

inform

Keeping you in the know about South Axholme Academy



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and a whole lot more from South Axholme Academy



CEO of IET Sarah Sprack

In the current climate, I think it would be impossible for me not to write about the amazing staff teams we have across the Trust and the fantastic job they are doing. It is testament to their care and commitment that we have been able (on the whole) to provide near normal learning for all of our students to complete remotely, have opened for the small number of children whose parents are key workers etc, and implemented our own scheme to support families who are in receipt of free school meals before a national scheme is announced. Our pastoral teams have also gone above and beyond to keep in touch with students in their care. Thank you to our brilliant students who have, almost without exception, engaged with the work set through Microsoft Teams in a positive manner, despite the software itself creaking and stuttering under the strain of the entire world logging on! Finally, thank you to all parents who have responded positively to all that we are trying to do and for acknowledging that we are trying our best in uncharted waters and with new challenges and complications daily. All that said, it is a perfect time to look back across the term and remember the things we did and our achievements before COVID-19 changed the world.

Huge thanks to those of you who have been so supportive to date and remember

Stay safe, and look after each other.



Contact

South Axholme Academy
Burnham Road, Epworth,
DN9 1BY
Tel: 01427 872121
admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk

SAX Mindset

It is with sadness yet hope and positivity that I write to you in this term's edition of Inform. As I write this piece South Axholme Academy remains closed and only open to those identified as key workers as per the directives of the Department of Education and the Government. Please continue to be patient and follow the regular government updates and advice regarding your safety and that of your families.

This is undoubtedly a stressful time for all our students, particularly those in Year 11 and Year 13 who were preparing for their exams and the next stages of their lives. Further information can be found in this edition on the advice to parents of those students. Students and parents have received information regarding our move to a 'virtual academy' and remote learning through the Microsoft Teams platform.

I am very grateful for the kindness and support so many parents across the Academy have shown over recent weeks including the offer of their time, skills or supportive emails. It is very much appreciated and what makes the community South Axholme serves so very, very special. I recognise that as we move into a more difficult situation not only students but parents may be under significant stress and worry in terms of employment and therefore income. We understand our duty and responsibility to support all our families and students in these testing times and will continue to serve our community to the best of our ability, whilst it is safe to do so. Take care, stay safe and remain calm.



Scott Barlow
Principal



South Axholme Academy Oversubscribed for September 2020

**Progress 8 highest in North Lincolnshire, Doncaster
and Gainsborough 2019**

SKI 2020

Over 45 staff and students made the trip to Pila in the Aosta Valley during February half term. The snow conditions were superb, as was the weather, with students developing their skiing skills under the guidance of instructors. During the evening students enjoyed a varied apres ski programme including pizza night, sledging, ice skating and a visit to Aosta town. A huge thank you to the staff who helped make this trip such a memorable experience!



Cycling Champion!

Aaron Cocker in Year 7 has just received a trophy for the Junior Cyclocross Rider of the Year from Doncaster Wheelers. This is the second consecutive year he has won this accolade.

He is also the current U12's Lincolnshire Cyclocross Champion (2018/2019). A fantastic achievement from Aaron and we are keen to hear about the achievements of other students across the Academy in activities such as community events, charity support, the Arts plus other feats of excellence. Please get in touch and share with us using the following email: admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk



Careers at SAX

Year 9 Hull University Visit and Steps to Success



As part of the Year 9 careers education offer at South Axholme Academy students visited Hull University in January.

Students from South Axholme were allocated student ambassadors from the university and took part in a range of activities which included a talk introducing students to the University of Hull and the concept of university. They also attended a lecture which gave an insight into student life, looking at both the academic side of university and the social opportunities available. University staff introduced students to the range of courses available at Hull university whilst also making them aware of the different universities around the country.



To highlight the importance of managing money at university students along with their student ambassador played The University of Hull Budget Game; this was used as an opportunity to fully explain student finance, covering areas such as tuition fee loans and maintenance loans. Students were also given the chance to take a look around the university, including the Students' Union and the university library.



The visit was followed up by a Steps for Success performance in assembly. The presentation was a lively combination of drama, comedy, music and dance to explore the variety of options available to students after GCSEs. The performance was used to demystify the array of courses and qualifications available and to signpost students to the directions they may need for help, support and guidance.

