



March/April 2020

Dear Parents

As you know, we saw our schools close on Friday 20th for the foreseeable future - until we are told to reopen. We are still open and running to support those who are doing an incredible job to ensure we are all safe and well. If you are in the 'key worker' group, thank you from our whole community for keeping us safe and well. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure we move teaching and learning to a virtual classroom in a very short space of time. For many of us staff, students and parents, this has been a huge learning curve and I thank everyone for their patience, feedback and commitment to getting us up and running. As we move into the new challenges of supporting your child's education through the virtual classroom, can I remind you that all staff, whilst fit and healthy, are still working incredibly hard to continue to provide this education. We are all contactable and will be there to help, support and offer any advice we can through this new 'virtual' environment. We appreciate there is always a better way of doing things and our initial phase was to engage all stakeholders in the virtual classroom. As we become more familiar, we will refine expectations and enable a more effective feedback system to ensure engagement and learning for all students is taking place.

Year 11 Purpose of Virtual Learning in these uncertain times

As things stand currently, the government has confirmed that the May/June exams will not now go ahead. We are yet to be told by the government what form the alternative method of assessment might be for non vocational subjects. Until they do so, our aim is three-fold:

- 1 - to keep students' schedules as close to what it would have been as possible to support their knowledge retention and skills.
- 2 - to support students' well-being by ensuring continuity and communication. During assembly time in the last week, we were keen to emphasise that at this time when there is a lot of change and worry, we hope that the contact with school and regularity will help with mental health.
- 3 - to make sure there is a bridge in learning between school and the next stage in their education. March until September is a very long time and keeping the brain active can only be a good thing.

Staffing Update:

We wish to give you a staffing update for April 2020: **Goodbyes:** **Mrs Jeanes** was successfully appointed as Assistant Principal at a local school. I would like to thank her for her support as Secondary SENco over the last 18 months and wish her every success in her new role. **Mr Knight:** is returning to Alternative Provision, his true calling. I would like to thank him for all his support and flexibility in supporting so many of our students and wish him every success in his next steps in Alternative Provision. **Miss O'Reilly:** Teacher of Dance, has decided to pursue her teaching career closer to home in Southampton; we would like to thank her and wish her every success in the future.

As some staff leave, we also welcome new colleagues to our team or to different roles within the Academy:

Joiners: **Jayne Cornell** - *Teacher in charge of Dance and Head of Year* who will be transferring from Primary to secondary and will be a great asset to the Key Stage three pastoral team. **Elaine Paul** - *Behaviour Coordinator*. **Amy Biddle** - *Exams Officer* and will continue with her marketing role as well. **Mandy Lister** is joining the SEND team as an Alternative Provision Coordinator, in secondary.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to those parents who have sent in words of support for the school – it is much appreciated. We are all finding our way in quite exceptional circumstances.

Stay safe and please stay at home

Mrs Bishop

Year 9 & 10 flourish in Siddiqui Education

In March, Baasit Siddiqui from the Channel 4 program ‘Gogglebox’ came to the Academy and ran two full days of team building and creative thinking workshops with our Year 9 and 10 students. As well as being a television celebrity, Baasit Siddiqui runs an educational foundation whose core mission is the raising of young people’s attainment and aspiration, and hence an ideal partner for Atlantic Academy.



Our students were tasked with creating the concept for a new television program, storyboarding how the program would run, what target audience it would be aimed at and how it would have a unique selling point. Mr Siddiqui’s expertise was priceless and all of our students had an unforgettable and hugely valuable experience.



A competition is being run by Channel 4 for the best new television program ideas to come out of Baasit Siddiqui’s workshops and our students remain hopeful that their ideas could result in an all expenses paid trip to London.

Year 9 & 10 Speakers Trust event

The Speakers Trust is an organisation that creates opportunities for young people to improve their self confidence and public speaking skills through school based workshops.



Year 8 Bournemouth University - Lego STEM Day

As part of the continued partnership between Atlantic Academy and Bournemouth University, our Year 8 students spent Monday 2nd of March completely absorbed by a STEM challenge involving lego, robots and team dynamics. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths challenge involved students competing against each other in teams of four against the clock.



