenary trip to Belgium. Our Feast Day assembly has been named as the best one yet - which takes some doing! You can also read about our pilot Nursing Programme Scheme with Aintree Hospital.

I continue to be proud of our achievements here at our Academy and I'm particularly proud of the progress that our students are making.

By continuing to work together, we can achieve "success for all".

Keep up the hard work.

Tracey Greenough - Headteacher

Shortlisted for 4 Awards!

SEND Provision Award

Teacher of the Year

Wow Recognition Award

Outstanding Arts in a Secondary School

Small Learning Community

Mr Bradley

Cavern Club Gig Dec 17

Music Department

I am so proud to be able to announce our Academy has been shortlisted for 4 Educate Awards. It really is an indication of the hard work that happens every day in our school and the contribution our students, parents and staff make to our Academy community.

BARCLAYS “GIRLS ALLOWED”

Year 8 Girls visited the Barclays Innovation Centre in Knutsford to experience Computing within the banking service.



They started the day by designing their idea for an innovative product that uses technology and would assist people in their day to day lives. All of our students worked exceptionally hard in planning and pitching their ideas to the panellists and one of our students came second from a series of six schools with her “holographic teacher” device.

The second challenge was the cryptography session where code breaking skills were required - our students again excelled in this area! We ended the day with a training session on Robotics where all of the girls demonstrated their resilience skills to program robots to undertake a series of tasks, including ballet dancing! All the girls that attended were an absolute credit to the school and upheld the Academy values showing that they do have the skills to be successful in Computer Science.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We have received a grant from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Diamond Fund to help more students take part in the programme.



Thanks to this fantastic funding, we have offered the Bronze Award to a greater number of participants, more than doubling the number of the previous five years and, most importantly, providing more young people the opportunity which may not otherwise have been open to them, to develop 'soft' skills and attributes for life and the workplace.

The grant will also enable us to build on the equipment we have and continue onto the Silver Award next year.

Amongst the variety of soft skills chosen by this year's participants were Debate Mate, mentoring, supporting afterschool activities and open days, learning a new language and litter picking.



FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Year 7 students took part in their first whole Academy assembly which was a beautiful celebration of our patron saint.



Our whole school assembly celebration focused on the Prayer of our patron saint, Francis. Students representing all year groups told our school community what the key words in our prayer, including: Peace, love, Forgiveness, Faith and Hope, meant to them. Music is always a big part of our assemblies and so to compliment these words, we were treated to performances of 'More like you' sung by Olivia Makin and Chaplain Phil to express the meaning of Peace and 'So will I' performed by Olivia Makin and Olivia Williams to re-enforce how we can better understand God's love. 'For the one' was performed by Laila Zindani to compliment Forgiveness and 'Titanium' was performed by Eleanor Jones to reflect the strength of Faith. Mrs. Cousineau gave us an insight into the life of our patron saint, revealing his passion for peace, creation and God's love for all.



WORLD WAR I BELGIUM VISIT

Two Year 10 students were fortunate enough to experience a First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme.



The programme consisted of four days of activities, visiting different historic sites including battlefields, memorials, cemeteries and museums spread across three countries. They were joined by a number of other staff and students from schools across the country.

Starting in Ypres, Belgium where a large portion of WWI was fought between 1914 and 1918, they visited the Somme in France, the site of one of the largest battles of WWI. Students also went to Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passchendaele, the largest British & Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world.

Throughout the programme, we were asked to reflect on key points; “How did WWI affect ordinary people?” “Was the Battle of the Somme a disaster for the British Army?” and “Is remembrance more or less important 100 years on?” The students were encouraged to record and share their experiences and views with other students and staff on the trip, which led to some very interesting and thought provoking conversations.



AINTREE NURSING DAY

On 21st September 2018, a group of Year 10 and 11 students attended the first 'Pride of Nursing' event at Aintree Hospital.



The Academy of St Francis of Assisi has been the pilot school for this programme in the North of England, which aims to give students advice and guidance on career opportunities in the NHS. The pupils experienced two talks from professionals in the health industry and a carousel of sessions on specific careers in the NHS, ranging from forensic medicine to resuscitation. The students were also given the opportunity to enter a competition to design the logo for the Pride of Nursing programme, with the winner receiving a shopping voucher! The staff at Aintree Hospital were amazing with our students and we look forward to working with them again.



AWARD WINNING CHEF

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students enjoyed a visit from multi award winning restaurateur Saima Thompson.



