



ASH MANOR SCHOOL

# Newsletter

Issue 37 - October 2015

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AMS GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



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# Warner Bros. Studios 2015



On 14th October, our little witches and wizards jumped on the Ash Manor Express and headed to Warner Bros. Studios- The Making of Harry Potter in Leavesden. This trip has become an annual tradition for Year 7 students at Ash Manor School and was an opportunity for them to bond.

Upon arrival, students watched a short film about the making of Harry Potter, featuring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. When the film finished, the screen lifted

to reveal the entrance to the Great Hall set. After touring the enormous Great Hall set, the students were able to explore the first half of the studio, including the Gryndifor Common Room set, loads of props from the films, and the animation behind the flying broomsticks.

Stations were set up where students could take their turns 'flying' on a broomstick thanks to the magic of technology and green screens! However, only professional photographs were allowed, and we were sworn to secrecy behind this special effect. You'll have to use a touch of Veritaserum if you want to be let in on the secret. It's a shame we weren't able to bring any of this truth serum back from the studios!



This year's Year 7s were privy to a new addition to the tour. They were the first group from Ash Manor School to experience the Hogwarts Express exhibition, new to the studios this year. The Hogwarts Express allowed students to feel as if they were right there with Harry, Hermione and Ron on the way to Hogwarts.

Next came the moment most of our students had been waiting for: butter beer! Our students were keen to try the well-known Harry Potter drink; lucky for us, there were two forms of butter beer available to taste: the original drink and as ice cream. From our survey, both students found each type of butter beer acceptable and very tasty.



After wetting our whistles and eating lunch, we continued the tour through Diagon Alley and walked the very steps Harry Potter did, as he prepared for his first year at Hogwarts. Next, the final sight of the tour blew us away: a model of Hogwarts Castle. The model of the castle was breath taking and filled the entire room. Although we were sad that the tour was over, there was one last room to be excited about: the gift shop!

After dragging students away from the Chocolate Frogs and Bernie Bott's Every Flavour Beans, we loaded onto the coaches and headed back to school. On the way home, students buzzed and chatted about all the fun they had experiencing the Warner Bros. Studios.



As always, many thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued help and support to make our trips possible.

# Barn Dance for Project Kenya 2016



Friday 02 October saw the latest fundraising event for Project Kenya 2016. One hundred people descended on the school for a fun evening, which saw a local band playing. The band were fantastic and got everyone dancing throughout the night. The evening proved a great success, raising over £700 for the project.

Project Kenya will depart in the summer of 2016, with seventeen students visiting Tetu Primary School in rural Kenya to complete a community project. The school visited the same school in 2014 and is looking to continue the great work the students have started and develop our relationship with the community of Tetu. If you are able to assist with the success of the project, please contact Mr Baines.

*Mr M A Baines  
Head of Mathematics*

## Zoolab – Friday 23rd October

On the last day of term, Zoolab visited our Geography department for a day of Year 9 workshops. 'Rainforest Roadshow' was the theme, which enriches and supports our ecosystems scheme of learning. Our students learnt about how animals live and adapt to their environments in both desert and rainforest biomes.



Students had the opportunity to hold and interact with animals such as cockroaches, giant millipedes, spiders and snakes, to name a few. As well as handling our multiple (or zero) legged friends, students were able to learn from their handler about how their diet and adaptations allow them to survive in the wild. Students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and the opportunity to experience hands on interaction in the classroom.

*Miss Raeburn  
Geography teacher and Head of Year 9*

## STEM Challenge



On Thursday 16th October we took a group of year 10 girls to the Balfour Beatty site, situated in Windlesham off the M3.

The girls were shown a brief video highlighting the dangers of working on a live motorway. They were then shown scenarios for them to discuss the hazards they could identify.

We then looked into the different career paths that civil engineering could offer and how maths played an important part in all of the roles.

*AMS Mathematics Department*



On October 20th 2015, 12 year 8 students from Ash Manor School took part in the Shakespeare school festival which took place in Guildford, G-Live. We would be acting the famous play "The taming of the shrew". Mr Swan made the bold choice of placing the whole play in western times, which meant western costumes and, more importantly, American accents. Some of our cast couldn't do the accents which just made the play funnier! When we arrived at G-Live we were sent into the atrium which the play would take place. There were 4 schools in the production and all the shows were split in half. Ash Manor was put with Shawfield Primary School for rehearsals.

As Shawfield went up to their dressing rooms, we had a tech rehearsal which is when we ran the play through whilst the sound and lighting team created a list of which lights and sounds should come on. After figuring out the lighting and sounds we had a dress rehearsal.

