

Drama at the Playhouse

Lauren Tongs in Year 9 must be congratulated for winning the KS3 Original Drama Competition held in conjunction with The Wiltshire Creative, Salisbury Playhouse and Take Part. The competition was open for all local schools. Lauren's play was performed at the Playhouse Theatre on Wednesday evening by professional actors along with the two other winning plays. It was terrific to see Lauren's play – **The Adventure of a Lifetime** being brought to life. A play about two young sisters finding themselves embroiled in a spy mission with the peculiar Mrs Neve. I look forward to further success in our creative writing projects. Well done to Ms Jones and the English team and don't forget your Big Write entries.

Pupil Leadership at Sarum Academy

Don't make a decision about me, without me! – is a value that underpins the work of our pupil leadership groups at Sarum Academy. Involving pupils in the running of the school has been instrumental in driving the rapid change over the last two years and in accelerating ideas and building capacity. We recognise the value that leadership brings in personal growth and change management.

There are a number of leaderships strands, each with a terms of reference and priority areas for development, that operate within the Academy. **Peer Mentors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, The Ethos Group, House Leaders, Peer Readers, DoFE and Senior Prefects.** Their purpose is clearly defined and we communicate their ideas and effectiveness through the newsletters and our **Feedback Matters** noticeboard. Pupil Leadership is mapped across the Academy with possibilities for all.

Whilst much of the work of these groups supports the day to day running of the school and the introduction of ideas and initiatives, each group has a 'big impact' agenda. Last year pupils introduced the new school uniform, their idea and warmly received as it was an initiative driven by them, they also worked with programme leaders in achieving the new Healthy Schools Award.

This year we were finalists in the Wiltshire Schools Environmental Awards. The Peer Mentors have also just finished filming a video for the charity Kidscape in which they share their experiences of the Peer Mentoring Programme. A 'big impact' initiative launched to support the transition for pupils into secondary school and designed to develop the skills of those involved in delivering the programme. We look forward to sharing the video soon.

Space for prayer....



We've loved welcoming pupils at Sarum Academy to our prayer space this week. Working closely with Miss Rock and the Humanities team, we've had over 200 pupils visit as part of their Religious Education lesson throughout the course of this week and during break and lunchtimes too. We've taken over an entire classroom with 10 interactive prayer stations and reflections, all with the aim of developing pupils' understanding of Christian prayer. A key part of these sessions has been the opportunity to just pause and reflect on some of the bigger questions of life, particularly in this busy, fast paced world that we live in. One of the stations

involved thinking about hopes and dreams for the future; another looked at how we can pray for the world around us. It's been brilliant to see so many pupils engage with this space and many have commented on how helpful it's been to take some time out and to stop. We're thrilled to have an office here in the school and we look forward to hosting a more permanent prayer space in the Chapel in the coming weeks!

The Bridge team

Parent and Pupil Clay Morning

Please join us for our Parent and Pupil Clay Morning in the Art department.

The art department are running some clay workshops for parents and pupils the morning of the 10th March between 10-1pm. Please come along and learn how to use clay and make some clay tiles which will be exhibited in the community project conclusion later in the year.

All pupils in Year 7 and 8 have been given a letter, but if any other pupils and their families would like to come please either call the school and book a place, or ask your child to let me know. The class is completely free, a fun way to learn something new and spend some time with your child.

