

GANF GAZETTE



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Term 2

December 2018

In this issue:

***Paralympic Athlete Opens
New Build***

Construction Day

Sandon Head Boy/Girl

Gravity Fields 2018

Jeans for Genes

Travel & Tourism

Restart a Heart Day

Green Flag at Sandon

Sandon Class Presentations

KBZO & GANF

***Safeguarding & Pastoral
Update***

Coffee Shop

Christmas Wreaths

Diwali 2018

FOSA Update

Recycle Bin

Diary Dates

Dear Parent/Carers,

This term has again been an incredibly busy time for all the pupils working hard not only in class but also on their Christmas performances.

Within school we are continuing to promote healthy relationships between the pupils. During November we held 'Anti-bullying' week across both sites. The NSPCC held an informative Parent/Carer E-Safety Workshop at Ambergate, the main message from the workshop was that we need to be working together to protect our children online as well as teaching them to protect themselves. In December selected pupils at Sandon and Ambergate attended workshops about sex and relationships, carried out by Kate from 'Positive Health Lincolnshire'. The workshops consisted of group discussions, activities and videos highlighting what makes a positive relationship, and the things that are not acceptable in a relationship.

FOSA continue to provide fantastic events which help build the Christmas excitement for the pupils, these included running the Christmas pop up shop, subsidising the 'Singing hands' event held at Sandon, and the Christmas party where we saw some unbelievable dance moves and had fun trying to win the party games.

We also had choirs from both Sandon and Ambergate visiting local care homes to spread the festive cheer.

Our Christmas performances took place on Tuesday 18th December at St Anne's Church, with the lower school production commencing at 10am and upper school at 1pm, we hope you were able to attend.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all our pupils return full of energy to embrace the New Year, on Monday 7th January 2019.

Yours sincerely



James Ellis—Ambergate Headteacher

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Paralympic athlete opens new building at GANF Schools

Pupils at Ambergate Sports College were treated to a special guest appearance from Paralympic Judo star Jack Hodgson, who officially opened a brand new building for the school.

Jack, originally from Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, is a former Junior World Champion and won a silver medal at the 2015 World Games and bronze medal at the 2016 European Championships. He also just missed out on a medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games but has his sights set on making the podium in Tokyo 2020.

The 21-year old made a personal and motivational speech to pupils and then handed out his medals for them to see. Jack also brought along one of the few torches used in the Olympic opening ceremony in 2012! He talked to pupils about his career path and how he has overcome barriers to compete on the global stage.

Jack commented: -

“It has been such an honour to open the new building at Ambergate and see all the great work that goes on at the school. It really gives me hope that each one of those children will go on to achieve great things. I am proud to be a small part of that journey and I wish all the GANF pupils the best for the future.”

The remodelling of the school is the first of three phases that have been funded by a £1.4million Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). The new classrooms and improved facilities will help provide a better learning experience for almost 150 pupils that are currently on roll.

Headteacher James Ellis said: “I am delighted with the new building. It has provided Ambergate with an extension to the school hall and staff room, and eight new classrooms which include a Design Technology room and an Art room.

“Having Jack here to officially open the building and spend time with the children has been fantastic. He is truly inspirational and our pupils got a lot from the day. Although I think their favourite part was when Jack practiced a judo throw on me!”



'Construction Day' at Lincolnshire Showground



Pathways pupils cram their days full learning new skills!

Day One

On Wednesday 3rd October 2018 Horticulture Class visited the Lincolnshire Showground for the Construction Day event. We were given a timetable of events to complete throughout the day. On arrival we were each given a high-vis vest to wear.

Continued Over...

Our first activity was with a company called Balfour Beatty who work in construction. Our task was to design a bridge strong enough to hold a toy car up. We split into two groups to design our bridges before taking turns to build them using newspaper and cardboard tubes. Both team's bridges were a success!



Next we worked with a company called Tomlinson. They taught us how to prepare doors for hanging, how to change locks on a door and how to hang doors! The students were given a pair of gloves and goggles and were able to use electronic screwdrivers to fix the screws. Some of the students showed great promise and skill.

After lunch, staff members from West Lyndsey District Council took us on a treasure hunt where we looked for items in the building that surveyors check for to ensure that buildings are safe. We learnt a lot about what buildings need to have to keep people safe.



Our last activity was with JointLine who specialise in road markings and airfield markings, amongst other things. We were shown pictures of the work they had done at airfields with lines and signs to guide pilots. We then got a chance to use the road marking machine! We had to push it in a straight line and then pull the trigger to make the paint spray out.

