

Athelstan Argus

Termly Trust Newsletter

Caring, collaborative and excellent

Term 6
July 2019



GREAT ATMOSPHERE AT TRUST DAY

Colleagues enjoyed the opportunity to work together on the Trust Day at Bradon Forest School on 28 June. The day started with addresses from both Richard Boggis-Rolfe (Chair of the Board of Trustees) and Tim Gilson who gave a message about Trust collaboration and the

successes achieved by the Trust. The highlight of the day was the uplifting Trust video filmed and edited by the talented Huw Rees, Science teacher at Malmesbury School. You can see it by clicking this link: [Athelstan Trust Video](#) Here are some of your comments:

- It was well-organised, nice and snappy, no waste of time and I enjoyed it.
- Great atmosphere amongst colleagues from across the trust. Structure of the day was well planned. GDPR was very interesting.
- The information from Simon about what Ofsted wanted was very valuable and it was beneficial to share ideas with teachers from 'sister' faculties within the Trust

Several people have made plans to meet up with colleagues doing the same job in another school and support staff teams are planning to use *Microsoft Teams* to share documents and to set up chat groups to swap ideas and find ways of working together to reduce workload.



The Trust Day next year will be on 26 June at Malmesbury School



www.theathelstantrust.org



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@BradonForestSch
@MalmesburySch
@TheDeanAcademy
@AvonTSA

MESSAGE FROM CEO

It was lovely to see everybody together on the Trust Day at Bradon Forest, I thought there was some very impressive collaborative work done in all areas. I would like to thank Julie and all the staff at Bradon Forest for making us so welcome and Jo Cummings for all the organisation behind the scenes. I am very grateful for all the feedback we have had, and the Executive Group are already starting to plan our next Trust Day taking into account everything you told us.

I know just how busy everyone is at the end of term with such an incredible range of events taking place across the Trust, our students are extremely fortunate to have the range of opportunities that you all provide for them in such a rich diverse curriculum offer.

It has been great to hear and see how well the induction activities have gone in all our schools - it takes a lot of work to make these such a success and it really does make a difference to our new intake in September.

I would like to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to our students, parents and each other. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer – please try to completely switch off from school.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Tim



CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE DEAN ACADEMY

A celebration of the achievements and successes of students at The Dean Academy was enjoyed by family, friends and members of the local community as they gathered at St Mary's Church in Lydney recently for their annual Presentation Evening.

Headteacher Tom Beveridge explained *“Presentation Evening is the most important night of the year for us as a school. It is a chance to celebrate the incredible and diverse talents of our very deserving students who are role models for others, they should all be very proud of their achievements.”*

The evening saw the presentation of a brand-new award which was created in



Lydney Mayor Cllr Brian Pearman with, the first recipient of the Mark Thompson Award which was presented by Mark's wife Laura Thompson

honour of teacher Mark Thompson who passed away earlier this year following a long battle with illness. Mark's wife, Laura Thompson, presented the award to a Year 7 student for demonstrating commitment, energy and enthusiasm across all sports within the school, qualities which reflected Mark's work in the PE Department. Other awards presented included the Young at Heart Award and the Lydney Community Award.



Guest speaker Andy Lewis MBE spoke about how proud he was to live in the Forest of Dean, commenting "As a local

resident and former student of the school it has been a real honour to be asked to present these awards. Staff at The Dean Academy have put in their time and effort so that students can achieve the best they can, and it has been quite emotional to see them coming up to get their awards. I have recently spent some time at The Dean Academy working with Year 10 students to raise aspirations, as part of a new initiative that the school have taken on board, and it has been great to see their confidence grow. Walking around the school has made me feel really proud to be a part of it."



STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2019

Each year, over the Easter period, art work by Malmesbury School students is exhibited at Malmesbury Abbey, developed from the theme of The Stations of the Cross – the biblical depictions of Jesus on his way to the crucifixion.

Students created an original response stemming from their impression of the station. The work also needed to fit the space within the Abbey as an installation piece; using the architecture to help complement their work and add to the Abbey's unique atmosphere.

On the first day of the exhibition, students explained their pieces to a small audience.

"Very dramatic representations. Well done."

"What amazing work, dynamic interpretation, well done and thank you."

"Fascinating interpretations and incredibly talented artists. Well done!"



ENGINEERING FOR THE FUTURE

Talented students at The Dean Academy have fought off thousands of engineering hopefuls across the UK to win apprenticeships with some of the country's top engineering firms including Rolls Royce, Safran Bugatti Dowty and Dowty Propellers.

