

THE AKELEY PRESS

A U T U M N T E R M 2 0 2 1



The Akeley Press is back for the first termly newsletter of the year - and what a busy term it has been! From Nursery through to Sixth Form, we've had such a fun few months.

With a jam-packed issue, full of news, student achievements and events, we have so much to share with you from the Autumn term. Our students have shown us, once again, just how brilliant they can be!



ISA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

ISA Awards 2021
Finalist

ISA Award for Excellence and Innovation in Fine Arts

ISA AWARD SUCCESS

Akeley Wood has been recognised not once, but twice, by the Independent Schools Association this term. We are so excited to have been named Finalists for the Excellence and Innovation in Fine Arts



Award - a testament to the incredible teaching within our Art department. Congratulations to all staff and students for this fantastic achievement. As well as this, Year 6 student, Alfie N was voted Junior Athlete of the Term by ISA Sport UK for his amazing dedication to gymnastics and ballet. A thoroughly deserved win - well done Alfie!!



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood



AKELEY WOOD
SCHOOL

A U T U M N T E R M 2 0 2 1

NURSERY HIGHLIGHTS

CAPTAIN XANDER VISIT

The children were very excited to have a visit from Captain Xander from the Salvation Army. He even stayed to read them a story! Thank you to everyone who donated to the Toy Appeal. All toys will go to vulnerable families in the local area and will undoubtedly bring a lot of happiness to many children this Christmas!



NATIVITY LITERACY LEARNING

Our Butterflies enjoy learning about and celebrating many different festivals, and this term they have been learning all about the story of the Nativity. Within their literacy work, they have been predicting what happens next, building on their comprehension and communication skills, as well as doing some fantastic mark making. Well done, Butterflies!

FARM SMALL WORLD

The Caterpillars love playing with the Small World toys in nursery. These lovely wooden toys are perfect for our younger children's physical and social development. It gives them the opportunity to learn about communication and language while using cognitive and motor skills, all while engaging in fun role play!



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood



SOFT PLAY ACTIVITIES

Soft play is one of our favourite activities in the Ladybird rooms. Similar to our Small World toys, soft play provides a safe, sensory environment, providing children with a fun and educational way of learning. Our younger children are able to build on their social skills while having lots of fun and using their imagination in the process.

PE WITH MR LEMON

With a team of specialist teachers at our fingertips, our nursery children are able to benefit from specialist lessons throughout the week - these include music, computing, languages and P.E. The children absolutely love doing P.E with Mr Lemon and look forward to going over to our Junior school sports hall to get active and have lots of fun!



MESSY PLAY

Our Ladybirds love a bit of messy play, especially with flour! This is the perfect way for the younger children to get stuck into some experimental play and explore a range of different textures, all while practising their fine motor skill and testing out their strength.





AKELEY WOOD
SCHOOL

A U T U M N T E R M 2 0 2 1

JUNIOR SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



REMEMBRANCE ART

As well as holding our annual Remembrance Day assembly at the Junior school, many students incorporate this important day within their learning. For their Humanities topic of WW1, Year 5 created some beautiful silhouette poppy art using their one-to-one devices. The children took this as an opportunity to reflect on their learning of WW1 and the poignant links to Remembrance Day.

FOREST SCHOOL DECORATIONS

During Forest school lessons, students have enjoyed making Christmas decorations and wreaths will all of the natural materials they could find around our lovely grounds. They used willow, ivy, berries, rosemary, sage, pine cones and more! Year 1 loved adding their decorations to our Christmas tree and they all enjoyed labelling their decorations.



LETTERS TO CHILE

As an MFL project this term, Yr 5 are taking part in an letter exchange with Pumahué school in Chile! They were delighted to receive letters from their Chilean penfriends last week and have now written back. The project is all about daily routines and allows the children to compare their daily lives to those of children at a Cognita school in another country.