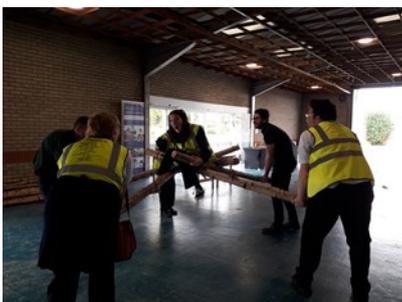
We had a great day and learnt lots of new things. The pupils are planning to use some of their new skills to support them with their Horticulture work.

Day Two

Hospitality Class had a great time at the Lincolnshire Show Construction Day on the following day. The pupils took part in lots of different activities which they all enjoyed and worked together as a team. They enjoyed controlling the levers of a simulated crane which needed a lot of concentration and team work. They also learned how to lay bricks for a patio and how to follow different patterns for the bricks to be laid.



After lunch they visited an Army stall where they were able to wear Virtual Reality glasses to see what it was like to jump out of an airplane using a parachute! Just like the Horticulture group, Hospitality were also able to practice how to draw the markings on the roads – they learned that most of them are hand drawn!



The Lincolnshire Construction Day was a great day out – all the pupils learned new skills and it was wonderful to see everybody working together as a team.

Continued Over...

Ambergate at Construction Day

On Thursday 4th October 2018 a group of students participated in the EBP Construction Day at Lincolnshire Showground. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to engage with employers and businesses and further and higher educational establishments while carrying out fun practical activities.



In the morning sessions the students had lots of fun designing their own buildings with the Architect students from Lincoln University and then made amazing clay tile and clay 3D models, while another's learnt about health and safety.

After lunch some of the students had a very messy session of plastering with Lincoln College while another group spent some time with Hill Holt Wood doing a reciprocal frame team building exercise. We then all spent some time with the Army, the students really enjoyed the fitness challenge with the assault course desperately trying to beat each other's record, the soldiers where suitably impressed with their levels of fitness.

The day was rounded off with everyone working together to power the Army's Spider Bike around the grounds.



Sandon Head Boy & Head Girl 2018/19 Elections

At the beginning of October pupils from Sandon School were asked to nominate themselves if they wished to be put forward for the 2018/2019 Head Boy & Head Girl positions.

The candidates each designed & produced posters of why they would be the best Head Boy or Head Girl to represent the school.

During last week's assembly, each nominee stood in front of the class and delivered a speech they had written themselves about why they deserved to be chosen and voted in.

After the speeches, all pupils from Ash, Horticulture and Hospitality each voted for who they wished to be elected.

The results are now in...

Shelby Walker was announced as Head Girl and Thomas Farrow as Head Boy.

Congratulations to them both!

Pupils take part in Gravity Fields 2018

The Grantham Gravity Fields event took place during the last week of September.

Gravity Fields is a science festival held every 2 years celebrating the life and work of Sir Isaac Newton.



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As part of the event two classes, Ash Class from Sandon and Silverstone Class from Ambergate, were involved in Art Workshops. The pupils created artwork associated with Sir Isaac Newton.

Pupils, Parent/Carers and Staff then took part in a parade along Grantham high street which included displays of the pupil's artwork.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Jeans for Genes at GANF 2018

Friday 21st September was National Jeans for Genes Day and at GANF and both pupils and staff took part in it.

Jeans for Genes Day is the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK, the national charity that supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder.

Monies raised on Jeans for Genes Day fund the work of the charity and provide grants to organisations for projects that aim to transform the lives of children with genetic disorders.

There are half a million children in the UK living with a genetic disorder. Any donations to the charity help towards care, equipment and activities for children in real need. The aim of the day is to help improve the lives of children with life-altering genetic conditions.

On the day, we welcomed staff and pupils to come into school wearing Jeans in exchange for a donation of £1 per person towards this fantastic cause and we raised £155 in total!

We thank you for your continued support.



Travel and Tourism Group Reach New 'Heights'



As part of the travel and tourism unit 'planning for and taking part in a visit' pupils from Miss Morton's Class and Miss Clarke's group, explored an area of the peak district and reasons why it is a popular tourist destination. The pupils used a range of research methods to find out about the area of Matlock, and chose to focus on The Heights of Abraham.

The pupils all took part in the planning and preparation for the visit They were able to organise the cost of the visit, timings, transport and activities for the day. Thank you to FOSA for kindly funded the visit for both classes!

