



ARNEWOOD NEWS

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

- The spirit of giving
- Fond farewells
- Explosive science

DECEMBER 2021



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It has been an especially busy Autumn Term packed full of exciting opportunities for students as we strive to regain normality for them after the pandemic disruptions which dogged much of last year. Many of these events are highlighted in this term's newsletter but in addition we have also offered a full sporting programme, students have enjoyed guest speakers for PHSE including from Solent Mind, and upper year groups have got back into the rhythm of exam preparation including mocks in the hall. We do have contingency plans for centre based assessment in 2022 but hope exams will not be cancelled for a third year despite the mixed experience students are having across the UK.



You will be aware that some local schools have had to close early this term or place some year groups on home study. We might easily find ourselves in a similar situation in the New Year depending on the spread of the Omicron variant. Given the difficulty of finding adequate supply staff I wish to recognise the additional commitment offered by many teacher who have taken on additional cover, including working on their day off. Equally support staff have been no less committed. We are incredibly lucky as a community, to have such an amazing staff body.

Naturally at the end of term we have a few staff changes. We say farewell to Mrs Currie (Student Welfare and Safeguarding) who is retiring, as is Mrs Light (Canteen). They will be replaced by Mrs Lupe and Mrs Ansell respectively. Mr Sarpong (Maths) who was with us on a temporary contract will be handing over to the post holder appointed last summer, Ms Begum. Mrs Dyer (D&T) will be moving to a Dorest middle school to teach art and D&T. Mr Dunbar will return to the school to cover her classes until a permanent replacement is found. Mrs Ballentyne (Head of PE) is taking a short career break. We wish new staff a warm welcome and those who are leaving every happiness with their new plans.

This term has also seen a number of long-service awards. Mrs Reece (Senior Teacher/RE), Mr Elward (Head of Year/PE) and Mr Windebank (Site Team) have each been at the school for 30 years. Mr Colman (Assistant Head/PE), Mr Kinnison (History), Miss Parry (Biology) and Mrs Watson (Assistant Head/MFL) have each been at the school for 20 years. I thank them sincerely for their dedication to students and their families, literally across generations.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas. I look forward to seeing you safely in the New Year!

N. M. Pressnell

Mr Pressnell, Headteacher



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MUCH LOVED DINNER LADY RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS

This term, popular Dinner Lady Mrs Di Light retires after 35 years' service at The Arnewood School.

Mrs Light will be retiring at the end of the week after having taken on the roll she held from her mother in law. Di took over her post on the catering team from her mother-in-law Mrs Light (Senior) who had been with the school for 27 years. To help Headteacher, Nigel Pressnell present Di with a gift of thanks for her years of dedicated service were four of her five grandchildren all currently attending the school. At the presentation Di was surprised by co-workers and the special visit of family members to celebrate her achievement. Mrs Light said "I can't believe it is coming to an end after all this time. I have seen many faces come and go over the years, but we have been lucky in the canteen and have always had a good team, I am really going to miss it"!

Nigel Pressnell, Headteacher commented, "We shall all miss Mrs Light, she has been one of Arnewood's constants, a steadfast and loyal colleague, who has literally catered for generations of students in the past 35 years. We all wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement on hanging up her apron and ladle at the end of the term".



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CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Wednesday the 15th December students were invited to wear a festive jumper to school. As well as spreading some festive cheer, the aim was to raise awareness for New Forest Basics Bank which provides support for disadvantaged families in the local area. Rather than bringing any money in, students were asked to bring in one or more of the items in high demand by the food bank to help someone in need.





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The Rev Andrew Bailey and Arnewood Chair of Governors Elizabeth Cook with Year 8 students and the Christmas boxes that will be sent to orphans in Europe

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN ACTION

Year 8 students have collected hundreds of presents for disadvantaged children aboard. They packed 69 boxes full of festive goodies for youngsters in Bosnia, Georgia, Romania and Moldova. Teams4U, the charity that runs the scheme, will deliver the presents to orphanages where children have very little.

