

Fortnightly bulletin, Friday 7th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Fortnightly Round Up

As the academic year draws to a close, there has been a number of exciting activities that have taken place over the past few weeks. Our annual Sports Day on Friday 30th June was an incredible event with pupils taking part to compete for their year group alongside staff nominated to the year groups. The final sprint events will be on Friday 14th July and a hotly contested relay series.

On Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th July, we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils to the academy. Over 170 pupils took part in a variety of lessons, met their tutors for September and got a feel for the academy site and routines. We are looking forward to pupils starting with us from Wednesday 6th September.

Staffing

Miss Shehla Siddique has joined the Science team this week and has already begun work meeting her classes that she will be taking over from September.

Miss Williamson has joined the academy as an additional Pastoral Support Officer and she will be working with our Year 8 pupils as the move into Year 9 from September.

Structure of the Academy Day

On Wednesday 28th June, the academy began a revised structure to the academy day. Pupils have been providing their feedback and we welcome feedback from parents and carers. Please use the link below to submit your feedback by Tuesday 11th July at 5.00pm.

Preparation for September

I would like to draw your attention to the communication I sent out on Thursday regarding uniform and equipment expectations. We also recognise the need to support families with the purchase of new uniform. As such, we will launch our first Uniform Swap Shop from Monday 21st August. The academy will be open from 10.00am until 12.00pm each day until Friday 25th August and parents and carers can come to the academy to swap freshly laundered school uniform that is in 'good' condition, with a second-hand piece from our stock. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee all sizes will be available. If parents and carers would like to donate any academy uniform trousers, jumpers, skirts and blazers, please bring the items to Reception by Friday 14th July. Your support for our school and pupils is greatly appreciated.

For anyone who wishes to try on uniform, the academy will be open Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th of July between 9am-11:30am and will operate on a booking system basis, further information regarding this, including the link, will follow soon.

Advance notices and upcoming events

- Friday 14th July – end of term. Pupils should come to school in their PE kit and the academy will close at 12.30pm. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will be able to collect their lunch from the canteen from 12.00pm. Please can parents and carers ensure pupils have suitable arrangements to return home.

- Thursday 24th August – GCSE results day
- Monday 21st August – Friday 25th August – 10.00am to 12.00pm – Uniform swap shop
- Monday 4th September – Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 5th September – Staff Training Day
- Wednesday 6th September – Year 7 and Year 11 return to school to start the new term
- Thursday 7th September – Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 return to school to start the new term

Safeguarding

Please see attached to this email the latest edition of the CCC Safer Schools newsletter. This edition discusses such things as water and road safety throughout the summer holidays and the seriousness around hoax calling.

Personal Development

As we come to the end of the academic year, Ms Payne and Miss Hartley would like to thank our students for their hard work and confident discussions in Personal Development this year. Feedback from our students and families is important to us to help ensure our PD lessons are relevant and up to date to address the challenges and questions students face in the world around them. Therefore, as we move towards the summer holidays, students are currently completing a student survey in tutor time. The survey contains questions about the PD curriculum, extra-curricular opportunities and what it is like to be a student at Ernulf Academy. Students' responses will be helpful to us in supporting their wider Personal Development next year as well as planning the next themes for our "Respect" Campaign, which is our initiative to ensure Ernulf Academy is a safe place and a community who look out for one another.

In September, we will be inviting all parents and carers to join us in the Academy for our annual Personal Development curriculum consultation. This will give us an opportunity to share the plans for our 2023 curriculum with you and invite your feedback to ensure it meets the needs of your children. This will take place on Tuesday 19th September at 6pm at the Academy. Further details of this will be circulated in September.

Student Leadership Update

We have been thrilled to see the hard work and efforts of our student leadership groups this year. The Student Council, Respect Ambassadors, Eco-Committee and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have played a leading role in representing their peers and championing initiatives across the Academy.

We are currently inviting applications for students to join the Eco-Committee. The Eco-Committee forms part of the Astrea Academy Trust's initiative to make our schools carbon neutral by 2030. All of the academies are signed up to the "Let's Go Zero" pledge to help support this.

The role of the Eco-Committee is to drive this campaign within our school. This year, the Eco-Committee have suggested ideas to make our school more environmentally friendly; helped keep the school environment clean with a daily litter picking rota; helped with planting and improving biodiversity around the school; worked with the Principal, Operations Manager and other members of staff to make positive change at school, and attended a trip to the Waterbeach Waste Management plant to learn more about plastic recycling to bring back to school.

If your child would like to apply to join the Eco-Committee, they should submit a letter of application to Ms Payne by 9am on Monday 10th July, outlining why they would like to join the Eco-Committee and the ideas and qualities they would bring to this role.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are excited to invite students who will be in years 9-11 in September 2023 to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a national award established by the Duke of Edinburgh to support young people's development. The Award Scheme allows students to develop new interests, talents and essential skills for life and work. The Award is recognised by employers nationally, and is a valuable addition to post-16 applications. The Duke of Edinburgh programme is open to 14-24 year olds, and has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

We are pleased to say that we will be offering the Bronze Award scheme to students in years 9-11 commencing from September 2023. To complete the Award, each student will have to undertake the following activities:

- Volunteering in the local community for an average of 1 hour per week e.g. mentoring in school or helping at a local charity shop;
- Learning a new skill for an average of 1 hour per week e.g. cooking, drawing;
- Doing a physical activity for an average of 1 hour per week e.g. football, netball.