**Mrs Middlehurst-Jones –
Curriculum Team Leader Art & Technology**

Maths Challenge



"On the 5th February Aidan Jackson-Deverill, Eden Twinn, Jasmin Chard and I went to St. Joseph's school for a Further Mathematics Support Programme day. We were split into two pairs and placed into separate teams of four – with two pupils from another school. We then were

*given a presentation about what AS and A level Mathematics is and how it can affect our future jobs and careers. After that, we participated in three rounds of a Maths competition. The first round was general Maths, the second was a timed challenge and the third was context and logic. Aidan and I (in our group of four) **came third out of 30 teams**. We had a break, then were given another presentation about the creation of numbers, as well as 'good' maths jokes, to finish the day."*

Lance Smith – Year 10

Sarum Academy leading the way with pupil wellbeing

Salisbury Journal - 15th February 2018

Growing up today seems more difficult than ever. Young people are facing a whole host of new pressures, such as finding their identity on social media and navigating the fast-paced 24/7 world of internet gaming. There are growing concerns nationally that increasing numbers of teenagers are struggling with their mental health. The charity, 'Young Minds', estimate that one in three children in each classroom are living with a diagnosed mental illness. Self-esteem is at an all-time low amongst girls in the UK according to Dove (2017) with figures showing that more than half of girls (54%) do not have high body esteem.

Salisbury based school Sarum Academy are being proactive in their response to these trends by placing pupil wellbeing and pastoral care high on their agenda. The Academy's latest OfSTED Report stated 'Pupils' physical and mental health is well supported by school leaders. Pupils feel safe, and are safe in the school' (OfSTED October 2017). When pupils feel safe, listened to, nurtured and healthy they are then able to learn at their best and achieve their potential.

Sarum Academy was one of the initial schools to take part in the 'Thrive' project, which has now been rolled out county wide. Thrive is a programme designed to help create emotionally healthy schools and increase pupils wellbeing. The Academy has a practitioner from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) based in school for a day and a half a week.

Alongside the pastoral team, the CAMHS worker offers 1:1 sessions, group work, lunchtime drop-in and training and consultations for staff members.

Another important part of the Thrive programme has been our successful peer mentoring scheme. Younger pupils have the opportunity to meet every other week to talk to an older pupil who has received peer mentoring training. This initiative has recently been recognised nationally as Academy pupils were filmed for a promotional video. Alongside our peer mentors, we also have Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who have recently received training in Restorative Practices such as mediating.

The Academy has a strong pastoral team who have experience and training in areas such as counselling, Restorative Practices, and Mental Health First Aid. On a day to day basis this team meet with pupils and offer them support through issues such as having low self-esteem, struggling to control their anger, or dealing with the death of someone close to them. Pupils also have access to a Thrive lunchtime drop-in every day of the week where they can receive support from people such as the school nurse and The Bridge Project (a local schools work charity).

The Academy is proud of the support already in place to enhance pupil's mental and emotional health, and have high hopes for this to continue to grow and develop. Over the coming year there are plans to enhance awareness of, and support for, LGB&T pupils, and also to continue to train all staff in dealing with any emerging mental health issues or symptoms.

Suzy Futcher
Safeguarding Officer

Activities Week

A reminder that all deposits need to be paid for activities week visits asap. Please let us know if money is tight at the moment – we are happy to accommodate alternative arrangements. For any information contact Mrs Suzy Senior.

Flying the Flag for Sarum

Dylan Antunovic-Fry (closest to the camera) in Year 9 was lucky enough to fly the flag for Sarum at Twickenham at the recent rugby game between England and Wales.



Dylan with the England players Ellis Genge and Harriet Millar-Mills

A Level Art Exhibition



The Brief: Produce an artwork inspired by an artist. - Students explored materials, in 2D, 3D and digital art techniques and processes to produce their final work. The application of fine art processes and their relation to the concept developed in their artwork was reviewed by each student during a verbal presentation.

“Our exhibition expresses how we can incorporate our emotions, feelings and imagination into a vessel to convey our ideas. We have all picked an art movement such as abstract, surrealism and expressionism, and placed it into a vessel to show either a meaning or something that relates to us. All the year 12’s have worked hard over the past few months to put the exhibition together.”

Mark Sanderson - Year 12

There will be another chance to see the exhibits during our Art and Photography Exhibition in the summer. We look forward to seeing you then.



Artastic!

Some great pieces of work in Art today in Year 10.
Some highlights!

