

The Arnewood School Newsletter



Message from the Head Teacher

This half term has flown past and as ever has been packed with exciting events. Our production of High School Musical was a sell out over three evenings. It was wonderful to see so many families and students enjoying the performance. The cast and backstage crew of over 70 students did a magnificent job. The singing and acting was some of the best I can remember. We are very fortunate as a school that so many dedicated staff are willing to give so much of their time to leading events such as this. I would like to thank Mrs Watson, who directed the show, and many other colleagues for sharing their talent and passion for the creative arts. I am sure among our current cohort of students we have a star (or more) in the making.

In sombre contrast, you will have read of the sad sudden death of Mr Peter Joyce. I attended Mr Joyce's funeral with Mrs Cook, Chair of Governors, and a group of his close colleagues and friends. During the service, several letters written by his students were read in tribute. They illustrated his deep compassion and endless patience. They also revealed his determination that every child should make their own successful way in the world. Teaching and The Arnewood School was a big part of Mr Joyce's life. While occasions such as these are very sad, I think we shall remember Mr Joyce for the happiness and support he gave to others and his love of life and people.

I hope you enjoy a lovely half-term holiday with hopefully a little spring time weather to accompany it. I am sure the Year 11 students taking the Third Reich Tour during the holiday will cherish the experience!

Nigel Pressnell
Head Teacher

Holocaust Memorial Day



Arnewood commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th January by making a pledge against discrimination, prejudice and hate.

Preparations for the day were led by Sixth Form students Raff Hussey and Henry Lowndes after being selected as ambassadors last year. As representatives of the school, the boys had the chance to visit Auschwitz in November for the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, organised by The Holocaust Educational Trust. This opportunity is what motivated the boys to honour the victims of the Holocaust and to help keep the memory alive. They both helped to write the assemblies for the week, which included a story about a boy named Tommy and a testimony from survivor Stephen Frank who the boys met in person. They also visited each tutor group to share their experience of visiting Auschwitz before asking staff and students to sign the pledge. Read about Henry's experience at Auschwitz below.

A Day at Auschwitz – by Henry Lowndes

On Thursday the 3rd of November, Raff and I took part in the annual Holocaust Education Trust's trip to Auschwitz, Poland. Representing Arnewood, we were joined by students from over 100 other schools, 2 MPs, a rabbi and 3 journalists. After waking up in the early hours of Thursday morning and driving to London, we met the leaders from the trust and fellow students who were going on the trip at Gatwick Airport. Departing at 7AM, our flight was just under 2 hours long. We had arrived in a cold, drizzly Krakow. Onto Auschwitz itself. Just a 45 minute coach journey later, we had arrived in the town of Oświęcim.

Our first stop was a decrepit, abandoned, rundown Jewish cemetery. Deep

in the heart of the town of Auschwitz, an industrial, poor area of Poland, it was hardly a sight to behold. Our task here was to take a look at the graves and think about why the cemetery was so rundown and untidy. After a 10-minute walk around and a conversation within our group, we had managed to find out that prior to the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany, this cemetery was a cemetery of colour and happiness. Thriving with Jews, Oświęcim (Auschwitz) was the home to 14,000 people, of which the majority were Jewish. However, after the invasion of Auschwitz, the Nazis dug up this grave yard and used the head stones as resources such as pavements.

After this, we got on the coach and drove to Auschwitz 1, the smaller of the two sites. Before the Second World War, Auschwitz 1 was a Polish Army barrack. The first prisoners of Auschwitz 1 arrived in May 1940. It was used to house inmates who went out to work and became the administrative centre for the whole complex. The weather had worsened. It was snowing and a cold breeze swept through. After going through security and meeting up with our tour guide Pavel, we left the entrance building and saw the famous gate. "Arbeit Macht Frei" it reads, translating to "Work Makes You Free", it was this that the people entering Auschwitz 1 read. Just seeing the gate was a solemn reminder of what took place a mere 70 years ago.