The final section of the programme is the expedition. We prepare for this section in after school sessions over the year. We have a full training programme that every DofE participant needs to undertake before they will be allowed to take part in their qualifying expedition.

All students who will be in years 9-11 in September 2023 have taken part in an assembly this week to hear about the Award and how to sign up. We are also hosting an information evening at the Academy on Thursday 6th July for any parents/carers who wished to learn more about D of E. This will begin at 6pm in the PA at the Academy. Please find here the link to register your attendance at this event.

Further information will be circulated to parents/carers regarding this award next week should your child wish to take part. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Davies on emma.davies@astreaernulf.org

Attendance

We are extremely pleased that over half the students have achieved 100% attendance over the summer half term. Well done to every one of you that has reached this great achievement.



For every week where you achieve 100% attendance, you will collect a ticket (during Friday Form time) for a half-termly prize draw.

Remember, you must write your name on the ticket and post it in the Library to be included in the Prize Draw




Subjects

Geography

Next week in Geography, some of our year 7 classes will be taking part in a geographical enquiry provided by the National Education Nature Park. This project aims to drive and increase engagement with nature of all children and young people, and encourages the whole of the education estate to work with our students to improve the biodiversity of their grounds. Ernulf Academy is a Pathfinder School in this project, and have been asked to carry out a short study to map geographical and environmental data using ARC GIS, an online mapping and analysis tool.

The study will involve students recording information about the school environment during one of the Geography lessons next week. This will be used alongside the information from other schools to build up a national picture of environmental quality, climate and biodiversity across the country. This will also offer students the opportunity to use ARC GIS, which is a tool they will use throughout their Geography studies in Key Stage 3 and 4.

Please find below some information about the Pathfinder Schools project.



National Education Nature Park
Pathfinder Schools

The National Education Nature Park is an opportunity for every young person to grow, nurture and protect nature in their educational setting.


We live in one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

Outdoor spaces in nurseries, schools, universities and other learning establishments cover a combined area more than twice the size of Birmingham.

Improving these for plants and wildlife combats biodiversity and habitat loss.

It empowers young people to connect with nature and take action now - not later.

It equips them with key digital skills and experiences to pursue green careers.



Music

In music, Students in key stage 3 have been working on improving their knowledge on the elements of music. They have been demonstrating their knowledge learnt throughout the year through knowledge quizzes and engaging in on-the-spot knowledge tests. Students have since been engaging in pieces of music designed to stretch their talent and enjoy the art of practical music making. They have really enjoyed performing on the keyboards playing chords and riffs. In the new year, they will be learning more about different types of music including Blues, Classical, TV Adverts, Horror music and many more. Year 10 music students have been performing their solo pieces in preparation for their recordings and have completed their Mock exams. Using the

information provided by their Mock exams, the aim of the department will be to grow and support their knowledge of key musical terminology which will help them in future exam points.

In the new school year there will be a number of extra-curricular activities for students to take part in including a full school choir on Wednesday lunchtime, this is open to all year groups and staff and will take place in the music room starting from the first week in the new school year. There will be more to come, and these will be communicated to students upon their return to school in the new year. These school clubs are designed for students to enjoy the value of music and its benefits to mental health and school life. All are welcome to attend.

Media

Students were assigned to research, design and plan working from a brief to create their own media product using software programs such as Photoshop and Canva. Below are just some examples of final media products from students who created their own or redesigning of film poster's, magazine covers and website pages.



Science



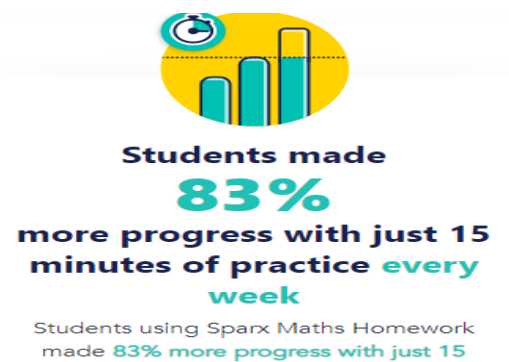
For us in science this is the term of exploration, exploring the world outside the classroom and into the surrounding universe. Students in Year 7 and 8 will explore Space and the how Science is not limited to the world we can see. Year 9 and 10 further explore the forces that hold us in place and see their interactions first hand through experimentation and observation.

Celestially, this month is building up to the Supermoon (Buck Moon) on 1st July, via the Summer Solstice on the 21st. The longest day of the year. July continues to be a month of exploration for the Royal Society, with their free exhibition in London. A hands-on experience

nine area of focus from sensing volcanoes to using research from the Mars landing to discover and help cure disease affecting us here on Earth. The event is free and welcomes all students to explore and see the world of Science and its application in the world beyond the classroom.

Maths

Sparx Maths has been in operation for a whole academic year and we commend all our pupils for their effort in completing their homework.



Starting from September 2023, the whole school will now be using Sparx for their homework. In view of this development, we at the Maths Department would like to use this opportunity to solicit the support of parents/carers to help in motivating and encouraging our pupils to take full advantage of this online provision (Sparx Maths) to boost their maths skills.

During the summer break, we want to encourage all students to spend 30 minutes each week doing their XP boost and those writing GCSE in 2024 to use Sparx Maths for 30-minute revision using Sparx Maths.

Final message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for their support for the academy over the past year. We are looking forward to building on the successes this year, driving our school forward to make the necessary improvements which will benefit our pupils and our community. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful summer holiday.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Neesam
Principal