Mr Andrew Winstanley, the Director of Art, Design and Production explained "This is the second year in a row that our Engineering students have successfully

gained apprenticeships with Rolls Royce. This year some of our other students will also be embarking on apprenticeships with local, well-established companies including Grail Engineering, Leisure pods and AAD Plumbing. We are extremely proud of them all, they have found a career path that they are really passionate about which will allow them to learn further and fulfill their potential whilst supporting the local community."



Engineering a bright future: Year 11 Engineering Students at The Dean Academy

YEAR 8 'BRADON FOREST COOK OFF' COMPETITION



Food Technology teacher, Andy Parkes, set Year 8 students the challenge of a Cook Off competition at GCSE standard.

Students had to enter by application, evidencing dishes they had cooked at home plus describing the three courses they would make if selected for the

final. Andy then selected nine students to compete in the day long challenge which took place on Tuesday 2 July 2019.

There was such a wide variety of cooking and points were awarded for not only taste, but also difficulty of execution and of course, presentation. Dishes included; paneer curry, tai soft biscuits, soups, salads, cheesecakes, profiteroles, spring rolls, strawberry tart and vegan curry to name just a few!

Andy very much enjoyed his role as Gregg Wallace for the afternoon and was joined by Deb Wiltshire, MFL teacher and Karen Davison, Food Technician, as helpful tasters.

Andy said: "Congratulations to everyone who took part. I was blown away by the standard and every entry would have achieved at least a 5 at GCSE - which is outstanding for Year 8 students! I am incredibly proud of the group of finalists."



EX-STUDENT MAJOR GENERAL VISITS MALMESBURY SCHOOL

Malmesbury School students were honoured to receive a visit from a former student, Major General Gwyn Jenkins, OBE.

The Major General attended Malmesbury School in the 1980s before being commissioned into the Royal Marines. He inspected a parade in his honour at the school and spent the afternoon talking to the students about his life in the military and his rise through the ranks to his current role as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff.

Local MP James Gray had previously met Major General Jenkins at an event organised by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Armed Forces and when he heard that he had attended Malmesbury School, he suggested that the Major General might like to come back and visit the school again.



The students, especially the cadets, were captivated to hear how a former student and member of the local Air Cadet Squadron (992) had risen to become a Major General. Tim Gilson said,

"It was a real honour for the school and it is always a great pleasure to meet our former students who have gone on to lead such rich, fulfilling lives. Major General Jenkins was very generous with his time and spoke to all the cadets on parade and spent an hour answering all their questions which ranged from what the gold braid on his uniform represents to how you formulate a strategy for deployment against insurgents in Afghanistan".



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE TRUST

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

This year we have been part of the Swindon Town Premier League Girls Programme. A squad of 30 girls ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 have been coached weekly during the season by Swindon Town FC coaches. The Under 13 girls squad have had the most success, winning the Swindon round of the EFL (English Football League) Cup.

Some of our 2018/19 achievements:

- Netball Swindon Schools Champions: Year 7 and Year 9
- Boys' Basketball Swindon Schools Champions: Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11
- Girls' Basketball Swindon Schools and Wiltshire Champions: Under 14's
- Boys' Football Swindon Schools Cup Winners: Year 8 and Year 11
- Badminton Swindon Schools Champions: KS3 Girls, KS4 Boys

THE DEAN ACADEMY

Year 7 enthusiasm, participation levels and performances have been the stand out memory this year in P.E at the Dean Academy. They have packed out our lunchtime clubs throughout the year and raised the bar in lessons with their energy and enthusiasm, especially the girls football team who were runners up at the Forest School district finals and the boys rugby team who completed an unbeaten season.

At Sport's Day, several school records were broken in 1500 and 800m, Shot Put, Javelin. The Discus record was smashed by over 6 metres.



MALMESBURY SCHOOL

The variety of sport on offer has included Fencing club, archery club, athletics, water polo and girls' rugby club run by Welsh international Rebecca De Filippo. Triathlon club has been a real highlight of the school extra-curricular programme this year and for many students, it has meant they have gone on to train and compete outside school.

- Year 11 Hockey: Area Champions
- Year 7 Hockey: Area Runners-up
- Year 8 Hockey: Area Champions
- Year 8 Netball: Area Champions
- Year 10 boys' Rugby: North Wiltshire Area Champions
- Year 7 Football: Area Runners-up
- Girls' Badminton: Wiltshire School Games Level Two winners, plus silver medals at the county finals
- Gymnastics: Beginners A Team, 1st place, Intermediate A Team and Advanced A team, 2nd place in Wiltshire School of Gymnastics competition
- Swimming: top 12 finishes in boys' intermediate freestyle and medley relays and the girls' medley relay at the South West Swimming Relay Championship

THE FIRST STORY IS YOUR STORY

Poet, storywriter and performer Jonny Seagrave has been visiting The Dean Academy over the last two terms to enthuse students about creative writing and to help them discover their inner writer whilst learning more about themselves in the process.

