



From the Headmaster...

Dear Parents

The term started on a sad note. The sudden death of Les Smith, who retired last August after 37 years at the College, sent more than a few shockwaves around the community here. The Service of Thanksgiving for Les held at Wesley Chapel in the centre of Harrogate on the 14th January was a wonderful occasion. The Chapel was packed and, filled with the Ashville Singers and many of Les' friends from the three choral societies he was a member of, the singing was rousing and strong – it no doubt turned more than a few heads as people shopped in town or loitered outside of MacDonald's. It was a fine and fitting occasion and the staff and pupils who took part were a great credit to the wider community that is Ashville. Other families, of pupils and staff, also had their share of sad news and all have been in the thoughts and prayers of the Ashville Community too. This has been a reminder of the fragility of life as well as the great gift it is – and also a reminder to cherish and value those closest to us more than perhaps we do at times.

But Ashville is a busy place and while we stop to reflect and ponder these important issues, we rarely do so for long – in schools there is always the 'next thing'. Already at the end of the second week of the new term the news shows what a busy start we've had. The pupils have quickly picked up where they left off last term and are now fully engaged in study once more. For those in Year 11, Mocks are over and the review of them is about to begin – there will be the reality of the real exams dawning on more than a few, as there are every year, and no doubt year 11 will soon be working harder than ever to plug any gaps in their knowledge, revise and complete courses before Easter. The Sixth Form are still taking modules, though many exams have already been taken, and once they are over they too will be getting down to serious work and revision. The Spring Term is always a hard working term for that reason!

And so, having reflected on the successes of last term, and having begun the term briskly and quickly, another successful term lies ahead of us and I am looking forward to the next newsletter to see what else is achieved by our pupils and staff who never cease to amaze me in what they can achieve – and mostly for the right reasons! If you read on you'll see what I mean.....

DM Lauder

Leslie Smith



We began the year with the very sad news that Mr Leslie Smith had passed away on Friday 30th December. Les, who worked at Ashville from 1975 until his retirement at the end of last year, suffered a heart attack while carrying out volunteering duties at the North York Moors Railway. Les was a Chemistry teacher, Exams Officer and a great supporter of musical events.

A Memorial Service was held for Les on Saturday at Wesley Chapel, followed by drinks at Ashville. It was attended by a large number of people, representing all aspects of Les's varied life. A choir made up of nearly 100 singers from the Harrogate, Wetherby and Ripon Choral Societies and the Ashville Singers performed at the service.



Messiah from Scratch

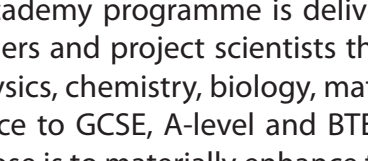


Mr John Dunford, Head of Music, is organising a 'Messiah from Scratch' concert at Ashville College on **Sunday 29th January** to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, which provides nurses to support patients, families and carers so that terminally ill cancer patients can die in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes.

The concert promises to be an extraordinary community event. In 2010, the 'Messiah from Scratch' raised £8000, with a choir of around 300 people taking part. If you simply wish to sing or listen on the day of the concert that is fine, but Mr Dunford will be running three rehearsals for Ashville pupils, parents and anyone who wishes to get a little help learning the notes beforehand. These rehearsals will take place on Fridays 20th and 27th January from 7.00 to 8.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

The cost for any adult to either sing in the choir or listen to the concert is £10. The choral rehearsal will commence at 1.00pm on the day, and the performance will take place at 3.30pm. The concert will finish at 6.15pm.

Conor Davies, National Space Academy Teacher



We are delighted to announce that Mr Conor Davies has been selected as a National Space Academy teacher. The National Space Academy programme is delivered by a network of outstanding teachers and project scientists that use the context of space to teach physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, geography and applied science to GCSE, A-level and BTEC students and their teachers. Its purpose is to materially enhance the size and quality of the UK science and engineering skills pool. Conor has been selected as one of only 12 teachers across England by the Academy.

Sixth Form Ski Trip



The Sixth Form Ski Trip to Zell am See took place just before Christmas and was another fantastic experience, thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

Congratulations to...