Saima spoke to the students about how she started her Pakistani restaurant, Masala Wala Café, which is based in South London.

Then students took part in a workshop with Saima in which they made one of Masala Wala's most loved recipes – Roti bread. Saima was intrigued to hear how many pupils had a similar product in their home country. It was a successful session and Saima and her team were impressed by Year 10's cookery skills.

For his perfectly rolled Rotis, Raihan Shah was awarded "Chef of The Week".



ALAN GIBBONS VISITS

The winner of The Blue Peter Book Award and many other awards came to our Academy for a day of creative writing.



On the 16th October, we were treated to a visit from Alan Gibbons, award-winning author and writer of child and young adult fiction, who ran writing workshops with Year Seven to Ten. Our writing workshops with the Year Ten were focused on aiming towards the higher GCSE grades and improving writer's craft while our Year Sevens wrote a thrilling tale based on Doctor Who, entitled 'The Sands of Skaro'. Year Eight delved into the Gothic genre, writing a tale about their entrance into Dracula's castle. The session for Year Nine also had a focus on achievement in the exam: their writing was based on narrative, a story of someone, in Arctic conditions, plunging and being stuck in ice. Throughout the sessions, we were helped by our Literacy Leaders, a group of Year Nine and Ten students who have volunteered their time to promote reading and writing for pleasure. We will be continuing what we have learned through a whole school writing competition, judged by Alan Gibbons himself. Watch this space...



GCSE KEY TO SUCCESS

During our 'Key to Success' Evening Year 11 students received packs for every subject ensuring the best start to their final year.



As we all know GCSE exams now demand students to complete a greater number of written exams and to be successful across the breadth of their options requires them to remember and apply a great deal of knowledge.

Mrs St John, Senior Assistant Head of School gave a presentation to explain to parents and students how to utilise the pack and just how parents can support their child in structuring their independent learning in the lead up to their end of year exams in 2019.

It was an ideal opportunity to meet with departmental representatives who provided additional insight into the specific requirements of the examinations, how to achieve the best grades and to explain the resources for revision and how best to utilise these at home.

The evening was a huge success with this opportunity for students to gain insight into how they achieve their potential during a truly packed event. Mrs St John commented 'The spirit and atmosphere here at ASFA is infectious and it's lovely to see so many students actively engaged in making the most of every opportunity to really aim for the top and boost their attainment and achievement over the next year.'



THE GIRLS NETWORK

The Girls' Network scheme is expanding, as students move into Year 11 there are even more exciting events to come!



The year started as it ended loading 10 year 11 ladies onto the minibus in preparation to meet their mentors. The summer had not dampened their spirit and they were keen to get started. Familiar faces and warm embraces encapsulated the mood as the sessions got underway. The students spoke about how the Girls Network programme had developed their skills and allowed them to show more confidence in their everyday life and know that should they work hard for it anything is possible! Moving into year 11 has meant those skills are as important today as they have ever been. The big wide world waits for nobody and our girls will be living it soon enough!



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

Extra-curricular activity has started as strong as ever this year with 6 activities a week and regular fixtures against St Nicholas.



The number of pupils now participating in extra-curricular has increased significantly once again and it is great to see such enthusiasm from our pupils. The introduction of a trampolining club has provided more girls with an activity to increase their participation which is excellent. So far this half term we have:

Year 7 Football vs St Nicholas - Year 7 boys played their first football fixture since starting in September and were very unlucky to draw 3-3.

Year 7 Netball vs St Nicholas - Year 7 girls played their first ever netball fixture and produced an outstanding 10-1 victory.

Year 8 Football vs St Nicholas - Year 8 boys started off very strong with some outstanding performances and won 5-2.

Year 10 Football vs St Nicholas - Year 10 boys were involved in a thriller and produced an unbelievable comeback from 4-1 down at half time to win 6-5 in the last minute.



HALF TERM MADRID VISIT

Expanding cultural horizons is an important part of Academy life. We took 40 students to soak up the cultural life of Madrid.