No matter what each students' pathway looks like the performance offered the opportunity to explore solutions and make informed choices.

National Apprenticeship Week

In February (3rd to the 7th) through the Academy's assembly and tutor time programme, the academy celebrated apprentices and apprenticeships.



All year groups took part in an assembly on what an apprenticeship is, how to carry out research into them and look out for exciting apprenticeship opportunities. Students in Years 8 and 10 were lucky enough to be joined by South Axholme alumni Billy Orton to explain his journey to secure an apprenticeship and find out what is it like to be completing a joinery apprenticeship.

Form tutors worked with their forms to test out their knowledge of apprenticeships, help them discover employers who offer apprenticeship opportunities and students in Key Stage 4 found out more about degree apprenticeships.

National Careers Week

During the first week of March the academy ran a weeklong programme of events for National Careers Week which included a series of careers talks covering a range of sectors. The aims of the talks were to provide students with the opportunity to hear about how to get into different careers and what it was like to work in different industries.

Students selected the talks they attended and were lucky enough to hear from a number of SAX alumni who now work as doctors, veterinary nurses, personal trainers, professional musicians and international sales managers.

Careers at SAX continued

Opportunities Doncaster

Students from South Axholme were lucky enough to be invited to be part of Opportunities Doncaster Live at Doncaster Racecourse. The event consisted of 100 local businesses in the Doncaster area who were eager to showcase opportunities and pathways into their industries, offer advice and share their experiences of the world of work. Some students listened to silent-disco-style careers talks from leading industry experts, took part in “have-a-go” activities and got a realistic taste of careers on offer through VR headsets. They were able to hear from experienced industry professionals representing a variety of roles and get advice about next steps. Students left the event with a lot more information on local career opportunities available in the Doncaster area and further study options than when they arrived.



BAE Systems Roadshow

During British Science Week our Year 7 and 8 students were extremely fortunate to be visited by the BAE Systems Roadshow. Students were able to see the amazing careers BAE Systems, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force could offer and the team highlighted that engineering was not just for boys!

The roadshow had a huge energy theme, leaving both students and staff recharged and ready to go! Students were also treated to some amazing gadgets and competitions including being asked to estimate how much energy the academy used and what it was used for. Alternative energy sources were explored too.

The audience were treated to a competition demonstrating energy transfers; both Mr Benn and Mr Walker competed against students to see who would be victorious in converting chemical energy from their food to kinetic energy on the rowing machine. Students got very involved cheering their peers on.

It was a great experience that was enjoyed by all involved.



Virtual School - Microsoft Teams



In response to the UK Government's decision to close all schools, colleges and universities, South Axholme Academy staff have been planning to continue children's education through a Virtual Academy approach and online lessons. Microsoft Teams is a cloud based team collaboration software that is part of the Office 365 suite of applications. All students have been shown how they can log on to Microsoft Teams so that remote learning can take place. A link to a PowerPoint reminding students how to do this has been added to all academy websites. Microsoft Teams will allow teachers to upload resources, set tasks and mark work electronically as well as communicating directly with whole classes, or groups of students about their work. Students will equally be able to ask questions of their teachers and with other class members.



Department
for Education

What next... Exams?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) : Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A Levels 2020 Press Release March 23 2020

1. Did exams need to be cancelled?

From Friday 20 March, all educational settings are closed to everyone except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

The coronavirus outbreak is expected to continue having a significant impact on the education system, and the country, for months to come. Therefore exams have been cancelled now to give pupils, parents, and teachers certainty, and enable schools and colleges to focus on supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

2. What will happen to those who have already done some non-exam assessment?

The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.

3. How will you address the fact that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to have their grades under-predicted?

We are not awarding students their predicted grades. Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, will develop a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment and prior attainment. Ofqual will make every effort to ensure that the process agreed does not disadvantage any particular group of students.

Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again.

4. Will all students get their predicted grade?

No, we know that simply using predicted grades would not be fair to all students. The calculated grade will take into account teachers' assessment of the likely grade as well as other factors such as prior attainment, so students' final grades will not necessarily reflect their predicted grades.

