



### Term 6 Issue number 6

In this issue: Head Teacher's message, Summer Fayre, Secondary English, Army Elite Skills Academy, Foxes Class Graduation, School Elections, Class of 2024, Primary Football, 8A, Art, Attendance, Assistant Headteacher's Message, Support, contact or concerns term dates, next term arrangements, uniform and exam arrangements..

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that the time has come to write the final newsletter as Aspire Academy! What an incredible year it has been! Once again, your children have excelled and I know you will join me in celebrating their successes. Pupils have gone from strength to strength getting involved in the life and heart of the school community. They show a sense of pride as they eagerly share their accomplishments. It has been both an honour and a privilege to be surrounded by children and young people growing into such resilient and capable learners and citizens and I for one, am truly excited about seeing their continued growth next year.

For now though, It is a time for us to look back and reflect on just some of the amazing moments we've shared as a school community. From the fun and laughter at Christmas which brought visits from Santa and The Grinch (with his pesky green foam!), the Nativity extravaganza and proud moments during our first whole school church service.

The first Art Exhibition and Summer Fayre were particular highlights as we showcased the extraordinary creativity of our pupils raising vital funds for our school. We have celebrated national and international events including Mental Health Day, World Book Day and Pride. We enjoyed strengthening links with families during pupil review days, sports days, and our first 'Tea and Talk' coffee morning to name a selection. Thank you for supporting these important events, we look forward to welcoming you to many more next year!

April brought with it a very welcome visit from Ofsted who recognised the hard work and commitment of our whole school community, particularly our pupils. It also brought eggs of the most special kind and just like the chicks, geese, and turkeys that hatched and symbolised new beginnings 1<sup>st</sup> of July saw Aspire Academy officially transfer into the hands of North Star academy trustAs we head into summer break, let's hold onto the memories we've made and look forward to the new chapter that await us. I wish a fantastic summer to you and your families and we look forward to welcoming your children in September.

Mrs H. McDicken, Headteacher

## Summer Fayre July 2024

We want to say a massive thank you to all our students, staff, parents and carers for the contributions to the summer fayre on Friday. What a success! The students across the school all took part by creating games or stalls or helping to organise the space, designing posters or sorting the money. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend and there was a real buzz in the air.

Due to everyone's hard work and generous contributions, we raised a grand total of £450! This is incredible. The school council will meet in September to share ideas on how we can use this money to enhance the school experience for students across the school.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible. We are already looking forward to the next one!



## Secondary English

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that the students have put in tremendous effort in their English studies, and they should all be proud of their achievements. English is a complex subject, including various elements such as handwriting, spelling, punctuation, imagination, and structure, to name just a few!

In Secondary, we have recently completed formal English tests, giving us a clear picture of the students' current levels and the progress they've made over the year.

One highlight of the year was World Book Day, when many students enthusiastically dressed up and immersed themselves in books. As we head into the summer holidays, remember to keep reading or listen to audiobooks during your travels!



## Secondary Food Tech

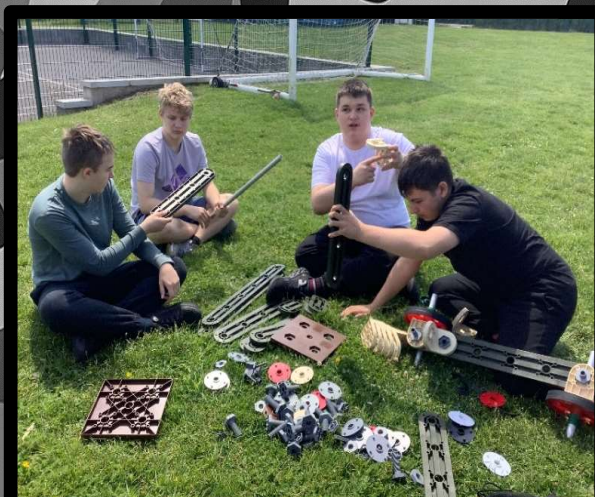
Last week, Year 9A made delicious pork and sausage tartlets, and this week, Year 8B prepared some tasty quesadillas. It's been a privilege to watch their skills, confidence, and independence develop over the year.



This summer, why not try out new recipes that we could include in the curriculum next year?

## Army Elite Skills Academy.

Our school had a very special visit this term; The Army Elite Skills Academy gave an insight to the year 9s and 10s what life is like in the army?



