

Thomas Ashton School Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Issue, we would like to thank you for your continued support

ART PROJECTS

This half term has seen the culmination of two major arts projects.

Firstly, the Oldham Coliseum Project - funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and facilitated by Tameside MBC. A group of our pupils - Shania, Josh D, Josh H, Aaron, Emily, Charleigh, Mark and Trevor worked on a short original piece. They helped devise the piece and worked with director Sarah Eastaff from the Oldham Coliseum. They were inspired when they watched the professional production of 'Meat Pie, Sausage Roll' at the theatre and then performed on the very same stage to a crowd of over 200 people along with students from 4 mainstream schools. It was a brilliant and authentic theatre experience.

Secondly - The Manchester Camerata Project - funded by the NHS and facilitated by members of the Manchester Camerata orchestra working alongside our resident music teacher, Steve Dempsey. This involved both KS2 and KS3 pupils who have been working hard exploring health and well-being via composition and performance. We are sharing this work at the coffee morning on the 31st March. Again, a fantastic and authentic experience for our young people.



Arts Award National Nominations

We recently received an invitation by the Arts Council, to nominate Pupils, who we felt have achieved in the Arts, the criteria was that they had to have completed an Arts Award.

We have nominated one pupil from KS3 as a young achiever, and one pupil from KS2 as a personal achiever in the arts. We await confirmation of our nominations and look forward to hopefully attending the award ceremony on 28 April 2017.

We have also been awarded the Good Practice School Award.

VAN ZANT

Holocaust Memorial Day

January 28th 2017 marked Holocaust Memorial Day. This year the theme was 'how can life go on?'. Pupils got together and decided to create a dream jar, based on the big friendly giant. All pupils were asked to write down a dream which make the world a better place. There were some lovely dreams and Mark's Dad kindly printed the cubes free of charge. Once again we involved the other special schools and this time we also involved Whitebridge College and Elmbridge. The sculpture once again went on a tour of the schools and pupils in the class took responsibility for taking this each day, setting it up in the appropriate school. Our sculpture was selected as an example for an outstanding project by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.



stART Gallery

Mrs Jones, Mrs McDonough and Mrs Butler took some of our pupils along to the opening of the stART gallery. A couple of months ago, we were given the opportunity to take part in the stART gallery. This was open to primary schools and was a chance to showcase the work of Tameside primary schools, so if you would like to see some fantastic work on display please pop along to Tameside Art Gallery above the library, it looks fabulous. This was supported by Mathew J, Daniel S and Addison S.

'Thomas Ashton; It's Us, the School and the Man'

Last year whilst on a camping trip with some year 9 pupils, we stumbled across a game in Diggle. The game gave us an idea. At the time we didn't think our idea would get very far. We wanted to create a game that would give information to other pupils about Thomas Ashton, the mill owner, as after all, our school is named after him. I approached the council with the idea, and almost a year and several meetings later, we have received some very exciting news:

I have attended a couple of meetings with the Heritage lottery fund and have been involved in submitting the bid, which would enable us to make this project a reality. As yet, I have no idea if our bid will be accepted, however, the project would offer so much to the local community, that I think we have a good chance.

If successful the project would begin before the end of June. We are hoping to involve the year 9's before they leave, as this was originally their idea, so it is their legacy to Thomas Ashton pupils. They have also been involved in the bid, as they wrote a paragraph, explaining why they wanted to do it. For them it was giving Thomas Ashton School an identity, which they can be proud of. They want Thomas Ashton School to be known for something other than being a special school; I think it's a great idea.

The basic idea is that artwork created either in concrete or metal, by the pupils, would be exhibited on the railings at the front of school. This would give information about Thomas Ashton and the Mills in the area. The information would form a trail that people could follow.

In order to open the event officially, we are hoping to project a working mill onto the front of Thomas Ashton School in January. It's all very exciting and I'm hoping that it all comes to fruition. I will keep you posted.

Easter Term 2017

It may have been a 'short' half term but from every angle it has been action packed, with lots happening and plenty to talk about.

First however, I want to mention two things we will be celebrating on Friday:

We wish Ms Hutchinson good luck at the end of term and send her off on her maternity leave with our best wishes for the safe and event-free arrival of her new baby.



