



Abraham Darby Academy

Haberdashers' Adams' Federation

Members of the Family of Haberdashers' Schools

Principal's News

Week 2

12th September 2008

I have enjoyed my first week in Abraham Darby Academy. The students are very friendly, enthusiastic and well mannered. Of course on occasion one or two will make a mistake by not thinking through the consequence of their actions and so do something stupid. In such circumstances they are always best advised to be honest, to accept their punishment and then to come back and prove their true worth.

In the past week in the Academy I have very much felt the sense of a new beginning. I feel that students want the Academy to succeed and want to do well themselves. They are waiting, expecting to be challenged and wanting change.

I feel strongly that we – Academy and parents – have a unique opportunity to work together, to raise their aspirations and to push them to raise the bar in the standard of their work. Remember:

“Shoot for the moon - even if you miss you'll be among the stars”

“The person who accepts any less of himself/herself in life than he/she is truly capable will never be really happy”

The Student Planner is the basic tool through which we can work together. If you have not yet seen it, please ask your son/daughter to show it to you. It contains the Home School Agreement for you to sign. It contains sections for student and mentor to agree targets, a coursework planner for Years 10 & 11, the homework set each day and most importantly a section for Commendations. We firmly believe that praise and encouragement is the best way of getting hard work out of students. In the homework section, there is a place for you to sign each week to say you are monitoring the work, and the opportunity for you to make comments to help us work more closely together.



“Some people say it is wrong to regard life as a game; I don't think so. Life to me means the greatest of all games. The danger lies in treating it as a trivial game, and a game in which rules don't matter much. The rules matter a great deal. The game has to be played fairly, or it is no game at all. And even to win the game is not the chief end. The chief end is to win honorably and splendidly. To this end, several things are necessary. Loyalty is one. Discipline is another. Unselfishness is another. Courage is another. Optimism is another.”

Sir Ernest Shackleton

Summer School

This year 45 students attended Summer School. They were able to take part in activities such as Information Technology, Rocket Making, Art, Dance, Martial Arts, Cooking, Design Technology and Science. Each student designed and produced a key ring and a mug, and they were presented with a commemorative t-shirt. Family members were invited to join students during the afternoon of the last day and Mr Hawke presented prizes and certificates.



Literacy

High standards in literacy are important for students to achieve at a high level in all subject areas in the Academy and are an important life skill. In order to continue to improve standards in literacy, the Academy has implemented a spelling policy which focuses on the teaching and learning of key words in new topics and modules. All teaching staff use a range of spelling strategies which run as a strand through their teaching. **Parents can help by their children by encouraging them to learn spelling at home.** We would recommend they use one of the following five strategies:

1. Identifying and sounding out the syllables in words in order to avoid missing out parts of the word
2. Identifying word families e.g. sign, signature, signal
3. Looking for words within words e.g. measuring – *me as u ring*
4. Use of mnemonics e.g. rhythm – rhythm helps your two hips move
5. Look-say-cover-write-check

Further to this, all staff will mark work for literacy using a common marking code and symbols to motivate students to communicate their subject knowledge and understanding effectively. A copy of the mark code will be pasted into the front of students' exercise books in all subjects. Literacy marking will not only encompass spelling and punctuation but will also draw attention to style, sentence structure and grammar. Comments on work will be constructive, offering advice on how to improve.

Last but not least, both to develop reading skills and to encourage students to read for pleasure and enjoyment, the academy has invested in a wide range of reading material and activities which will be made available to all students in their mentor sessions on a weekly basis. **We would strongly encourage parents to support their children by encouraging them to read at home.**

Watersports in Southern France.

Over the Summer 30 Year 8 & 9 students and 4 members of staff travelled to Southern France on a watersports extravaganza. They started on the sun baked Mediterranean where they took part in sailing, windsurfing, climbing and abseiling. Leisure time activities included a trip to the exhilarating Aqualand Water Theme Park, discos, shopping and a vineyard tour.

From there they moved onto the Aretha where they were involved in a 3 day canoeing expedition on the river on which they had to overcome many sections of rapids. All passed with flying colours but only a few managed to stay dry. Everyone who met the Abraham Darby students described them as brilliant.

The next Outdoor Pursuits Expedition is the Ski Trip Easter 2009. There are still one or two places left. See Mr Bagshaw Room B14 for details

Extra Curricular Involvement.