In our dress rehearsal (and I'm going to be 100% honest here) it didn't quite go according to plan. But before you say anything, we had to get used to the massive stage and figure out how to get on top of our voices as we had no mikes to fill the atrium. You know what they say "the worse the rehearsal, the better the performance", which in our case was true!

Shortly after we had our rehearsals we were sent up to our dressing rooms to relax and learn lines. The room was buzzing with a strong mixture of nervousness and excitement. Around the room, the walls were lined with mirrors, surrounded by lights. It felt as if we were proper actors/actresses.

After a short break, we were called down to watch Shawfields dress rehearsal of "a midsummer night's dream" which they performed excellently. By the time Shawfield were done, it was time to go back to school for lunch and more rehearsals!

At around 4:30 we had pizza and brownies and piled back into the minibus to travel back to G-Live for our big performance! As we arrived, the other three schools came too (Shawfield Primary, Stepping Stones and Connaught). Stepping Stones were doing Macbeth and Connaught were doing the

tragic love story known as Romeo and Juliet!

When all the schools settled down we came onto the ginormous stage and did a warm up to get our voices ready to project to the far side of the room. The production manager introduced all the schools to each other and then we started the exercise.

Soon after, the manager told us the order in which we were performing, and it turned out that we were second to go. With our knees shaking we walked up to our dressing rooms to get into our costumes and do our stage makeup. We also had to carry every single prop down with us!

Before we knew it, it was our turn to perform. We all wished each other luck and waited silently in the wings for our cue to start. The scariest part was waiting to go on as it gives you time to think about everything that could go wrong!



Thirty minutes passed and our play was over! It was by far the best we have all performed! The team stood up on centre stage grinning with pride as the audience clapped and whistled! We all bowed in harmony and

skipped off stage and once we were out of earshot we clapped and jumped around and hugged each other. Ash Manor Drama department excelled again!

A special thanks to Mr Swan for putting the whole thing together and the cast for believing that we can go above and beyond with our wild west themed play!

The cast were:

Emma T.Cook - Tranio  
Emily Roome – Slave  
Emily Castleton - Bianca  
Alice Wilson - Baptista  
Ryan Omahony - Grumio  
Josh Smith - Hortensio  
Carla Ferguson - Widow  
Charlotte Peacock - Petruccio  
Nicole Fromson - Barry  
Megan Kenton – Priest, Tailor  
Isabel Povey - Lucentio  
Katy Wood - Katherina

# Personal Development Day 2

*Wednesday 14th October*

Wednesday 14th October saw Ash Manor's second Personal Development Day for students. Once again, the school timetable was collapsed to allow students to experience essential social, moral and cultural topics of learning through a range of activities, external visitors and workshops.

For our Key Stage 3 groups, Year 7 developed their team building skills with a fantastic Harry Potter workshop led by Mr Swan. A large group of Year 7 students also had the opportunity to visit Harry Potter World with their Tutors and the House Team. Year 8 were focusing on 'Keeping Safe' with an emphasis on personal safety both online and within the wider community. The highlight of the day for students was working with Barry Hutchinson, a renowned children's author, who came in to work with them. Students were able to use their creative thinking and literacy skills to write their own stories, incorporating what they had been learning about personal safety. A huge thank you to Barry for giving up his time to come in for the day; signed copies of his books can now be checked out from the school library. Year 9 were learning about our international school link through Project Kenya. Students were being introduced to the idea of planning an expedition as our project Kenya students will be doing next summer. They also learnt more about the culture, language and geography of Kenya with a particular focus towards the end of the day of making links with students in the Kenyan school that we will be visiting. Students spent some time in their tutor groups planning fundraising opportunities and thinking of things that we could collect as a school community to take out to the school. For more information about Project Kenya, please see the school website or contact Mr Baines.



Key Stage 4 days involved Year 10 learning about PREVENT, a vital national government initiative to ensure that young people are aware of the dangers of extremism and radicalisation that they and others around them may become vulnerable to. Online safety was a key feature of the day and we thank Stella from Gooseberry Planet for coming in to run a workshop, giving students the chance to download and start using her online safety app. The day also included talks from the Police and sessions to open student's eyes to the risks and vulnerabilities that people can be exposed to. Our Year 11 students took part in a careers day. Following on from the success of previous years, this year's Big Interview gave invaluable opportunities for students to plan, prepare for and take part in a formal interview with external visitors from the wider school community. With many students dressed in business wear for the day and nerves running

high the interviews were incredibly successful with some brilliant feedback from both students and visitors about how beneficial the experiences have been to support students in preparing for life beyond Ash Manor. Thanks must go to all of our visitors who took time out of their working days to come in and support this event.

Our next Personal Development Day will be taking part on Wednesday 20th January 2016.

*Miss Raeburn*  
*Personal Development Day Coordinator*

