

Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community

Newsletter: Autumn Term 2019

Raising Aspirations - Realising Potential - Securing Futures

Headteacher's Message

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new Headteacher of Abertillery Learning Community. I am joining ALC as its new Headteacher, having spent the last 18 years as a Headteacher in Newport.

ALC is very much at the centre of the community that it serves, one of the school's greatest strengths is its commitment to supporting its families. Since starting my post I have been tremendously impressed by the whole Learning Community, especially the children who are immensely proud of their school.



I feel it is really important to assure parents/carers that I recognise work needs to be done quickly to improve the outcomes for all our children. I believe ALC is a school of huge potential and I am determined to secure an outstanding future for the school. I have the very highest expectations of the staff and all the children, and it is my intention by working together that we can make our school the best it can possibly be.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous parents/carers who have made me feel so welcome as the Headteacher of ALC, your well-wishes and positive comments have been greatly appreciated.

I am also extremely excited and proud to be attending many of the events happening in December across the Learning Community and I hope that you will join me to celebrate with our children.

I would like to extend the school's season's greetings to all of our community and wish everyone a happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Echeverry.

Mrs M Echeverry

A wonderful first term for our Foundation Phase learners at our new site Six Bells Campus!



We've had lots of exciting times in our lovely new Nursery class since our campus opened in September. We talked to our learners and their favourite day so far was MacMillan day when parents and carers came into class to decorate cakes. It was scrumdiddlyumptious and we hope to have another cake decorating session very soon!



We've had a wonderful autumn term learning about each other and what we want to be when we grow up! Now we're finding out about festive traditions in our topic, 'Sparkle and Shine, it's Party Time!'



From autumn walks to a visit from a genie, it has been an exciting and magical Autumn term! Our lovely learners have cooked harvest soup, created Diwali crafts, performed firework poems and much, much more! We can't wait to see what 2020 brings.



We've had a fantastic autumn term! We have done lots of fun activities and learned lots of new things. We really enjoyed our autumn walk to the Guardian, making our own survival kit bags, designing traps to catch the flob and solving problems to find the elf. We have been visited by a flob, a genie and even an elf! We have had a brilliant autumn term and can't wait for next year.



It's been a fun packed term in Reception/Year 1. We've loved settling into our new campus playing in all the different areas. The learning street is popular with favourite areas like the home corner and construction site. One of the highlights this term was our autumn walk, we went to the Guardian. We were amazed at how tall the statue was. We collected lots of interesting things during the walk and enjoyed pretending to make conker cake and leaf soup in the mud kitchen afterwards. We had a fabulous trip to the pantomime to see Aladdin, we loved the singing and dancing. We have been very busy practising for our Christmas play and can't wait to perform it for our families.

A wonderful first term for our Key Stage 2 learners at our new site
Six Bells Campus!



Year 3 have enjoyed their topic “Are you the next Willy Wonka?” and were excited to share their learning with their parents and carers at our PACT assembly. Lots of delicious activities were on offer. We also enjoyed our trip to the cinema to watch “Charlie & the Chocolate Factory”.



Year 3/4 PACT Are you the next Willy Wonka?



BG Cross Country Champions



Year 4 have enjoyed doing a number of STEM activities this term. Finding out whether taller people jump further being a particular highlight!



Year 5 had a very busy PACT Mr Hall’s class designed a session creating our boats! We had lots of fun with parents/ grandparents and relatives! We then took our boats to the stream to test their floating capabilities and had lots of races! Well done to Lilly-Rose our overall floating boat winner!



In Year 6, there's been swimming school with Morgan Sindall; lessons, PACT, Crucial Crew and our trip to Eden Education. We've certainly done many things to discover ‘How Does it Work?’ including building structures and vehicles, solving mysteries in science and lots of research about the human body. What a great start!

Roseheyworth Road Campus

In nursery and reception we have been working very hard this term to recognise our names and write them independently. We have done exciting activities to help us with our writing: dough disco; squiggle while you wiggle; RWI ! Very busy bees!!!



