



The Meadows School Spring 2018 Termly Newsletter



A jam packed start to 2018!

Special events this term at The Meadows

Annual Presentation Assembly

Visits to Port Vale FC *and* Stoke City FC

Waterworld Trip

World Book Day 2018

Football Tournament in Aid of Macclesfield Hospital

Battlefields Tour to Belgium

Mrs Thirlaway receiving her award!



Hello Parents, Carers and Students

After what has felt like a long cold Winter, we are feeling glad to now be approaching Spring and some better weather in the Summer Term. And despite a couple of snow days this term (we hope the students enjoyed playing in the snow at home and didn't miss school too much!) life at The Meadows has been as jam packed as ever with activities, celebrations and all manner of exciting goings-on!

We have ended the term with our Annual Presentation Assembly where the academic achievements of students are celebrated and this year Mrs Thirlaway was also presented with an award for her hard work with Entrust Careers Service. Mrs Alex Kenneth from Entrust presented the Quality in Careers Standard Award. She spoke of the process of assessment the school had engaged in and some of the work that

stood out to the assessors. This included visiting the classrooms where students spoke of their careers lessons and showed off their work, plus conversations with parents, Governors, employers, College Links and Enterprise links with the community.

Students received certificates for achieving qualifications in GCSEs (we had our highest grades yet since we began to deliver GCSE's three years ago), Functional Skills and Entry Level Certificates in English, Maths and ICT. In addition, some students gained qualifications in Health & Safety in the Workplace Level 2 and FSCE in French, which is a foundation GCSE qualification. Mr Pritchard who teaches both these subjects spoke at the assembly of how proud he was of these achievements.

Well done everyone and thanks to parents and carers for supporting our children and young people.

In other news, Cicley Haughton School, based at Wetley Rocks and part of The Manor Hall Academy Trust, has been judged Outstanding at their recent Ofsted inspection. Congratulations to them, a brilliant result for their hard work.

Our new school website is now up and running and is starting to fill up with news and photos of lots of exciting activities as well as being a really useful source of information relating to the school. The Family Support page lists groups and events in the local area which you may find of interest.



School News...

World Book Day



Due to the heavy snowfall at the start of March, school was closed for a snow day on World Book Day. However, that didn't stop the students enjoying what World Book Day is all about which is encouraging children to develop a love of books and reading. Mr Harvey made a

fantastic display which is currently in the school foyer showcasing some wonderful creative work from the students. Books which were looked at included War Horse, Billionaire Boy and The Snail and the Whale. The paper-mache Minotaur head was particularly fantastic and linked to the story of Hercules who was tasked with killing the Minotaur in Greek Mythology.



Grow Moorlands Enterprise

Grow Moorlands continue to go from strength to strength, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Mr Whewell. They have recently (mid-March) taken on Eagle Mill flats on Shoobridge Street for Your Housing - another social housing gardens project, following on from the success of the work carried out at Belle Vue flats in Leek over the last few months. Mr Best recently reported a healthy profit for the Enterprise, following a meeting with Grow Moorlands trustees, which will be ploughed (excuse the pun!) back into buying equipment and plants to allow the group to continue their work. In the Summer you will hopefully see the Grow Moorlands team at events around Leek selling items such as potted plants and baskets. Keep an eye out for them!

Students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award have also been able to get involved in the maintenance of the school's garden and horticulture areas as part of the Volunteering Section of the award. Sadly this area was targeted by vandals last year so the students have been working hard to make it look good once again. Leek High students

have been so impressed, they have also got involved and this has helped them with their Duke of Edinburgh Award too.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

A number of students received certificates at the Presentation Assembly in respect of the Bronze Award. The Full Award is made of four sections, Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition. Two boys achieved the full award - a fantastic result for them! Whilst others were given certificates in the individual sections as they continue to work towards the full award. Ms Jackie Robinson (Outdoor Education Leader) spoke of her pride in our young people for their determination and perseverance. Student Sophie spoke of her memories of the expedition which involved walking from school to Stanley Head whilst carrying all their own equipment, setting up camp on arrival, cooking their own food and walking back to school the next day. Sophie said she would never forget Ms Robinson banging on the tent in the dark with a 5am walk up call!

