

Arnewood News

The Arnewood School 11 - 19 Academy

Spring 2017

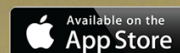
Students go on a Google Expedition



Also inside this issue:

- Y8 swap the classroom for the great outdoors
- Sixth Form debate Trump, Brexit and global warming
- Over £1,600 raised for Comic Relief

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A Lesson Out of this World

Hundreds of students were taking on a virtual trip around the world and universe thanks to Google Expeditions cardboard viewers...



Students visit volcanoes, Antarctica, the solar system and the seven new wonders.

Hundreds of students were whisked away to the Great Wall of China, Maccu Picchu and even the solar system – all without leaving the classroom.

This virtual trip around the universe was made possible when Google paid a special visit to The Arnewood School.

The internet giants were in the school as part of its Google Expeditions tour, where it is aiming to take a million children around the world through its virtual cardboard viewers. More than 400 Arnewood students took part in this memorable event.

Y7 visited volcanoes from around the world, while Y8 covered Antarctica, the solar system and the seven new wonders of the world.

Students also 'swam' under water with sharks, saw the breath taking beauty of the northern lights and went down under to Australia.

Sixth form students also participated being given the chance to explore the Big Apple when they 'visited' New York.

Headteacher, Nigel Pressnell, said: "This was a fantastic experience for our students to see how technology can take us to places they have never been before."

"Although virtual reality can never replace the same real world experience, this is still an amazing tool to bring remote places to life without having to leave the classroom."

"Advances in technology can really boost learning and I'm grateful to Google for introducing this to our school."

Google Expeditions enables teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips, immersing students in experiences that bring abstract concepts to life and giving students a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom.

A box is provided that gives schools the tools needed to travel, a tablet for the teacher and cardboard viewers and smartphones for every student.

The teacher selects a destination and then the entire classroom jumps there automatically just by looking through the cardboard viewers.

Several organisations have contributed to developing the programme, including the Wildlife Conservation Society, PBS, American Museum of Natural History, the Planetary Society and the Palace of Versailles.

The trips are all collections of virtual reality

panoramas using 360° photo spheres, 3D images and video and ambient sounds. They are annotated with details, points of interest, and questions that make the trips easy to integrate into the curriculum already used in schools.

Y7 student, Gabriele Jeruseviciute said, "I really enjoyed the Google Expedition as we got to learn about volcanos by going on a virtual trip, which was really fun. We looked at the different types of volcanoes, how they were formed and how they erupt. The whole class really enjoyed it and found the experience really interesting."



Sixth Form take a trip to the Big Apple, New York.

Civic Service Recognising Those Who Serve Our Community



Students honour those who help serve our community at Civic Service

Representatives from The Arnewood School Council attended New Milton's Civic Service at Ashley Baptist Church on Sunday 12th March.

Members of the New Milton Town Council and others were praised during a service which included a thought provoking sermon about leadership and great leaders. Students joined members of the community in singing hymns and offering prayers to those whose efforts tirelessly serve the community.

The service was followed by afternoon tea which

included a superb spread of home-made cakes. This was met with great approval from the students who looked very comfortable in their environment, chatting away with local dignitaries and enjoying delightful conversation, being the last ones to leave. (They were great cakes!)

Mr Pressnell and Mrs Cook thanked the School Council representatives for, once again, being a credit to the school.

By Miss Macbeth

If You Go Down to the Woods Today...



Students at Bolderwood deer viewing gallery hoping to spot one of the New Forest's most majestic animals.

...You will find a group of Y8 students stepping outside of the classroom environment and in to the New Forest to practise their leadership and team working skills.

At a time where much emphasis is placed on being technologically savvy and students constantly connected to the world of social media, it is vital that we keep the connection to the real world and our natural world. Many adults will be able to recall their experiences of the outdoors at cubs, scouts or guides and know how much achievement, satisfaction and fun comes with outdoor activities.

The aim of the day was to build a fire with enough heat to boil water and cook a frankfurter sausages. Students were divided into two teams and tasked to collect suitable fuel. The only hints given were where to look and an ingenious method of how to start the fire and sustain the flames in its early stages. The rest was up to them. I am glad to say we have had a 100% success rate so far, which is primarily down to excellent teamwork as well as the

special method of keeping the fire going.

No 'forest feast' is complete without an 'al fresco' hot chocolate. In this case, the boiled water is courtesy of the 'Storm' or 'Kelly' kettle. Students and staff alike have been particularly wowed at the design and function of this very effective piece of kit.

The experience is topped off with a short hop over the road from Blackwater to the Bolderwood Deer Viewing Gallery in the hope of spotting one of the New Forest's most majestic animals. On one of the trips we were lucky enough to see a roe deer grazing in the setting sun.

All students have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and the question 'when can we do this again?' is often asked. Both Mrs Morris and I have been impressed by the way our students engaged with the activity and worked effectively as a team – especially when there was food at stake! So far we have taken approximately 40 students out and we look forward to taking many more.

By Mr Smailes & Mrs Morris

Over £1,600 Raised for Comic Relief

Students and staff have definitely lived up to the Red Nose Day 'Super School' status after raising £1,650 for Comic Relief on Friday 24th March.

Students helped raise money with a charity non-uniform day, sponsored silences and cake sales during break time, kindly provided by our lovely finance ladies and tutor group 7REL.

Imogen Gould, Y13 and Amy Finch, Y7 raised over £50 between them for their sponsored silence - we bet that was tough!

The Library also hosted a 'Knock, Knock, Who's There' quiz where students had to find the punchlines hidden around the library.

A special thank you has to go to 07PFR who raised an impressive £152 by raffling off a hamper filled with 50 different varieties of chocolate - the lucky winner was Jasmine in 7GML.