Year 1 have been extremely busy this Autumn Term, answering the question "Could you survive in the Great Outdoors?". The children decided that they wanted to build houses for animals and specifically Hedgehog Hotels! We explored various materials to find the most waterproof and decided that tin foil would be the best material to use for the Hedgehog Hotels. We have loved exploring this question as our topic and as a class we think we could survive in the Great Outdoors.



Year 2 have won the attendance trophy more times than any other class this term. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Roseheyworth Road Campus

Year 3 are developing their green screening and journalistic skills, preparing a news broadcast as part of their literacy topic. In the Discovery Room, learners carry out some research as part of STEM work. Super Scientists are planning, developing and reflecting upon their Science experiment comparing height and reach.



Year 4 at Roseheyworth Road Campus were given an 'Extreme Reading' homework challenge to complete over half term. Miss Williams wanted them to be as creative and imaginative as possible. This included strange places, silly costumes or any other wacky ideas. We had so many hilarious and brilliant responses. Well done!

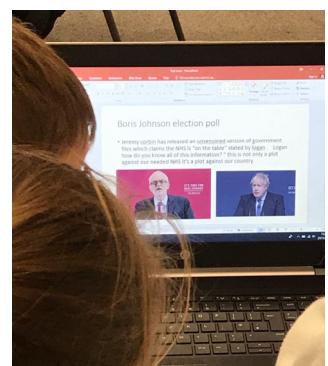


Class ALJ have been spending time in our new Discovery Room. We are working hard to become independent learners and develop collaborative skills using STEM activities; Thinking Hats; Block Play and ICT tasks.



Our Football Team took part in the Newport County Tournament held on 8th October at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. It was tough going but their attitude and team spirit were outstanding and they made massive progress during the course of the day.

The year 5/6 classroom has become a news studio this term as our budding reporters have been busy gathering news for their broadcasts, which will air on our radio station very shortly.





Nursery had lots of fun this Autumn Term. They went outdoors on their WELLY WALKS and saw how the season changed the colour of the trees and leaves. They even had fun with pumpkins. A really exciting task had everyone hooked when vinegar was added to the pumpkin and it created a pumpkin volcano!



Reception have had so many lovely activities this term, from working out with The Body Coach to enjoying the story of The Tiger Who Came to Tea—they even built their own den for the tiger!



Year 1 have had a very busy term with lots of fun activities planned and undertaken. They really enjoyed the task during Bonfire Night and celebrated with their own firework afternoon with edible sparklers!



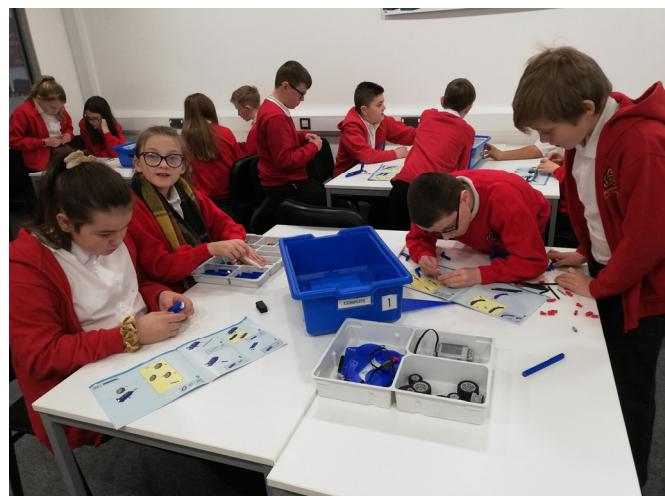
This term we have launched our Reading Café. Thank you to all our parents/ carers who have attended. The children have gained such a lot from the session.



Year 2 had a special visitor from one of our parents to share the festival of Diwali. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about Diwali.



Year 3 enjoyed their visit from Ground Work Wales who came to join our classes to help develop art work from collected leaves, twigs and cones. The children really enjoyed the creative challenge—even though it was cold outside. The finished results were superb.



