

April 2019

Alcester Academy NEWSLETTER



HEAD lines...

Yet another term draws to a close and what a successful term it has been.

I could not possibly write without mentioning the Ofsted inspection that took place in March. We were delighted to receive the very best outcome possible from a Section 8 inspection - being recommended for a full inspection, as we are likely to reach the threshold for an Outstanding grade to be awarded. Whilst it is not all about Ofsted's judgements, it is nice to receive acknowledgement for the work that every single member of staff and student puts in on a daily basis.

Another highlight of the term has been receiving two SSAT awards, one for being in the Top 20% of non-selective schools for attainment and the other for being in the Top 20% for progress. Again, this is gratifying to have recognition of a great team ethos and a fantastic set of students who work hard at everything we ask of them. We collect the awards in May and very much look forward to displaying them



prominently as a reminder to all that, with effort, you can be '*the best that you can be*'.

We have had so many exams taking place too. Students in all year groups have impressed me with their maturity around exams. I wish I were able to put a video together showing the impeccable conduct of our students as they enter and leave their exams – it is something that I am sure would impress. I know year 11 students are working hard towards their final GCSE exams and will impress equally. We wish them the very best of luck.

Ofsted grading and awards are not our sole focus. You can see we also value enrichment activities. The newsletter is full of references to the trips we use to broaden student experiences. We believe that a strong academic focus is of huge importance, but without reference to the real world this does not allow our students to develop to their potential. I have to say, school trips have come along way since I



attended school myself as a student. Who would have thought a school trip would allow a student to visit Niagara Falls?

As we bring the term to an end, I do want to thank all parents for their support. Whether it is ensuring your child is fully equipped for school, supporting them with homework or paying for them to attend school trips, we would not be the same without your full backing.

Mr Paul Hyde Headteacher

Dates for your diary

SUMMER TERM 2019	
Summer Term begins	Monday 29th April 2019
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2019
Half Term	Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2019
Back to school	Monday 3rd June 2019
School closed	Friday 21st June 2019
	<i>Teacher training day</i>
School closed	Monday 24th June 2019
	<i>Teacher training day</i>
Summer Term ends	Friday 19th July 2019

Inside this issue:

<i>Penfriends Visit</i>	3
<i>World Challenge</i>	4
<i>LRC News</i>	7
<i>Year 9 STEM SLD</i>	9
<i>Sports News</i>	11 & 12

Alcester Youth Council Meeting

Many thanks to the Mayor of Alcester, Councillor Andrew Foster and members of the council for attending the Youth Meeting held earlier this year at the academy.

The students enjoyed discussing their ideas for continued work around the town and how they could engage further in their local community.



End of term message for all parents and carers from LSU

- All belongings to be taken home from cloakrooms including PE bags, coats and other equipment.
- We have a collection of water bottles in LSU – please send any students to collect if they have lost theirs.
- All lockers should be kept locked.
- Do not leave any food or drink in lockers over the Easter holidays.
- All lost property will be kept until Friday 3rd May 2019 (first week back in the Summer term). If not claimed after this date the lost property will be taken to a local charity shop.
- Please ensure all property including PE kits are named clearly in readiness for the Summer term.

If there are any further queries or concerns please refer back to LSU. Thank you.

Year 8 Cadbury World Trip

Year 8 visited Cadbury World in Birmingham in March to learn more about corporate responsibility and Fair Trade. Students enjoyed a tour of the factory and of course the plentiful chocolate, before listening to a talk about the roles and responsibilities of being a transnational corporation. The students were able to give informed answers and ask important questions as they have been studying Fair Trade and chocolate as part of their last unit of work. Some of the responses that the students were able to give were outstanding, and as usual they were a credit to themselves and the school. A highlight is always



