



Head's Half Termly Update Autumn Term 2 - December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

"Wishing you all the happiness your holiday can hold! May your holidays sparkle with joy and laughter"
Zainab 7A

The quote above decorates our Christmas tree along with other wishes from the Year 7 classes which is now our yuletide tradition. We have had, over the last half term, many occasions for joy and laughter as I reflect on the 17 trips that have taken place with our students. Their feedback is always positive as they enjoy the extracurricular provision that staff facilitate. These have ranged from sports fixtures, university visits, corporate businesses involvement, exchange trips, Guildhall Art gallery, cinema experiences and our local Crisis Charity shop.

I personally valued the cultural capital that myself and the 20 students who attended the Denmark Dance exchange gained at the beginning of this half term. We spent 6 nights away in Ugelbolle in the region of Central Jutland in Denmark. Our creative relationship with this school is now 8 years strong and we look forward to hosting them in April when they visit the UK.



St Anne's Nursing Home

In the spirit of Christmas, we took 18 of our Year 7's to serenade the residents at a local nursing home and bring them some festive cheer. The visit was very successful and in the words of Scarlett,

"They were very kind to us all. Whenever we made a mistake in the song they continued to cheer us on. All the staff members of the care home were happy and dancing along."



SEND Update

We had our SEND Parents' Coffee Morning in late November and 18 parents attended. The Bridge Outreach Service presented information on Autism and strategies parents can implement at home. Our Bright Futures link signposted parents to organisations where they can access help with home finances, housing, training and employment, parenting support and how to improve their child's attendance. All parents said they found the Coffee Morning helpful and informative as it facilitated networking with other parents as well as providing an opportunity to meet other professionals who work with the school. A small number wanted future Coffee Mornings to include students with SEND sharing their views and experience of the support they receive at AMSI.

Attendance and Punctuality

As this term draws to a close, our whole school attendance is below 90%. Too many of our students are classed as persistent absentees (attendance below 90%). As a school community, we must improve this and make sure our students come out of this category. The school is of course working hard, but parents and carers have a part to play as well - it is a legal duty to ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually.

We will have a renewed focus on attendance and punctuality in the new year. It is vitally important that children are in school regularly, not just for the educational benefits, but for the social benefits too. We will be doing everything within our power to improve attendance, including greater use of fines and prosecution for students whose attendance does not improve. **As of January, term time leave will also no longer be authorised - parents that take their child out of school for prolonged periods in term time could face a penalty charge.**

We must all work together to improve attendance, and as ever, we appreciate your support.

Independent Learning

Homework Club continues to be well attended, but we would love to see even more students from all years taking advantage of this space. It is based in our School Library and is open from 8.00-8.40am in the morning and from 3.00-4.00pm in the afternoon. We allow all years to attend either session as a specific timing may fit in better with their school journey. The space is used for students who want to work independently as well as for those who would like support with their homework.

This term we have shifted our reward to students who have submitted all homework on time. Our two winners this term are: Rosheen 11E and Sofia 9E, congratulations to them both.

AMSI Big Questions

This month has seen the launch of our 'AMSI Big Questions' a fortnightly school-wide debate centred around the big questions of the day. All students are invited to vote and have their say, providing a powerful opportunity for student voice and learning conversations within our community. So far, we have been discussing whether money can buy happiness, and whether under 18s should be allowed to vote. We have been very impressed with the quality of their contributions.

Student Voice

All School Council representatives took a trip to the Crisis store and handed over the generous clothing



donations from staff, students and parents (we had to make two trips in the end due to the overwhelming number of donations received). School Council Leaders made their autumn term presentations to the Senior Leadership Team on behalf of the student body. Students also raised money for Crisis on the 8th December 2023 on Christmas Jumper Day (AMSI Festive colours). School Council members also enjoyed a movie afternoon as a reward for all their contributions this term.