Year 4 hosted a very successful PACT assembly where they shared their learning journey with their invited guests.

They had lots to share and celebrate. Thank you to all our Year 4 families for joining us.



Year 5 took part in their own science experiment. As part of their topic of researching the human body they had fun finding out if height affects lung capacity. They carried out a fair test and planned their investigation well.

Year 6 enjoyed their visit to the Eden Centre as part of their STEM project this term. They really enjoyed taking part in all the activities.



Abertillery
Learning Community

Secondary Campus



Our annual Year 5 & 6 open evening was held on 3rd October - we were pleased to welcome over 200 learners and parents/carers to the open evening, which was a great success. The open evening gave parents and carers the opportunity to gain an insight into Abertillery Learning Community—Secondary Campus, with members of the senior leadership team undertaking tours of the campus accompanied by members of our pupil parliament. We were able to showcase the variety of learning opportunities we have available to young people here on Secondary Campus.



Year 6 learners from Six Bells, Tillary Street and Roseheyworth Campus attended our Cre8 transition day on 15th October. Our Cluster partners British Gas organised a workshop aimed at increasing learners' awareness of global sustainability, looking at creating possible renewable energy sources to use around the home and in everyday life. The workshop allowed learners to work in small mixed groups, helping to develop communication skills and provide an opportunity to make new friendships. Year 5 learners from St Illtyd's, Sofrydd and Ystruth Primary will attend a similar workshop as part of the transition programme in the summer term.



Year 6 learners from our Cluster schools attended our Wellbeing event on the 4th October. The event aimed to connect learners and showcase the range of facilities on offer through a selection of fun activities and a tour of the Secondary Campus. Learners experienced a carousel of sporting activities from within the community, with school representatives and coaches from the clubs leading each station and providing information to pupils. Learners enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow year group members from across the learning community and wider, in a fun and exciting event.

A big thank you to all the parents/ carers who attended our ALN afternoon tea in September. It was great to meet you all and have the opportunity to learn about your children. The ALN team would like to encourage you to contact us at school if you need help with anything regarding your child/young person's additional learning need, or you require information about how we support specific needs.

We will be holding another afternoon tea in May to give parents of year 6 learners with ALN a chance to meet the mainstream ALN team. We look forward to meeting you all then.

Secondary Campus

This term has seen the launch of the new Pupil Parliament, made up of representatives from each year group and led by Caitlin Price and Shay Clifford. The Pupil Parliament have met with a representative from BG council and have attended the Youth Safeguarding Conference at the Celtic Manor. They have been discussing attendance, mental health and bullying so far this term. The quality of discussion and debate has been impressive!



We arranged for a selection of Year 10 and 11 MAT learners who expressed an interest in taking their Physics studies further, to attend an evening about gravitational waves and Cardiff University's involvement in this world-wide project.

The first part of the evening was an introduction to gravitational waves by Dr Chris North. This was amazing as it really gave our learners a solid foundation before the main event. The second part was with the world-renowned and Nobel winner Professor Kip Thorne - we gained an insight into his work and physics, and his involvement in developing the research and search for GW. All the learners had a great evening—valuable and inspiring!



Year 10 attended the Motorpoint arena for the annual SkillsCymru careers fair on October 9th - this is the largest careers, skills and apprenticeship event in Wales. Our learners had the opportunity to visit a variety of stalls with careers including the armed forces, various managerial positions, nursing, retail positions and accountancy.

A lot was learned about the exciting opportunities that are on offer to them after completing their GCSEs.



On October 23rd, a group of Tourism GCSE learners visited the capital city to have a guided tour of the impressive Principality Stadium. Learners were afforded a private tour of the grounds, and even got to sit in the same hospitality suite as Warren Gatland would use on match days during his premiership as Wales' Head Coach. Part of the tour also included the players' changing rooms and the media/ press room. The focus of the visit was customer service—a wonderful day was had by all!