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



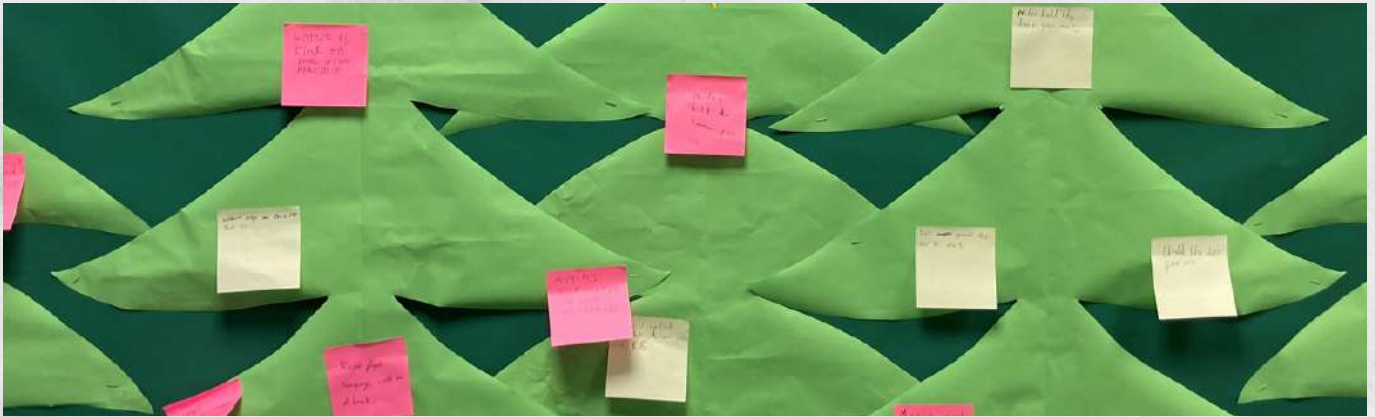
@Akeley_wood



AKELEY WOOD
SCHOOL

A U T U M N T E R M 2 0 2 1

THE KINDNESS TREES Year 3 and 4 have been writing down acts of kindness and adding them to Kindness Trees this term. When another child has done something kind, they add it to the tree for all to see! It has been lovely to see all of the lovely things our students do for one another; even as simple as holding a door or making someone smile. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness are the most important.



LANTERNS AT WADDES DON

For the second year running, the Akeley Reception class have been invited to contribute hand decorated lanterns to the winter light display at Waddesdon Manor - the theme this year was 'The Illuminated River: Bridges, Boats and Beyond'. Reception joined forces with Year 6 and as a group, they decided to focus on London, and in particular, The London Eye. The finished lanterns were beautiful. Well done, Reception and Year 6.

FESTIVE FOOD TECH

Students taking part in the Food Tech club this half term have been making their very own Christmas cakes! From lining the tins and creating the mixture, to baking at home and decorating the finished cake, every student did a fantastic job. We hope your families enjoy them!



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood

SENIOR SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

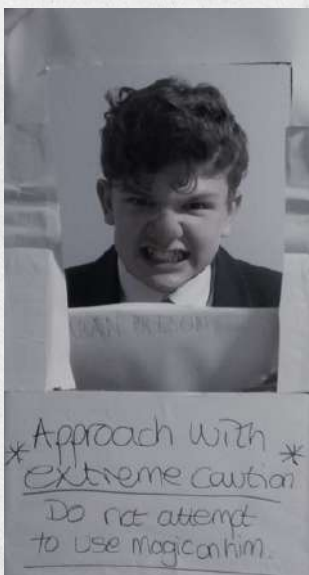
BUDDING ILLUSTRATORS

As part of their GCSE Art, Year 9 students have been working on a project looking at illustration in children's literature. Using the illustrators Mark Herald and Jackie Morris as inspiration, the class did some sketchbook work using taxidermy British wildlife animals on loan from Tring museum of Art. The finished results were lovely, well done, Year 9.



SNOWDONIA FIELD TRIP

As part of a Geography field work trip, students went to Snowdonia, carrying out a river study, as well as visiting Ali Wynt Wind Farm and Betws Y Coed. The weather was kind and everyone had a great time!



HAVE YOU SEEN THESE WIZARDS?

During the Harry Potter Enriched Curriculum club on Friday afternoons, students ranging from Year 7 to 13 made their very own Azkaban wanted posters! They created their own serial number signs, having researched the meanings behind the different runes. Students then had good fun posing as crazed magical beings. We love the finished posters!





AKELEY WOOD
SCHOOL

A U T U M N T E R M 2 0 2 1



THE HOCKEY BATTLES

There have been some very competitive boys V girls hockey matches this term! Both Yr 8 and 9 had matches with 11 a side due to such a big turnout. Well done to the Year 8 boys for their win - the girls are already requesting a rematch! Congratulations to the Year 9 girls who won 3-0! It was good fun and a great effort by all who participated.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

As always, the Autumn term has been jam-packed full of fun and exciting Outdoor Learning lessons for our year 7 and 8s. From putting up an amazing British Paratrouper parachute above the firepit, to den building and team-building activities on the low ropes, the students have been out in all weathers. Year 8s are pictured here working as a team to put up a tarpaulin shelter - they learnt very quickly that communication is key!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to all of the Year 10 and 11 students who successfully completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This expedition is just one section of the Duke of Edinburgh award - we look forward to hearing all about the next expeditions and following our students' progress.



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood

AW6 HIGHLIGHTS



YR 12 GET POLITICAL

Ahead of UK Parliament Week, our Year 12 Politics students began to ask the question, 'Why is it important to be politically active?'. In groups, the class studied the many ways to be politically active and turned their findings into videoed sketches and posters. These will be shared with the wider school community to illustrate the importance of voting.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

15 of our Sixth Formers have created their very own company, Bycell Hampers, through the Young Enterprise initiative this term. Having already produced a sell-out festive hamper, we're looking forward to seeing more of their product lines as we move through the academic year.