The sessions were arranged through the literacy charity First Story. Jonny explained *“Throughout the sessions students find out what they enjoy writing the most and discover that their lives and who they are is a valuable source of material for creative writing. It is a journey to explore themselves and put their thoughts, stories and poems onto paper.”*

Ms Jess Tickell, the Programme Manager for the charity added *“Our mission is to change lives through writing, we do this by placing writers into long term residencies within schools. The workshops provide space for young people who might otherwise be reluctant about writing to discover the pleasure in it as they get to experiment and play with words. Our hope is that this will start the children on a journey to discover that writing exists beyond the classroom and can be an empowering experience.”*

Ms Westgate commented *“Our students have really enjoyed the sessions; it has been a great opportunity for them. A selection of the work that they have produced will be published in a book that will be launched in September and be kept forever in the British Library, which is an amazing achievement.”*



FIRST STORY
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH WRITING

YOUNG MUSICIAN'S SUCCESS



Bradon Forest student, Aaron Notley Jones recently successfully auditioned for the National Youth Guitar Ensemble. It was a gruelling day involving sight-reading, ensemble work and solo audition in front of Mark Ashford (head of guitar at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire), Manus Noble (musical director of National Youth Guitar Ensemble Wales) and Adam Hickman (musical director National Youth Guitar Ensemble Birmingham). He will join the National Youth Guitar Ensemble Birmingham in September.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Malmesbury School's Kat Brailey who has been awarded a final grade of Distinction in the L3 Infrastructure Technician Digital IT Apprenticeship.

Congratulations to Mel Shadrick (Teacher of Maths at Malmesbury School) who gave birth to Arthur on 23 May weighing 7lb 15oz.

FAREWELL

This is the time of year when we say farewell to a number of staff who are leaving the Trust to take up promoted posts and new opportunities elsewhere. Thank you for contribution to the success of our schools and we wish you well for the future.

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

Katherine Langmead

Rob Holdroyd

Amy Fry

Andy Hartley *on a year's secondment*

Gaie Peers-Dent *returns to Malmesbury*

Lindsey Pegg

THE DEAN ACADEMY

Claire Morgan *(after 26 years)*

Ruth Jones *returns to Malmesbury School*

Chloe Hykin

James Randall

Bethan Davies

Victoria Pearce

Sonia Knowles *(Catering team for 17 years)*

MALMESBURY SCHOOL

Bridget Griffiths

Debbie Charman

Bruce Lenger

Rosie Luker

Adam Mitchell

Alex Parkin

Hazel Porteous

Andrew Rowe

Alison Simpson

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE AT MALMESBURY SCHOOL

We have been running a project on retrieval this year to help our students revise effectively and feel confident going into exams.

Staff prepared a break-time/lunchtime 'Retrieve and Receive Quiz' which involved staff approaching Year 10 and quizzing them on subject relevant questions. If the student answered correctly they kept the card, put their name in it and entered it into the reward raffle. If they got it wrong the teacher gave them the answer and kept the card. Students enjoyed the competitive element and quick fire questioning in the run up to their exams!

Retrieval Practice

What is it?



Your capacity to remember things is HUGE. Your long-term memory has plenty of room for the things you need to know. In an exam, you need to be able to find what you are looking for in that long-term memory, pop it into your current working memory, and apply it to the question you are being asked. This skill takes practice! If you imagine your brain is like a massive filing system, the more times you look for a piece of information stored in it, the easier it is to find.

Retrieval practice is a learning strategy where we focus on getting information out of storage so that we can make it stick. When you think about things you learned in an earlier lesson, the very fact that you are recalling that info, will help it stick in the long term. The more you recall old information, the stickier it becomes!

Retrieval Practice is something that you will hear your teachers talking about, and you will see them introducing lots of strategies to help you recall information.

What can you do?

Turn what you have learnt into a diagram



Checkout online resources like Quizlet



Flashcards: THE THREE PILE METHOD

Once you have created a set of flashcards, go through them and sort into three piles:

YES – you know the answer instantly.

MAYBE – you have an idea of the answer but you need to check it.

NO – you do not know the answer.

The challenge is to turn NO into MAYBE and MAYBE into YES by re-reading/re-writing and re-quizzing.



Create mindmaps



Create Revision Clocks



Create Knowledge Organisers



TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