Secondary Campus

The Student Leadership team held the Year 7 annual Remembrance Assembly on 8th November. The learners delivered a thought-provoking assembly honouring the fallen soldiers, there was a performance from the Voiceworks Choir and a touching solo performance from Caitlin Price, Year 11. Special thanks to our guest speakers from the British Legion for joining us in paying our respects.



Well done learners and staff at ALC Secondary Campus for raising £478.80 for Children in Need 2019. Staff braved the cold to get a soaking from the pupils! Pin badges and key rings were sold all week, with Bethany Harvey Knowles doing a sponsored silence all morning, raising a whopping £50! A special thanks to everyone who donated, and to our Head boy and Head girl Harry Bayton and Ffion Jones, and 11LS.

Year 10LS met with Paul Tippings from Peniel Church Abertillery, to hand over the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Between donations given to our school, what we made along with their shoeboxes there was a total of 121 which is amazing! We are truly thankful to everyone who participated.



The annual Skills Challenge Certificate Christmas Fayre took place on December 12th and was a resounding success. The learners have spent several months designing and creating a variety of products including sweet treats, games, ornaments and even a bush-tucker challenge. Working from a start-up budget of £15, each group had to generate as much profit as possible, with all money going to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The learners developed a variety of skills such as communication, planning and organisation and personal effectiveness. The total money raised is yet to be announced. Keep an eye on social media @ACSWBQ or in the next school newsletter for an update!





Abertillery
Learning Community

Secondary Campus



Abertillery
Learning Community

The profile of bilingualism has been raised here on Secondary Campus since coming back in September, emphasising ‘Welsh Matters’ (pun intended!) All learners will complete a full course in GCSE Welsh by the end of Year 11, and the increased use of the Welsh language around the campus will not only be of benefit to learners in their exam, but also as an additional skill to offer when seeking employment in the future!

Our staff and learners are doing a wonderful job of raising the profile of the importance of the Welsh language, and with a Criw Cymraeg in place and growing, which includes learners who were members of Criw Cymraeg previously on their primary campuses, we will no doubt continue with this excellent work! Ymdrech bendigedig pawb!



In November, Alice Townsend won gold in the World United Martial Arts competition, European Championship. She fought in the girls under 16, and under 165cm category, and in the final of three rounds, beat a former world championship finalist! An amazing achievement!



Huge congratulations to Jack Minchin-Hayes. He achieved a bronze medal in Judo at the Commonwealth Championship, held in Walsall in October. This was in the under 42kg category—da iawn Jack!



The senior Netball team recently won their pool in the South East Wales Ann Smart tournament. They beat local opposition including Gwynllwyd, Rougemont and St. Josephs to earn a place in the finals. Da iawn merched!

Well done to Dainton-Lee Barrass representing Wales against the Republic of Ireland in the annual ‘Celtic Snooker Challenge’. Overall result - Republic of Ireland 92, Wales 52. (Picture - Back row, second from the left) Dainton is currently involved in the next tournament in Malta, January 2020.





The Business Team



Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and school news that really matters, is something we care about.

We're very pleased to announce that from January 2020 we will be launching ParentMail, a service used by over 6000 schools, nurseries and clubs to communicate with parents.



It's an easy, convenient way to receive school messages.

ParentMail will be beneficial to you because you can:

- Use a free mobile app on Android and iOS to pick up school messages instantly.
- Complete forms, give consent/permissions and give feedback on surveys.
- Keep on top of school meetings and events.
- Book parents' evening appointments.



We would like to encourage ALL parents to download our school App as there are a number of benefits both to you and for our school:

- It's free for parents to download!
- All school messages will be sent securely
- No need to search through a busy email inbox for important messages
- Read and respond to school messages at work, at home or on the go

At the moment you'll be aware that we send text messages to you from time to time especially for urgent situations, but these are expensive costing the school hundreds of pounds each year. If parents use the App we can stop sending text messages completely and put the money to better use.

Further information will be sent to parents prior to the launch. You can also find information on the school website at <https://www.abertillery3-16.co.uk/>



@alc_business