At the Coffee Morning on the 31st March I would love you to join me to be able to say farewell and a huge 'thank you' to our out-going Chair of Governors, John Clayton.

John has been a tremendous supporter and advocate for the school for many years, and he gave us the best support we could possibly have wished for during the very exciting, but extremely busy and tiring, process of designing and building the new school. On behalf of everyone I wish to thank him for the patience, humour and challenge that he brought to the role, and the help and support he gave me personally throughout his office as Chair.

Maureen Wallis has taken over as Chair, having been the vice-chair to John for a number of years. Maureen is vastly experienced and will help us continue to improve Thomas Ashton School and make it the best school we can.

Some of you have already spent time with Maureen as she has led the 8 week parent group project that finished last week. The fantastic news is that the project will run again in the summer term, so please keep a close eye on the website for further details.

We have had two very important projects running for the pupils as well. As part of our commitment to our Artsmark status, Mrs Southall led a team of staff supporting a group of pupils working with the Oldham Coliseum on a piece of drama that the pupils delivered live to an audience at the Coliseum as part of a performance including a number of other schools. All the reports said how brilliant they were!

And at the Coffee Morning on Friday 31st March, a number of pupils will showcase the work they have been doing as part of a project with the Manchester Camerata! I do hope you can join us and celebrate the talents of our pupils along with us.

Have a safe and relaxing Easter break, and I look forward to seeing you next term.

Remember to look at our website www.thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk where you can view policies and find out the latest news. Also you could visit twitter @thomasashtonsch to see what is currently happening within school.

School Dates

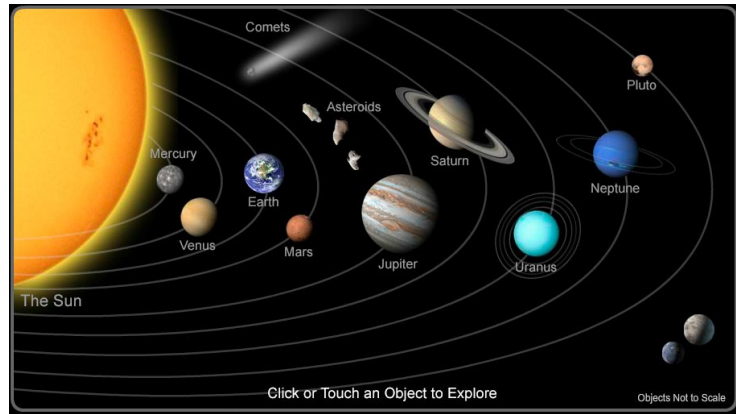
Finish for Easter	Fri 31st March 2017 1.30pm
Return	Tuesday 18th April 2017
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Finish for half term	Fri 26th May 2017
Return	Monday 5th June 2017
Finish	Friday 21st July 2017 @ 1.30pm

Lennon

Fly Me to the Moon

The pupils created their own Moon paintings using white paint and flour and used bottle tops to produce craters on the surface of the Moon. These have been entered into a competition run by the Tameside Museums and Galleries Service.

We have produced and painted pictures about the Solar System to help



US

Presley

We completed an Arts Award Discover project on the cross curricular theme of Space. We visited the Science and Industry Museum and Jodrell Bank and used some of the things we saw to inspire our Artwork. We found out about the artist Peter Thorpe. We created pieces of Art in his style.

As part of the sharing event we made a film about Space, where all pupils took a different role from acting to filming and editing, and then shared it with the pupils in Key Stage 2.



Bowie

We have taken part in Camerata and the Oldham Coliseum Project. We have also made sculptures of rockets and Mummified cats from the space and Egyptian topics. They have taken part in a crime scene, interviewed witnesses and suspects and used this to inspire creative writing. We have also followed the image to text scheme of work from Manchester galleries, which uses a piece of art as a basis to create poetry.

Marley

In Marley, we have been part of the Oldham Coliseum project, Manchester Camerata and the Contact Theatre Project. We created some cards and crafts to sell for the British Heart Foundation Coffee Morning, which raised a massive £230. The class have also been taking part in some free hand drawing/painting and some art therapy. The class take part in weekly music and dance lessons. During topic time, a lot of our time is focused on art based activities.