Slowly making our way under the gate, snow fell heavily and emotions were running high. We went into around four different buildings that were used to house the inmates. Within these buildings were various pictures and artefacts, including the famous hair and personal belongings. It was when I saw a pile of glasses where I felt most emotional in Auschwitz 1, as it reminded me of my dad and was something I could really relate to. Not only this, but it reminded me that the people being treated so poorly were humans just like you and I. This is a key lesson to take away from the trip. The Nazis worked so hard to dehumanise the Jewish community and other minorities. We must tackle this head on and make an effort to remember that the victims were people. The Education Trust made sure that we took this message away, by talking about individual stories and showing us photos of the people before they were rounded up and sent to ghettos.

Next we went into the most horrifying building in Auschwitz 1: Block 11. Block 11 had one single purpose: To punish inmates through torture. We immediately went into an underground section of the block. Here we found various dark rooms and 4 standing cells. Standing cells are rooms of 1 square metre with a 5X5 cm hole for breathing. These rooms would have up to 4 people in them and therefore prisoners would have to stand up all night. They were kept in here for up to 20 nights at a time, whilst working in the day. It was here that Pavel told us the truly moving story of Father Kolbe, a catholic priest. In July 1941 in the Auschwitz concentration camp, a Nazi officer selected a group of prisoners to die a slow death by starvation, in

Block 11. Some prisoners had attempted to escape, and the Nazi response was to kill prisoners as a lesson against trying such things. One of the men selected was shouting and begging for his life. He was crying and talking about the fact he has a family. At that moment Father Maximilian Kolbe, volunteered to take the man's place. He had no family, he said, and no one awaiting him. He would die in the man's place. Surprisingly, the Nazi officers allowed this. In the chamber, Kolbe maintained hope and good spirits. He kept the other people with him hopeful, until he was the last one in there. Finally, the Nazis killed Maximilian as they were tired of waiting for him to die. A story like this is so important to remember as it shows how there were heroes within the camp, and keeps the memory of these heroes alive.

After walking further around Auschwitz 1, seeing a wall where many prisoners were shot, a place where inmates were hung, and a small gas chamber, we were ready to move to Auschwitz 2 (Birkenau). Auschwitz 2 is about 3 times the size of 1 and was mostly used for the mass extermination of prisoners. After driving two minutes down the road, we had arrived at Birkenau. We walked along the infamous railway and into Auschwitz 2.

First of all, we took a right and walked into the vast section of the site where the inmates lived. Around 20 unoriginal wooden barn-like buildings stood. During the time that it was a functioning camp, there were many, many more than this. The huts were destroyed and burnt down as a way of the Nazis trying to destroy the evidence. Today, the field is full of the brick chimneys that didn't burn down. We entered one of the building and were told about the sickening conditions that the inmates of Birkenau lived in. We were told how around 400 people lived in one of these blocks and how they were cold, dark and smelly.

It was around 4pm when we left this block and moved on to where the selection process took place. In the early days of the camp, the train tracks only stopped outside of the camp, so the prisoners would have to walk up to this point, however nearer the end of the war, the railway was extended and the cattle wagons would stop right where we were stood. The women and children were put in one line and men in the other. Once this was done, they were subjected to the selection process. Usually, those aged over 14 years of age and seen as fit for work were sent to one side of the unloading ramp and the rest were sent to the other side. The elderly and women with children were sent directly to the line of prisoners who were being sent to death in the gas chambers. Being stood here made me feel all sorts of emotions. It was so surreal to be stood at a place so famous for all the wrong reasons. It made me think about the SS guards doing the selecting and how they could possibly, with a single movement of the arm,

send mothers holding their babies to their death.