On the day of the visits, the pupils were very excited and arrived in appropriate attire for the visit which involved lots of walking! Miss Morton's group had lovely weather and sunshine, but poor Miss Clarkes group had to brave rain and wind! Some of the pupils were very nervous, but overcame their fear of heights when riding the cable cars to get to the caverns! They also explored the Masson and Rutland caverns and learnt lots about the mining. All pupils were very engaged and had lots of questions to ask the guide. They enjoyed the outdoor area and loved the huge adventure playground and also liked exploring the fossils and rocks in the fossil factory.



Overall, it was a very successful visit. Everyone had a great time and the pupils were able to summarise and evaluate the success of their planning and taking part in their trip.

Restart a Heart Day 2018



On 16th October 2018 a selection of Ambergate pupils took part in 'Restart a Heart Day' alongside 3000 children across the East Midlands.

Restart a Heart Day is a Europe-wide initiative developed by the European Resuscitation Council. It was launched in 2013 to teach members of the public how to help restart the heart of someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest.

Ambergate's Restart a Heart Day was led by volunteers associated with LIVES, a charity supporting more than 700 highly trained and dedicated volunteer medics and Community First Responders living in communities across Greater Lincolnshire.

Throughout the day pupils were taught the valuable skills of how to put somebody in the recovery position and how to carry out CPR. Our pupils were fully engaged throughout the sessions and were keen to ask lots of questions and practice their skills!

Each pupil was given a certificate for taking part in the session.

Sandon School Awarded Green Flag!

Sandon School have now achieved the Green Flag Eco Award. In November 2017 we achieved the Bronze Eco Award, and achieved Silver Eco Award in March 2018.

We have had such a busy year working towards our Green Flag Award and in order to achieve this we participated in the Big Battery Hunt – a recycling challenge led by Duracell – which we continue to collect old batteries for; GANF remain paperless meaning that letters not requiring reply slips are sent to parents and carers via Parent Mail;



Eco Club is held every Wednesday lunchtime where the pupils participate in planning for Eco events and activities, and also hold the Committee meetings at least once a half-term; we have begun building our bottle greenhouse; we held a Bird and Bug Hunt to find out about biodiversity in our school; and we took part in Switch Off Fortnight 2017. Eco themes are embedded into our curriculum, with our pupils learning about recycling and waste management as part of their Life and Living Skills, using questionnaire feedback to create graphs in Maths and following instructions to make bird feeders in English. It is these efforts amongst many others that helped us to achieve the Green Flag Award.

Eco Club are so proud of their achievements, and here is what some of them had to say. Robert said, "Before half term we showed the Eco visitors around school and what we do in Eco Club and we won the Green Flag!"



Chris added, "We showed them our posters about turning off lights and computers".

Jacob told us, "We learnt about recycling in PSHE and picked litter up when we went for a walk".

Shelby and Thomas said that they work on Eco themes in their other subjects, adding 'We did graphs about recycling to show questionnaire answers.'

Our journey doesn't end there! We will continue to hold Eco Committee meetings regularly and with our topics of waste, biodiversity and school grounds. We will begin to look at two more topics and we are looking forward to holding more whole school events and making more positive changes towards being Eco friendly. The other topics we can choose from are energy, litter, transport, water, healthy living and global citizenship. Our Eco Code plays a huge part in our journey and will be displayed around school for all staff, students and visitors to see. We will have to reapply to maintain our Green Flag Status in two years' time.

To continue our good work and energy saving we will be taking part in Switch Off Fortnight again this year, with the aim of reducing our energy usage. More information about this will be provided nearer the time.

The Eco Committee is open to anyone at Sandon who wants to be part of working towards a sustainable school, and on Wednesday lunchtimes Eco Club takes place led by Joanna Morgan. By being involved in the Eco Committee and Eco Club students will be developing their teamwork skills, listening, respect, co-operation and democracy skills amongst many others.

Sandon School Class Presentations 2018

November 1st 2018 saw the annual Class Presentations at Sandon School.

Parents and carers were invited in for the classes to present to them what they have been learning about in school so far this term.

The morning started with a warm welcome from Stela Plamenova, Headteacher of Sandon School, who addressed the large crowd of parents & carers.



The classes then took turns presenting to the audience, either in video form or in person. Following this, each class teacher explained to everyone what their class have been doing so far this academic year.

Cherry Class showed a video of their class trip to Little Jacks Farm, Pine Class talked about how they have enjoyed being witches and wizards for Halloween, Pear Class's video was Once Upon a Time and Apple Class talked about their trips out in to the community.

