



Headteacher's Letter

Dear Readers,

I feel worn out after reading the accounts of success and enjoyment in this magazine. It is far too easy to forget how much our staff and students do each and every day as they work together. I am sure you will enjoy the following articles.

On a broader point, we know this is a time of celebration for families and of gifts for all. At Aldridge, we have also sought to remember those who are less fortunate and our second charity day will look to further support our selected charities. We appreciate your kindness in supporting this effort, organised by our school council. We feel it is important that we ask our students to remember their part in the wider community, both locally and nationally.

Our best and seasonal wishes to you all.

Mr D. Mountney BSc MA

Book Week

Poet Laureate for Slade, Paul Cookson, encouraged pupils 'to feel the noize' when he entertained them at Aldridge School.



The poet, who has more than sixty titles to his name and has sold more than three quarters of a million books, visited school to help champion our annual book week.

Paul, who is also the official poet in residence for the National Football Museum in Manchester, read from his books, played his ukulele and chatted to students in Year 7.

He was presented with scores of spooky green models inspired by his 'Hoblins and Boglins' poem and was described by one student as being a 'poet Lee Mack'. "We had a great morning reading poetry," he said, "and it was the first school I've been to where the pupils made models of the creatures in one of my poems." Mrs Kaur, school librarian, said: "The students have been inspired by Paul's visit and enjoyed book week which is all about encouraging them to read."

Prize Award Evening

It was a case of when 'Sir met Sir' at Aldridge School when teachers welcomed back former pupil Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach KCB CBE ADC, the UK's second in command for defence.

Sir Stuart made a special visit to Aldridge School as guest of honour on September 12th. The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff was presenting awards to outstanding pupils at our annual prize-giving ceremony. Before the awards Sir Stuart, 57, caught up with his form tutor Mr Randall who took him on a tour of his old classrooms.



Mr Randall, who only retired at the end of last term after 44-years teaching History, said he remembered Sir Stuart as a pupil: "He was always very smart, never had detention and never had a day off school. It is great to meet him again having achieved so much and I was impressed that he still had his old school tie."

Sir Stuart was a student at Aldridge School from 1967 to 1974. He said: "I haven't been back here since I was presented with my awards in 1975 at the school prize-giving. Mr Randall was my form tutor and taught the finest subject, History. It is a pleasure to come back and see how well the school is doing."

Target 2.0

On Thursday 28th of November, four Economics students from Aldridge School took part in The Times and Bank of England Target 2.0 challenge. The challenge gives 16-18 year olds the chance to take on the role of Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, this includes assessing economic conditions and the outlook for inflation, ultimately deciding what base rate interest rates should be set to achieve Target 2.0 inflation.

The four members Joshua Ford, Calum Williams, Jake Selvey and myself, plus Ashwin Patel, reserve team member, all decided that it was necessary to maintain the current base rate at 0.5% and QE at £375bn, for all the economists out there this decision was largely due to the threat of a liquidity trap and to control inflationary expectations (apologises to the rest of the school for my economic jargon)! After months of questioning and scrutiny from the Year 13 economics class and with over 31 draft presentations the time had come to deliver the presentation: the venue - Aston University. The means of transport-minibus. The judges - three distinguished members from the BoE.

After delivering the presentation and a Q&A session, the team were praised for their understanding of monetary policy and the context within the presentation. Of the eight schools participating, Aldridge fended off six grammar schools and a college but just couldn't deliver the knockout blow against Queen Mary Grammar School, overall finishing second.

I would personally like to thank Jake, Calum, Josh and Ashwin for the time and effort they dedicated to the project despite their obligations to their A-level studies. However, each member agreed that the project would not have gone ahead if it wasn't for the work and commitment of Mr Freer, who continues to prove to be a vital asset to Aldridge School's Economics Department.

James Fardell (Team Captain)

Winter Reading

The Tales of Terror series of books make for fantastic reading. A balance between the art of the short story and the novel is cleverly used in all three books in the series: Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror, Tales of Terror from the Black Ship and Tales of Terror from the Tunnel's Mouth. All three books start with the story of the main characters who meet someone who tells them ghost stories, which make up each chapter. I would recommend these to everyone who loves a twist in the tale and wants to be truly gripped and transported by a book. Magical.

