



**Autumn Term 1: October 2020**

### **Message from the Secondary Department**

Welcome to our first termly newsletter. It has been an eventful start to the academic year as we have welcomed both new and returning pupils, plus our new Humanities teacher, Miss Watters.

We have been impressed by our pupils' attitude to learning upon their return to school under such unusual circumstances. They have quickly settled back into school routine and it has been a positive start to the academic year. So far this year, we have focused on making sure that learning is COVID secure as well as providing the best opportunities for pupils to develop their skills.

During October the whole of secondary has been researching local and international inspirational figures as part of Black History Month, with pupils developing research and writing skills.

Our Year 11 pupils are currently studying the remaining components of their courses and are being provided with revision packs during half-term in preparation for their forthcoming mock examinations which start 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

At Auckland College we value parental involvement and are happy to receive your communication. We provide regular updates of learning activities on Class Story and messages via Class Dojo. Parents are welcome to contact form tutors or subject teachers with any concerns, questions or comments.

### **Assistant Headteacher**



My name is Mr Davies and I have been a member of Auckland College since 2013.

I have been teaching since September 2000 specialising in English and History; I have taught in a number of local schools, as well as five years teaching overseas.

I enjoy teaching our future adults and encourage all of our pupils to aim high. I believe all pupils deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential and, with the never-ending assistance from my colleagues, will provide pupils with the tools they need to succeed. This ranges from additional booster sessions, regular feedback, to pep talks – whatever it takes!

### **Important Dates**

**26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
Half-term holiday starts

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**  
Autumn Term 2 starts

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020**  
Y7 – Y10 assessment tests

**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov to 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020**  
Year 11 mock exams

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020**  
End of term

### **Important Messages**

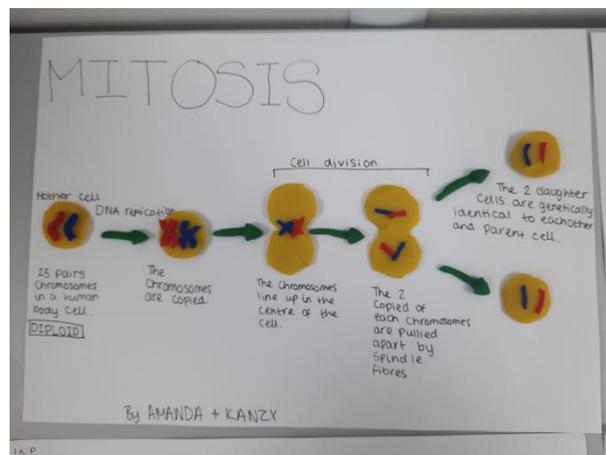
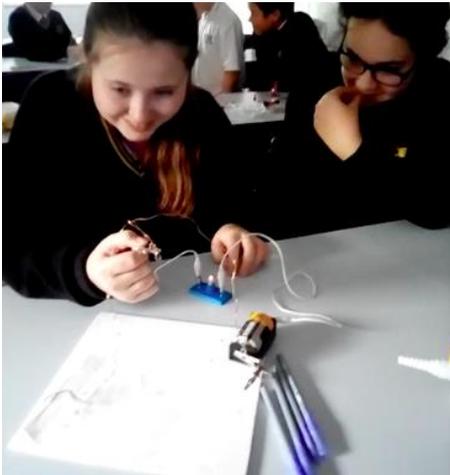
- It is important all pupils arrive to school on time at 8:30 a.m. The start of the day has an impact on the rest of the day, so pupils always benefit from arriving to school and having the opportunity to attend form periods. It is during these form sessions that tutors really get to know their pupils, while also passing on important information. In addition, the appearance of pupils is highly valued at Auckland College with good uniform a sign of our pupils' integrity and willingness to succeed.
- As the academic year progresses it is vital, especially for our Year 11, that pupils have the correct equipment at all times. Teachers are happy to offer guidance on additional resources such as reading books and study guides which would support learning further.

- Parents' evenings will take place via Zoom this term – further details will be sent out via your child's form tutor.  
Year 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 8 & 9 – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 10 – 16<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 11 Parents' evening will take place in January, after their mock examinations
- Please ensure that parents are parking safely and legally outside of the school. Double yellow lines, the yellow zig zags and footpaths are not for parking on. Leave earlier, park a few streets away and walk safely to school.