“

I like the inclusion of free periods to do homework, revision, and improve skills outside of structured lessons.

”

STUDENT VOICE SURVEY

We always want to hear from our students in order to make their experience at Akeley the very best it can be, which is why the student voice survey is so important. Some of the latest AW6 student comments we have received include: **"The new AW6 environment provides new motivation."** | **"The lessons are well arranged, and the teachers are kind and friendly."** | **"I like the freedom of choice, the café, small class sizes, and the extra-curricular opportunities."**



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood



THE AW6 LAUNCH

To celebrate the very first term in the our new dedicated Sixth Form campus, our Yr12 & 13 families were invited to the AW6 launch event, during which we welcomed CEO Cognita Europe, Stuart Rolland as our guest speaker. It was lovely to celebrate with so many of you and hear more about AW6 from Sixth Form staff.

NETWORKING EVENTS

Alongside timetabled lessons, AW6 students have the opportunity to take part in regular networking events, designed to fully equip them for life beyond the classroom. During our very first networking breakfast, students were able to build contacts and talk with a range of industry professionals. We were also lucky enough to welcome Placi Espejo, Networker of the Year & Oxford University lecturer who held a networking seminar for some of our Year 13 students. We look forward to hosting many more networking events in the new year.



FUTURES LEAD

We're delighted to have welcomed our new University, Careers & Futures Lead, Mr Mark Lambert, to AW6 this term. As well as organising all of our networking events and debate events in collaboration with Buckingham University, Mark provides invaluable careers advice to our Sixth Formers on a daily basis, working with each student to shape their future beyond AW6.



BE YOU. BRILLIANTLY. SHOUT OUTS.

We're a little biased, but we think that our students are always pretty brilliant, which is why we need no excuse to shout about their achievements. Take a look at this term's shout outs!

CHARITY MUDDY RUN

A HUGE well done to Year 4 student, Alfie and his sister, Florence in Year 6 who recently completed a 5km "muddy run" for Cancer Research" They both raised a grand total £200 for the charity. This is amazing! Well done to both of you!



ISA NATIONAL RUGBY

Friday 19th November saw both the U11 A Squad and U10 A Squads travel to Shelford RFUC to compete in this year's ISA National Rugby. It was an early start with very excited boys. The U10 played in a group and then a play off game over the course of the day. The boys finished 4th in their group and then 10th overall. On a different set of pitches, the U11s played a round robin format and finished 4th overall after their matches. They won 3 games and lost 3. Well done to all!

2ND IN GREAT BRITAIN

A huge congratulations to Harrison Ashby-Burns and his team, North Warwickshire, who qualified to compete at the Horse of the Year show in the Prince Philip Cup Mounted Games Competition. Over 5 days and 8 sessions, the team were Reserve Champions 2021 and 2nd in Great Britain! A huge achievement!



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeleywoodschool



@Akeley_wood



THE NUTCRACKER

It's been an amazing term for Alfie N in Year 6! As well as winning the ISA Athlete of the term, Alfie auditioned to dance in The Nutcracker at the Coliseum in London over the Christmas period. With only 4 places available, Alfie auditioned alongside predominantly Tring Arts Ed students, but still managed to be offered one of the parts! Amazing achievement - well done, Alfie!

ISA NATIONAL HOCKEY

A massive congratulations to our U11 Hockey team who finished an amazing 4th out of 28 schools at the ISA Sports National Hockey Tournament! Held at Lee Valley Olympic Park, the girls did a fantastic job and played their hearts out. Well done!



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thank you to our Senior school Head boy, Harrison, and Junior school Head boy and Head girl, Will and Harriet for representing Akeley Wood School at the Buckingham Remembrance service this year. Two wreaths were laid on behalf of both the Junior and Senior school with notes from the students. Our heads of school were fantastic ambassadors for the school as always.





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOCKEY ACADEMY SQUAD

A huge congratulations to Ella K in Year 8, who has been selected for the Buckinghamshire Hockey U13 Academy Squad for 2021/2022. A fantastic achievement! Ella is really looking forward to playing County hockey this season, alongside her Club and School fixtures.

JUNIOR GYMNASTICS FIG CHAMPION

Well done to Annabel in Year 10 who recently competed in the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique challenge cup warm up. Annabel secured gold on all apparatus and came away as the Junior champion! A huge well done from all of us at Akeley.



CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As well as running for Bicester Athletics Club, Year 7 student, Tabitha B has been selected and named to represent in the Oxfordshire County Team for the SEAA Cross Country Championships in December. This is fantastic, well done Tabitha.



THANK YOU

Our final shout out goes to **YOU**, our fantastic parents and carers. Thank you for your continued support over the Autumn term. We hope you have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in January for a new term!