We walked onto the gas chambers. Being stood at a place where so many people died was so powerful. Whilst we were stood there, darkness covered Birkenau and it made the camp feel more scary and moving. It gave us a chance to see what it was like for an inmate of the camp. We were cold and down hearted, but we knew that this was nothing compared to what the prisoners must've felt. We moved onto a building right at the back of the camp. Now a museum and home to different artefacts, in its day it was the place where the people chosen to stay at the camp were washed, had their hair cut, tattooed and given camp clothes. We walked through the rooms where this took place until we reached a relatively big room full of photos. They were pictures of people who were sent to Auschwitz taken before the war. The joy and content on their faces made me feel so sad and emotional. It showed me how they were happy before the holocaust and lived a good life up until they were persecuted.

Our final part of the day was a remembrance ceremony at the memorial. Situated just between the place where the two gas chambers once stood, the memorial paid tribute to all the people killed at Auschwitz. Some students read poems and then the Rabbi spoke, sang a song and led prayers. Perhaps the most moving part of the day came after this. Each one of us (over 200 people) lit a candle and placed it along the railway. It was a beautiful sight. At the closing seminar, a student called Chloe who had been the year before, said this was "creating a bit of light in a place filled of darkness." I think this is true. When we lit those candles we created a piece of light, in a place where so many terrible things occurred.



As I reflected on the whole day's experience. I thought about how lucky I am to live in a world so accepting and diverse. I thought about how it is important to look at the positives of our society and to not stand by if I see hatred. Lastly, I thought about how it is so important that the terrible event of the holocaust is not forgotten. Throughout the process the leader of the trip, Alex reminded us of this quote: "Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it." This is very important and I am proud to start to teach people about the Holocaust.

Hitting the High Notes



Talented students wowed packed audiences with their sell-out production of High School Musical.

More than 70 students performed in the mammoth production, which was held across three nights in February and has been in the planning since June last year.

Starring Year 11's James Hilton-Foster and Year 12's Daisy Sheppard, as high school sweethearts Troy and Gabriella, the storming show was seen by over 700 parents and friends of the school.

This huge success is thanks to director Mrs Kirsten Watson and musical director Mr Elkington – who took the term 'break a leg' a bit too literal.

Mrs Kirsten Watson said, "We auditioned for High School Musical back in September and instantly the staff involved were blown away by the talent of the students. We knew straight away that we had the makings of a very special show. During rehearsals students worked tirelessly learning lots of choreography, songs and lines. They were fantastic the whole way through and put in so much effort. The three performances were amazing and the cast received standing ovations from the entire

audience every single night. The buzz of the audience and the positive comments as they were leaving were fantastic.”

“High School Musical has been Arnewood’s biggest production to date. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and I am so grateful for their commitment to the production. A special thanks goes to Libby Howard and Jemma Wood who have been the backbone of so many school performances in their time at Arnewood, they are leaving us for university to study Drama and Media this year and they will definitely be missed.

I am so grateful to them for all of their efforts. The cast was made up of students who have performed in a wide variety of productions both in school and with other theatre

companies, as well as those students who had never stepped on a stage before. It was a privilege to have all of them involved and I am so proud of their achievements.”

“I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Mr Byles, Mr Elkington, Miss Kitchen, Mr McGough and Mr Cooke for all of their efforts and helping to make High School Musical the

incredible success that it has been.”

Keep your eyes peeled for further information for December’s production of:

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL



Dealing With Anxiety

Anxiety and low mood appear to be more and more prevalent in young people at the moment.

Sometimes it can feel like we don't have any control over what we think or how we feel. But by making simple changes to our lives, we can make a real difference to our mental health. Feeling good is worth investing in - and the best thing is that these simple tips won't cost you much time or money. We would encourage you to help your children focus on these simple steps;



- This feeling will pass
- Ask for help! You are not alone!
- Believe in yourself... You are unique!
- Help other people ;it's a good distraction
- Take time out to relax. Make time for yourself
- Being with Family and Friends; A vital source of support.
- Exercise improves mental health. Get out and do something you enjoy!
- Eating a well-balanced diet and reducing your sugar intake will help you feel better
- Finding someone trusted to talk to. Pick up the phone; Drop a message; Visit a website; Talk!