## [Subject overview of learning during this term](#)

### Science - Miss Burns

Year 7 pupils have been investigating variables that affect speed such as resultant force on an object and motion changes. In Year 8, pupils have been learning about adaptation, evolution and inheritance. Our Year 9 pupils have been examining plant and animal cells, including cell differentiation. While in Year 10, pupils have been studying the relationship between health, disease and the development of medicine. Whereas, our Year 11 pupils have been studying Component C3: Formulae, equations, and amount of substance, using chemical symbols to write the formulae of elements and simple covalent and ionic compounds.



### English - Mr Davies

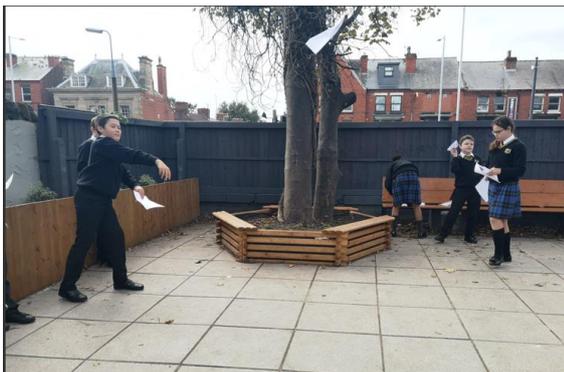
During the term pupils have enjoyed a range of topics: Year 7 have been developing their research skills and writing their autobiographies, Year 8 have been reading the novel *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells and exploring a range of non-fiction texts linked to the themes of the novel. Year 9 pupils have been examining the socio-historical context of the Charles Dickens text, *A Christmas Carol* and exploring the novella's plot and main characters. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have been studying the J. B. Priestley play *An Inspector Calls*, while Year 11 pupils have also started their spoken language presentation.

## Mathematics - Mrs Savage

In Year 7, pupils have been recapping skills such as multiplication and division while also studying perimeter, area and volume. While Year 8 pupils have been studying problem solving using fractions, percentages and proportions. Our Year 9 pupils have explored algebraic expressions, transformation, functions and sequences. In Year 10, pupils have been practising quadratic and simultaneous equations. Whereas our Year 11 pupils have studied algebraic formulae plus graphs of equations and functions.

## IT - Miss Hodson

To celebrate Black History Month this term in ICT Years 7 to 10 have become human computers and engineers at NASA space centre. They have been planning and carrying out investigations into flight. Pupils conducted investigations to ensure that their Friendship 7 spacecraft would glide to Earth safely during its decent. Pupils have been following in the footsteps of pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Johnson Vaughan and Mary Jackson.



## Business Studies - Mrs Savage

It has been a really exciting time as we introduce Business Studies as a subject at Key Stage 3 for the first time, providing pupils with the opportunity to learn skills and build their understanding of the world around them. So far pupils have been learning about the basic principles of economy, production and the role of accounting.

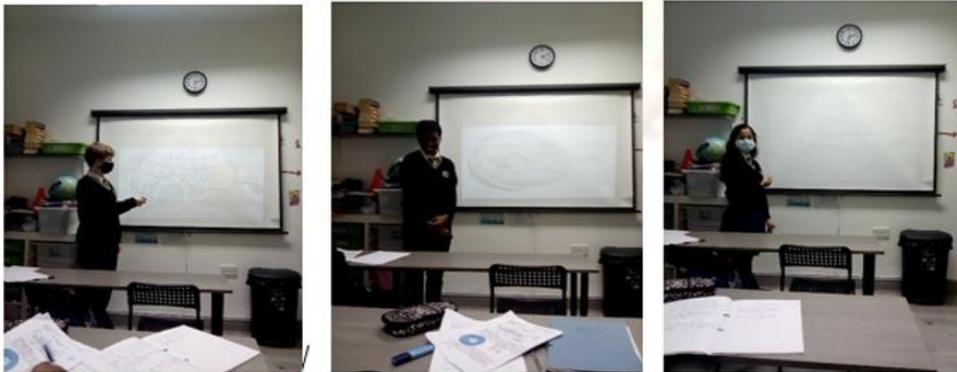
Our Key Stage 4 pupils have been studying concepts such as revenue, costs, profit and loss in business decision making.

## Art - Miss Bradshaw

Year 7 pupils have been exploring Line and Tone through artists such as Bridget Riley and Leonardo Da Vinci. While Year 8 pupils have been exploring Space and Composition through the work of Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh. In Year 9, pupils have been exploring the theme 'Shoes with Issues' focusing on the work of Cath Riley. Our Year 10 and year 11 pupils have been working on the Unit 1- Portfolio developing their ideas and experimenting with materials.

