

Thomas Ashton School Newsletter



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

Bridging the gap—Dementia Awareness Week

In June Van Zant group visited the Lakes nursing home to facilitate a guided painting session. They had visited the home previously at Christmas, to spend some time with the residents, so they did recognize a couple of faces. Pupils each teamed up with an elderly resident and assisted them painting the White Cliffs of Dover. The event was very emotional and all residents enjoyed the experience. One of the residents even sang the White Cliffs of Dover for the pupils. We displayed the pictures at the 'Retreat to the Exhibition' on the 28th June.

Tracey Webster from the Tameside Arts Council joined us and was very moved by the event and felt this was something that other schools would be able to get involved in.

The Tameside reporter also covered the event in the local paper.

BLUE SKY THINKING BRINGS YOUNG AND OLD TOGETHER

Students from the Thomas Ashton School in Hyde visited The Lakes Care Centre in Dukinfield to hold a painting session.

The teenagers teamed up with elderly residents to produce paintings of the White Cliffs of Dover, a project they are covering in school.

Tracey Hannible, activities coordinator at the centre, was thrilled that the pupils had dropped in.

"We value visits from any outside agency. We've had nurseries, schools, and church groups.

"It's such a change for the residents to interact with younger children that they don't often get to see," Tracy explained.

The Thomas Ashton students worked with small groups of residents creating paintings on canvases before staff and residents burst in to a chorus of Vera Lynn's 1942 classic 'White Cliffs of Dover'.



GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE: Blue skies shape up over the white cliffs of Dover.

Open Art Gallery

Pupils at Thomas Ashton have had the chance to showcase some of their work in the Open Art Gallery in Hadfield, Glossop. Morgan Ross, Shania Keegan and Mark Brindley entered their work and had it for sale recently. The exhibition looked amazing and although their work was not sold, they did receive a small prize and certificate for participating. The gallery were touched that children were entering and Adrian Lambert, an established photographer, was impressed with their photography skills and wanted to do some work with our pupils. He came along to our exhibition on the 28th June.



VAN ZANT

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

As you know we are in the process of submitting our Heritage Lottery bid. Pupils have been working hard to pull all their research together and present a short film about their findings. We are still waiting to hear. The final thing I needed to submit was a statement from somebody in the community who feels that the school does a lot to benefit its community. Therefore, through discussions with the Year 9's, we approached Nicola from Reuben's Retreat and asked if she would provide a short statement, which she was more than happy to do. I am still hopeful that we will hear before the Year 9's leave, as this was originally their idea, so it is their legacy for future Thomas Ashton pupils. The group has also been on the Glossop Heritage Trail last week, to see if they could produce something similar for the Mills in the Hyde area. I will keep you posted.

Ten Pieces

We have been taking part in music sessions with Steve Dempsey, which has for the last term been teamed with Ten Pieces. Pupils have been working on sound and have been creating their own musical pieces. We showcased their work at the last coffee morning.

Active Community Award, Manchester Evening News Schools Awards in association with The Manchester College

Mrs Mac's Dad recently handed her an article from the MEN and said why don't you enter the school for a community award. However, the closing date was the next day. The award was for a school that had been involved with their community, raising money for local charities and we definitely fulfilled the criteria. She filled in the application and last week received confirmation that the school had been shortlisted and were required to attend the ceremony on 7th July 2017 at the Hilton in Deansgate. How exciting!!!

Mrs Mac, Tyler Campbell and Mark Brindley attended on the day.



Internet Safety

We had a drama group in school this term to promote internet safety to the younger end of the school. Some of The Van Zant group mentored on the day. The main theme, 'how to stay safe online' was performed through the use of puppets. The pupils really engaged with the show and were able to handle the puppets at the end. This was performed by a company called 2 Boards and a Passion and was promoted through the Phoenix Team. I am hoping to establish some links with them for the future.

Dementia Cupcake Sale

Ethan from the Van Zant class asked if he could raise money for Dementia as recently a member of his family was diagnosed with the illness. We applied for the Dementia Cupcake Sale pack online. Pupils then baked cakes for Dementia Cupcake day. We organized with Mrs Kilroy at Hyde Community College to go across and sell the cakes. On the day, two pupils from the Van Zant class visited Hyde and sold them at break time, they sold out in 15 minutes and raised over £40 for the charity.