Before they were sent on their way the boxes were blessed by Rev Andrew Bailey, rector of New Milton's St Mary Magdalene church, in the presence of Elizabeth Cook, the chair of governors.

Headteacher Nigel Pressnell said: "All our Year 8 tutor groups got involved and collected hundreds of gifts." "The effort was overseen by teacher James Vibert and the students put in a lot of effort because they wanted the orphans to have a better Christmas than they otherwise would have had."

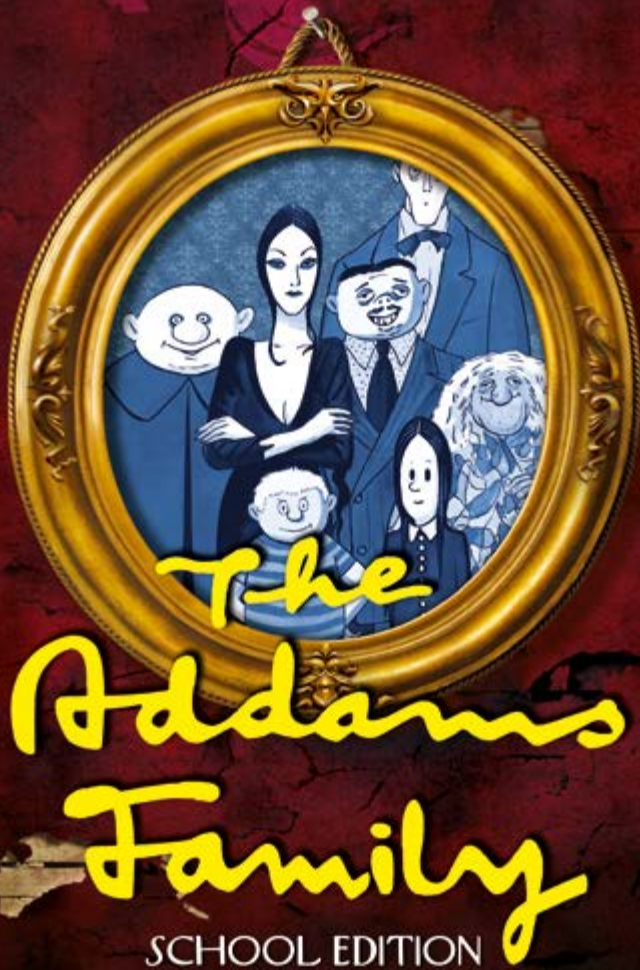
"The charity Teams4U will ensure the wrapped boxes will reach the orphanages in these poor countries." Teams4U was founded in 1996 by Dave Cook who recalled television pictures of Romanian children in orphanages in 1990. He said: "I set up Teams4U because I wanted to give people that wanted to help the opportunity to give more than just money."



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THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL PRESENTS



The Arnewood School is looking forward to showcasing the dramatic and musical talents of our students in the upcoming Addams Family Production. The production is scheduled in the New Year for the week commencing on the 24th of January.

CAST LIST

Gomez Addams – Michael Allen
Morticia Addams – Rebecca Caslake
Uncle Fester – Connor Summers
Wednesday Addams – Libby Harrison
Grandma – Mollie Gazzard
Pugsley Adams – Joshua Brindley
Lurch – Harry Smith
Mal Beineke – Noah Woodcraft
Alice Beineke – Elizabeth Grylls
Lucas Beineke – Ashley Savage

Principal Ancestors

Imogen Bowerbank, Faith James-Morse, Nyah Sills, Jase Padley, Kaya Brown, Sarbia Chebli, Ed Shinn, Dylan Print, Luke Lansbury, Sadie Hughes, Elliot Lowe, Phoebe Wilcox, Jessica Embleton, Finley Wright, Cassie Kendall, Millie-Anna Vigar, Isobelle Gilbert, Chongo Crokey