Beech Class came into the presentation and sang a song about Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Willow Class sang The Magic Wand Song, and Oak Class acted out a scene from Harry Potter! The finale was Oak Class singing and signing in Makaton to 'One Call Away' by Charlie Puth and there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

The Hospitality pupils served tea and coffee with cookies, and plants were on sale from Horticulture Class.

To round off the morning each pupils' school books were displayed around the room for parents and carers to look through.

Stela Plamenova, Headteacher, said, "Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Class Presentation Morning. It's one of the most popular events in the school calendar as pupils are given the opportunity to showcase their work in school. It was great to share parents' views on the rich curriculum we offer and the big emphasis on communication and social skills. I look forward to seeing you all again at the Christmas Production".

KBZO & GANF 10 Year Partnership

Sara Ellis, Assistant Headteacher at Sandon School, recently visited our partner school, KBZO in Weingarten, Germany. Representing GANF she was invited to join them in celebrating their 50th year anniversary.

It was also an opportunity to celebrate 10 years of the partnership between GANF and KBZO, which has seen pupil exchange trips taking place between the two schools annually.

As part of the celebrations an Apple Tree was planted in recognition of the links between Grantham and the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton at Woolsthorpe Manor. It was here that he discovered the laws of gravity when he witnessed an apple falling from a tree.

In the spring, the Headteacher from KBZO School will be visiting us at GANF to continue the celebrations by planting an apple tree here.

The time was also used to view their new accommodation facilities and to discuss possible activities for our pupil's next visit to KBZO School.



Safeguarding & Pastoral Update

We have had a fun filled first term back from the summer in the Safeguarding and Pastoral team at Ambergate and Sandon!



In line with both schools achieving All Together School GOLD status in September from the Anti-Bullying Alliance, all of our pupils took part in Anti-Bullying Week (12-16th November). Throughout this week pupils took part in a range of activities which focused on what bullying means, what we can do to stop bullying and who we can talk to for help. Several classes made signed charters identifying appropriate behaviours and how themselves could help their peers. It was great to see lots of our pupils take part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 12th November to celebrate their individuality and allow our pupils to express themselves and show what makes us all unique!



In the ever growing digital world we thought it was important that our Anti-Bullying Week included activities on Online Safety to ensure that our pupils know how to recognise and keep themselves safe from cyber-bullying. In order to also support our parents and carers in keeping their children safe online we also hosted an NSPCC Parent/Carer E-Safety Workshop which was carried out by Sara Parker and Alison Fry from NSPCC. For more information on how to keep your child safe online please visit <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc> or nspcc.org.uk/shareaware. We would also like to say a big thank you to Ambergate's Hospitality class which baked and served some delicious cakes for the workshop and raised a total of £24.50 for NSPCC!



In order to provide our pupils with a Christmas treat we held a Christmas Party at both sites, although we did not do this alone. The two Travel and Tourism class' at Ambergate had to plan and host an event as part of their qualification so we teamed up to help these pupils achieve their qualification and ensure we all had a good time! Miss Morton's Travel and Tourism class hosted a party for Silverstone, Wembley and Oval classes at Ambergate and Miss Clark's Travel and Tourism classes hosted a part for Beech, Oak, Pine, Ash, Horticulture, Hospitality and Apple classes at Sandon! Both Travel and Tourism classes sourced refreshments for their parties, created decorations, wrote a letter to parents and carers, made a pin the nose on the snowman game and did a lot of market research beforehand to ensure their party was as successful as possible! It appeared that all of our pupils had a great time dancing their socks off! We would like to say a big thank you to the Lincoln Drill Hall for providing us with the disco and great songs!!



In line with our focus of preparing our pupils for their future, identified pupils across both sites attended a Sex and Relationships Workshop provided by Lincolnshire Positive Health. The workshop involved identifying aspects of a positive healthy relationship and differentiating these from an unhealthy relationship, the meaning of consent and how to gain consent, and sexting and the law (all content was adapted to the needs of the pupils). All of our pupils were very sensitive throughout and made appropriate contributions to the discussions and the activities!



Coffee Shop

Hospitality have now held the last coffee shop of 2018. Staff and pupils would like to say a big thank you to all their customers who supported them throughout this year.

The class would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Coffee shop will re-open on the 8th January 2019, and they look forward to seeing you next year!

Christmas Wreaths

Horticulture Class visited Gregory House recently to present them with a Christmas wreath they made for them using the branches and greenery from their gardens. While they were there the class showed the residents how they had made them and helped them to make another wreath! All of the residents thought that our wreaths were beautiful.