Self-help is the first and most important step to take back control of emotions.

These are some useful self-help web sites you can look at with your children that may help them...

Young Minds---www.youngminds.org.uk
Mood Gym--<https://moodgym.anu.edu.au>
Mood Juice--www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk
Anxiety BC --<https://www.anxietybc.com>
It's Your Choice --<https://www.iyc.org.uk>

By Mrs Currie



GET INTO TEACHING

Open Mornings for Teacher Training Applicants

At The Arnewood School, New Milton, from 9am - 12pm on:

- Thursday 9th March 2017

The morning will include classroom tours, a presentation of the teacher training programme and an opportunity to ask questions and meet staff and trainees.

To reserve your place on one of the dates please email k.bower@arnewood.hants.sch.uk



ACE ALLIANCE
ACHIEVING COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE



Reach

Spring 2017

Courses and workshops run by the the Arnewood Pyramid of schools and their partners,
supporting parents and families from Ashley, New Milton, Hordle and Tiptoe

Have you ever wondered why teens want to sleep all day or why they sometimes seem sensible and grown up one day and the next day they are child-like or irresponsible? Family Links **'Talking Teens'** is the course for you! The four-week programme is designed to provide parents with strategies and ideas that make your relationship with the teens in your life more enjoyable. Running at The Arnewood School after half term on Wednesday Evenings from 6-8pm. The course is free and open to all parents of those in Year 6 and above. Places are limited and need to be booked.



We also have a **'Parenting Puzzle'** course running later this term. In ten weeks it will make sure that you are getting the best from family life. The strategies it offers work for children of all ages and can be adjusted to suit many children with additional needs. Lots of parents have completed the course now and they all say they'd recommend it to others. There is already a list of parents wanting to join this course but there are limited number of spaces still available.

To find out more about either of these Family Links courses or to book a place call/text Donna on 07580 827810

Internet Safety Day

To mark Internet Safety Day on Tuesday 7th February 2017, Arnewood joined the campaign to help inspire students to 'Be the Change' and unite for a better internet.

Advice and support were on offer to students during morning break and lunchtime, where our Deputy Child Protection Officer Mrs Rebecca Rolfe, was on hand armed with quizzes, bookmarks and information sheets. Assemblies were also planned on this topic to highlight the importance of staying safe online.



If you would like more help and advice on how to keep your child safe online visit: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017

We Are a Super School



We are delighted to have been awarded Red Nose Day Super School status.

In a letter from Sir Lenny Henry it says, "You have gone above and beyond to fundraise for us and we want to recognise your amazing efforts."

This award is with thanks to our brilliant students, parents/ carers and staff who since 2011 have helped raised over £5,900

for this deserving charity, with numerous mufti days, cake sales and sponsorship.

Arnewood will be supporting Red Nose Day again this year on Friday 24th March.

Y11 Hospitality & Catering Event

Y11 hospitality and catering students transform their catering room into an American pop up diner and impress nine lucky members of staff with their culinary skills.

As part of their assesment, students were not only responsible for the preparation, making and cooking of the food but also the menu, theme, decorations and serving. And they certainly did not dissappoint!



On the menu was a choice of potato skins with chilli and cheese, garlic bread or fruit juice to start. Followed by a choice of a beef burger, steak topped with a fried egg (cooked to liking) or quorn dog - all served with fries and salad. To finish there was a choice of a chocolate brownie, American pancakes or a banana split.

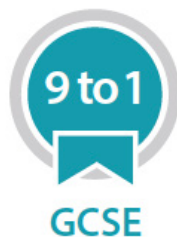
Mrs Val Woods, PA to the Head Teacher and who attended the event said, "The hospitality and food presented was excellent. A thoroughly enjoyable lunchtime experience. The homemade chocolate ice cream was definitely a winner for me."