9DSR also did their bit by hosting a special assembly in front of their peers to raise awareness and by organising a 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' game.

To end the day Mr Breaker organised a Comic Relief 6-a-side football tournament, which raised £57.

The money raised by students will enable Comic Relief to help other young people around the world build a better life for themselves, their families and communities. The amount raised is enough to pay for a year's apprenticeship for 16 young people living on the streets in Kenya. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.



Author Visits Arnewood

Students spend the day attending various workshops put together by author Jane Prowse...



Jane Prowse is not only the author of a series of children's books but has a wealth of writing and directing experience for film, television and theatre. And we were delighted when Jane agreed to spend a day at The Arnewood School.

First lesson Jane addressed all our Y7 and 8 students in the Hall. She naturally introduced herself and explained her route to success. She emphasised that if you have a clear focus and work hard it is possible to achieve what you aim for. She treated the students with readings from her first book and two lucky students dressed up as Ninja Warriors. Also, another successful student won a book for their demonstration of the animus they would choose to have.

Period two saw Jane working with a group of Y9 gifted and talented students giving a creative writing workshop. In groups of three the students learnt techniques for successful creative writing and in just an hour all produced a credible short story. These included one involving a murderer who used poisoned ice at a party, two girls trapped in a shopping centre overnight and an archaeologist in Egypt discovering something very strange and scary in a pyramid. The main lesson learnt was that the majority of the effort required should be applied to the planning.

After grabbing a quick coffee and biscuit Jane threw herself into a directing situation with an eager

group of Y11 drama students in one of the Drama Rooms. She spent time with them individually on their dramatic pieces and shared ideas and encouragement.

The last lesson before lunch was in the library with a class of Y10 media students. Jane gave some fascinating and amusing insights to the reality of directing a film. Her love for this work shone through and the students could not fail to be inspired by her energy and work ethos. Their questions reflected their engagement.

Following a hasty lunch Jane happily met students in the library for a chat and book signing session before the final lesson of the day.

A select group of Y7 students enjoyed the final lesson in the library as Jane talked about the themes in her books and again read extracts to a spell bound audience. Two excited students dressed up as Ninja warriors. The students were then inspired to create their own magical Ninja throwing stars. Ideas included a target seeking star, one that ejects poisonous gas, one that fires lightning and one that hypnotises its target to make them good. Jane chose three deserving winners who each received a copy of her first book. Thus ended a productive and entertaining day.

Jane's books are available to borrow from the school library and more details can be found on her website: <http://www.janeprowse.com/>

By Mrs Woodacre

The Big Debate

A panel of five Y13 students hosted a political debate in front of their peers as part of their life skills. Charlie Gates who was on the panel explains more...



Recently sixth form students had the chance to participate in a debate on various topics including Donald Trump's state visit, the legalisation of cannabis, whether Brexit is a good thing and the lowering of the voting age. A panel of five Y13 students started the discussions whilst the audience was encouraged to participate and give their own opinions on the issues.

To prepare for the debate students could research the topics on the internet by reading online news articles and researching the facts to do with the topics debated. For example, one student looked into the effects of cannabis on the body by using the NHS website.

It is important for the students to be interested in politics so that they become aware of the importance of the political process and democracy. Currently young people have the lowest turnout out of the whole British electorate, this makes it important that they become interested in politics at a young age so that our democracy becomes as legitimate as possible. This was also a reason as to why the debate was organised, to excite and

encourage young people to take an active and engaging part in Government and Politics.

Many students felt the debate was heated at times as a variety of opinions on the matters in the discussion were voiced. One student suggested that climate change is natural whilst another pointed out how cannabis can cause users a loss of self-control.

Well done to everybody who participated in the debate!



By Charlie Gates, Y13

‘Chemical Soup’ for Lunch Anyone?



Smoking is an unhealthy habit affecting 1 in 6 adults in the UK and is one of the leading causes of lung cancer. This is why students have been finding out what exactly goes into a cigarette for Stop Smoking Week 2017.

In a week of assemblies students were left stunned and amazed as they watched Mrs Currie, the school’s Matron, and her assistant make a ‘chemical soup’ containing just a few of the 4000 substances found in tobacco smoke. Over 200 of these are known to be toxic and over 60 are known to cause cancer. Acetone (paint stripper), arsenic (rat poison), butane (lighter fluid), Methanol (anti-freeze), and ammonia (toilet cleaner) are just a few of the chemicals found in a cigarette.

Mrs Currie said, “The aim of the assemblies was to not only give students hard facts about the risks of smoking, but to also raise awareness of the risks to health if exposed to the ‘soup’ of chemicals.”

“Creating the chemical soup gave the students a visual impression of the toxicity of cigarettes and highlighted why our homes should be smoke free. The inhalation of secondary smoke is just as dangerous and I cannot emphasise enough that if family members smoke it is important to remember to step outside for the safety of young lungs.”

The visual display of jars of tar and phlegm during break time also shocked students as one commented, “I don’t want that inside my body” and “that is disgusting”. This display was a great way for our students to understand the dangers of smoking by being able to see the results.

Students were also made aware of the support that is available for them and their families. If you are thinking about quitting smoking there is lots of help and support available. Visit: www.quit4life.nhs.uk or see your local GP for more advice. Mrs Currie is also always on hand to offer advice and support to our students.

Sean Represents Hampshire Juniors

Well done to keen runner Sean Harnett in Y9, who represented Hampshire junior boys in the English Schools Championships in Norwich on Saturday 18th March.

Sean competed against 44 other Counties in the 4,000m, finishing in a very respectable 191th place out of a field of 345 in a time of 14:11.

It was Sean’s first experience competing at this level and he hopes to qualify again next year.



(Photo from a previous event)