**Contact Maria Rock to
arrange a visit to South
Axholme 6th Form
01427 872121**





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5. Will schools be using mock exam results as a barometer for results – and is this fair on students as they did not know at the time these would be used as their final mark?

Mock exam results will be one of the pieces of evidence that will be taken into account in this process, alongside other factors. Ofqual will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.

6. Will the past performance of the school be taken into account when devising the calculated grade?

Ofqual will consider carefully how to ensure the process is as fair as possible, which is likely to include considering measures that reflect how much progress a student would have been likely to have made at the school they are attending.

7. Is this an entirely new system?

Exam boards have experience of using moderated teacher assessment to award grades to a number of students, such as those who fall ill immediately before an exam. Ofqual will draw on this experience when developing the process to be used this year.

8. Will universities/colleges/sixth forms accept these calculated grades?

The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year. University representatives have already confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.

9. What if I am unhappy with my grade?

We will work closely with Ofqual and awarding organisations to ensure candidates are awarded a fair grade that recognises the work they have put in. If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

10. Will there be an opportunity to take exams this year if a student is unhappy with their grade?

We recognise that some students may feel disappointed that they have not been able to sit their exams. If they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

11. Does this mean every exam in every module in every subject being cancelled, or will a limited number go ahead at GCSE and/or A level?

Exam boards will not be issuing papers for this summer's GCSE, AS and A levels so there will not be the opportunity to sit them in any subject.

12. What will young people with university offers do?

The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted.

We welcome the constructive approach taken by the main university representative body, Universities UK, who have said that universities will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to university.

13. Do universities need to start making unconditional offers / should I accept an unconditional offer now that exams are cancelled?

The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers.

There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted. Universities should not begin making new unconditional offers and applicants should feel no pressure to accept such offers, as they will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each exam they would have taken.

14. If I already have an unconditional offer, does that remain?

Yes, an unconditional offer means you have already met the entry requirements, so the place is yours if you want it.

15. Might the exams be reinstated if the coronavirus (COVID-19) is not as bad as expected?

No, the decision has been taken to cancel all exams this summer.

History Visit

At the beginning of the Spring Term, a small group of students accompanied Mr Woodland from South Axholme Academy spending four days in France and Belgium as part of the Legacy 110 Project to remember the fallen of the First World War. Students paid their respects to those who lost their lives during the Great War at Tyne Cot Military Cemetery and participated in the Last Post ceremony in Ypres, Belgium, where a poppy wreath was presented as a tribute to the soldiers who served from the Isle of Axholme.

Students also had the opportunity to examine artefacts recovered from the battlefield in the Passchendaele Memorial Museum in Zonnebeke and compare the uniform and equipment used by Great War 'Tommies' with the equipment of modern British soldiers. Students also visited preserved trenches on the Somme battlefield where British and Commonwealth soldiers led the attack against German positions on 1 July 1916. Finally, a poignant visit was made to Compiègne in France, where the Armistice of 11 November 1918 was signed between representatives from Germany and the Allies.

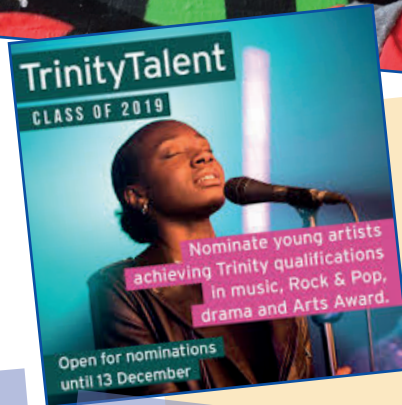


Lottie Celebrates!

Lottie is celebrated by Trinity for Artistic Achievement in Arts Award.

Lottie Thompson in Year 11 was nominated by her teacher from South Axholme Academy for her achievements in the Silver Arts Award saying 'Lottie is, quite possibly, the most talented young person I have ever met. Her poetry is not only raw and mature beyond her years, it is written from the heart with a sophistication and understanding beyond her years. Her humility when receiving praise alongside her determination to not only embrace the arts but promote them is commendable.'