Mrs Baldwin

Students get a taste of The Apprentice

New sixth formers at Aldridge School were given a taste of 'The Apprentice' when they met one of Lord Sugar's TV candidates and food entrepreneur, Tim Stillwell.

The Birmingham University business graduate appeared on the hit BBC Show until he was fired by Lord Sugar after his team Evolve failed to sell flavoured beer. The 24-year-old has since opened his own successful food outlet called 'Burrito Kitchen' at the Merry Hill shopping centre, a business he first launched while at university.

Tim took time out of his hectic schedule to meet Year 12 students, who were taking part in an entrepreneurial Apprentice Challenge Day. Students were divided into teams and given three hours to develop a new business model which they had to present to a panel of judges.



Tim said: "It's great to come along to a school like this and meet young people who are full of new business ideas. The challenge encourages them to work as a team and then present their ideas to their peers, something we all have to do in business to make a success of it." Lorenzo Cosco, from Education Business Services Ltd, who organised the event, said: "We were very grateful to Tim for coming along and taking part in a simple but effective challenge event because it really gets the students to think seriously about starting their own business at the same time as identifying their enterprise capabilities."

Aldridge Ambassadors

This year we had 24 Year 7 pupils sign up and have been taking on a range of roles including primary school visits to talk to Year 6 pupils, helped out at open evenings and most importantly being there for the new intake of Year 7s if they needed any help and support.



BARR BULLETIN

Message from Mrs Parton

The sound of sleigh bells is in the air as the Autumn term draws to a much colder close than it started. It does not seem like a whole term has gone by since I took over as your Head of House. I would like to thank you all for making me so welcome; I feel like I have always been a member of Barr House. Miss Tame and I are proud of all your achievements and successes and are looking forward to our final assembly on the 16th December when we will be able to further celebrate with you.

Representatives

I would like to formally welcome to the Barr House team, our Head Girl – Harriet Green; Head Boy – Shivinder Ahlawalia-Timmins and Sports Captains – Jack Holmes and Katie Lunn. I continue to wish them every success and any support as they fulfil these vital roles.

Bulls Become Bulldogs

A hotly contested competition took place this term to re-brand Barr House, with approximately fifty entries submitted. The House Council decided on a democratic vote from all forms between two designs supplied by Laura Bird. The winning Bulldog design will now filter through as the ongoing logo for Barr House. Many thanks and congratulations go to Laura Bird.



House Championship

Miss Tame and I have witnessed some excellent commitment and performances from many members of Barr House in a variety of sports including football, basketball and netball. Your efforts currently see us in joint first place with Scott House and Linley House close on our heels. The forthcoming Dance Competition and Swimming Gala will be vital to our position in the leader board, please sign up and join in. Win or lose, Miss Tame and I will be there to cheer you on!

Disney On Ice

I was pleased to take members of Year Seven to see Disney on Ice: Dare to Dream. We all had a sing along and ate lots of sweets. I was proud of their outstanding behaviour whilst we were there.



Final Words

It has been a busy term of hard work as we have all settled back in after the Summer break. I thank you all again for your commitment to Barr House. Whatever you do over the holidays, I wish you a fantastic break and look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Mrs Parton

Daniels News

The academic year has started well with the new Year 7 pupils settling into the school, many of whom have already gained merits and certificates for the standard of their work. Fine examples of this are Matthew Fizer 7.70D and Michael Butler 7.72D who have both gained over one hundred merits to receive a Headteacher Certificate.

House Achievements

Jena Patel 7.70D has shown her Art and Design ability by producing the winning logo design competition which ran during the school's 'Anti Bullying' week. The logo is now used as a link icon on the school website.

Congratulations to Daniels student James Fardell on being appointed Head Boy of Aldridge School.

Congratulations also to our new senior post holders for Daniels House this year.