The wreaths have sold so well already this month and the class are re-stocking ready to sell them at the Christmas Performances.



Diwali 2018



Sandon School celebrated Diwali again this year with different activities and lessons.

Diwali is the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. This year it began on 5th November.

Here are some of the things the classes across Sandon School got up to:

Beech Class really enjoyed listening to the sensory story of Rama and Sita. They made paper lanterns and Rangoli patterns. In their Food Technology lesson, the class made Diwali sweets: coconut squares.

Oak Class tried some traditional Indian foods and explored the story of Rama and Sita. They also created their own Henna hands and enjoyed reading the sensory story.

Pear Class have interacted with 2 Diwali sensory stories, tried some Indian food and made Rangoli and Henna patterns.

Pine Class explored sensory lights, read the sensory story Rama and Sita and made Diwali hand prints.

Horticulture pupils made chapattis in the morning and ate them with mango chutney, and in the afternoon they made some Diwali elephants using recycled materials.

Willow Class have also been learning about the story of Rama and Sita and dressing up in Indian Clothes. They also made Coconut Ice and tried poppadum's.

Eco Club enjoyed making Diwali lanterns.



FOSA News

FOSA have had yet another busy term! We are awaiting the finished building work at both sites so we can help with the costs towards new playground equipment and outdoor areas.

The LotterySK (South Kesteven District Lottery) is now live and you can raise funds for FOSA by joining!! Prizes up to £25,000 (one of our supporters won this in the first week!!). For each £1 you spend, FOSA gets 50p! Please follow the link to find out more and to buy your tickets online!!

<https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/support/friends-of-sandon-and-ambergate-fosa>

FOSA are now registered with Amazon Smile.... each time you make a purchase from Amazon please follow the link below first. That will then contribute to FOSA automatically:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1066048-0>

FOSA are now selling numbers for our 2019 '100 club'. Listed below are the full details:

- In 2018 we gave away over £580 in prize money to 39 lucky prize winners and we have raised over £925 for FOSA in the process!
- It is now time to purchase your number for 2019 draw. £12 gives you a number which will be entered into a draw each month of 2019, plus a bonus Christmas draw too. The draw is made in the last assembly of each month at Ambergate.
- Each draw creates 3 winners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize. (In 2018 the prizes were 1st £25, 2nd £15 and 3rd £5). The more numbers we sell the higher the prizes!
- The profits raised through the 100 Club will be spent on extra-curricular activities for the children at Sandon and Ambergate schools.

If anyone would like to take part please let me know. Anyone, anywhere can have a number as winnings are sent to your home address, and you can have as many numbers as you like (£12 each for the year). If you already have a number you need to renew, it isn't automatically done. Cheques made payable to FOSA and all enquires to katie.bennington@ganf-cit.co.uk. Thank you all.

The FOSA AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th January at 3.45pm 2019 at Ambergate. Parent/Carers are very welcome to attend and of course are more than welcome to join the committee. Children are welcome at the meeting too.

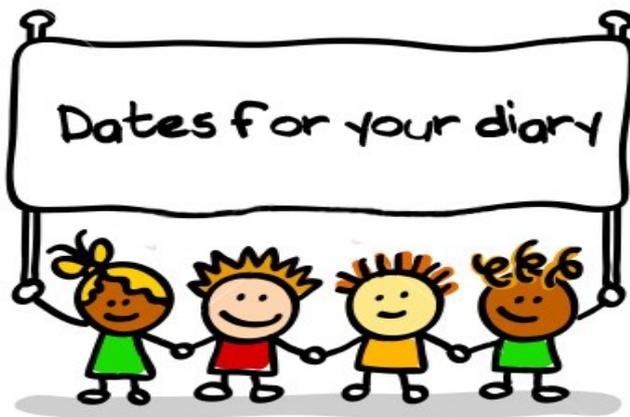


RECYCLE BIN

“Having a sort out?”

Please remember our recycle bin in the Sandon Car Park welcomes bags full of Shoes, Boots, Trainers, Jeans, Trousers, T-shirts, Blouses, Underwear, Handbags, Belts, Jumpers, Scarves, Coats, Suits, Blazers etc. Bedding and curtains not taken.

THANK YOU :-)



December 2018

18th—Lower School Christmas Performance
10am

Upper School Christmas Performance 1pm

20th—Sandon Christmas Lunch

21st—Ambergate Christmas Lunch

Last Day of School

January 2019

7th—Back to School

18th—Maths Day

February 2019

14th—Last Day of School

15th—Staff Training School Closed

25th –Back to School



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