



St Alban's Academy

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2014



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

اجمل التهاني بحلول عيد ميلاد المسيح

Waxaan idinku hanbalyeynayaa ciidaweyn ee masiixiga ee nagu soo fool leh



Ark



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

83% A*-C in English
80% A*-C in maths
65% 5A*-C with English and maths
Best GCSE results ever! So what?

All the major religions of the world teach us to live in peace giving love and respect to our fellow human beings. This Christmas I am conscious that, as an academy with a highly inclusive Christian ethos, we have a responsibility to set an example. We value equally people of all faiths and beliefs. We encourage students to learn more about their own religion and the diversity of belief that characterises our city and our world. There is more that unites than divides those who believe in a loving God and we need to stand together for peace here and abroad.

Those who claim to be faithful to God but pursue their ends through violence and fear do not understand their religion and sadly know little about other cultures and their common humanity. Schools here and around the world have a vital part to play in the pursuit of peace, teaching children about equality and diversity so that the adults of tomorrow are able to make informed judgements and form a balanced view of the world.

But this is not enough. Future citizens also need to be highly literate. They need to know about maths, science, humanities and the arts. They need a high quality, broad and balanced education to help address the difficult issues that face us. For this reason Ark Schools aims to close the attainment gap between rich and poor and that is why I am especially proud of our best ever GCSE exam results achieved this year.

The enduring message of Christmas is love, peace and goodwill. When Jesus, 'Prince of Peace' was born in a stable to save the world the angel said:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

School reopens - 5/1/2015

Students return - 6/1/2015

Sixth Form Mock Exams Start -
6/1/2015

Year 11 Mock Exams Start -
12/1/2015

Year 8 Parents Evening -
20/1/2015

Sixth Form Open Evening -
22/1/2015

Year 7 Parents Evening -
23/1/2015

Year 9 Parents Evening -
29/1/2014

February

Year 10 Parents Evening -
3/2/2015

Year 12/13 Parents Evening -
6/3/2014

Year 11 Parents Evening -
11/3/2015

CLOSURES

12-13 February - Staff training

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SPORTS TEAMS KEPT BUSY



This has been a busy term for St Alban's Academy sports teams with lots of competitions and matches going on including netball, football, badminton and indoor athletics. The Year 7 and 8 girls netball team has had a great start to the year. The Year

8 team has won nearly all matches and the Year 7 team had their first win of the year last week. Well done to both teams. They have worked really hard over the past few months and it is starting to pay off. The Year 7, 8 and 9 boys badminton team has also done well and recently won a tournament. The Year 7 girls team also won gold in the indoor athletics competition. There are lots of clubs on for both girls and boys before and after school including netball, boys football, girls football, badminton, table tennis, climbing, girls basketball, boys basketball, fitness and trampolining.

Children should take part in an hour of physical activity each day, so try and attend as many clubs as you can.

WE CAN DO IT!

At St Alban's Academy we have been focusing on women during the war. In the absence of men, who were away fighting, women stepped in to keep the country going. Before women were able to work, they were stuck doing stereotypical things like being housewives and full time mothers. Despite having jobs, women were paid very little compared to men which led to the formation of the Women's Movement. This helped people to understand that women should be treated equally with men. Eleanor Roosevelt made a great contribution to the Women's Movement, as did Betty Friedan, who wrote the 'Feminine Mystique,' a book that expressed the thoughts of many women who knew that there was more to life than being a housewife or a full time mother. But why is this significant to us now? Well, some of the most inspirational people of our time are women and they wouldn't have got anywhere without the help of the women in the 1960's, who fought for us as well as themselves. The female teachers in our school may not have been here today if the Women's Movement hadn't happened and then we wouldn't have a society where men and women are seen as equals.



Written by Amrita Kaur.

UNIVERSITY FINANCES

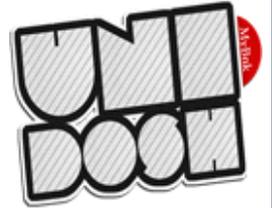
MyBnk

MyBnk is a charity which delivers financial education and enterprise directly to 11-25 year olds in schools and youth organisations. MyBnk personnel worked with our Year 13s in October delivering two sessions: 'unidosh' and 'money matters'.

Students received a comprehensive overview of university money matters and were encouraged to consider their personal circumstances, visualise their university lifestyle and get a 'reality check' regarding the financial situations that students face. Our Year 13s are now more aware of the necessity to plan ahead and evaluate the choices which they will have to make at university.

The 'money matters' session dealt with life after university when students find themselves in the world of work and provided them with practical information about general money handling, tax, national insurance, debt and much more.

Our students found both sessions invaluable and hopefully now have more idea about how to plan and manage a budget.



YEAR 12 TO WORCESTER

Only a short train journey from Birmingham, the University of Worcester is a university well worth considering and so we took Year 12s for a taster day recently where they met students and lecturers who gave them a lot to think about.



Worcester is one of the fastest growing universities in Britain.

Even with the change to tuition fees, applications have remained buoyant against a falling national picture. There are currently more than 10,000 students at Worcester.