Sporting Star

Connor Talbot is a Year 13 student who has represented Daniels House in many sporting events over the years, which is much appreciated. In Year 10 he gained the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Outside school Connor is now putting himself to the test by taking on the challenge of a Triathlon (swim, bike and run). To-date he has taken part in three events and raised money for local charities.



House Championship

Thank you to all pupils that have volunteered to represent Daniels in the inter-house competitions. So far this year we have won the Intermediate Basketball and were runners up in both the Intermediate and Senior Netball competitions.

It is pleasing to see so many rehearsing for the Dance competition taking place at the end of this term; Daniels House won this event last year and we wish them success this year.

I am sure this positive start will be maintained throughout this year as pupils apply themselves to the many opportunities and challenges to gain academic and extracurricular success.

Best wishes

Mr
Vanes and
Mrs
Sommerfield

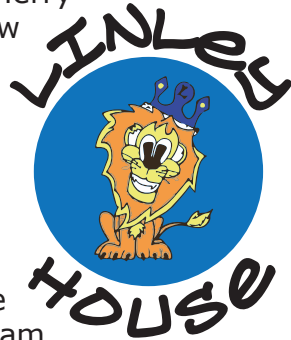


LINLEY LOWDOWN

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF HOUSE

Our first 'Lowdown' of the year so a formal opportunity to say congratulations to year 7 and their parents; you have managed the first term and hopefully have now settled into your new school life and are happy. A big hello to our new Pastoral Support Assistant Mrs R Karma; everyone has made her feel so welcome. We have had a great start to the new school year and have had a very successful term with so many House awards and competitions being won. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Morton
Head of Linley House



GOOD NEWS

Linley House Dance will take place on 16th December. I am pleased to say that Jorja Smith L09HHA has choreographed a fantastic dance. I am sure we will do very well. Good luck to one and all. Thanks Jorja for all the hard work and commitment you have shown.

A massive well done to James Garrett who took part in the World Karate Championships over the half term and beat everyone to become world champion in all of his Kata events and fighting in his age category.

Well done to Noah Keatley-Whyte and Ben Embry for their Football team's win against Rugeley. They were part of the team that won 4-0 making them top of the league. Noah even scored the first goal.

HOUSE ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to many students who have already achieved their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards in year 7 and 8. This is a great achievement and we want you to keep up the hard work.

Well done to all the year 9 pupils who are collecting PAT awards 'thick and fast'

Finally, all of the commendations collected by years, 10 and 11 it is excellent to see them being brought into Linley House Office.

SPORTING EVENTS

Linley have started very well this year and have already gone into 3rd place. We are very close behind 1st/2nd place as well. When writing this Linley House has 25 points and both Scott and Barr have 27. There is also only two points between us so we are still on course to come first this year as long as we keep up the volunteering and of course winning! This term we have had the following results:

Senior Netball – 3rd
Intermediate Football – 1st
Junior Football – 3rd
Senior Netball – 3rd
Girls' Junior Football – 3rd
Girls' Senior Football – 2nd
Junior Basketball – 1st
Intermediate Basketball – 2nd
Senior Basketball – 2nd

Well done Linley House keep up the great work.

MEMORABLE ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to 11.30L for our cultural assembly about the origins of Halloween and helping us to understand the Halloween we celebrate today. Also full of some great safety tips. Well done guys.

Thank you very much to 8.63L who gave us a great assembly on thinking before we act. Remember the answer to questions asked should never be "I don't know". If they are you have not thought before you did something.

Thank you to 7.26L for helping us remember! Their assembly, based on Remembrance Day, helped us to educate Linley House so they can then educate the next generation and allow us to never forget what others have done for us.

Lastly, but not least, thank you to 8.48L for their assembly about JFK. It really made us think about making a difference and how influential and what a good role model he really was.

If you have any good news or information you want featured in the Linley Lowdown then please let Mr Morton or Mrs Karma know.

WELCOME BACK

It has been a terrific start to the Autumn term in Scott House, we've welcomed back our Inter – House championship winning students and greeted a whole new cohort of Scott House year 7s. When we interviewed all three Year 7 forms back in the Summer, each and every one of them were full of excitement, potential and some even a little nervous. Looking at them now each week in our assembly and visiting forms we can see that they have grown and developed in confidence. Our returning students have also moved on a year and they too have new challenges and new opportunities at Aldridge School and we look forward to being with them every step of the way.