Summer Term 2017

It has become a rather emotional ending to this school year, with lots of people leaving for lots of different reasons.

We say farewell and good luck to our Year 9 pupils who start the next stage of their educational journey at White Bridge College in September, with the exception of Addison Stretton, who will be attending the UTC@MediaCity in Salford, and Mark Brindley who is moving to the KS4 provision at Samuel Laycock.



We are proud of all of you and what you have achieved in your time at Thomas Ashton School, and we want you to make us even prouder by going on to greater success by putting into practice everything we have taught you!

We say goodbye to Mathew Jones, Year 6, who is also moving to Samuel Laycock School for the start of Year 7 in September. Mathew will always hold a very special place in our hearts!

We also have some staff who are moving on: Mr Andrews, Mrs Jackson and Ms Bebbington all move to new jobs in September and we wish each and every one of them the best of luck and thank them for the time they have given us at Thomas Ashton School.

In their place we welcome Mr Edgar (who has worked with us last year providing some 1:1 support), Mr McGuinness and Mrs Allen, who has been volunteering in school last year as well.

We have five new children starting in September which takes the number of pupils on roll at the beginning of the year to 49.

The one thing that didn't happen this year - my phone didn't ring to say Ofsted would be coming to visit, so we now know for a fact they will come and see us in the Autumn Term, but we just don't know exactly when.

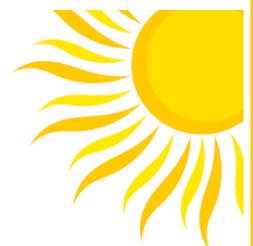
Please don't forget we will have another Parent group running in September, so make sure you get your name down if you are interested.

And finally, can I say a huge thank you to the pupils and parents/carers of Thomas Ashton School, who make the school such a fantastic place to be, and who make me feel so proud to be part of the Thomas Ashton School family. I wish you all a happy and safe summer, and look forward to seeing you all on the 6th September!

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 Summer	Fri 21st July 2017 1.30pm
Return	Wednesday 6th September 2017
Finish for half term	Fri 27th Oct 2017
Return	Tues 7th Nov 2017
Finish	Friday 22nd Dec 2017 @ 1.30pm



Lennon

We have been learning Robot dancing. Some of our children have been acting out Hansel and Gretel as part of literacy lessons.

This year we were lucky enough to go on our school trip to Diggerland, we thoroughly enjoyed all the rides and the children loved driving the trucks and diggers.



Presley



Another year of fabulous trips funded by the charity Happy Days. This year's trips were to Diggerland in Yorkshire, and Crocky Trail near Chester. We had a super week where almost all pupils went out to either trip. Everyone had an amazing time - Presley class and Strummer class had a brilliant day out each at Diggerland, while our Key Stage 3 pupils went to the Crocky Trail, a crazy obstacle course through the woods.

Bowie

This term the Bowie class has been taken over by zombies! We have been reading from a series of books by Darren Shan called 'Zom-B'. Through this series of books, the class has learned about being an outsider in society and the stereotypes associated with being different. This ties in with the work we have been doing in PSHE, focusing on diversity and respect.

The Bowie class also created some 3D art, incorporating a sailing boat and an umbrella, along with images of the pupils work, placed inside each object in a mosaic style. These were then displayed, and eventually sold, in an exhibition at the gallery at Ashton Library. As we are coming to the end of the school year, our class has also been on a school day trip to Crocky Trail, where we took part in a range of outdoor activities. Along with taking part in the Coffee Morning, the Bowie class has been kept busy this term!

Marley

This half term Marley class have been working on their social skills. Marley class have been for an ice cream to the park on numerous occasions, playing with each other and also other children in the park. Whilst at the park on one day, we met up with Van Zant class and had a game of man hunt which was awesome!

As part of a class treat, Marley got to go to Crocky Trail. The children had a wonderful time, swinging from trees, crossing bridges, sliding down the slides and enjoying the rides. It was an extremely warm day, but the children had a great experience. It was really lovely to see all the children socialising together, laughing and having fun.