In February 2013, the university won the Guardian University Award for contribution to the local community in recognition of its outstanding innovation in creating The Hive, the country's first university and public library, and a state-of-the-art 2,000-seat sports arena opened in 2013. The university has received excellent reports from Ofsted and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE CLUB



During Remembrance week at the Academy, we were given the opportunity to take part in a two minute silence to remember previous and current conflicts around the world. In addition to this, we have also been producing messages of remembrance. These messages have been placed underneath 'The Tree of Life' in the atrium. To sum up in a few words, the remembrance tree is a symbol of respect towards all those that fought in the war. We have been working with Miss O'Connor to produce a poppy display in the atrium and we would like to thank her for all her hard work. We would also like to thank Mr Higgins for producing the stand and Mr Reeves for leading the remembrance assemblies. This visual display will ensure that our remembrance is not limited to one week of the year.

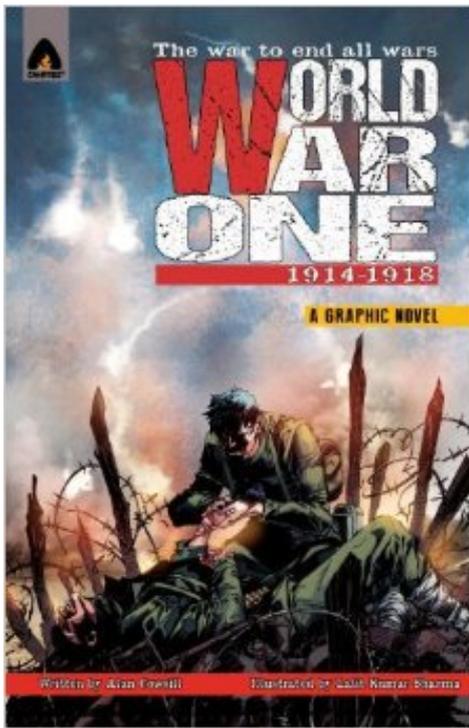
After all:

They are gone but never forgotten

Written by Meesum Hussain - Year 9



RECOMMENDED READ



I cannot think of a better overall introduction to the history of the First World War, its causes, key players, the battles, the advances in military technology, the influence of the war poets, the unfair treatment meted out to conscientious objectors and the role of women in factories.

This graphic novel, aimed at a young audience, brings history to life. It will help academy students, especially reluctant readers, learn more about the first world war and hopefully inspire in them a wider interest in history.

Also, the mention of the contribution made by various animals, including pigeons, gives it a quirky quality which will appeal to children. Particularly poignant is how a postscript tells you that the characters depicted in the trenches and the flying corps were all real people. There really is no such thing as the unknown soldier while we continue to remember them.

Several copies of this book are available in the academy library.

MATHS PUZZLE

A piece of wire 36cm long is bent into the shape of a rectangle.

If the rectangle is twice as long as it is wide, what is the area?



MESSAGE TO PARENTS

End of term is now upon us and we all have time to relax and recharge our batteries. We would like to thank all parents for their continued support in helping to maintain such high standards at St Alban's Academy. The staff and governors would like to wish you all a restful break and a very merry Christmas. We will see you in the new year

Waxaan la soconaa in uu termkii schoolka naga dhamaanaayo , waxan joognaa xiligii nasashada. Waxaan halkaan ugu mahadcelinaayaa dhamaan walidiinta sida joogtada ah noo taakuleen jiray, taakuleyntiina la'aanteed schoolkaan horumar-ka uu ka gaaray waxbarashada marna ma haweysteen. Dhamaan shaqalaha iyo gudiga waalidinta waxaa ay idin leeyihiin nasasho wanaagsan iyo ciid wanaagsan. Waxaa noo balan ah in aan dib isuqu soo laabano sanadka cusub.

قريباً سينتهي الفصل المدرسي الاول وهذا سوف يعطينا كلنا وقتاً للراحة وتعبئة بطارياتنا (كما يقول المثل)
انا نود ان نشكر كل الاباء والامهات ودوي امر الطلاب لعونهم لنا المستمر الذي يساعدنا على صيانة المستويات العالية التي تتميز بها مدرسة سنة البنس الاكاديمية
ان كل موظفو و قيادة مدرسة سنت البنس الاكاديمية يتمنون لكم فترة راحة مريحة واجمل التهاني بحلول عيد ميلاد المسيح. وسوف نراكم في العام الجديد

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE MONTH



Pythagoras of Samos was an Ionian Greek philosopher, mathematician, and founder of the religious movement called Pythagoreanism. Most of the information about Pythagoras was written down centuries after he lived, so very little reliable information is known about him. He was born on the island of Samos, and travelled widely in his youth, visiting Egypt and other places seeking knowledge. Around 530 BC, he moved to Croton, in Magna Graecia, and there set up a religious sect. His followers pursued the religious rites and practices developed by Pythagoras and studied his philo-

sophical theories. The society took an active role in the politics of Croton but this eventually led to their downfall. Pythagorean meeting-places were burned by his enemies and Pythagoras was forced to flee the city. He is said to have died in Metapontum.