## Geography - Miss Watters

Year 7 has looked at the structure and development of cities and towns within the UK. They also mapped the countries of the Windrush generation and are conducting a research task into the benefits of a multicultural society as part of Black History Month. Year 8 has worked on the topic of Amazing Africa and has been developing their understanding of how to use key geographical skills. Year 9 are studying Development In A Developing World and have begun to build on their understanding and investigate the ways in which we measure development. For Black History Month they are researching William Kamkwamba, a student in Malawi who built a turbine to provide water during a drought. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have made excellent progress studying ecosystems, where they practised a wide range of Geographical and Cartographic skills. All students have improved on their ability to describe data and produced excellent presentations on polar environments.



*Students in year 10/11 delivering their polar presentations.*

## History - Mr Davies/Miss Watters

During the term pupils have developed their analytical skills through a range of topics: Year 7 pupils have been studying Anglo-Saxon Britain and the Battle of Hastings. Year 8 pupils have examined life in feudal Britain and reasons for creating the Domesday Book. Year 9 pupils have explored a variety of topics from Component 1 'The People's Health' and have been studying aspects of Medieval Britain. While pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 have been studying the early period of Nazi Germany from Component 3 'Living Under Nazi Rule'.

## PE - Mr Wellington

So far this year, we have focused on making sure that PE is COVID secure, as well as providing the best opportunities for pupils to stay active and develop as sportspeople. The main focus for our Key Stage 3 pupils this term has been basketball with pupils learning the essential skills: how to pass to create space and movement off the ball; the triple threat position; the BEEF shooting technique and how to perform a lay-up shot. Our year 10 and year 11 pupils have been focusing on tennis, learning techniques such as: how to play a drop shot, while also completing their written Unit 3 – Fitness Testing and Training module.

## Spanish - Mrs Burke

Year 7 pupils have learnt how to talk about themselves and their families, developing an understanding of Spanish pronunciation. Year 8 pupils have explored 'Somos Asi' talking about their free time. While Year 9 pupils have been learning language associated with holidays and travel. Our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have been improving their use of grammar including demonstrative pronouns.

## Black History Month

During October the secondary school has implemented a cross-curricular project to celebrate the achievements and reinforce the contributions made to our community with a range of activities:

**English** 'Brilliant Black and Scouse' studying inspirational local figures.

**Maths** exploring successful, mathematicians and engineers.

**Science** researching African American Scientists.

**Art** portrait of Lilian Baker, from Liverpool, the first Black woman in the British armed forces and studying the art of Alma Thomas.

**Business** entrepreneurs.

**Geography** quizzes and plotting places of importance in black history.

**History** celebrating British soldiers who fought in WWI. Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

**IT** pioneers of Computer Science – pupils create infographic posters/presentations using Piktochart/Google Forms/Google slide.

**PE** looking at famous sportspeople and their impact on their sport and community.

**PSHE** topical discussions of Black Lives Matter.

**Spanish** exploring African languages.

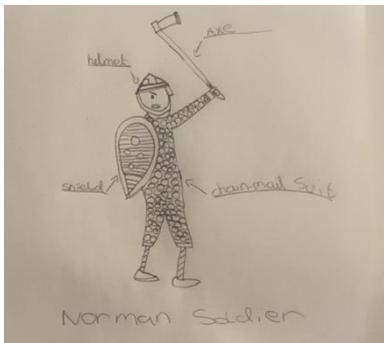
Pupils have benefitted from developing research skills and greater awareness of the outside world, helping create an even greater degree of tolerance in our already established high sense of harmony throughout our school. Pupils have been made aware of important local figures such as Inspector Irene Afful, footballer and charity worker Howard Gayle, servicewoman Lilian Baker, boxer John Conteh, Mayor John Archer, Yaw Owusu (LIMF) and the school's very own CEO, Mr Anthony Akaraonye.

Discussion of the Black Lives Matter movement has taken place, via PSHE lessons, with teachers assisting pupils to develop their understanding of more complex issues.

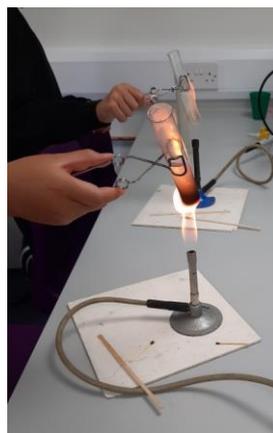
We look forward to sharing our work on this important topic via Class Dojo and also in our next newsletter.



Year 10 have been researching Inspirational scientists as part of Black History Month



Year 7 has been learning about the Norman Invasion with drawings of soldiers involved in the Battle of Hastings.



Year 10 and 11 have been experimenting with watercolours and inks

Year 7 enjoyed Science Club!

Year 7 enjoyed their introductory lesson to Spanish!