SIXTH FORM

It was very difficult to choose our Head Boy and Head Girl for this year because there were so many really good candidates. Luckily we were able to find roles for all of them and they have been really fantastic. they are: Abi Miles, Head Girl, George Caulton Head Boy and Sophie Beardsmore our Sport's Captain. We also have Sheri Barrett, Aaron Kelly, Eleanor Forrest and Emily Egan who are fantastic role models.

SPORTING STARS

Last year's Inter-House championship victory was very special and all of the credit goes to the boys and girls who played their part and gave up their time to support Scott House. Memories of those dark Winter nights cheering on the Scott team to victory will stay with Mrs Walters and myself for some time. This year we have started well and we have just caught Barr to become joint leaders at the time of writing, we had some good solid

performances in the events and won the junior football and the senior basket ball. We would both like to say a big thank you to everybody who has taken part since September for their amazing performances.

Looking ahead to the Inter House dance competition we would like to thank Abi Miles, Emily Stanley and Sophie Beardsmore for organising and choreographing this year's Scott dancers. Watching them practise twice a week after school makes us very proud and appreciative of the commitment they put into this tough job.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

We have already delivered dozens and dozens of postcards and certificates of achievements to Scott House students of all year groups, but special mentions must go to: Tarran Sidhu, Sirraaj Tarajia, Kaytone Mcduffus –Mendez and Jenson Hayward all lower school students who have already received Head teacher vouchers for achieving 150 merits. Indeed, the Headteacher's PA sent an email congratulating the "lots of good pupils in Scott". Through our on-going 1-1 praise meetings with all of our students who are achieving success, we would like to say a special well done to those students who

have exceeded their challenging predicted grades. We would also like to congratulate those students who are able to maintain a consistent attendance record. We currently have over half of our students still achieving 100% so well done to them.

As the Autumn term draws to a close and we all look forward to the Christmas holidays we would like to wish you all a restful break and a very happy new year.

Mr Mendham and Mrs Walters



Molière

Notre excursion récente au théâtre à Birmingham était super. Nous avons vu la pièce de théâtre de Molière qui s'appelle 'Le Tartuffe'. Il faisait froid donc la chaleur de la salle de théâtre était très accueillante. La pièce elle-même était superbe. C'était très drôle et la représentation des personnages de la pièce était géniale. Bien que ce soit une pièce française les acteurs parlaient en anglais.

La scène de la REP était mise en place avec un grand escalier et l'extérieur d'une grande maison. Il y avait environ quatre portes qui sont importantes dans la pièce. Tartuffe n'arrive sur la scène qu'après deux actes et Mark Williams l'avait très bien joué. Tartuffe est un hypocrite et la pièce est à propos de ses actions et la famille avec qui il habite.

Nous avons tous aimé la scène la mieux connue de la pièce où Orgon se cache sous une table et Elmire essaye de duper Tartuffe. C'était vraiment rigolo et nous avons beaucoup ri. Heureusement, la vraie personnalité de Monsieur Tartuffe est découverte et il va au prison.

C'était un heureux dénouement pour toute la famille!

Chrissie Hawkins et Calum Williams année 13

Walsall Netball Tournaments

During September and October, girls from Years 7-11 competed in the Walsall Schools Netball Tournaments. There was a tournament organised for each year group, with as many as 13 different Walsall schools entering teams to play. It was a competitive, fun event and the girls had the opportunity to practise their skills against a range of opposition. Aldridge Year 11s came second in their tournament winning 7/9 matches.

Our Year 10 team girls finished in fifth place and our Year 9s were runners up in their competition. So many teams entered the Year 7 competition that teams were divided into two pools, with Aldridge Year 7s winning their pool convincingly. After February half term, the league will take place for all year groups and will involve home and away fixtures.

English Success

The English Department has a lot to shout about this term. Jennifer Smith, Year 8, has won the Key Stage 3 category of the Descriptosaurus writing Challenge organised by the Literacy Trust. Another 55 students have been recognised for their Power of Poetry entries and have been offered the opportunity to be published.

