



# Aldworth

Building bright futures

## NEWSLETTER

# Autumn 2023

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Certificate & Prize Giving Evening

(Second Half)



# TRIPS

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM YEAR 9 TRIPS

On Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 November, 147 Year 9 students visited the Natural History Museum in London. The trips were organised as part of the students KS3 geography scheme of work on tectonic hazards. This explores and analyses how earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis are formed and how we can reduce vulnerability to these events. The students got to experience the earthquake simulator, showing what it was like during the 1995 Kobe, Japan earthquake. Photographs were taken beside the heat suits and field equipment used by scientists studying volcanoes. Students marvelled at the casts of victims (human and canine) from the Mount Vesuvius eruption of AD 79.

In the dinosaurs section, the students learned about why dinosaurs were so successful for so long. One of the reasons is that they had straight back legs, perpendicular to their bodies. This allowed them to use less energy to move than other reptiles that had a sprawling stance like today's lizards and crocodiles.

Finally, many of the students took their photo beside Andy's Clock. This sparked fond memories of watching the CBeebies show *Andy's Dinosaur Adventures* and *Andy's Prehistoric Adventures* when they were younger. The students in general represented the school with flying colours and we would like to thank their parents and carers for their continued support in shaping these young people into well-rounded young adults.

***Ms Fitzgerald***





# TRIPS

## TRIP TO CIVIC OFFICES — UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

As part of UK Parliament Week, on Monday 6 November 2023, six KS3 students from Aldworth (George, Renn, Ezekiel, Sophie, Kayden and Maisie) were invited together with 28 other local primary and secondary school students to attend Basingstoke and Deane Civic Offices. We met The Right Honorable Maria Miller MP and Mayor Mr David Leek as well as local councillors from across the town.

Within the council chambers we learnt about how various issues are discussed and were able to ask what specific work councillors are doing to address concerns of young people in Basingstoke; what the council are doing to improve recycling facilities.

We then split into two groups in order to prepare for a debate on whether or not school uniform should be abolished. Each school group attending divided themselves and were responding either for or against the motion. In smaller groups we considered what we felt in response to the topic and then thought of specific justifications which could support our main stance. We then allocated each person to speak on behalf of our motion. Back in the chamber, Mr Mayor chaired our debate just as he would for current councilors. We were seated on different sides of the chamber and used the real microphone technology and cameras which focused on the allocated speaker projecting their image onto the big screen.

Aldworth students were excellent ambassadors for the school and all should be rightly proud of their contribution and achievements. I know both Miss York and myself certainly are.

***Ms Browning***



On Sunday 12 November, Aldworth's Police Cadet Unit took part in the Remembrance Day Parade in Basingstoke. Mr Boateng and our senior students laid a wreath, on behalf of Aldworth School, at the War Memorial to remember all the people who have died in wars, fighting for our country.

***Ms Fitzgerald***



# TRIPS

## BATTLEFIELDS TRIP - 1-4 DECEMBER 2023

On 1 December we took a group of Year 8 and 9's on a Battlefields trip. We had a lovely calm journey over on a brand new ferry.

On the way to the Chateau we visited a chocolate factory (where we discovered that chocolate isn't overly nice until you add lots of sugar!).

After a late night and an early start, we had another fantastic day. We travelled to Ypres in Belgium and had guided tours around the 'Flanders Field Museum', Wessex Farm field hospital, Langemarck and Tyne Cot. Our guides complimented the students on how attentive they were and for the respect they showed in the cemeteries. We rounded off the day with a visit to a Belgian chocolate shop ... I am not sure if those gifts made it home!

On Sunday the predicted heavy snow had arrived. It was perfect conditions for teaching the poem 'Exposure' by Wilfred Owen.

All were awed by the Thiepval memorial which is high above the valley and many commented on how difficult it would have been to fight up the hills.

We also managed to have a brief stop at Crouy cemetery to visit the grave of Mr Rudd's great uncle, who died, aged 29, in 1918. Here, we had a minute's silence to remember all of the fallen. The students were a credit to the school.

We then had some free time around the Christmas market in Amiens. Some students practised their French whilst others enjoyed ice creams, waffles and churros by the little stalls.

Later that evening, they got the chance to try frogs legs and snails (alongside their normal dinner) and played games and activities outside the Chateau.

On Monday, before we headed home, we had a lovely morning at Nausicaa. We had a brilliant time and are so proud of the students that we took away. Georgia, Shalom and Olivia were judged to be the winners of our Battlefields workbook competition. Well done girls!