PFA News

The PFA was pleased to be able to support the school's hugely successful production of High School Musical in February, by serving teas, coffees and cakes at the interval. Your generous donations amounted to over £150, which via the school was donated to Mary's Meals. Many thanks to the staff in the Canteen for their help in making this possible, and the parent and student volunteers on the three nights.

Grading New GCSEs From 2017

Exams in reformed English language, English literature and maths GCSEs will be taken for the first time in 2017. These will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G.



Statistical predictions will be used in 2017 to ensure there is alignment between the new and current grading structures, such that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 1 and above as currently achieve a grade G and above.

All other grade boundaries will be set arithmetically, as now. For example, the boundaries at grades 5 and 6 will be set based on the difference in marks between grades 4 and 7; grade 5 will be set at one third of the difference in marks, and grade 6 at two thirds the difference in marks.

The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for reformed GCSEs. A grade 4 will continue to be a level 2 achievement. The Department for Education does not expect employers, colleges or universities to raise the bar to a grade 5 if a grade 4 would meet their requirements.

The new grading structure will be applied to other GCSE subjects in 2018 and 2019.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017	
New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above – top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above – bottom of C and above

A Splendid Performance

There was no bad luck for Arnewood on Friday 13th, as lucky students had the opportunity to see Splendid Productions perform their version of Macbeth.

Students from Y10-13 watched the incredible performance that adapted Macbeth into a piece of political theatre, making the audience consider leadership, what makes a good leader and corruption. The themes, issues and style of the performance made Shakespeare incredibly relevant to today's audience. The style of the performance meant that students were involved, from getting up on stage, being given lines to say and audience interaction, it was an amazing moment for me as a Drama teacher watching over 50 students being so engaged in Shakespeare.

Twenty five students then stayed for a brilliant workshop with the company where they worked on Splendid's style of performance, bring text to life in an interesting way, studying the text of Macbeth and the use of the theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. Students created some exceptional work and it was definitely a productive few hours, well done to all involved.

By Mrs Watson



GET INTO TEACHING

Open Mornings for Teacher Training Applicants

At Hordle Primary School, from 9.30am - 11am on:

- Tuesday 28th February 2017

The morning will include classroom tours, a presentation of the teacher training programme and an opportunity to ask questions and meet staff and trainees.

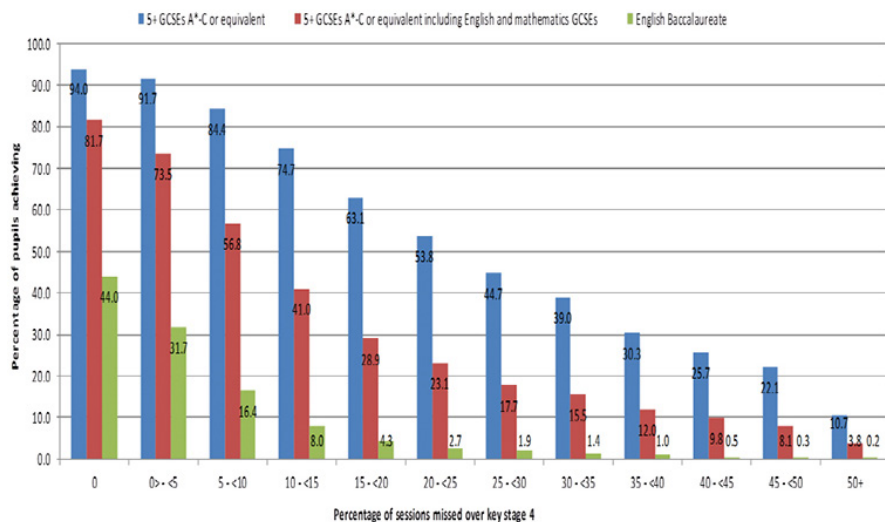
To reserve your place on one of the dates please email k.bower@arnewood.hants.sch.uk



Attendance

As you are probably aware the issue of school attendance is not only a high priority for Arnewood School. As you can see from the analysis of Year 11 results from last year there is a clear link between attendance and examination performance.