...**Alex Taylor**, Upper Sixth, who has been offered a place at Cambridge University to read Natural Science and Biology.

...**Emma Robinson**, Year 9, who passed her Grade 4 Saxophone exam with Merit in December.

...**Katherine Bullock, Jonathan Cruddos, William Peckham and Lily Kerbey**, who have all completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

Lower Sixth Environmental Studies



It was a rather cold and blustery day in December when the Environmental Studies group distributed the life saving supplies (school packed lunches) and set off at one o'clock to travel to Brimham Rocks.

The National Trust have recently appointed a new education officer who was on hand to provide a detailed and informative talk regarding the history, conservation and land-use conflicts within the National Trust and the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The students asked many questions throughout and made copious notes even though the weather was rather bracing for an outdoor talk.

After the 45 minute presentation, the group explored the various rock formations and conservation techniques to be found at Brimham, although Chris and Alwyn were rather sore from a particularly gruelling rugby match!

After taking their life in their hands sitting under the balancing stone, encountering a Fenton-esque dog and stuffing Alex into a small hole; the group returned to the minibus before the rain and arrived back at school just before four o'clock.

Just like the residential field trip and data collection exercise at a local stream, the group enjoyed their chance to see science in action and are already looking forward to their next trip; watch this space!

David Normanshire

Year 10 Visit to The Deep, Hull



Fifteen Year 10 Business Studies students visited The Deep in Hull, the world's first submarium, on Tuesday 17th January. As an introduction to Marketing, students learned the methods used by The Deep to market the business. This included an explanation of their market segments, market research and promotional methods used to attract their target market. Students learned about the importance of customer service which they were able to experience first hand as they toured the exhibition themselves later in the day.

Laying down the Law



On Thursday 19th January, Graeme Stonehouse, previous Senior Litigation Solicitor and Magistrate, visited the Law Society at Ashville. He informed the students on how to succeed in the legal profession, as well as laying out the different options open to prospective lawyers.

The students found the presentation 'informative, useful and interesting'. Polly Whitelam, L6FA, described the event as being 'really helpful in showing what is involved in Criminal Law and litigation.' Tom Moxham, also of L6FA, declared 'that he was really glad he came along. I'm now considering a career in law as a result.'

Thanks again to Graeme Stonehouse, who hopefully, will be the first of many external experts to visit the Law Society.

Sports Update

BOYS HOCKEY

Wednesday 11th January:

Ashville 1st XI v Ampleforth
Ashville drew 2-2. The first half of this match was played against Ampleforth's 1st XI, which Ashville lost 1-0, and the second half was played against their 2nd XI, which Ashville won 2-1.

Special mentions go to **Will Stewart**, who led the team inspiring, and Man-of-the-match **Miles Buller**.

Wednesday 18th January:

Ashville U15 v Hill House, Doncaster
Ashville lost 7-0. Despite a lack of experience the team put on a good display. Special mentions go to **Matt Swenson** who had an excellent game as captain and **Dylan James, James Rushbrooke, Ben Foreman** and **Monthon Wanichprasertporn**, who all put in promising performances.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Thursday 12th January:

Ashville U14 v Queen Margaret's
Ashville lost 2-1. A mix of Year 9 and Year 8 players who have never taken to the field together in a competitive match seemed to gel together as if they practice week-in, week-out. Every individual gave a performance to be proud of - tackling hard, distributing strongly and creating scoring opportunities...if not actually getting in the back of the net! Congratulations to all players. Team: **Lizzy Cormack, Emily Sutherland, Gabby Grogan, Hannah Penn, Ellie Abbott, Jess Humphreys, Betsy Gaunt, Rebecca Mountain, Taylor Wiley, Alice Varney, Lizzie Castelow, Lucy Reast and Sarah Rider**.

SWIMMING

Last weekend **Lucia Gardner** (Skipton Swimming Club) and **James Sadler** (Harrogate Swimming Club) competed in the annual Harrogate JANUS Swimming Gala.

James won gold medals in the 50 metres Breaststroke, 100 metres Breaststroke, 200 metres Breaststroke, 100 metres Backstroke and the 200 metres Individual Medley.