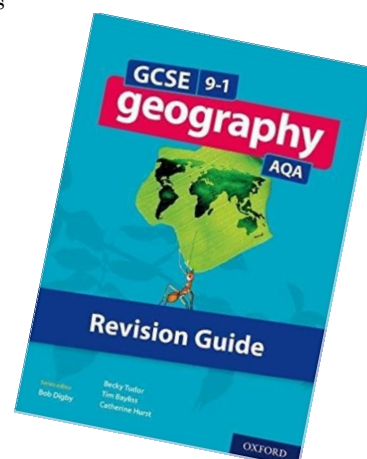
the melted chocolate pot with a choice of two toppings, but I think one student (mentioning no names!) regretted his choice of double popping candy. A great day year 8, well done. *Miss Cotterill and Mr Bowater*



Year 11 Geography GCSE AQA Study Day Trip

Year 11 geography students visited London on April Fool's Day to attend an intensive study day run by a GCSE exam board. There were no jokes to be had though, as the day was absolutely fantastic and very productive. The guest examiner speakers were able to navigate the pitfalls and opportunities to be found in all three papers, and offered excellent tips and advice to the students. Our students displayed a fantastic attitude and were part of 600 students from across the country who attended. They also found time to experience London's street food scene although most seemed to end up eating a sausage roll from Greggs! To conclude the day all students received a revision booklet and checklist, which will now be used in the classroom to support exam preparation. Well done year 11!

Miss Cotterill and Mr Bowater



Penfriends Visit 2019

In March, we welcomed 16 German students from the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium in Springe, Niedersachsen. After sending numerous letters back and forth with our year 10 German students for the last 18 months, they were excited to finally meet each other for the first time.

On Tuesday 26th March, the students met in Stratford upon Avon, where they spent the day exploring and getting to know each other. All students had the opportunity to practise their German, which they admitted was difficult and scary at first, but they all gave it a go and in the end they found that it wasn't so bad. The following day, our German penfriends visited Alcester Academy. To start with, the students from Springe

were shown around the school by our year 10 students, who had been planning a school tour for them in German. They then had the chance to experience some lessons with their penfriends, including subjects such as Food Technology, which are not offered in Germany. Throughout the day, our year 10 and year 11 students (who are currently revising for their GCSE speaking exam) all had the opportunity to practise their German speaking and listening skills by communicating with the German natives in the target language. All students involved had a brilliant experience and after a very emotional goodbye, we hope that they will stay in touch.

Miss Heitmuller



ChatHealth

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service and Warwickshire Young Persons Substance Mis-



use Service has launched a new way for parents and carers of school aged children to get confidential advice and support about child health related issues.

ChatHealth is an award-winning school nurse messaging service and is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. There will be automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours. Answering the text message will be a nurse who can assist with any queries about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and wellbeing issues. **The text number is 07520 619 376.**

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

Year 7 Warwick Castle Trip

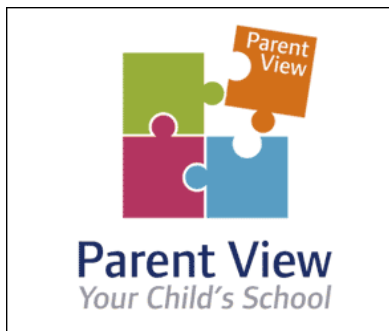


The humanities department took the whole of year 7 to Warwick Castle for a fun and informative look at the history of the castle and in particular the Norman Conquest. Students explored all aspects of the castle, engaged in an active reconstruction of the Norman Conquest, saw the changing use of the Great Hall and State rooms over time, enjoyed the Kingmaker exhibition, and also witnessed a birds of prey show. It was a pleasure to see so many of our students enjoy history brought to life.

Miss Cotterill

Ofsted Parent View Questionnaire

We would be grateful if as many parents or carers as possible could complete the online Ofsted questionnaire regarding your views of the academy. This can also be found with a simple web search of 'Parent View'. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.



Performing Arts Highlights

Year 10 trip to *Everybody's talking about Jamie*

Our year 10 Performing Arts students were given the opportunity to visit the west end for the matinee performance of *Everybody's talking about Jamie*.