Attendance statistics



The issue of holidays during term time has received a lot of publicity in the media, and remains something that should be avoided, unless there are 'exceptional' circumstances. However, we are finding that taking occasional days on a frequent basis is as damaging, if not more damaging, than taking a week holiday. A student taking 1 day off every two weeks will have an attendance of 90%. This is officially classified as 'Persistent Absence' and as you can see in the graph above students who fall into this category are half as likely to achieve 5 GCSE A* - C (inc. En & Ma) as those who have 100% attendance.

In order to overcome persistent absence in the school we do need parental/carers support. Some suggestions to help are:

- Monitor your son/daughter's attendance through ADDS. Please contact the school if you no longer have your username and password to access ADDS from the school website

- Only allow your son/daughter to miss school through illness if you are sure that it is genuine and will interfere with their learning
- Please call and leave a message on the attendance line on the day of absence if your son/daughter is ill
- Try to schedule routine appointments (e.g. dentist) outside of school hours
- Liaise with your son/daughter's Head of Year/Pastoral Support over any issues or concerns that might be preventing them from coming to school
- Avoid holidays/trips during term time
- Please keep Matron and the Head of Year informed of any serious medical issues which may require a prolonged or frequent absence. Letters from doctors or hospitals are always helpful in these situations

Who to contact?

Automated attendance line to report an absence – 01425 625400
Sixth Form absence can be reported on 01425 625408

ALL ABSENCES NEED TO BE REPORTED BY 9.30AM LATEST.

Year Group	Head of Year	Assistant to Head of Year
Year 7	Mrs K. Watson k.watson@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Mrs S. Snowdon s.snowdon@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
Year 8	Mr S. Smailes s.smailes@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Mrs K. Morris k.morris@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
Year 9	Mr C. Elward c.elward@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Mrs S. Jennings s.jennings@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
Year 10	Mr M. Byles m.byles@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Mrs R. Rolfe r.rolfe@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
Year 11	Miss V. Kasey v.kasey@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Miss A. Humphrey a.humphrey@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
Year 12/13	Mr M. Colman m.colman@arnewood.hants.sch.uk	Mrs L. Sheppard l.sheppard@arnewood.hants.sch.uk

The Arnewood School Attendance Policy can be found in 'Our School' > 'attendance' on the school website, alongside other useful literature.

Our expectation is for students to achieve at least 95% attendance or above. As always we are keen to work with parents/carers to ensure that your children attend school and achieve their full potential.

Dates for Your Diary

27th Feb (Monday) School re-opens at 0820

28th Feb (Tuesday) Y12
Geography trip to Barton on Sea

1st March (Wednesday) Y8/9
Scholars programme launch.
School Council meeting.

2nd March (Thursday) Y12
Psychology to Winchester Crown Court.

3rd March (Friday) Hale Gardens
Tennis.

6th March (Monday) Y12
Geography field work to
Southampton.

7th March (Tuesday) Y7 parents' evening. Y13 CGI visit to Solent University.

10th March (Friday) Sixth Form
Records of Achievement sent home.

13th March (Monday) Y9 exams commence.

15th March (Wednesday) Y12
university presentation.

16th March (Thursday) Sixth Form
life skills.

17th March (Friday) Y9 exams end

22nd March (Wednesday) Y8
parents' evening.

24th March (Friday) Y9 Geography
trip to Rainforest.

29th March (Wednesday) Y7 to
Houses of Parliament.

30th March (Thursday)
Y9 - 13 Drama Theatre workshop
in Southampton. Y10 Record of
Achievement sent home.
Spring Concert.

31st March - 2nd April Y8 trip to
Little Canada

31st - 7th April French exchange
student visit.

3rd April (Monday) Y10 Geography
New Forest river visit.

5th April (Wednesday) Y10 parents' evening. School Council meeting.

6th April (Thursday) Y10
Geography New Forest river visit.

10th - 21st April SCHOOL
CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS

24th April (Monday) School re-opens at 0820