'Lottie, in her own words when writing for pleasure recently, can "spit out (her own) ten commandments, like a Bible, but not a word will be mistranslated" because her writing, though laden with meaning socially, politically and historically, is not masked by complicated metaphors or clichés but written with such skill and precision behind each and every word so that the meaning is clear and impactful to all. Lottie's poetry, and her ability to perform it, is mesmerising and memorable. This is somebody very special and very gifted.'



In what ways would you say your Arts Award has influenced your artistic achievement, creativity, leadership or progress?

I learnt a great deal about sharing my poetry to others. From the production of the event, to preparing a piece, to getting on stage; it was all a new experience, and one that has inspired me like never before. I could also work in a team with a group of other producers: we coordinated our ideas, and allocated jobs so that all the work could be done within the time frame.

How has participating in an Arts Award impacted your artistic skills or career development?

I was most proud of how I was able to perform on stage. This process gave me the confidence and new skills to do it. I was given feedback at the semi-finals and new skills to do it. I was detracted from the poem. Effort in my own time, and the workshops I was given the opportunity to attend, meant that I was prepared by the finals. I could communicate better, and was confident enough to do so better.

What's next for you?

Since Slam Jam, I have been invited to workshops and showcases such as UniSlam, and become a SLAMBassador. It was also very exciting to have a short poem published in an anthology. I will continue to build this network, and send my work to more magazines and competitions.

What are your career aims?

I hope to work in the creative writing industry, with more pieces published or, in my wildest of dreams, to have my own collection.

Lottie's poetry

Read more about the talented young people selected to be featured as part of the TrinityTalent Class of 2019.

Under 16 Rugby Champions



Congratulations to the Under 16 Rugby team who in early March were crowned Scunthorpe and District Rugby Champions for 2020. An amazing achievement for a group of boys who have dominated schools' rugby locally for a number of years. Great memories!

Under 13 Netball Champions

Congratulations to the Under 13 Netball team who in February were crowned Scunthorpe and District Netball Champions for 2020, retaining the title they won in 2019.