Lucia won gold medals in the 50 Metres Breaststroke, 50 Backstroke, and Bronze Medals in the 100 metres Breaststroke, 200 metres Individual Medley.

Well done to both for these fantastic achievements.

LACROSSE CLUB

The first lacrosse club session of the year took place on Monday of this week. There was a good turnout of girls, particularly from Years 7, 8 and 10, and for most of them, it was their first experience of playing lacrosse.

The club is open to Senior School girls of any age, with players of any level of experience welcome. All lacrosse equipment is provided. It would be great to see a few more girls joining the sessions in the coming weeks.

Commendations

Well done to the following pupils who have received certificates of commendation:

STUDENT	BRONZE
<i>Year 7</i>	
Joseph Middleton	Isabella Kemery
Oscar Hartley	Milly Gladwyn
Alex Considine	Ben Wilkinson
Sophie Newsome	Nathan Brinkerhoff
Robbie Webster	
<i>Year 9</i>	
Emma Robinson	Will Smith
Ed Keen	Ben Bond
Ivan Choi	
<i>Year 10</i>	
Joyce Chan	Jessica Culleton
Jeremy Butterfield	Hugo Corbett
Matthew Dormer	Harry Dow
Rebecca Jenkinson	
STUDENT	SILVER
<i>Year 7</i>	
Isabelle Guymer-Gairn	Tom Booth
Kane Brown	Grace Allinson
<i>Year 10</i>	
Niamh McGarrell	

Notices

Leeds Town Hall Performance

There will be an Ashville Choral Society performance in Leeds Town Hall on Sunday 11th March, commencing at 7pm. The choir, comprising of 230 members of Senior School and staff, plus 90 members of Wetherby Choral Society, will perform Verdi's Requiem, accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists.

Please make every effort to come and listen. Tickets will go on sale at the end of January.

RS Department on Twitter

The RS Department is now on Twitter. Pupils can follow them @AshvilleRS to keep up to date with departmental messages and resources. They will also be using their page to reflect on issues of religion, philosophy and ethics in our society.



German Information Evening

The first ever German Information Evening for Year 6 and 7 parents will be held on Tuesday 31st January at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.

From September 2012 pupils entering the Senior School will be able to choose two Modern Foreign Languages - German, French or Spanish. As children in the Junior School will already have been exposed to French and Spanish in their lessons, the German department will be using this evening as an opportunity to share the benefits of choosing to study German. Year 7 pupils, who will have already studied German for a year, will also have the same choice at the end of this academic year.

If you wish to attend the event please let Mr Ian Popely (iap@ashville.co.uk) know by Tuesday 24th January.

Monthly Maths Challenge

January sees the first Monthly Maths Challenge, with a theme of 'Puzzling Trains'. Pupils will need to solve three mathematical problems before the deadline of 31st January. The problems can be found on the Maths notice board or on AshMood and all entries should be placed in the box in Room 1. A prize draw will take place after the deadline.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Vicky Simpson, who gave birth to William on 11th January. While she is on maternity leave, Mr Gilmour Coad will be the acting Head of Geography and any geographical matters should be sent to him (GC@ashville.co.uk). We are delighted to welcome Miss Sharpe to the geography department for the next two terms to cover Mrs Simpson's maternity leave.

Congratulations also to Mrs Emma Sanderson, Finance Bursar, who gave birth to Joseph on 30th December.

Scholarship Programme

As part of the Scholarship Programme of events this term there is a piano recital by Marc Andrew Hamelin, which will take place at the Wesley Chapel, Oxford Street on Saturday 4th February. Tickets can be purchased directly from Wesley Chapel if parents are interested in attending this event.

Date for your Diary

The Senior Boys Sports Dinner will take place on Friday 30th March at the Cedar Court Hotel, and we are delighted to announce that the speakers will be the Brownlee brothers, who are competing in this year's Olympics in the Triathlon event.

Latest House News

The league results stand as follows:

Rigg Cup		
1st	Ellis	99
2nd	Windermere	87
3rd	Duckworth	66
4th	Riverdale	48

Festival Trophy		
1st	Ellis	63
2nd	Windermere	56
3rd	Duckworth	49
4th	Riverdale	42