Students had a tremendous time, both using the lego robotics, and communicating, planning and building as a team. It was a great experience and one that will be repeated next year.



Top 10 Positive Points Champions

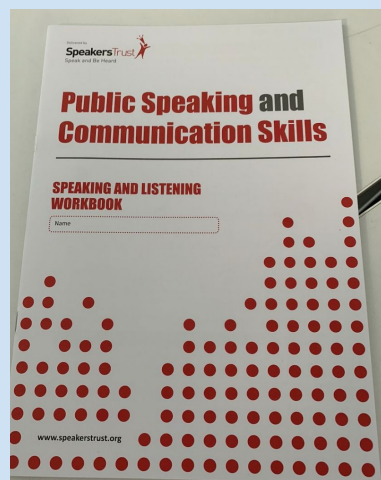
Belcher, Ronnie	585
Hiscocks, Amelie	537
Holt, Harley	521
Powney, Benjamin	515
Harvell, Oakley	507
Davey, Joel	489
Dodd, Steven	479
Newton, Emilia	477
Griffin, Max	476
Armos, Rebecca	469

Year 10 Macbeth Live Stream



Year 10 had their English lessons brought to life by a live streaming performance of Macbeth. Performed by The Royal Shakespeare Company, the performance offered a unique interpretation of this set text. The theatre is a perfect venue for these sorts of events, as it adds to the drama and makes students really feel they are at a performance.

Our Year 9 and 10 students, during a well earned break in their Unit 2 PPE schedule, spent valuable time with the experts from the Speakers Trust developing public speaking and confidence skills. These are often seen as soft skills, however they can be hard to learn and useful for a lifetime; we were very grateful to the Speakers Trust for their time with our students.



Unit 3 Enrichment (Extra curricular Activities)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Cricket/Athletics	Rugby	Girls Football
Dance Club	Handball	Fitness
Drama Club		Handwriting Club
Homework Club		Music Instrumental Club
Football	Friday	Making a Sketchbook
Pokemon Club	Mountain biking and cycle maintenance	Maths Homework Club
Science Club		

Students placed 2nd in Dance Festival

Congratulations to Taynesha Gill and Rebecca Amos who took part in a dance festival held in Exeter during the February half term. Brilliantly, their duet got them placed 2nd overall and this is undoubtedly the start of many such successes for the pair.



Head boy, Tom Davey, completes leadership course on Dartmoor.



Over the February half term our secondary Head Boy braved the wild winds and rain of storm Jorge to take part in a Rotary Club sponsored

Year 11 Staying Safe presentation by SSCT



On Thursday 5th March, our Year 11 students took part in a workshop led by the Dorset Safer Schools Team. The presentation covered the safeguarding issues related to alcohol misuse and violent crime when young people go out to pubs and clubs and

gave students advice on how to keep themselves safe. Since introducing this workshop for Year 11 students in Dorset, there has been a significant decline in assaults involving young people at night; our Year 11 students reported that they felt the presentation was really useful and informative.

A new Applied Transdisciplinary Assignment called 'Tomorrow's World' is launched.



On the 18th of March, all of our Year 7 students met two sailing instructors from the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre during the launch of their next ATL assignment. Nathan Bloss, the chief instructor at the sailing centre, and James Parker-Mowbray delivered a thoroughly engaging

presentation about the way that digital technology and advances in carbon materials have affected their industry. Students heard first hand about the way that high precision GPS technology is used at sea and in racing, and, also, the way that computer design has dramatically improved the performance of sailing craft. The assignment that Year 7 students have embarked on will involve them studying the technological approaches that the '1851 Trust' are using in their challenge for the next America's Cup, as well as learning about the history and impact of the semiconductor and the way that disruptive technologies have driven industry and commercial advances.

