

ALP NEWSLETTER

Well, this year has flown by! Learners at ALP have had an amazing year with great successes spanning all areas. Pupils & staff have successfully raised over £350 for Rainbows, our chosen charity, we have installed a new media suite in music and have been successful in our bid to run The Arts Award in school.

Next academic year, ALP will be saying hello to four new learners and two new members of staff! Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Lynn Pallatt who has worked in Secondary and also to Nathan Matthew. When we return in the Summer term we will have two new classrooms and will have extended our outside space in order for us to begin developing our Forest School provision.

Thank you for your continued support over the last year. We hope you all have a great summer and we look forward to greeting all of our learners back at the end of August.



CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY



Primary students have worked very hard this year. Pupils were given the Mission X challenge to 'Train Like an Astronaut'. This is an international educational challenge, focusing on health, science, fitness and nutrition. The challenge, which encourages pupils to train like an astronaut, saw pupils taking part in various challenges including challenging physical activities & cooking food for space. Science experiments including growing bacteria and in construction students even made robotic arms! All of the students became Astronauts - very well done!

Secondary students have had some successful work experience placements taking place this year. Placements have varied from hairdressing to working in Oxfam, restaurants

and a local coffee shop. We have more work experience opportunities in the pipeline for our students next year so please watch this space!

In June we had a visit from Employability UK who facilitate employer engagement to enhance the aspirations, opportunities and career prospects of enthusiastic and committed young people. This day was a great success and enjoyed by all the students. Well done to James for winning star student!

COMMUNICATION COMMITMENT

At ALP, we remain committed to listening to and acting upon the views of our learners. With this in mind, during a recent 'Student Voice' session, pupils were introduced to the idea of creating a Student Council.

When we return in August, pupils will be able to nominate themselves to be School Council representatives. The successful candidates will take responsibility for sharing the views and ideas of their peers with management. They will have the opportunity to share ideas around a whole range of subjects including menus, the school environment and whole school development.



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Students record Christmas CD

A GROUP of students from a Birstall school spent a day in a recording studio making their own Christmas CD.

Jan Howe, a music teacher at ALP Leicestershire which has a base at the old Howshall school, took a group of students aged from 7 to 17 to a studio in Milton where they recorded off four Christmas songs including 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas'.

ALP is an independent specialist school that provides education for young people on the autistic spectrum or with mental health difficulties.

She said: "I am very proud of the progress all the students have made during the last year. I believe that this project will demonstrate how far they have come not only in terms of musical ability but also in their self-belief and confidence."

"It was a great day and all our learners got a great insight into how a recording studio works. From the owner of the Parkbacks in Milton, who is a musician, her staff made the students feel instantly at ease and everyone involved had a great day. The recording sounds excellent and everyone involved should be very proud of what they have achieved."

Leah Parkback (left) supported the



Part of the ALP students who recorded a Christmas CD

She said: "It was great to see how a studio works, and I've learned what it would be like to do this kind of work. It was great to have the recording back. It sounded really good."

Copies of the CD were sold at ALP's Christmas show to raise funds for Autism UK, a charity for young people closer to support.

Meadow Lane houses

AN AREA of land next to Meadow Lane has been identified as a possible site for 45 new homes.

Currently a sports field, the site forms part of the newly updated Strategic Housing and Employment Land available to Leicestershire County Council published by Leicestershire County Council.

It is the intention in the document that the site will be developed, so that it will receive favourable consideration if an application for planning permission is submitted.

The SHLAA identifies a number of small sites in Birstall, providing a potential total of 130 dwellings in the next 15 years. In Birstall and Cossington it identifies sites for 10-14 dwellings, in Birstall 4/15 and in Birstallwood 1/1.

Chair of Birstall Parish Council Sam

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MUSIC UPDATE

Left: ALP rockstars make front page of The Birstall Post with their debut Christmas album!



It's been a busy time for music in ALP... Where to begin, well! We now have a fully functional recording studio and a separate sound proof room for recording vocals.

The plan moving forward is to create a wide variety of creative projects such as a radio show, individual student CD's/mp3 as well as entire school music projects to help us raise money for charity.

As well as offering the ASDAN Expressive arts course ALP are hoping to be delivering an NCFE in Music Technology with the emphasis next year on the students working in groups towards this qualification.

The school band was a huge success and everyone involved showed what can be achieved with a little teamwork and hard work.

A highlight of the year was definitely when a group of students visited a recording studio to create a christmas CD to help raise money for Rainbows hospice.

We also got front page of the Birstall post :)



PRIMARY UPDATE

Above: Primary learners enjoy their trip to the Snow Dome to celebrate their achievements throughout the year.

Pupils in our growing Primary division have continued to benefit from the varied subjects and activities available to them at ALP. This year, pupils have been learning through various themes including Super Humans, Green Fingers and Seeing the Light. These themes have been incorporated across the curriculum, with learning activities in Art, Music, ICT & Cooking all reflecting our main topic.

ICT UPDATE

It has been a good year for IT at ALP. The school has taken receipt of its first SMARTboard for use in our Primary division with Secondary soon to follow. In addition, a new system for raising IT concerns and requesting support has been developed.

This year, secondary learners have been taking part in group ICT lessons and I have recently spoke to several secondary learners about the course they have been working on. Taking all of their comments and concerns on board, we have decided to explore an alternative qualification in ICT for our older students. Next year, secondary learners will be working towards a new ICT qualification which will see them using mobile devices such as iPads, SMARTboards and mobile phones. This qualification requires learners to build a portfolio of evidence, rather than being required to take an exam.

BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

With a mixture of new training for staff and a growing awareness of our learners needs, behaviour at ALP has been responded to quickly and support has been put in place where required. This has resulted in lower incidents of challenging behaviour and has allowed our learners to successfully access learning in a safe and engaging environment. ALP, with the support of parents and carers, will endeavour to develop further interventions to help learners manage their behaviour. Looking forward, we will focus on recognising, monitoring and celebrating our learners positive behaviour and achievements around school.



ART UPDATE

Primary pupils have progressed towards achieving Entry Level 1 and 2 in NCFE Creative Craft. Lessons have linked to their thematic learning and they have produced some fantastic pieces including clay pirate coins! As secondary & post 16 learners work towards their Level 1 NCFE Creative Craft, they have focused on the question 'where do creative ideas come from?'. Learners have enjoyed a trip to Leicester's Cultural Quarter to visit galleries, graffiti murals and artists studios where they had the opportunity to laser cut their own designs with artist Rare Folk.

Next year's focus will be around the Artsmark Award. This is a two year development plan to enhance arts and culture across the curriculum, with a particular focus on careers in creative industries. Already on our Artsmark journey, students have visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and worked to improve environments in PSD in preparation for how they want to change their outdoor space at ALP. As of next year we will also be delivering Arts Award qualifications using a grant from The Mighty



Creatives. These focus on interest led creative progression which individually suits each student. To support students' interests in digital technology, some of the grant will be used for a new camera and editing software. If you are looking for creative activities this summer, check out the Leicester Print Workshop, LCB Depot and the Phoenix Arts Centre - all of which provide creative workshops..

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Further to achieving Healthy Schools status last year, ALP are currently working towards the Healthy Schools Enhancement award. This has a strong focus around Healthy relationships.

Our secondary and post 16 learners are working towards achieving level 1 in Sexual health, whilst Primary learners have been discussing friendships and maintaining positive relationships - both in and outside of school.