Dance Captains

Deanna Lansbury and Jack Bourne

Ancestors

Taiya Douglas, Summer Harvey Seren Edwards, Chloe Sibthorpe, Sami Wazwaz, Caleb Pettyman, Jack Bourne, Jessica Lea, Charlie Parrish-Garton, Amdra-Daniela Tudor, Isabelle Embleton, Elif Stamcheva, Charlotte Hook, Lois Robinson, Kiera Shinn, Harriet Hodges, Brooke Oliver, Erin Arnold, Holly Everett, Lori Gouldstone, Darcy Courtney, Eloise Durrant, Lily Gregory, Nicole Kingston-Davies, Sally Brown, Summer Sibthorpe, Tiana Lovatt, Olivia Robbins, Amie George, Heidi Hjirling, Jasmine Sloan, Phoebe De Grey, Grace Barry, Saffi Farwell, Samantha-Jayne Bickerstaff, Aimeeleigh Webster, Ed Shinn, Sophie Mcpartland, Edyth Shinn, Evie Dunn-Mussert, Rose Jolley, Aisha Tuffin, Isabelle Holyoake, Emily-Mai Chard



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EXPLOSIVE SCIENCE ENERGY LIVE!

- P. GRANT



On Tuesday the 7th of January the Arnewood School welcomed the Royal Institute to give their explosive show Energy Live! Three talks were given during the day; for year 7, year 8 and a community show in the evening. The talks gave an exciting journey through the stores of energy that surround us. From elastic to gravitational, kinetic to chemical, students saw first-hand fiery and explosive demonstrations of what energy is and how it affects our lives.



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The Faraday Challenge is a competition based on real-world problems and brings together STEM subjects (science, design and technology, engineering and maths). Designed to engage young people develop their problem solving and communication skills.



This time around the National Faraday Challenge was run in school by the Institute of Engineering and Technology. Students were excited to undertake the challenge set and sponsored by the IMEEH who designed and build Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

5 Teams of Year 8 students competed to design, build, and present their ideas for innovative devices to help calm and reassure children during a stay in hospital.



We were impressed with the high levels of enthusiasm and teamwork from all students. The winning team took the trophy with an 'automated safety window device', and narrowly missed a national top 5 placement with an impressive score of 76%. Congratulations to all the students involved for their brilliant efforts!



THE FARADAY CHALLENGE



The winning team with their plaque and voucher prizes >



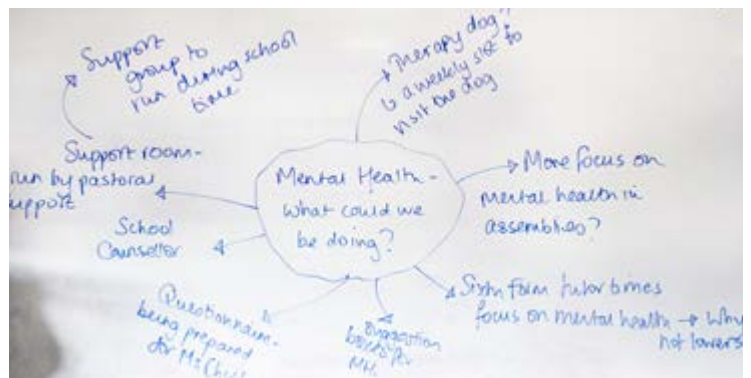


SCHOOL COUNCIL FOCUS ON WELLBEING



This term the student council focused on the different ways that mental health service could be improved in and around school. Many ideas were proposed including; a visiting therapy dog, a mediated weekly support meeting, a dedicated room/safe space, and tutor times with a focus on practical strategies for coping with issues that affect wellbeing.