Cabaret



On Thursday 12th March, Atlantic Academy hosted our first Cabaret Show! The evening consisted of a variety of different performance acts which celebrated the talent, creativity and dedication of Atlantic students. The show opened with a fantastic performance by Eloise Bacon and Weymouth

Dance Studio, who provided a raffle during the interval to help raise money and support Eloise's travel to Rome to compete in the World Dance Competition. Audience members were then welcomed into the theatre with Dylan Garbutt's renditions of *Country Roads* and *Bohemian Rhapsody* on the guitar. The evening continued with an exciting display of acts including dance, drama, baton twirling, a beautiful singing duet and Aaron Griffin's incredible interpretation of *Sweet Child of Mine* on the piano. The evening also gave the

course set on Dartmoor.



Tom's course involved him spending three days completing team building exercises and physical challenges with other young leaders from across the South West. As well as crossing freezing cold rivers, abseiling 200ft cliffs and making do

with the humble accommodation of a moorland bunkhouse, Tom learnt about decision making under pressure and the importance of a positive mindset. Tom also made some new friends, who he hopes to stay in touch with in the future.



The Academy is very grateful for the support that Portland's Rotary Club gave Tom. This brilliant



opportunity is one that we will continue to make available for future young leaders on Portland.

Curriculum Google Classroom

**ATLANTIC ACADEMY
VIRTUAL SCHOOL
RESOURCE CENTRE**

For access to all virtual resources, please go to the Atlantic Academy Website and follow the links to the Virtual School Resource Centre.

opportunity for Dance Enrichment students to share their most recent choreography with a live audience, which they have spent months rehearsing for. All students should be incredibly proud: they put on an amazing Cabaret which would not have been possible without their commitment, confidence and character. Well done to... Amber Armitage, Rebecca Armos, Leon Atkins, Eloise Bacon, Hallie Bird, Mae Board, Matilda Busby-Wilcox, Russell Dewar, Jade Espley, Clove Freeborn, Dylan Garbutt, Jada Gilbert, Katie Gregg, Aaron Griffin, Clara Halcrow, Issy Heybourne, Amelie Hiscocks, Tiffany Lee, Alfie Leggett, Charlotte O'Dowd, Marylou Orchard, Sky Parrott, Josh Pepper, Freya Perry, Amy Pommells, Ethan Rowbotham, Chloe Ryley, Ellie Savage, Amy Sheffield, Rinoa Sheffield, Logan Smith, Shannon Smith, Eva Tacey, Tara Thompson, Connie Tugwell, Rosie Wadley, Tegan Ward and Jo Wilding.'



Unit 2 Reports and Progress

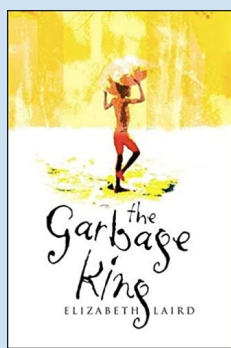
Unit 2 Reports went home to all students who were in school on 20th March 2020 and we will be posting the rest to those who were not in school on that day as soon as we are able to. Please see below those students in Years 7, 8 & 9 who made the most progress during Unit 2. Each student will receive a Principals' Commendation award on progress which is equal to 30 positives.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Erin Canham	Eddie Moles	Owen Carter-Loxley
Maximillian Masih	Aaron Clark	Rafferty Crockett
Aiden Peters	Roise Lee	Emma Searle
Nathan Darbyshire	Caden Hawley	Aidan Dixon
Sam Cornwall	Jacob Holt	Kallum Middleton
Ben Cornwall	Madison Ayling	Lucy Goddard
Teigan Masters	Shannon Smith	Courtney Townsend
Jasmine Harvey	Clove Freeborn	Keyara Sutherland
Mya Hannigan	Lawrence Searle	Eva Ridler-Edwards
Dayna Ridler-Edwards	Clara Halcrow	Freya Perry

Have you read...?

'The Garbage King' by Elizabeth Laird.

When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other.



Curriculum Overview

Our programme of education is built as a collaborative process that sequences learning across subjects and Key Stage teams. This ensures our students are equipped with the skills, attitudes, academic qualifications and imagination needed to succeed in the complex and changing world ahead.

