

Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

July 2022

Headteacher: Cindy Pritchard
Deputy Head: Luke Smith



Headteacher update:

We have finally reached the end of the year, in the midst of the hottest weather ever on record, and it is time for me to say goodbye. I have thoroughly enjoyed the seven years I have spent at AMS and will be sad to leave.

I have been privileged to work with amazing pupils and I will carry with me the memories of the things they have taught me, the things they have said that have made me laugh and cry and the things they have done that have made me stop and think, 'I never expected that!'

I have also been immensely privileged to work with an equally amazing staff - people who will go the extra mile, who always show dedication and care, who pull together when times are tough (and let's face it, the last couple of years have really been tough) and laugh together whether good times or bad. Thank you all for your support and hard work, for the humour, the tears and the sense of togetherness - I hope the staff at my new school are even half as wonderful.

It has also been a pleasure to get to know some of you - parents and carers - and to work with you to provide a positive and brilliant school experience for your children. Thank you to you for your support, for your feedback (whether positive or negative), for your words of encouragement (particularly around Covid) and for sharing your children 😊. Recently, I was lucky enough to go on the Bristol residential with Year 5 and 6. It was such a fantastic trip and lovely to see the children really enjoying themselves and having new experiences. It was also lovely for me to be able to go and to do the thing that all Headteachers love, but often don't have the time for, which is to get out of my office and actually spend time with the children. This is what brings joy in this job - to see children learning and growing and just having a fabulous time. It is a real privilege.

I am now off to a primary Headship in Hampshire - a new challenge with children from aged 4 (which I have never done before) and a CofE school - also something new. I am looking forward to the new adventure, but will never forget my time at AMS - it has left its footprint on my heart. Have a wonderful summer and all the best for the future - Mrs Pritchard.



Allenbourn Middle School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Smith and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Skipp, Mr Wright, Mr Fisk, Mr Hickson and Mr Daw. The Designated Safeguarding Leads can be contacted through the school office on 01202 886738 or email to office@allenbournmiddle.org marked for the attention of one of the safeguarding leads.

Staff changes:

At the end of this term we say goodbye to some staff members and wish them luck with their future ventures.



Firstly, Mrs Mosley, who works in the front office, will be leaving the school at the end of the year. She has worked at Allenbourn Middle School since May 1999; an incredible 23 years of service to the school and community. Mrs Mosley has had a whole range of duties during her time at AMS, including supporting with attendance and transition. Throughout, she has been cheerful, calm and kind, helping pupils, parents and staff. Thank you Mrs Mosley for your fantastic contribution to AMS - we wish you every happiness as you move on to new adventures and hope you have lots of memory-making times with your family.

Secondly, Mrs Martin will be retiring at the end of this year, after 20 years. Mrs Martin initially started at AMS as an Art teacher and became Head of Art in September 2015. Over her years at the school, she has worked with passion and dedication to inspire and enthuse hundreds of children. The beautiful art work displayed around the school is testament to the quality of learning in lessons and to the enthusiasm and encouragement of Mrs Martin and we will ever forget the amazing butterfly display in the Minster or the Roche Court Art trips. We would like to say a huge thank you for your commitment to Allenbourn and wish you every happiness and good health in your retirement. We will miss you.



Thirdly, Mrs Froud, our Office Manager, will be leaving Allenbourn this week. Having joined in November 2015, Mrs Froud has held several roles including data manager, supporting with finance and HR and finally office manager. She is going off to work for a financial company in Salisbury and we wish her every success in her new role. Thank you for your hard work, for all the Parentmails sent in the evenings, weekends and holidays and for your dedication to the school. Good luck.

Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Smith, our finance officer, who joined AMS last Autumn. Thank you for your support and help this year and we wish you lots of luck in your new role.



We would also like to wish Miss Nash all the very best as she goes on maternity leave. Good luck



And we say welcome to....Mr Gareth Lonnen and Mr Martin Pressling who will join the teaching team in September. Mrs Kelly and Mrs Hunt will also be staying with us in our TA team and Mrs Russell will return from her maternity leave.



Mr Lonnen will be joining AMS in September as our Lead Practitioner for Assessment and English. He has recently been at The Blandford School and prior to that at Poole High. Welcome.