This musical is part of their BTEC Performing Arts work and later students performed their own highlights of the show.



Most Able

Our Most Able Performing Arts group meet every Wednesday between 6 - 7pm.

This term we have been focusing on producing a one act play called *Two* by Jim Cartwright. We have also watched some live performances namely a live stream of *Everybody's talking about Jamie* and the gender swap *Taming of the Shrew* at the RSC.



Year 7 *Alice in Wonderland* project

Year 7 have been studying physical theatre through the medium of *Alice in Wonderland*.

As part of this process students were asked to create their own wonderland as part of a stimulus.

Some amazing variety's arrived at school ranging from cakes, paintings, junk modelling and more.



West End Trip

In January Alcester Academy KS4 students took part in a West End experience weekend. Highlights of the trip included a backstage tour of the National Theatre, taking part in a Lion King experience workshop at pineapple studios, the V & A Museum as well watching the West End show *The Lion King*.



Acoustic Night

Alcester Rock Academy's *Acoustic Night* at The Alcester Inn was a great success!

Several Rock Academy bands plus the Acoustic Group, The School Rock Band, The Ukulele Group, The G+T Jazz Band and the Rock Academy Staff performed to a packed inn at the beginning of April.

The G+T Jazz Band featured above, played *Virtual Insanity* by Jamiro-quai. It was amazing!

Thank you to all the talented performers. *Mr Badham*

World Challenge



The World Challenge team have been busy fundraising this term in lots of different ways. Budgens in Bidford have very kindly supported our students by allowing them to bag pack in store which has added a significant amount to the funds already raised. In addition, the school hosted a table top fair which was really well attended, and some of our team have held a curry night and a quiz night. Individual students have taken on small part time jobs (football referee, farm worker and gardening) and have been selling items on ebay and Facebook.

Local companies and small businesses have been really supportive by donating raffle prizes, displaying posters and promoting events. There are many more events planned including the production of an Alcester Academy calendar which will be available towards the end of this year.

The World Challenge team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them so far. Here's to Bali 2020!

Mrs Westley and Mrs Farnell

Ski Trip to Canada

During half term 47 students spent eight days visiting Canada on the ski trip. We spent five days skiing in the beautiful resort of Mont-Sainte-Anne in the Canadian Rockies, where the snow conditions were some of the best they had ever seen. By the end of the first day all beginner groups had moved off the nursery slope and were up at the top of the mountain. Our advanced skiers were tackling the bumps and jumps of the mogul field. By the end of the week we had some superb skiers amongst the group. Our evenings were spent relaxing in the hotel which had some great facilities including a pool and hot tubs and we even had a go at night skiing.

The students also enjoyed a visit to Valcartier Ice Park for a morning of extreme tubing and very scary high sliding rides. The final two days were spent in the city of Toronto with lots of shopping and an excursion to Niagara Falls, a phenomenal sight to see. A brilliant time was had by all. The students were a credit to the school and a pleasure to take on the trip. Thanks to all the parents and staff who supported the trip, including the trips to the Snowdome, it was very much appreciated.

Miss Buckthorp



Doctors Show and Inquisition of Elizabeth

In February and March year 11 history students visited the Palace Theatre in Redditch twice to watch the *Doctors Show* and the *Inquisition of Elizabeth* respectively.

Both productions were memorable and informative and will definitely help the students to remember vital information for their Health and Elizabeth exams.

There were also exam workshops led by a principal examiner that gave the pupils invaluable in-sight into how to tackle a variety of exam style questions. The students were a credit to the school and a good day was had by all.

Mr Rossiter



Pancake Race 2019

Many congratulations to all of the year 7 and 8 students who took part in the annual Alcester Pancake Race this year. A huge well done to winners Lola, Aoife, Hannah, Marcus, George and Louis. Thanks to Miss Wincup and Mrs Hands for organising this.