A real sense of achievement was gained by all taking part and memories made which will last a lifetime. Well done everyone!



Aidan & Jackie Robinson on the Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition.

More school news...

Port Vale FC Visit

As part of a school programme, Port Vale have been doing some football coaching with students from class NB and AT as part of their Wednesday afternoon PE lessons.

On Wednesday 14th March, coaches Kev and CJ arrived at school to take the regular PE lesson, but this was no ordinary Wednesday... They had brought along with them professional football player Adam Yates from Port Vale Football Club for the students to meet and play alongside throughout the coaching session. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills from Adam, and were highly motivated by his presence. At the end of the session, Adam told the students how impressed he was with their skills and motivation during their PE lesson, and he had a wonderful surprise! Adam presented the students with a football ticket for them and their parent/carer to attend the Vale game against Stevenage on Saturday 17th March.

On match day about a dozen students attended the game, along with their families and a number of Meadows staff to watch Port Vale play in freezing cold, snowy conditions. However, spirits were high in the second half as Vale came back to score two goals resulting in a 2-2 draw. Students were very lucky to be chosen as flag bearers as the teams walked onto the pitch and all were given a goody bag at the end of the game. An enjoyable, if cold, Saturday afternoon with some experiencing a live football match for the first time.

Stoke City FC visit

Not wanting to show allegiance to just one local Football Team, a group of students had the opportunity to go and watch Stoke City v's Huddersfield on Saturday 20th January. All students met at school at 1pm and Mr Hordern (a season ticket holder himself) drove Miss Ball, Mr Grey and Miss Chappell with 9 students in the school minibus. The match was fun and exciting and Stoke won for the first time in weeks with a result of 2-0. It was the first game with the new manager Paul Lambert which drew crowds of over 30,000.



Waterworld Visit

On Tuesday 6th March, students from The Meadows went to Waterworld for a fun session as part of an event organised by the Lions Club, which has been an annual event in recent years. Everyone had such a brilliant time! Students were able to go on lots of slides like Space Bowl and the Rainbow Slides. There was even a slide that we went on in a rubber ring! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, splashing and cheering along with the students from other schools, but the best part was definitely the goody bag that everyone got at the end. The volunteers from the Lions commented on how well behaved and polite from The Meadows School were.

Table Cricket Competition

On Wednesday 14th February, two teams from The Meadows went to Watermill school to take part in an organised table cricket competition. The Meadows also took along 3 sports leaders to help out. These students were getting a certificate for being able to help other people take part in the game. The students playing in the competition had to work well as a team, each taking it in turns to bowl, bat and field. Both teams were super and everyone really tried their best. All of the students were very polite, and the organisers commented on how well everyone worked together, and they gave a special round of applause to the sports leaders for doing such a good job. Everyone had a brilliant day- it got even better when the cricket coach announced that The Meadows team had won the trophy!



Meadows students waving flags as the Vale players walk onto the pitch.



Waterworld Pool Party Group!



Table Cricket Winners!

School News...

Fundraising for Macclesfield Hospital

Just before Christmas a Teaching Assistant who had worked at The Meadows for a number of years very sadly lost their young son Alfie, aged 6, who had been left with learning disabilities after contracting an illness as a toddler. We were touched and saddened to hear the news, and an idea was formed to fundraise for Macclesfield Hospital Children's Ward who had cared for Alfie. One of the ideas was to hold a football tournament. Four teams of 7 players competed with the final being Mr Harvey's team v's Mr Gray's team, final score 4-2 to Mr Harvey's team! Special thanks to student Joshua P for his efforts in organising the event.

Other activities were organised such as an oatcake café, car cleaning and health & beauty activities. A total of £350 was raised and Mr Whewell took a group of students to Macclesfield Hospital to present the cheque. The money will be spent on purchasing sensory equipment for the Children's Ward.