For the first part of the session, they took part in an Army presentation, which included, the recruitment process, career options and apprenticeship opportunities within the Army. They were also allowed to ask questions and find out about life in the Army.



After break we moved outside where the soldiers had prepared different team building exercises to show our students how to communicate in order to work together, develop their problem solving skills and encourage collaboration.



### Foxes Class Graduation

A big congratulations to Foxes class for graduating from Primary this year. They are all moving on up to Year 7 in September and we couldn't be prouder! They have worked so hard, had lots of fun together and achieved great things throughout the year. Well done Albie, Regan, Demi, Kira, Harvey and James!



### School Elections

With the general election sprung upon us, we decided to hold school elections as well. This initiative allowed us to teach students about democracy, the voting system, and real issues that matter to us all. Each class developed a manifesto, elected candidates, and created marketing materials such as logos, badges, and posters. During the hustings, party candidates were bold and brave, delivering speeches on behalf of their class parties. Voting took place on July 4th, officially overseen by Year 6 & 7.

Congratulations to winning parties the Purple Dragon Party and Year 10 in Secondary and to Squirrels in primary! My particular thanks go to Corey, Lily, Ashton, Leo P and Adrian for their fantastic and inspirational speeches!



## Class of 2024



Our 2024 school leavers and staff enjoyed a meal at Lavianos Italian restaurant in Keynsham. The food was excellent, Speeches were made, and a good time was had by all. 11B invited their families into school to celebrate the end of this important era and cooked a feast fit for a king!

We will miss the year 11 students and wish them all great success in the future!



## Primary Football

The Squirrels Class took part in The Bristol Together Championships all day Football Festival this Term.

They were twinned with another school from Bristol, Headley Park and together created a wonderful team called the Aspire Park Pirates.



## 8a

This final term has certainly been a busy one and in 8a we've enjoyed every moment of it! Alongside all our normal lessons, we have also created a political campaign for our mock election, enjoyed lots of team building activities, had an incredible time on camp and relaxed with the chickens, turkeys, and geese.

I was blown away by how mature and enthusiastic all the students were while campaigning, and I would like to give a shout out to Ashton for bravely delivering our speech to the rest of the school. We have had a fun and productive end to the year and I hope everyone has a lovely summer break. WE say a fond farewell to Ashton as he embarks on the next chapter of his school life and moves to a mainstream provision. We will miss him greatly but look forward to hearing about his successes and how he is getting on.



## Art

We are thrilled to highlight the remarkable artistic talents and creativity of two of our Secondary students, Jacob Alexander and Ellis Nicholson.

Jacob, 8A, has flourished in his artistic talents this year, creating large scale pieces inspired by the world around him.

Ellis, 9A, has impressively begun his Art GCSE a year early, and is focusing on the topic 'food & drink'.

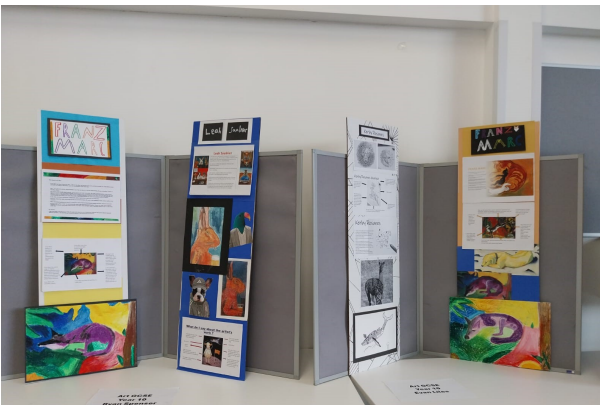
Both boys have been working diligently on their respective projects in their ELSA sessions, where their hard work and creativity has thrived.

Their incredible progress is a testament to their talent and commitment, and we look forward to seeing their continued artistic journey unfold. Well done!



## Art Exhibition

This year saw our very first Art exhibition which provided an opportunity for us to showcase our pupils' talents. Every pupil in school contributed to this incredible event and we welcomed many parents and carers. We look forward to repeating this important event next year!



**A huge thank you to the pupils and staff who worked so very hard to make this happen!**



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know that parents worry about their children's mental health. Parents and carers must remember that mild anxiety, whilst sometimes a difficult emotion, is normal. In many instances, attendance at school may serve to help with the underlying issue more than being away from school, which might exacerbate it. Rather than keeping your child away from school during this time we would much rather you encourage your child to attend school and you let us know about your worries so that we can work together on supporting your child.