Mr Pressling will be joining AMS in September as a Science teacher. He has previously been at Lockyers Middle School, as Head of Science and Head of Year 7. Welcome.

Congratulations:

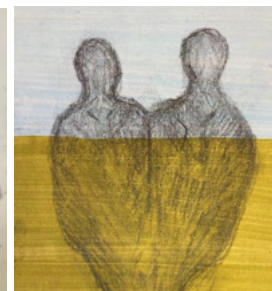
We thought it only proper to acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Gould to education. This year, she will have completed 40 years of teaching in Dorset - what an amazing achievement. In those 40 years, Mrs Gould has worked at St Leonards Middle School, Blandford Forum, West Moors Middle School, Bere Regis Primary School, Lockyers Middle School and now AMS. Congratulations Mrs Gould and thank you for your contribution to AMS and Dorset education generally!



Trips and events:

Year 8 Art trip to Roche Court Sculpture Park

It was brilliant to be able to take a coachload of Year 8s to Roche Court Sculpture Park for a whole day at the end of the spring term. Roche Court is a huge outdoor 'gallery' for mostly contemporary sculpture, set in a beautiful garden and surrounding farmland just north of Salisbury. Students were taken on a tour of the park by the education team there, stopping at sculptures to discuss how they were made; what inspired them and what messages and meanings they conveyed. The staff there were very impressed with our students' thoughtful responses and the artwork that they made on the spot using a variety of art materials. There is nothing quite like seeing artworks in 'real life', rather than in books or on a powerpoint in a classroom, so after two years of not being able to run this trip due to Covid, it was great to be able to give our pupils the opportunity to experience the work of some of our most prestigious sculptors close-up. Photos here show the work of Anthony Caro, Peter Randall-Page and Peter Newman, with drawings made by our pupils of sculptures by Antony Gormley and Peter- Randall Page - Mrs Martin.



Year 6 Book Club and the Jubilee

We have had an interesting couple of weeks in Year 6 Book Group around the time of the jubilee - first looking at the library's books about politics ('How to Build Your Own Country', 'This is a Dictatorship' - a classic work newly relevant, and 'Politics for Beginners'), then watching a couple of videos (what powers the Queen really has, and what will happen when she dies), and finally we started decorating crowns. We did discuss who we might get as Head of State if we didn't have a monarch. So it was an interesting, though not too heavy, discussion. For the Jubilee in 2002, all the children in Wimborne schools got a mug with the school shield on one side, & a crown & text on the other, presented by the Town Council. I brought our Allenbourn one in. Finally, a nice quote to share, a 'mission statement' about the role of the King of the Netherlands: 'As Head of State, it is the King's task to unify, represent and encourage the people.' A very different constitutional monarchy, but a nice summary - Mrs Jensen.





Bananagrams

Over the last two terms, Year 5 pupils have been playing Bananagrams in the library at lunchtimes. Most came just to play for fun, but Mrs Jensen also organised a competition, for beginners and experienced players. The three finalists in the photo are Joseph, the champion, with Luca and Peter. Their prizes were squidgy de-stressing bananas, and a special happy banana for Joseph. Well done to everyone who took part!

Bristol Residential Year 5 and 6:

At the end of June, we were delighted to be able to take our Year 5 and Year 6 off to Bristol for a 3 day residential trip. We had a fantastic time visiting Cabot Tower, the SS Great Britain, the Aquarium, the Cathedral, M Shed and the Bristol Museum. The weather was fairly kind to us - we only really got properly wet once - and it was brilliant to see the pupils really enjoying themselves, tech free, and getting the most from the experience. After the last couple of years, it was great for them to have the chance to do all those things we usually take for granted; going on a coach, a boat ride, staying with their friends in their own rooms and just being in a totally different environment with all the experiences being in a city brings. The pupils were absolutely brilliant and it was an enjoyable experience for all. Thank you to the pupils for being great and an enormous thank you to all the staff who went on the trip - you were also amazing - especially Mr Wright and Mr Daw for all the organisation and fabulous rendition as pirates on the Pirate Walk.



