



Arts & Media School
ISLINGTON

Head's Half-Termly Update

Summer Term 1 - May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term break culminates with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations which will include an extended weekend for all. The multicultural richness at AMSI only serves to mirror the British value of Tolerance which is underpinned by our cornerstone of respect. Our students are appreciative of this and represented the school well when they were interviewed about our diverse setting for the Islington Education Awards which will be held in June; a prestigious event at the Barbican Theatre no less.



Thanks to all the parents who gave feedback to the website consultation especially given the quick turnaround. It was very constructive and helpful to the process of writing the brief.

September 2022 will see the school return to a uniform day for **all year groups**. The school day will start at 8.40am to 3.00 pm.

[AMSI Musician of the week](#)

This is a brand new weekly celebration, showcasing our incredibly talented musicians. Each week we will feature a different student or group of students who have performed or created something really special. Thank you, of course, to the featured students for their resilience in investing hours of practice in perfecting their performance, and to our fantastic instrumental tutors for supporting and mentoring our aspiring musicians. This week's wonderful band performance is 'Dani California' by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and last week we had the ELO classic 'Mr Blue Sky' played brilliantly by Oliver on the grand piano. [MOTW](#)

Student Voice

The School Council met recently to discuss ideas about holding a 'Cultural Week' (this was an idea previously suggested by the school council when they presented it to the senior leadership team last term). Students were very enthusiastic and excited on this theme and explored many different ways to celebrate student culture. Some of the things which we are likely to include during the week are: traditional dress to celebrate and promote ethnic diversity; students wearing colours from a flag of a country which means something to them; students cooking foods from different parts of the world and selling it at lunchtime- the proceeds of sales to be returned to the school to cater for better lunchtime activities. Also, we have arranged for Islington Youth Council to attend one of the days to promote youth culture and upcoming elections for Islington Young Mayor. Finally, we will be requesting that the caterlink company which operates the school canteen prepare foods to celebrate diversity within the school during the week. We intend to hold assemblies during the week which are linked to British Values (democracy, the rule of law, Individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) and delivered by the students themselves.

Personal Development

This term, the students have experienced assemblies on the following topics: Tolerance and Respect. All students were encouraged to look after their own mental health and well-being and shown ways in which they could do this; Year 7s and 8s had an assembly on climate change; our Safer Schools' Police Officer presented assemblies on knife crime and the consequences of publishing material on social media without consent of individuals and the Designated Safeguarding Lead presented assemblies on how students can keep safe online, specifically when using social media.

Teaching and Learning

Year 11 have had a fantastic start to their examinations. We have been really proud of their resilience and calm approach to this process. Our Year 11 have been arriving early to prepare for their exams and have been supporting each other by working in small self created groups. We look forward to results that will be reflective of the hard work and effort by the students and teachers.

The library has continued to be a success and is a hive of activity each morning. We are so impressed with our Year 9 Library Monitor, Leo, who diligently organises the books by author. The students who make regular use of the facility have developed some excellent reading habits which will ultimately support them in achieving their best possible outcomes across the curriculum.

We have a new addition to the curriculum information on the website; ([Key Stage 3 Curriculum](#) • [Key Stage 4 Curriculum](#)) please take a look and discuss this with your child. The curriculum rationale for each year group has details about current knowledge and skills that are being taught in each subject, information about prior and future learning as well as links to our school vision.

Chromebooks have been a dominant tool in the classrooms with a range of activities to support teaching and learning. Please encourage your child to check their bag for their full equipment each morning which includes a reading book and chrome book as well as the other essentials such as writing equipment and a calculator.

Blended Learning

At AMSI we have adapted to a new way of working to ensure that our students have access to the best education possible, both online and face to face in the classroom. Therefore, we have adopted a Blended Learning approach to teaching and learning which assures that students can be taught online, and within the classroom.

All students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have received Chromebooks during the year. The Chromebooks are to be used for their time at the school. We request your help and support in encouraging your child to ensure they are bringing their Chromebooks fully charged into school every day. Staff plan lessons to include the use of Chromebooks and it becomes very difficult if students do not have their devices on hand.

A blended learning approach ensures that the students are engaged and driving their individual learning experiences. This approach also helps cater to the individual needs of the student, most students have unique

learning styles and a blended approach is more likely to cater to those needs than a traditional classroom teaching experience.

Behaviour and Attitudes

This half term has really seen some excellent work from our student community, showing that they really encapsulate the 4 cornerstones of the AMSI Scholar. Initial consultations have begun with the student council about the creation of an AMSI wellbeing policy, so that everyone knows where to go and who to speak to if they need support.

We have also been proactive in helping students and families to improve their attendance to school. As we gradually return to normal after the pandemic, it is imperative that we get back into the mindset of our young people about how important it is to attend school regularly and punctually. With the cold and sniffle season out of the way, we look forward to seeing all of our students every day after half term - we will be rewarding any student that manages 100% attendance during that time!

Reminders

- School returns on Monday 6th June 2022.
- Students must return to school in full [school uniform](#) which includes their blazers to show scholarly dress.

Key Dates Ahead

- 22nd June - Year 11 Leavers' Assembly @ 2pm
- 23rd June - Last GCSE exam for Year 11
- 4th - 7th July - Careers and Cultural week
- 7th July - Cultural Trips Day (Year 7-9 exploring London)
- 7th July - New Year 7 transition Day
- 19th July 2022 - Games Day (To be confirmed)
- 20th July 2022 - End of term & Academic year (Half day finish)

Kind regards

Susan Service
Head teacher