**Mrs Griffiths**





# FESTIVE MARKET



On Wednesday 13 December we held our Festive Market in the Main Hall.  
We raised over £800.00. The proceeds will go towards a mixture of charities and fundraising initiatives. Thank you to all that were involved.



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT



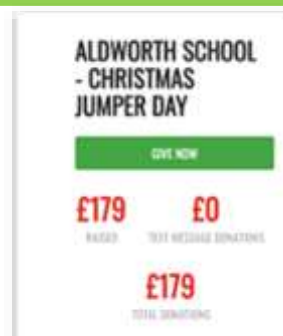
We are thrilled to extend our sincerest gratitude for the overwhelming success of our annual Christmas concert, which took place in our school hall on the evening of Tuesday 12 December. The atmosphere was alive and the talented performances by our students truly made it a night to remember. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the concert — the performers, parents, and community members. Your presence and support made this event a true celebration of the holiday season.



**Mrs Wright**



We raised £179.00 for our Aldworth School Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 8 December 2023.  
Thank you for your donations.



## Dates for your diary

Mon 18 December	Christmas Holiday
Tues 2 January	INSET Day
Wed 3 January	Start of Term
Fri 12 January	Year 11 Interim Reviews to Parents
Thu 18 January (X half) and Tues 23 January (Y half)	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thu 25 January	Year 7 Interim Reviews to Parents
Thu 1 February	Year 8 Interim Reviews to Parents
Wed 7 February	Options Evening
Mon 12 to Fri 16 February	HALF TERM

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# CAREERS

## Visit from James Langham; ACG Architects

On 10 November, James Langham from ACG Architects came to visit Aldworth and ran a workshop for those interested in Architecture or design (in Years 8-11). Students heard about the ways into architecture as a career. The grades, subjects and training needed, and found out about the considerations that all architects need when designing new building projects such as sustainability,



functionality and public response. Students also got to have a go at designing their own store fronts for Basingstoke town. We have some talented artists and designers here at Aldworth! Students were able to ask questions about architecture as a career and for our older students, gain valuable advice on accessing work experience in the future. Thanks to James & ACG architects for leading for leading such an interesting workshop!

## 20 November Post-16 Options Event

Thank you to all those Year 9, 10 & 11 parents, guardians and pupils who attended our Post-16 Options Event. Our Aldworth families had the opportunity to talk to the local colleges and hear from Reading University & Winchester University about the benefits of a University education. We also learned all about how amazing apprenticeships are with Sarah Burch from Amazing Apprenticeships and Chris Blackburn (STEM & Apprenticeship Ambassador). The role of the parent in careers and post-16 option planning was highlighted by Shirley Ducker from EM3 and we got to hear about the local labour market, employment trends and expectations of employers from Maxine Hart of Wote Street People. Thank you to all of our stall holders and guest speakers, it was a very informative event.

If you attended this event, please do take the time to complete the feedback survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/D6UCL3k18a>

If any parents/guardians have any questions regarding post-16 options or careers, please email [enquiries@aldworth.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldworth.hants.sch.uk) and mark for the attention of Ms Barrowclough, Head of Careers.

## Virtual Online Careers Classes – Satchel

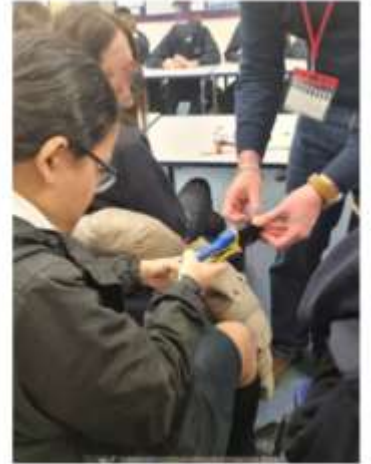
We are having a fantastic response from our students who are participating in activities and skills building exercises in our online careers classes on Satchel. Hundreds of students are participating in activities and investigating a variety of careers. Tasks this half term have included investigating careers in the business & finance sector, and the creative arts. They have also had the opportunity to consider Customer Service Skills - the latter of which will be built on next term. The final task for this term was a creative skills builder challenge - set for students to 'think like an events planner' and plan a Christmas Event for the public; 83 students took part in this challenge. There was a vast array of events planned and they all sounded brilliant! Well done! We will announce the winners of the challenge in January.