Charity Week

Students at Aldridge School enjoyed the sweet taste of success raising more than £2000 for three charities thanks to their own bake-off. The whole school got behind the charity week which also saw sponsored silences, mufti days, raffles, pin the tie on Mr Mountney and other money-spinning ideas for good causes. Money will go to the schools' nominated charities Malawi Build A School project, Save the Children and Acorns Hospice.



Thanks to pupils on the School Council, the school has consolidated fundraising to a few dedicated weeks each year so it can raise money for chosen charities. Year 12 student Amundeeep Rajania, aged 16, said: "During the week each House is competing against each other to see who can raise the most money for both a sense of pride and for those all important house points." Jennifer Smith, aged 13, added: "It is the first charity week of four to be held this year and the School Council hope each event is very successful." Mr Mountney added: "We encourage all our pupils to think about others and we are delighted that the School Council has organised four dedicated charity weeks. Not only will charities benefit but so will our students just by the very nature of having to be inventive and self-motivated to raise much-needed money for others."

Bikeability

The Road Safety Team from Walsall Council came into school to deliver a course to pupils who ride their bikes to and from school on a regular basis. The course involved training pupils to ride a journey that includes roundabouts, riding in traffic, traffic lights, route planning and hazard perception.

All pupils developed their knowledge of the road and traffic environment and will hopefully put these new skills into practice on their journey to and from school. Congratulations to Luke Cox, George Newell, Daniel Steadman, Ben White, Woody Smith, Jake Joiner, Ben Sharpe, Jack Cheetham and Josh Smith for successfully passing the course.

Galileo Visit

Young scientists at Aldridge School were taken back in time when Galileo paid a visit and took over their lessons for the day.

The father of modern physics and astronomer helped bring science to life for students.



Galileo was an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher and amongst his achievements were improvements to the telescope and consequent astronomical observations on the planets.

Played by actor Peter Casey, the scientist took over lessons during the day explaining Galileo's experiments, conducted 400 years ago and their impact on science today. Galileo held a special after-school club where students were able to talk to him about his scientific discoveries.

Mrs Watts, Science Technician, who organised the event, said: "It made a real change having an actor in our science lessons teaching our students about scientific discoveries which have had an impact on our understanding of the world ever since. The students loved his sessions and I hope they learned a lot."

Tennis Success

The under 18 tennis team have qualified for the knockout stages of the AEGON National Senior Tennis Competition. The team beat Birmingham Met College, Thomas Telford Academy and Denstone College in some tight matches to go through to the knockout stages for the third consecutive year.

PE Gifted and Talented Pupils

The following pupils have excelled at both regional and national levels in a number of sports recently:

James Garratt (7.74L) competed at the Karate World Championships and earned a gold medal in Fighting and a gold in Kata. He has represented England now for a number of years and he continues to set high goals for himself with his eventual aim of winning a gold medal at the 2020 Olympics.



Luke Harrison (7.32S) ran in the Walsall Schools Cross Country Championship and finished first and qualified to represent Walsall at the West Midlands Championships. He finished a creditable 26th against a very strong field. Luke continues to run for Birchfield and can hopefully achieve more success in the future.

Aryan Singh (8.10S) successfully defended his world champion title in Martial Arts this year.

Natasha Smith (8.65B) has been accepted to play for Wolverhampton Wanderers as their goal keeper.

Taryn Holdcroft (11.61S) competed for Walsall in the National Age Groups Competition in Synchronised Swimming and was part of the open team that achieved Gold. She has also competed in the Scottish National Championships where she achieved a silver medal in the Open team event and 26th in the Under 19 figures event. Two other pupils (Isabel Adams 7.70D & Abi Milne 7.33B) also competed for Walsall in the under 12 competition and helped the team achieve a silver medal. All should be congratulated on fantastic achievements.

Ben Pickering (D23JFA) competed in an open age competition in Sailing at the Inland Championships where he came 3rd in the Blaze Class. This is an outstanding achievement against a field of athletes with far more experience than Ben.

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