Year 8 Celebration week:

This week Year 8 have been enjoying their end of AMS Celebration with a variety of activities. On Monday, they went off to Splashdown - the perfect place to be in this heat - and bowling, and had a fantastic day. On Tuesday, they participated in a Teenage Relationships workshop which was delivered by the Safer Schools team - undoubtedly the most serious input for this week, but also a really important one and then, in the afternoon, they set up for the evening event, followed by a water fight on the field - again, the perfect antidote to the very hot weather. Tuesday night, they had a two course meal and disco - it was just lovely to see them dressed up and having a whale of a time. Yesterday, they went off to School of Rock at the Mayflower. It was reportedly a brilliant show and a good time was had by all.

So, as we finish today, we hope Year 8 all had the best of weeks. We wish them good luck for the future - we know they will be amazing. Goodbye Year 8 and thank you for being a wonderful year group.



Year 6 Adventure week:

Over the last few days, pupils in Year 6 have been testing out their problem solving & team building skills to complete a number of tasks. These have included map work, code breaking, water carrying and making hats and umbrellas - which are then tested against the elements....a hose pipe! Pupils have had a lovely time, enjoying the tasks and working together to complete challenges.



Pupils achieving great things:

5J brilliant fundraising:

Tommy Y: In May, Tommy Y (5J) was awarded a special prize by the Mayor of Blandford for his fundraising efforts in Blandford. Tommy raised £200 for the local doctors surgery by making pom-pom wreaths and selling them. Well done Tommy - what a fabulous achievement. We are really proud of your fantastic efforts.

Joe S: In June, Joe raised money by running a cake sale in school to help people with MND (Motor Neuron Disease). Pupils in 5J donated cakes and the sale raised £211 - fabulous work!

Rueben D: Earlier this term, Rueben raised money for a worthy cause, running a mile each day. A brilliant achievement - well done Rueben!

Freya performs at the Silverstone Grand Prix with her dance school

Freya M (attends Aimee's Dance Academy in Poole and was lucky enough to participate in this event along with 23 other students from her dance school and 1700 dancers from other schools across the country. They performed a 6 minute show dance in the concert area on the track in front of thousands of spectators whilst the Formula One Drivers were competing at the Qualifying Event behind them. It was a long day but a fantastic opportunity. The focus of Freya's dance was climate change designed to make a statement around the world about the need for change. A fabulous achievement - well done!



Abi rides at the Mounted Games Association (MGA) Home Internationals Competition

Abi S (7Z) was selected to compete in the MGA Home Internationals competition, riding Bingo with the U12s England South Team during May half term. Abi and her teammates took a well deserved second place in the first competition in Newark. Abi then headed off to the Malvern Hills for the Hereford Pony Club Senior mounted games competition with her local team (Poole & District Pony Club). They had an absolute cracker, riding at their best and taking the final as Senior Champions.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday took Abi to the Royal Bath and West Show, where alongside 11 other pony club teams, Poole and District qualified for the main ring every day, competing against stiff competition in the Mounted Games Display Competition. Following this, Abi and Poole and District Pony club team successfully qualified for the Prince Phillip Cup competition, which is a tremendous achievement, at the Horse of the Year Show which will take place in the Autumn. Before that, Abi will be heading to Leamington Spa for the Pony Club Championships in August. Well done Abi - your success is testament to your determination and dedication and we wish you, Bingo and your team good luck for August and for the Horse of the Year Show.

Allenbourn Parents' Association

We have been very fortunate at Allenbourn to have had the support of a very active Parents' Association over the years. Unfortunately, Covid put a stop to many of the activities and now most of the committee members' children have moved on to Upper School. As a result, we are looking to relaunch a new committee from September. This is a great opportunity for you to shape the future

of the PA and connect with other parents whilst raising vital funding for the school. In the past, events such as school discos, Folk Festival parking and the summer fete have funded our table tennis tables and other sports equipment, provided a subsidy for Year 8 leaver's trips and year books, and many many other resources, equipment and experiences that, otherwise, our pupils would not have had. The committee will meet for the first time in September and are likely to meet once a half-term thereafter. If you are interested in getting involved, please email sprout@allenbournmiddle.org.

Academy Committee Member

The Academy Committee Members are a vital part of the school partnership and their role at Allenbourn is to assist and support the headteacher and staff, together providing the best possible education, environment and opportunities for all the children.