Mrs Mellors



Alcester Schools' Book Award

Alcester Schools' Book Award takes place annually between Alcester Academy, St. Benedict's and Alcester Grammar School. Books are chosen to appeal to a range of readers and abilities. Five titles have been shortlisted and the award was launched on Tuesday 12th February at Alcester Academy. Ten of our year 8 students have committed themselves to reading the five books and will take part in various activities around the shortlisted titles over the coming weeks, including an author event at Alcester Grammar School. After voting for their favourite read, the final will be held at St. Benedict's School on Thursday 23rd May 2019.

The shortlisted books for the 2019 award are: *A Good Day for Climbing Trees* – Jaco Jacobs; *Star by Star* – Sheena Wilkinson; *The House with Chicken Legs* – Sophie Anderson; *Ghost Boys* – Jewell Parker Rhodes; *No Stone Unturned* – Helen Watts.



Design Technology Project Work

Year 9 textiles students have been making little dresses and shorts for the charity *Little Dresses for Africa*. These will be sent away to the charity very soon.

Miss Wincup



Library Loans

Students are automatically enrolled as members of the school library when they join the Academy. We run the library in a similar way to public libraries and there are lots of books available for students to borrow. The loan period is three weeks. Students are then expected to either return the book to the library, or ask to have the loan period extended. Sadly this year some students are forgetting to do this. Please support the library by encouraging your children to read and reminding them to return their library books on time, so that other students can also read the books, Thank you.

LRC News

Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2019

Ten of our year 7 students have been reading and completing activities around six books that were shortlisted for the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award, run by the School Library Service. On Monday 25th March pupils voted for their favourite reads and on Thursday 4th April they attended the Warwickshire Book Award Final at the Bridge House Theatre, Warwick. All six authors attended and students were able to meet the authors and have books signed. They were excited to have their photo taken with the author of the winning book A. M. Bennett, who wrote *S.T.A.G.S.*

We were also proud to have a competition winner! Eve (7HI) won a prize for her fantastic drawing of a character from one of the books. She chose to draw what she thought Helene from *Wolf Children* by Paul Dowswell would look like. Paul was so pleased with her drawing he signed it for her.

The shortlisted books for the 2019 award were: *S.T.A.G.S* – M.A. Bennett; *Wolf Children* – Paul Dowswell; *Boy 87* – Ele Fountain; *I am Thunder* – Muhammed Khan; *The Nearest Faraway Place* – Hayley Long; *Rook* – Anthony McGowan



World Book Day and Scholastic Book Fair

The school celebrated *World Book Day* on 7th March with all students from years 7 to 9 being given a voucher for a free book and all tutor groups taking part in a fun tutor quiz. Congratulations went to 8HN and 8RO who scored an impressive 35 out of 40 and the runners up 7BR who scored 34 – chocolates were sent their way.



Also, during the week of *World Book Day* a word search competition was held in the LRC - £5 Scholastic Book Fair vouchers went to Natalie (10WT), Olivia (8GR), Chloe (7HI), Shannon (7WS) and Amelie (7BR). The vouchers could be spent at our Scholastic Book Fair which was held in the LRC from 13th to 20th March.

This year we received books worth £89 for the library as a result of sales made to students. Thank you to everybody who supported the book fair.



Accelerated Reading

We have 18 new word millionaires so far this year.

They have each been given a certificate and a book.

Congratulations go to our newest millionaires: Seb, Rowan and Melissa from year 9, Oscar and Bailey from year 8, Matthew, Hannah, Olivia, Emily, Georgia, Annabel and Oliver from year 7.

Will any of them reach five million by the end of the year?