An overview of the topics taught throughout the Units and more information can be found here:

[Key Stage 3 \(Years 7, 8 & 9\)](#)

and

[Key Stage 4 \(Years 10 & 11\).](#)

Year 9 Forensic Science day - March 2020.

This event, run by Bournemouth University Outreach Team, really challenged our Year 9



students. Working in small groups, they were tasked to uncover the perpetrator of an imaginary murder, using forensic techniques like foot print and blood splatter analysis, along with psychological



techniques like handwriting analysis. As you can imagine, our Year 9 students really enjoyed learning about the way that forensic scientists go about their work and the event was extremely successful.

Sports Events

Our newly formed Year 9 cricket team entered their first tournament against Sir John Colfox Year 11s. The girls played two games and both went right down to the wire - unfortunately, Atlantic missed out by just a couple of runs. There was some high quality batting by both teams and, in particular, by

Portland Mayor visit & Richard Drax

Richard Drax, the MP for South Dorset, visited the Academy in February to show his support for the 33 candidates who are standing in April's Youth Town Council election. Setting up a Youth Town Council is an initiative that arose from a Year 7 ATL assignment called 'Demos Kratos', where students learned all about democratic representation and witnessed a mock Town Council meeting led by Sue Cocking, the Portland Mayor. Since the assignment was completed, the Academy has worked closely with Sue and her team of councillors, inspiring 33 candidates from Years 7 to 10 to volunteer for election as a Youth Town Councillor. The election of the 15 youth councillors is set to take place remotely on April 2nd; Mr Richard Drax visited the Academy to show his support for the initiative and offer advice to all the candidates. Mr Drax has also offered to host a guided tour of the House of Commons later in the year for the successful 15 students who are elected as Youth Town councillors.



Yr 8 Chelsea's Story Presentation

On Monday 2nd of March, our Year 8 students attended a truly engaging theatre performance about child exploitation. The presentation dealt with the way that young people can be manipulated and then controlled if they are not aware of the issues linked to child exploitation. The



Atlantic's top 3 batters. Atlantics bowling showed great skill and discipline. The girls are looking forward to continuing playing their cricket and training for the next competition.



performance used humour and drama to convey its hard hitting and important message and was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by our Year 8 students.

Peer Mentoring

[Referral forms](#) for this peer-led service can be accessed on the Academy's website, from tutors and in the library. This important service provides a friendly and low key first point of contact for any young person who is concerned about their mental health.



Learning some basic bicycle repair skills



On the 12th of March the Academy was visited by Jonathan Dixon from SUSTRANS

(Sustainable Transport), who demonstrated how to fix a bicycle wheel puncture to students from Year 5 and 6. It was a fully interactive session, where students worked in pairs to identify where the puncture in an inner tube was and then fix it with a glued on patch. Jonathan is due to return to the Academy later in the year and students anticipate more fun when he demonstrates how you can generate electricity using a bicycle.

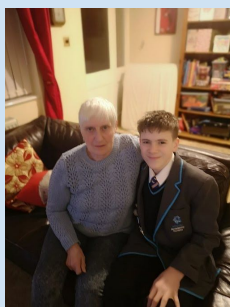
Extracurricular activities in the spring

At present the enrichment activities are on hold. We very much look forward to them resuming when we return to school. We thank all parents who encouraged their children to sign up to one of our many fantastic extra curricular activities.



Aspirations Social Media

Aspirations Trust have launched a new Facebook page, which you can follow [here](#). You can also follow them on [Twitter](#). Fantastic news from all of the Aspiration Academies can be found on these social media sites.



Dorset Echo article

In addition to the impetus that Richard Drax's visit to the Academy gave the new Youth Town Council project, the Dorset Echo also promoted the initiative through an article it published in March. Josh Pepper, one of the 33 students standing for election, was interviewed about what had motivated him to stand for election, and in the article Josh mentions not only issues connected with the environment and travel for young people, but the enthusiasm for local politics that his grandmother has given him. Josh's story, about being positively influenced by and then actively supporting his grandmother, epitomises many of the wonderful things about families on the Island. Josh's pride in his grandmother's political achievements, as well as his own efforts to represent his peers, are a sign that the spirit of Portland remains strong.