Some tasks of the Committee Members, in conjunction with the headteacher are:

- Agree the aim and values of the school
- Assist in the creation and review of the School Development Plan
- Review school policies
- Set and monitor the school budget
- Appoint staff
- Ensure the National Curriculum is taught and that the needs of individual children are met, including those who have special needs
- Establish and maintain positive links with the local community
- Have a published strategy for dealing with parental complaints

We are looking to recruit an additional Academy Committee Member. If you would like more information about this role, please contact Richard Dent on rdent@allenbournmiddle.org

Awards Ceremony:

At the end of the year, teachers vote to reward pupils for their effort and achievement in all subject areas and for a variety of other categories, including Head of Year Awards and our special awards for Year 8. This is always a really challenging process to whittle down the number of pupils we would love to award - there are always far more than we have awards for! The winners this year are as detailed below. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work, diligence and dedication - very well done.

Year 5:

| | English | Maths | Science | Art | Computer Science | Technology |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Achievement | Bethan W 5W | Stanley B 5L | Michael G 5J | Florence A 5W | Maisie B 5G | Joy N 5G |
| Effort | Jakey P 5J | Josh T 5W | Harrison G 5L | Ella P 5J | Noah S 5J | Zeira W 5M |
| | French | Geography | History | PE | RE | Music |
| Achievement | Madeline Mo 5G | Gabriel R 5W | William Y 5W | Robert E 5M | Ava S 5M | Zara A 5L |
| Effort | Rueben D 5J | Maya C 5L | Freddie S 5L | Eve S 5G | Joseph S 5J | Jasmine D 5G |

Year 6:

| | English | Maths | Science | Art | Computer Science | Technology |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Achievement | Ewan E 6W | Sophie B 6G | William B 6C | Theo M 6C | Sophie R 6G | Jaya M 6R |
| Effort | Elsie G 6H | Roxi R 6W | William S 6C | Layla H 6W | Stanley S 6G | Darcey B-E 6W |
| | French | Geography | History | PE | RE | Music |
| Achievement | Alfie B 6H | Thomas F 6R | Ava D 6R | Isabelle R 6W | Jacob W 6R | Lila H 6R |
| Effort | Matthew S 6H | Noah A 6R | Edward S-G 6H | Jack B 6R | Matilda M 6G | Oscar T 6W |

Year 7:

| | English | Maths | Science | Art | Computer Science | Technology |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| Achievement | Iris J 7D | Zac H 7H | Ebony S 7D | Sophie C 7D | Florence H 7Z | Darcy N 7G |
| Effort | Irene B 7D | Bella J 7C | Neave S 7D | Nicole S 7D | Kim E 7G | Alex J 7G |
| | French | Geography | History | PE | RE | Head of Year |
| Achievement | Tilly I 7G | Henry K 7D | Isaak V 7Z | Harry R 7G | Elsa T 7D | Alex J 7G |
| Effort | Joseph T 7C | Kara A 7C | Paige B 7Z | Billy M 7Z | Matt B 7Z | Alex S 7H |

Year 8:

| | English | Maths | Science | Art | Computer Science | Technology |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Achievement | Sophie L 8T | Nate B 8N | Daisy C 8F | Olivia N 8N | Claudia T 8J | Molly O 8T |
| Effort | Honor C 8J | Daisy D 8T | Luca M 8F | Grace King 8R | Jake F 8R | Isabelle H 8T |
| | French | Geography | History | PE | RE | Music |
| Achievement | Ellie-Mae S 8T | Luca M 8F | Will Speer 8N | Charlie P 8J | Ella T 8J | Dylan C 8N |
| Effort | Buddy M 8N | Cadey T 8R | Harry W 8J | Lauren D 8T | Taylor W 8F | Daisy M 8J |

Head of Year Awards:

Year 5: Joe S & Aimee H

Year 6: Stanley S & Hattie C

Year 7: Isaac V & Nicole B

Year 8: Edward H & Molly B

Year 8 Special Awards:

| Artist of the Year | The Ben Walter's Music Award | Technologist of the Year: | Office Award | Student librarian | Resilience and persistence |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Daisy C 8F | Molly B 8J | Claudia T 8J | Ed B 8N | Silvana H 8R | Ella T 8J |
| PE - Most improved | PE: Sportsperson | PE: Chadwick Cup | PE: Corbin Cup | Headteacher's Award | |
| Cadey T 8R Molly B 8J | Georgia M 8R Harry B 8T | Milly 8J | Sam B 8F | Casey K 8R | |