Miss Chubb and Miss Tristram are collaborating with students to create a questionnaire to identify specific needs. Ultimately Miss Chubb is hoping to open a mental health support hub 'The Zone' mid January that could run Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes for identified students.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACCREDITATION

A select group of students will be working on a range of activities this year to help develop new skills, boost their self-esteem and help with their mental wellbeing. At the end of the year, they will be accredited student leaders with a Bronze Award from the SSAT. Watch this space...



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A lucky group of Year 7 students had an hour of Christmas entertainment in the library towards the end of term. Jill Barr is a local storyteller who visited us to share her talents. Her drapes and light-up Christmas tree transformed the library into a magical area primed for listening.

To set the festive mood, Jill began with a rendition of 'Last Christmas' whereby the students joined in the choruses.

We then settled down to her first story, set in the frozen wastes of the Arctic Circle. As in all good tales, reality was suspended as we listened about a man who befriending a polar bear and trolls creating havoc after they came down the chimney.

The next story was another snowy one, set in the Far North. A childless couple seem to receive just what they wished for when a snow child arrives to live with them. The ending, however, was not quite as joyful.

To lift our spirits Jill followed on with drumming! Handing out her eclectic assortment of drums the students all managed to beat to the tune as Jill sang. As in the first song, Jill played her electric ukulele. Great fun was had by all.

Jill introduced her final story as the true story of Christmas. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem where the son of God was born in a stable.

To finish the session Jill organised the students to stand up and sit down as they sang 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. This was most successful as the students concentrated on standing up and sitting down in the right places during the song.

The art of storytelling is as old as time and as the students listened intently they benefited from the joy that stories bring to us emotionally and intellectually.

A GIFT OF STORIES & MUSIC

- C. WOODACRE





TEXTILES CLUB



The extra-curricular fashion and textiles club proved very popular this term. Students have been working on sewing “day of the dead” sugar skulls, as well as designing and making fleece ski hats. One student has taken things a step further and sewing an entire dress from scratch. Mrs D Hitchens is keen to give students some experience in the field ahead of introducing a GCSE in textiles in the future. Fashion and Textiles club runs on a Tuesday from 3 – 4pm and places are limited so must be booked with Mrs Hitchens beforehand.



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If you happened to find yourself up on the science corridor on a Tuesday or Thursday after school in September, you might have come across some new recruits to the Ministry of Magic. Hogwarts latest venture had arrived at the year 7 Science Club.

The very first meeting - the Sorting Hat, chose which House the students would be best suited to. Each student had to wear/hold the Sorting Hat whilst lighting a sugar cube, the colour of the flame showed which of the Houses the student would do well in.

Over the coming weeks, students were schooled in a variety of magical skills - in Care of Mythical Creatures, they grew mystery organisms including sand snakes. A visit from an unexpected creature proved to be a very fiery dragon who surprised us all.

MUGGLES BEWARE! YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB

**IS THERE
WITCHCRAFT & WIZARDRY
IN THE REAL WORLD?**

YEAR 7
FIND OUT AT THE
YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB
STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Potions | Care of mythical creatures | Herbology
Alchemy | Invisibility cloaks | Levitation
Apparition | Charms

Potions involved the use of acids and alkalis. Since then, the students have looked at Herbology, extracting the oil in orange peel, have seen how to make objects disappear and appear by bending light. Objects were made to float on air in a session on Levitation. Charms involved the making of new from old using electrolysis.

Hogwarts came to the Arnewood year 7 Science club to show that there is Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Real World. There is a trip to Harry Potter World being planned for the fledgling Witches and Wizards in May for those who achieve the Crest Award. Science club will continue in the New Year when we will hopefully to see everyone who enjoyed this term to come back and perhaps pick up a few New recruits that would be interested in having fun with the world of flight, aerodynamics and rockets.

Mrs Galton, Mrs Horobin, Mrs Watson



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WINCHESTER SCIENCE MUSEUM

On Wednesday 9th November 110 Year 8 students embarked on an exciting trip to Winchester Science Centre for the day!