# CAREERS

## GTK visit Aldworth – STEM workshops



On 21 November, Matt Eden from GTK Basingstoke (<https://www.gtk.co.uk/>) along with Matt Roach (Carbon 60) and Chris Blackburn (Impellam Group/STEM ambassador) visited Aldworth to run a fun STEM engineering workshop for our students. Students got to learn about wiring electrics - stripping and gripping wires and lighting up their minds about the



world of STEM! Students were able to see engineering plans and talk to our experts about the job opportunities and the daily tasks of someone working at GTK. Thanks so much to our guests, such a fabulous workshop! STEM enthusiasm is certainly starting to grow at Aldworth. Science, technology, engineering and Maths related jobs are the future and there are so many opportunities available! In particular, we want to encourage girls to look at STEM jobs as an option! See: <https://www.womeninstem.co.uk/>



## Green Careers Week

Green Careers Week took place from 6-11 November 2023; as part of this pupils were encouraged to investigate careers in the Environmental and Sustainability sector via our Satchel virtual careers classes. 185 students took part in this online event exploring careers such as an environmental consultant, an oceanographer and a climate scientist!





# CAREERS

## Careers in the Air Industry



On 23 November selected Year 8, 9 and 10 students took part in the **Air League Soaring to Success programme**. This gave students the opportunity to listen to industry experts from BAE Systems, IAG Cargo and Lockheed Martin. Students heard about the aircraft systems and space launches being undertaken by BAE, find out how IAG Cargo transport a whole dinosaur skeleton and live animals across the world, and were able to ask questions about the career opportunities in the Industry. In addition, students heard pre-recorded video testimonies of Pilots using the icould website (<https://icould.com/?s=pilot>) and we found out what it took to train as Air Cabin Crew by watching the Emirates Aviation training documentary; following which we discussed the pros and cons of working in the airline industry. We also found out about how chickens are used to test plane engines! It was an enlightening morning! Students were invited to this event based on their survey interests - they had indicated interest in mechanical engineering, pilot/flight crew careers. Stage 2 of the Soaring to Success Programme will take place in the new year - students will be invited to complete online modules to gain virtual work experience including: cockpit design (BAE Systems), Cyber Security (Civil Aviation Authority), Airline Operations (British Airways), Drones & RPAS (Eagle Eye Innovations) and Pilot training (Bristol Ground School). In the meantime, further Air League Conference Sessions will be sent out via Satchel. Please encourage your child to watch!

## Year 11- College Applications/Apprenticeships

This term Year 11 have been busy completing college applications. The vast majority of Year 11 have now applied, however, if they wish to submit further applications or have not yet completed one (e.g. due to absence), please do get them to complete college applications by the end of the month.

Remember, if your child is interested in an Apprenticeship, they need to have a firm apprenticeship offer/employer in place now. If they do not have this already, it is worth applying for a college as a backup, and more apprenticeship opportunities will be open in the new year for an August/September start. If they manage to secure an apprenticeship in the new year, they can then reject the college offer but it is always important to have a plan! All students are required to stay in education/formal training until the age of 18.

<https://www.qmc.ac.uk/admissions/apply-now/> (deadline was 10 December, but can still apply, contact the college if needed).

<https://applications.bcot.ac.uk/YourChoice/RegisterNow.aspx> or <https://www.bcot.ac.uk/student-life/how-to-apply/> Deadline is 31 December (they will usually accept after this event but best to get in as early as possible as some courses have limited spaces!).

<https://psc.ac.uk/applying/> - Deadline was 11 December, but again you can contact the college still and ask about a late application.

<https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/information/apply/>

<https://www.andover.ac.uk/apply/>

You may also want to look at Alton, Farnborough or Eastleigh College.

If you love football check out <https://btfc.co.uk/academy/>

As part of our application process, BCOT and QMC have visited us and run application workshops. Thank you to our local colleges for such fantastic support for our students!