It is important to us that all children feel safe and supported when attending school and we are keen to work with you to ensure that your child feels this way when attending school.

We also know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance *Is my child too ill for school?* - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At North Star 180 we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 9.00am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Well done for completing the year. See you in September!

Helen Whitley

Attendance and Safeguarding

Dear parents and carers,

What a fantastic year it has been! Since joining the school in January, it has been a pleasure to see the students engage more and more actively with school activities and bringing learning to life. Students around the school are proud of themselves and their work, want to share and celebrate their achievements, showing how they are developing as strong learners.

The Art Exhibition in June was a real highlight for me, as I am sure it was to all that came. Seeing students' work on display and seeing how far they have progressed, was an absolute joy. Primary's Nativity in December gave everyone a chance to shine on the stage: I am already looking forward to next year's show! Another stand out event was the Summer Fayre - it was the first time we came together as a whole school to raise money, take responsibility for the stalls and welcome in parents/carers in. The students were so positive and courteous, showing everyone around: they were a real credit to the school.

We have seen some amazing work from students across the school this year. They have produced fantastic writing using Talk for Writing, including fantasy stories, instructions for catching dragons and wonderful poetry. KS4 students have thoroughly engaged with their BTEC studies this year. We have been flooded with artistic photos around the school and we now have a hand-built pizza oven for everyone to enjoy.

Across the year, the children have been involved in hundreds of trips offsite. In each and every case, our students have demonstrated what respectful people they are, exemplifying the positive attitudes we have come to expect. On several occasions, members of the public and other professionals have commented on how well-behaved, polite and well presented the students are. They should be incredibly proud of themselves.

This week, you will be receiving your child's end of year report. It has been my privilege to read these and observe the journey the students have been on this year. The efforts and focus shown by the students has been outstanding. Thank you to the students for all their hard work.

I want to wish you all a relaxing summer break and very much look forward to welcoming the students back in September!

Zoe Napier  
Assistant Headteacher

### **Arrangements for School Uniform**

As you are aware, the school uniform is changing in September and items have been ordered for your child. Due to circumstances beyond our control the order has been delayed, therefore we have the following two options available to you:

1. Please send your child to school in a white blouse/polo shirt, black trousers and appropriate footwear. They will be issued a blazer/sweatshirt as applicable
2. Assuming that the uniform has arrived by 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August, school will be open and you welcome to pop in to collect it.

**Prior to making arrangements to do so, please give the school a call to check that it has arrived.**

If you require additional items, please do get in touch with the school office who will be putting in a second order in September for parents to purchase.

**Thank you for your patience, we apologise for any inconvenience caused.**

### Support, contact or concerns:

If families or young people have any concerns, feedback or complaints about their school or are seeking extra help within the family home or their community please feel free to seek extra support from one of the following places:

**North Star Academy Trust Safeguarding email - [Safeguarding@Northstar-academy.co.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@Northstar-academy.co.uk)**

Speak to Helen Whitley via the school number (01225 832212)

If you need to complain about school in a more formal way please do so via our complaints policy available online here - [NSAT-Complaints-Policy.pdf](#) ([northstar-academy.co.uk](http://northstar-academy.co.uk))



#### **Return to school in September:**

**Wed 4th September:** staff will conduct home visits to new students.

**Thurs 5th:** all students will come into school for a short meeting with their teacher/tutor. Parents/carers will be contacted to book an appointment. Pupils will be given their uniform.

**Fri 6th:** all new students come into school along with Rabbits class, Y7 classes, Mr Parrett's Y8 class and Mr Moore's class.

**Mon 9th:** all students return to school

#### **Term 1**

*Inset days: September 2nd, 3rd & 30th*

*Staggered return on September 4th & 5th*

**Monday 2nd September 2024 –  
Friday 25th October 2024**

#### **Term 2**

*Inset day: Monday 25th November*

*Christmas Dinner : 18th December*

**Monday 4th November 2024  
Friday 20th December 2024**

#### **Term 3**

**Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday  
14th February 2025**

#### **Term 4**

**Monday 24th February 2025  
Friday 4th April 2025**

#### **Term 5**

*Bank holiday: Monday 21st April*

**Tuesday 22nd April 2025 –  
Friday 23rd May 2025**

#### **Term 6**

*Inset days: Monday 23rd June and Monday 21st  
& Tuesday 22nd July*

**Monday 2nd June 2025 –  
Tuesday 22nd July 2025**