AMSI Musician of the week (MOTW)

The performances in our show on 19th December were brilliant! Once again, students' artistry was seen and heard live on this platform. They were an absolute credit to themselves, parents/carers and the school. Thank you, as always, to all the featured students for their resilience in investing hours of practice and dedication in perfecting their incredible performances and to our fantastic instrumental tutors for supporting and mentoring our aspiring musicians. View the performances and remember to hit those 'likes':

[Maria - Year 11](#)

Breathtaking performance of the 'Running Up That Hill (A Deal With God)' by Kate Bush

[Leo - Year 11](#)

Outstanding pianist masters the complexities of 'Take Five' by The Dave Brubeck Quartet

[Emily Y11, Ethan Y8 & Jacob T7](#)

Three siblings rock and roll to 'Johnny B. Goode' by Chuck Berry

[May - Year 10](#)

A beautiful vocal performance of 'Maybe This Time' from the musical Cabaret

[Mahyer - Year 9](#)

A budding violinist performs 'Frere Jacques'

[Dylan - Year 9](#)

Pianist Dylan perform the beautiful 'Another Love' by Tom o'Dell

[Eleanor - Year 8](#)

Multi talented performance of 'Arabella' by the Arctic Monkeys

[Ethan - Year 8](#)

Multi instrumentalist 'entertains us' with this rendition of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' by Nirvana

[Dylan - Year 10](#)

Incredible pianist performs 'River Flows In You' by Yiruma

AMSI NEWS

The latest publication can be viewed here: [#AMSINEWS Nov 23](#). It highlights and gives more insight into extracurricular provision that is both inward and outward facing across the term. Enjoy the read.

Reminders:

- The school door opens at 8.30am, ready for a timely 8.40am registration start.
- Students are required to bring their chromebooks fully charged to school every day.
- In the first week back, the Big Ten behaviour expectations will be reinforced through the AMSI Way induction as a reminder for students.

Key Dates:

- 8th January - school re-opens to start the Spring term
- 29th January - Year 11 students receive their mock results during registration
- 29th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
- 9th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
- 9th February - Last day of the Spring term 1
- 10th February - 16th February - Half Term
- 19th February - School re-opens for Spring 2

School Meals

The Local Authority contracted Caterlink to provide the school meals for our school and a number of other schools within Islington. The changes made to meal prices, meal content etc are made in all of the contracted schools. Our students have the following available to them on a daily basis.

Breaktime: snacks and drinks which can be purchased.

Lunchtime: A choice of a hot or cold meal and a cup of water.

From January the following rules will be applied to the service:

1. All students **MUST** carry their school I.D cards and present them at lunchtime.
2. If a student wishes to purchase a snack/drink at breaktime they must have funds available on their card - no credit is given.
3. **LUNCHTIME:** If your child is entitled to Free School Meals they will be given the choice of a hot/cold meal, dessert and a cup of water. If your child wishes to have a bottle of flavoured water or a milkshake they must purchase this with their own funds.
4. If your child is Free School Meals they will no longer be able to substitute their food with two bottles of drink/milkshake and a piece of fruit the allowance is for the Meal Deal Only. Your child should be eating a meal as per the directive of the allowance.
5. If your child forgets their card, they will be issued with a paper ticket which will entitle them to a Meal Deal for that day only. The money will be taken from your account at the end of service.
6. If your child has no funds to pay for their meal, they will be given a paper ticket which will entitle them to a Meal Deal. You will be invoiced for this meal. If this happens on 3 consecutive days you will be contacted by the HOY so that funds can be added to your account to enable your child to access the meal.

To top up/add money to your child's card you will need to access Parent Pay. If you have not activated your child's account, please contact our reception office as they will help you.
If you are unable to top up your child's account, please provide your child with a packed lunch.

Happy holidays everyone from AMSI and safe return on Tuesday 8th January 2024 when school reopens at the usual time.

Susan Service
Head teacher