At Abraham Darby Academy, we feel that it is important to offer a rich variety of extra-curricular activities to balance the demands of academic work, and thereby educate "the whole person". Through the opportunities we offer we hope to discover the aptitude and talents of each individual and to develop them to their fullest. Through extra-curricular activity as well as through work in the classroom, we encourage our students to grow in self-discipline and to prize integrity, tolerance and respect for others (and to develop those traits necessary for them to play a significant and leading role in society in the future). As each student progresses through the Academy, he/she is encouraged to take on more responsibility and to lead others in various activities. Close links are maintained with industry and the local community, as well as further afield in Europe and the world in general.

The aim is for each student to be actively involved in extra-curricular activity each term. This may be in sport (at an Academy, House or individual level), and/or music, dance and drama (at an Academy, House or individual level), and/or be a member of the expanding range of clubs and societies

A list of weekly events is given before and we will update parents on other events/trips on a weekly basis through the Newsletter

Inter School Cross Country League.

Girls and Boys in all age groups.

Race 1	24 th Sept.	4.30pm	Abraham Darby
Race 2	1 st Oct.	4.30pm	Wrockwardine Wood
Race 3	15 th Oct.	4.30pm	Adams'
Race 4	22 nd Oct.	4.30pm	Lord Silkin

'Disco Inferno'

Main roles will be allocated within the next week ready for rehearsals to start as soon as possible for performances in March. Year 7's will be informed of how and when they can sign up if interested.

Main rehearsals will take place every Thursday after school 3-5pm and increase as it gets closer to show time!

Weekly Calendar of Extra Curricular Activities

Inter-House Sport Half Term 1

Girls

Tuesday	3.00 - 4.00pm	Week A	Year 7 & 8 Netball
		Week B	Year 9, 10 and 11 Netball

Boys

Thursday	3.00 - 4.00pm	Week A	Year 7 & 8 Football
		Week B	Year 9, 10 and 11 Football

Clubs

Monday	12.10 - 12.50pm	Choir
	12.15 - 12.45pm	Year 7 Drama Club
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Boxing Club
Tuesday	7.45 - 8.15am	Breakfast Club (Basketball)
	12.15 - 12.45pm	Advanced Academy Dancers (KS4)
	12.15 - 12.45pm	'Arts Achievers' (GCSE Drama Group)
	12.20 - 12.50pm	Junior Jazz Band
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Rugby Club
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Art Club Years 7,8 & 9 Art Club
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Year 11 GCSE Textiles Coursework Club
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Business Studies Open Session
	3.00 - 3.30pm	Choir
	7.00 - 9.00pm	'Showband'
	8.00 - 9.00pm	Darby Singers

Wednesday	7.45 – 8.15am 3.00 – 4.00pm 12.15 – 12.45pm 12.15 – 12.45pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm	Breakfast Club (Basketball) Cross Country practice Academy Dancers (KS3) Wednesday Youth Theatre GCSE Humanities Year 9 Gardening Club Health and Social Care Coursework Club GCSE Dance Coursework CZ Band (Intermediate Brass Band)
Thursday	7.45 – 8.15am 12.15 – 12.45pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm 3.00 – 5.00pm 3.00 – 4.00pm	Breakfast Club (Basketball) 'Poult's Performers' (Year 8 & 9 Drama Club) Art Club Yrs 10 & 11 Year 9, 10 and 11 Football Club. Year 7 & 8 Football Club Show rehearsal for 'Disco Inferno' Year 10 GCSE Textiles Coursework Club
Friday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Friday Night Band
Saturday	Saturday Morning Music College 9.00 – 10.00am 10.15 – 10.45am 10.15 – 10.45am 11.00 – 12.00noon 11.00 – 12.00noon 9.15 – 10.45am Boppers Dance Club 10.30 – 12noon 12.30 – 2.00pm	Jazz Band Sax Group Brass Group Brass Band Senior Woodwind Ensemble Megaband Advanced Jazz/Street Intermediate Jazz/Street

Parent E mail addresses.

If you have an E mail address you can supply the Academy, please do so. This would mean that you can receive future newsletters by E mail. (The newsletters will also be placed on the Academy website) If we have your E mail address it will also allow us over time to begin to supply you with a lot more information about what's going on in the Academy and your children's progress in and outside the classroom.

Alternatively the Newsletters can be viewed on the Academy Website

If you have any comments/suggestions about the Newsletter please contact the Federation Office

Abraham Darby Academy
Ironbridge Road, Madeley. TF7 5HX
Tel: (01952) 386000
Email: AD.Academy@taw.org.uk
www.abrahamdarbyacademy.org.uk

With my very best wishes

Steve Hawke
Principal