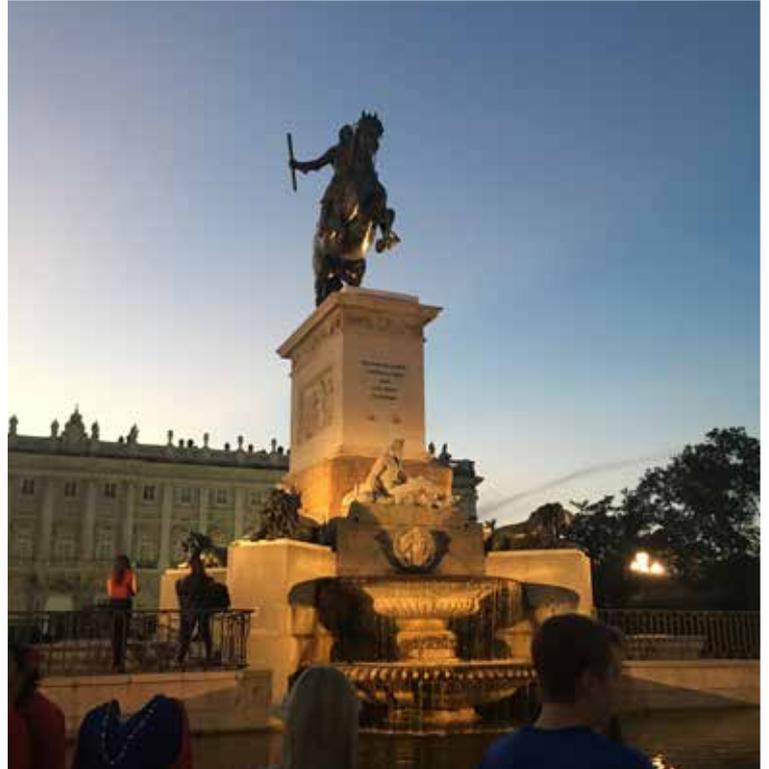


From Liverpool airport, we flew to Madrid! On the day we arrived we went exploring around the old town of Madrid; including the Plaza Mayor – a square dating from the 1700's, The Royal Palace and the Cathedral of Almudena. On our four day visit we had the opportunity to visit two major museums; the 'El Prado Museo' which contains arts of Velasquez, Goya, Ruben, Bosch and many more and the museum of Reina Sofia with more cubist and surrealist art from Picasso, Miró and Dali.

We did the 'Estadio Bernabeu Tour' and went up the Tower of Moncloa – almost 100 metres up - where we enjoyed panoramic views of the whole capital city and surroundings.

Between visits we managed to spend some time in the Botanical gardens to enjoy the amazing weather. We ate at the famous Atocha train station and walked around main famous streets capturing pictures of famous monuments, such as the Bear and the Strawberry Tree, a symbol of Madrid!

Besides enjoying the cities' sightseeing, everyone was very keen to practise their Spanish and talk as much as possible with all the different shop keepers and even amongst them!



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a real community effort
Students and staff pitched in to make homemade Cakes.



We had a staff Bake competition and a student bake contest too. It was difficult to choose between all the mouth-watering cakes on offer. Mrs Defferd won the staff bake with a colourful “Chocolate Spectacular” and a Year 7 girl won the student competition with her “Pink Unicorn Perfection Cake”. Overall we raised £220 for Macmillan; a charity very close to our hearts.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF

September 2018 was the start of twelve new Academy careers, and we'd like to introduce you to our latest recruits.



Miss Avery
English Teacher



Mr Bunting
Head of Science



Miss Carlile
Science Teacher



Miss Cohen
HR Assistant



Mr Dos
Cover Supervisor



Miss Filipova
Catering Assistant



Mr Lavelle
Director of Curriculum



Mr Lavin
DT Teacher



Miss Peters
Science Teacher



Mrs St John
Senior Assistant Head



Mrs Thompson
Head of DT



Mrs Thornber
Cover Supervisor



St Francis of Assisi @ACADEMYSFA · Sep 19
 What a fantastic, supportive community! All working together for the benefit of our young people. #achieve #cohesion #asfamily #progress #success #community



THE ACADEMY OF
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
 twitter



ASFA_Music @ASFA_Music · Sep 8
 Students getting a taste of a professional engineering session at Liverpool university! @GreenoughTg @ACADEMYSFA



St Francis of Assisi @ACADEMYSFA · Sep 27
 Down in the basement @asfdrama are coming up with curious characters! @GreenoughTg



St Francis of Assisi @ACADEMYSFA · Sep 19
 Wow! A fantastic event! What a turn out! So, so proud of our community all working together for these amazing young people who will go on to great things
 ❤️ #care #belief #hope



St Francis of Assisi @ACADEMYSFA · Sep 24
 The Foyle Foundation have given a grant to our Academy and our students are now busy on The Book Bus looking for books to add to our library. @GreenoughTg



Visit our Twitter page to see more of the great things happening at our Academy!

@ACADEMYSFA