Twitter account

The LRC has its own twitter account, please follow us for all our latest news: @AA_LRC_Library



Maths Updates

This has been another great year in the maths department so far, seeing a large number of successes for our students and some fantastic collaboration with more of our local primary schools. During the year we have seen the intergroup "Cola bottle" maths challenge take place across various year groups, with students displaying exceptional mathematical thinking skills and teamwork within their groups. We have also seen some exceptional mathematical artwork earlier in



the year with students showing their application of geometry and construction in creating their own Islamic Geometry and Celtic Knotwork pieces. But we have also seen great successes outside of our own classrooms with our year 10 numeracy leaders delivering a 'SATS preparation session' training day at St. Nicholas Primary School, where some of our finest mathematicians were highly praised. St. Nicholas extended their thanks to these students; "Thanks again for the work you and your year 11's came and did, our pupils really benefited from it". This trip saw ten of our numeracy leaders work in groups to coach forty students in various mathematical tasks focussed around fractions, decimals and percentages, and we are very much looking forward to our follow up visit, where we will be exploring the reasoning section of the SATS paper and getting a chance to see the students progress following our last visit.



And finally moving forward, we begin to prepare for another year's entry into the UKMT maths challenge where over 100 of our students will be pitting themselves head to head against the nation's best mathematicians, of which we have had great success over the years.

Overall, a great beginning for another year of mathematics across the school and we look forward to the year ahead.

Mr Barker

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC

Wow! This annual event is mind blowing and does not disappoint.

The event prides itself on being the largest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. Two coaches of year 9 pupils were escorted by science and support staff and had a marvellous time.

There was so much to do, see and consider. From interactive activities, workshops and shows, to stands



manned by working scientists and engineers willing to answer any and all questions asked about work, jobs and careers in their field. There was

even a full sized red arrow to sit in.

The aim of the fair is to show young people aged 7 to 19 the exciting and rewarding opportunities that are out there for them, with the right experience and qualifications. The exhibitors do that by bringing classroom learning to real life.

It was an inspirational day and Alcester Academy students were magnificent in their attitude and conduct throughout. Well done all.
Mrs Burgess

School Statistics

Attendance Percentages - Week Ending 5.4.19

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.5%	96.2%	96.3%	96.1%	97.2%	96.4%

Well done year 11 you have the best attendance! Miss Staniland

Year 9 STEM Super Learning Day

March saw the Science department host another successful STEM Super Learning day for year 9 pupils.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and with the help of outside ambassadors, all students had the opportunity to gain hands on experience of the skills needed for careers in these areas.

The STEM activities included sessions of using healthcare equipment with the Medical Mavericks; experiencing the Science of Sports with the Bloodhound Gang; the electronics of making a burglar alarm; the civil engineering and problem solving of bridge building;

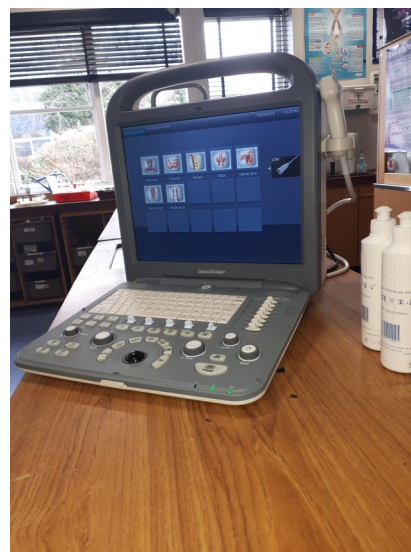
and the Physics behind exploring the universe.

All of the five sessions were presented and run by guest speakers from well-known, highly respected professional bodies such as the Birmingham University, The Think Tank and the IET, the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

It was a wonderful learning opportunity, which students enjoyed to the full.

The science department is already planning the next event for 2020.

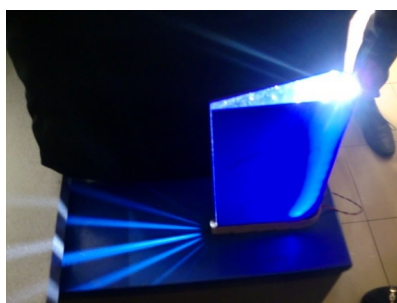
Mrs Westley



Design Technology Project Work



Year 9 woodwork students have been busy making lamps based on the work of past and present designers.