# CAREERS

## Find out about AWE apprenticeships

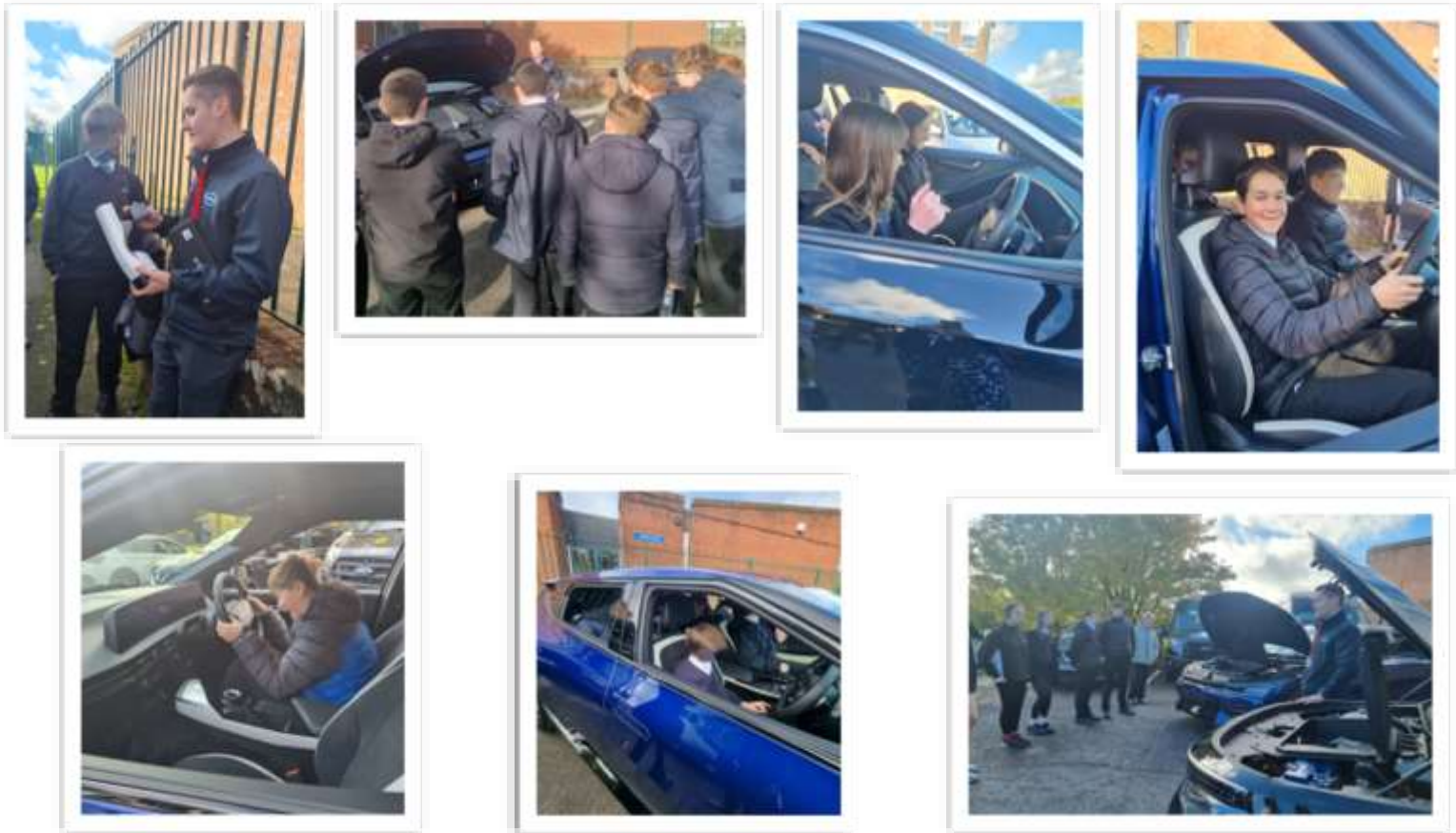
On 4 December, Imtiaz Choudhury visited some of our Year 10 & 11 students to talk about apprenticeship opportunities at AWE. AWE is a local employer offering fantastic opportunities to progress in a career in STEM.

Check out what you can do at AWE: <https://www.awe.co.uk/careers/early-careers/apprenticeships/>

Imtiaz works for Pathways CTM; they offer support and mentoring to students, particularly those applying for apprenticeships. Check out their website here: <https://pathwayctm.com/>

## Snows Kia - Electric Car event

As part of our Green Careers Week, on 7 November, Chris Bissett from Snows Kia came to Aldworth to show students the electric car range and to talk about his career in Car Sales. Students had lots of questions about the EV range and working with cars, and they loved trying out the cars for themselves (but they weren't happy they weren't allowed to actually drive them!). Since this event, some of our students have raved about car sales and are interested in pursuing this as a career. We couldn't persuade all students about electric vehicles though, some still remain petrol/diesel enthusiasts! Thanks to Chris & Kia!



## Aldworth Careers Fair - 11 March 2024

We are looking forward to the first Aldworth Careers Fair on the 11 March and are busily planning a range of fantastic employers who will be coming in to chat with our students - with a few surprises up our sleeves! If you own a business and would like to encourage the next generation in your line of work, please do get in contact with Ms Barrowclough - in particular we are looking for a hairdresser/barber, builders/construction workers, independent business owners.

**Ms Barrowclough**



# PRIZE GIVING & CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION EVENING CLASS OF 2023



On Thursday 30 November we welcomed back our Class of 2023 leavers to collect their exam certificates and awards. It was lovely to see the students and their families again to celebrate their successes.

Well done to all of our 2023 leavers!