Sports Relief

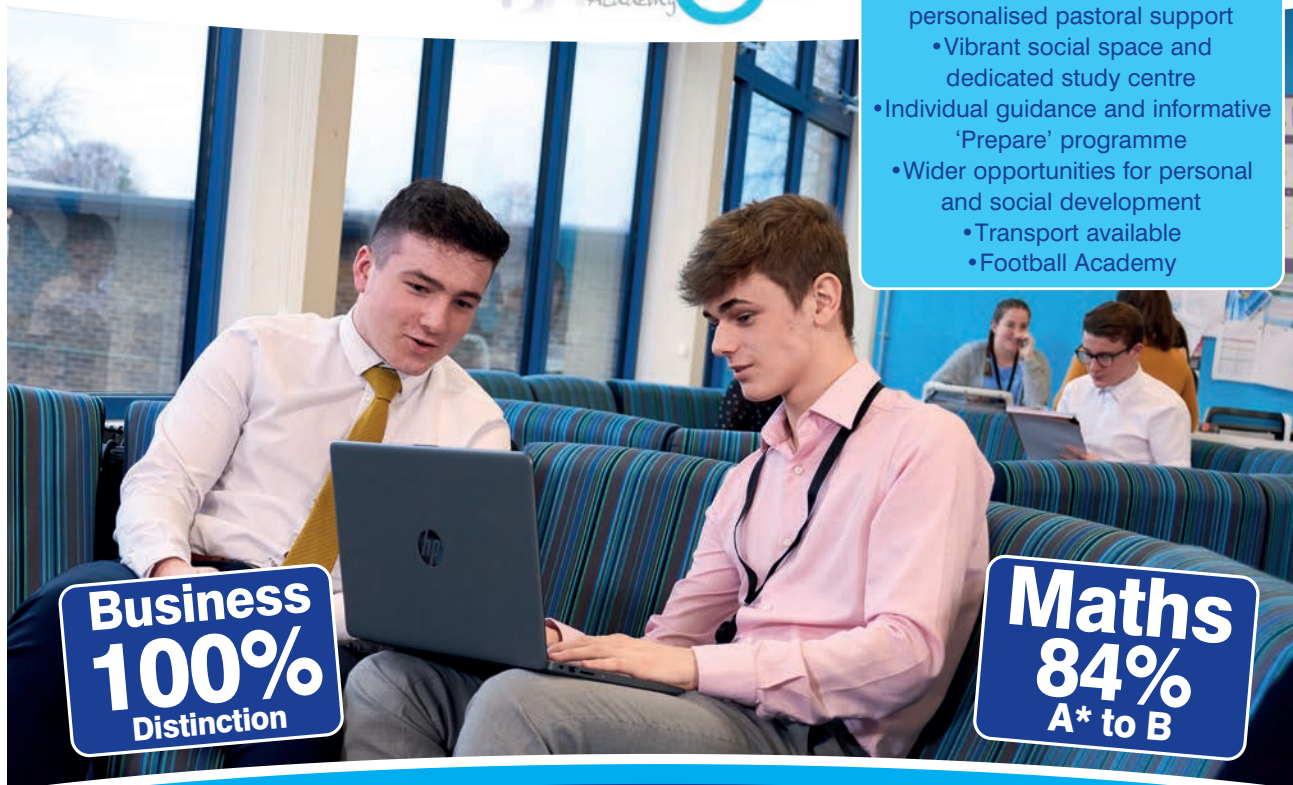
SPORT RELIEF

A huge thank you to Mr Dwyer who arranged a series of Sports Relief fundraising events all week from Monday 9th March. This included a penalty shoot-out competition, a beat the teacher table tennis competition and students wearing their own sports shirts to PE. The Academy raised over £270 for this worthwhile cause.





- Range of academic and vocational qualifications
- Specialist and committed A level teaching team
- Small class sizes and personalised pastoral support
- Vibrant social space and dedicated study centre
- Individual guidance and informative 'Prepare' programme
- Wider opportunities for personal and social development
- Transport available
- Football Academy



Business
100%
Distinction

Maths
84%
A* to B

It's not too late to apply

69%
entries A* to B
grades

No. 1 in North Lincs*

*See www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/

100%
pass rate
A* to E

For a personal consultation, contact Maria Rock on 01427 872121
or email mrock@southaxholme-iet.co.uk

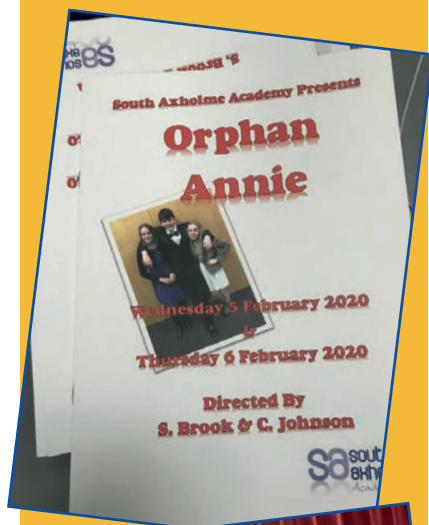
Come and join us

South Axholme Academy, Burnham Road, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1BY ■ Tel: 01427 872121
Email: admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk ■ Web: www.southaxholmeacademy.co.uk

Orphan Annie

South Axholme's Expressive and Performing Arts department put on a musical extravaganza in February for two nights, with the production of Orphan Annie. Packed audiences enjoyed students' amazing performances including Annie who was played by Emily Bruce in Cast 1 and Ellen Malson in Cast 2.

A huge thank you to Mrs Brook and Miss Johnson for their time and hours of organisation as well as the many parents who helped support the rehearsals and evenings.



Dates for your diary 2020

All provisional due to the ongoing national situation with Covid-19

Monday 20

- Students and staff return to the Academy

Friday 8

- Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 22

- Last day for staff and students

Monday 1

- Students and staff return to the Academy

Monday 6

- Year 6 Transition Day 1

Tuesday 7

- Year 6 Transition Day 2

Wednesday 8

- Year 6 Transition Day 3 & Year 6 Parents' Evening 5.30pm–6.30pm

Friday 17

- Last day for staff and students

Apr.

May.

Jun.

Jul.

We Will Rock You

Coming soon!



Follow us on Twitter:

@SouthAxholme1 for up to date news and information from the Academy
@saxpedepartment for news and information on all that is going on in the Physical Education department



@southaxholmechefs with information from our Food and Nutrition department

@SAXEnglish for up to date developments in the English department

Follow us on Facebook: South Axholme Academy