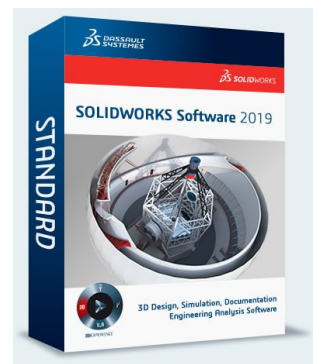


New CAD/CAM Suite at Alcester Academy

The Art and Design Technology department has been working hard to launch the new CAD/CAM suite. A special thanks to Mrs Black, Mr Alexander, Mr Kirby and Mrs Mainey for making this happen!

Mrs Black and Mrs Mainey from Warwickshire County Council collaborated in a project to win a £30K Skills Challenge grant from WCC last year. The culmination of the project is a completely refurbished suite with 27 student workstations, a teacher's workstation and five 3D printers to complement our existing laser cutter. Mr Alexander and Mr Kirby have worked tirelessly to build the computers and install the new workstations. Students will now be able to take their design skills to the next level as they learn to use Solidworks software and print out their own 3D designs at the academy.

Miss Wincup



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 8,895 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during academic year 2017/18. This is an increase of 1,816 on the previous year.

SPORTS NEWS ** SPORTS NEWS ** SPORTS NEWS

Since Christmas the academy has been very busy with fixtures and activities aplenty and a truly inspirational Sports Awards Evening. The Awards were presented by Jack Rutter (GB Paralympic Football Captain at Rio 2016) who spoke wonderfully to our students delivering a fantastic message- "Be resilient - Step out of your comfort zone - Maintain a positive attitude". It was fantastic to hear about Jack's journey and we are grateful that he was able to share in the celebration of our student achievements. Highlights from this term include Poppy (y8) and Caleb (y9) running for

Warwickshire in the National Inter-County X-Country Championships in Cheshire. Both our y7 and y8 Jr.NBA basketball teams made the regional playoffs and our y9 footballers made the district Cup Semi-final with the 8's and 10's bowing out at the quarter-final stage. Our Sports Hall Athletics teams competed well at the District Competition with the y8 girls coming 3rd and the y8 boys coming 2nd. Our y7/8 table tennis team are representing the District at the Level 3 School Games Competition in Birmingham. Two fantastic trips to watch Worcester Wolves in the BBL have topped off

what has been a busy but rewarding start to 2019.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with our students this year as they always demonstrate great commitment and ability on all sporting fronts and the PE Department would like to thank all students who have been involved with sport at the Academy.

Here's to a successful summer term 2019.

Follow us on Twitter:
@AAcademy_PE
Mr Powell



SPORTS NEWS ** SPORTS NEWS ** SPORTS NEWS

House Competitions

After some close competitions this term the pendulum swings between Billesley, Oversley and Ragley with Billesley currently holding a narrow lead.

A variety of competitions have occurred thus far with the ever-popular year 7 Castle building competition producing some fantastic models.

In addition to this the students have been testing their abilities in a variety of areas such as:

- Panto Performance (Performing Arts)
- Photography (Art)
- Multi-track recording (Music)
- Advent Calendar design (PTE)
- World Book Day (English)
- Egg Landers (Science).

Congratulations and thanks to all participants and good luck for the Summer term competitions!

Current Overall Scores:

BILLESLEY	GREVILLE	OVERSLEY	RAGLEY
245	199	229	231

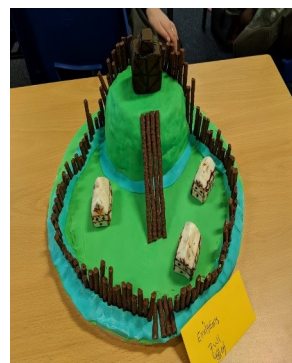
Year 7 Castle Building Project



Edward Gilbert



Chloe Bayliss



Emily Earls



Language Word of the Week

Pâques (Fr.)

Ostern (Gm.)

Meaning: Easter

Context:

Joyeuses Pâques!

Frohe Ostern!

Happy Easter!