Plans are afoot for further fundraising activities including a sponsored run when the weather improves.



College Links

Our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to visit Leek and Stoke on Trent colleges each week where they are able to study a range of vocational courses at an introductory level. These include Hair & Beauty, Woodwork, Pottery, Media Gaming & Graphics, Catering, Construction and Motor Vehicle Maintenance. These weekly sessions give the students an

Battlefields Tour to Belgium

On Monday 5th February, Mrs Wright, Mrs Thomas and two students Ethan and Anton were lucky enough to travel to Belgium for a three day tour visiting the Battlefields and Memorial Sites of the First World War. The trip was organised by the World War 1 Centenary Project. It is the second time The Meadows has been able to take part in this initiative, the first time being in 2015. The group visited The Menin Gate, Passendale and The Somme region where they took part in Remembrance Services and laid wreaths which had been donated by a local Royal British Legion branch. Students considered the question - "Is remembrance more or less important one hundred years on?" This generation is the ones to carry the torch forward and keep the memories and stories alive of the many who died for us all.

Mrs Thomas has produced a photo presentation of the trip which can be viewed on the school website under the 'Students' page.



experience of college life and many of our students do go on to study at the colleges when they leave the Meadows Sixth Form.

Students at Leek College Honeycomb Project have recently made some excellent bird boxes! (as pictured)



Students doing woodwork at Leek College...



More school news...

Striping and sanding walking staffs



Grubs? Not quite as tasty as marshmallows!

Dates for next term...

Tuesday 24th April
College Link
Presentation at Burslem
Campus

Monday 7th May
Bank Holiday Monday -
No school

Wednesday 9th - Friday
11th May
Standon Bowers visit

Thursday 24th May (am)
GCSE Maths paper 1

Monday 28th May - Friday
1st June
Half Term holiday

Tuesday 5th June (am)
GCSE English Language

Thursday 7th June (am)
GCSE Maths (paper 2)

Friday 8th June (am)
GCSE English Language

Tuesday 12th June (am)
GCSE Maths (paper 3)

Thursday 5th July
Prom Evening



School Council

The School Council proposed to Mr Best the possibility of having a school branded hoody, following on from the success of the Leavers Hoodies we did last Summer. Mr Best agreed this was a nice idea, but maybe not smart enough for everyday school wear and so a compromise was reached where students will be able to purchase a school hoody for PE lessons should they wish. We are currently in the process of arranging this with our school uniform suppliers and hope to have them available soon. School uniform continues to be supplied from School Trends; information is available on the website. They have now reduced the cost of delivery from £4.95 to £2.99.

France Visit 2019

We are proposing a 5 day visit to France in July 2019. A copy of the letter is on the website for more information. So far we have had a fantastic response with almost 40 reply slips coming back into school. More details will follow in the Summer Term. Watch this space!

Outdoor Education

Here at The Meadows we don't let a little thing like the Winter weather stop us from getting out and about in the great outdoors, and this term has seen Jackie Robinson taking classes out on varied outdoor activities. The 6th Form did a snow walk up to Knivedon and Classes AT, JB, CJ and NG have been going into the local woods to learn bushcraft skills. Skills that include making campfires, building shelters and carving walking staffs. And of course, no campfire would be complete without toasting marshmallows!



Mrs Wright is always very relieved to see us return safely from our adventures!

Prom Evening 2018

Last year we broke with tradition and held our Leaver's Prom at Leek Cricket Club. The evening was a complete success, the students and staff enjoyed a lovely meal, danced the evening away to a DJ, and the whole venue was wonderfully decorated.

We are excited to say we have once again secured the Cricket Club for this year's Prom Evening. It will be held on Thursday 5th July - 5.30pm to 9pm. Letters have been sent home already and a copy is available on the school website. Dress code:- dress to impress if you wish! The cost is £15.00.



Happy Easter!
School is closed
Friday 30 March -
Friday 13 April