



"Where Learning Comes First"

GANF GAZETTE



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Term 1

October 2018

In this issue...

C.I.T. News

GANF Leavers 2018

Record Amount Raised by FOSA

Silver Eco Award for Ambergate

Teachers Relay Run 120 Miles for GANF

Record GCSE Results for Ambergate

British Council International Award

Harvest Festival 2018

Hospitality Raise Money for Children in Kenya

GANF Scoops Gold Award

GANF are 'All Together' Gold

Successful Charity Coffee Morning

FOSA News

Recycle Bin

Diary Dates

Dear Parent/Carers,

What a great start to the new school year! In the first week of term, we were informed that GANF schools were awarded the Full International Award by the British Council. After that Lincolnshire County Council recognised our exceptional work with Looked after Children by giving us the Gold Caring2Learn Award. This week we have visitors coming from the Eco Award Council to assess our work towards the Green Flag Eco Award. All these projects enhance even further our curriculum offer and pupils' engagement in class.

The new classrooms at Sandon and Ambergate are now up and running and excellent addition to our outstanding provision at GANF. I'm sure you've all seen Mr Ellis' judo skills at the opening event. We are currently working on the next phase of our building project which will start in late Spring and bring a hydro pool to Sandon, new primary classes at Ambergate and many more inspiring changes. We will share the project plans once confirmed with the architects and LCC.

We all wish Claire White a successful secondment year at The Phoenix Academy in Grantham. She has been given the exciting opportunity of setting up primary provision there for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.

We have a very busy term ahead that will culminate in a week of Christmas festivities at the end.

Wishing you all a restful half term break!

Yours sincerely

Stela Plamenova

Headteacher—Sandon School

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



"Where Learning Comes First"

C.I.T. launch on Facebook

We have just launched a brand new Facebook page for C.I.T Academies.

With the vast majority of parents & carers holding a social media profile, Facebook provides one of the easiest ways to share news, events and messages from all of our schools across the Trust whilst developing stronger community links. Regular updates on the page will also support staff recruitment, funding bids and general awareness of C.I.T. and the excellent work we do.

To unlock the full potential of the page, please follow our new C.I.T Facebook page .You can find the page by searching @citacademies1 on Facebook or going to www.facebook.com/citacademies1.

GANF Leavers 2018

Ambergate

On 29th June 2018 we said a very emotional goodbye to our 2018 leavers!

At Ambergate a special leavers assembly was held and the student's families were invited in to celebrate with us and hear all about their child's time at the school.

Mr Ellis led the assembly and began with the results of the elections for Head Girl & Boy. Jon Cronin and Thea Carroll will take over the roles from Lucas Wilson and Chloe Webb, who have both done a fantastic job at representing the school last year.

The other candidates who put themselves forward for the roles were given the special responsibility of becoming Ambergate Prefects. Mr Ellis presented them all with their new Prefect badges.

Each of the leavers were then presented with a Leavers T shirt, followed by stories read out by staff and peers about their time at Ambergate. Afterwards we all watched a short film of their time at the school.

As always, the school assembly finished with the school prayer.



Sandon

Friday 29th June was the last day for the Year 14s at Sandon. Whilst we were all really sad to be saying goodbye it was also a time to celebrate all of the pupils achievements from their time at Sandon School.

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We held a special Leavers Assembly where singing performances were displayed along with a song from the Sandon Choir. Each student stood in front of the assembly and talked about their time at Sandon and/or showed pictures of what they had enjoyed whilst being here. Sara Ellis talked about each of their achievements and presented them with a gift and a photobook to remember their time at Sandon. The assembly ended with a spectacular performance by all of the leaving students! They sang and danced to 'We're All in this Together' from High School Musical. Kyle took a turn on the drums, Sam played the maracas and Keeley and Peter joined in with the other students by dancing. Afterwards the leavers joined their parents and carers for a drink and a biscuit. The rest of the day was spent with friends, exchanging contact details and sharing memories.

Prom

In the evening the GANF leavers were invited to their prom! GANF Leavers were welcomed in to Ambergate Sports College's main school hall which had been transformed into an elegant setting. Staff and pupils were dressed to impress!



They enjoyed a disco and a sit down buffet meal. The students had so much fun dressing up in the photo booth and they danced until they couldn't dance any more! What a great way to end the leavers day.

Good luck to all our students in everything that you do, and keep in touch!



Record amount raised by FOSA

GANF Schools held their annual Summer Fayre at Ambergate Sports College on Saturday 7th July.

Organised by their Friends Association - FOSA, the Summer Fayre was held on a scorching hot day and brought a record turn out from school kids, relatives, friends and families. A Police Community Support Officer even rocked up to the festivities and left sporting a glitter tattoo!

GANF & FOSA staff worked together setting up stalls, games, a climbing tower, a bouncy castle, hotdogs and hot and cold drinks, to entertain the fayre goers. There was music, kindly provided by Pro Disco's & Entertainments, numerous activities including a raffle, guess the name of the teddy, guess the weight of the cake, sweets and cake stalls, crafts and crystals. It was a jam packed event!

Considering England were playing in the World Cup at the exact same time as the fayre, they still managed to raise a record £1,303 on the day!

Katie Bennington, FOSA Chair, said, "We did show the England game at the fayre, we felt it would be rude not to! It was a fantastic day and very well attended. Great to see everyone working together to make it happen, real community spirit! A massive thank you to everyone who supported the day, helping us to raise such a huge amount of money for the children at GANF Schools. I am very proud to be part of FOSA."

Silver Eco Award for Ambergate

Ambergate Sports College have now achieved their Silver Eco Award!

Since gaining their Bronze Award in March 2018 the ECO Committee have been working really hard to achieve the criteria needed to gain the silver award.

The committee chose to focus on Healthy Living for their main topic (a requirement of the silver award) and have carried out many activities, such as a sponsored walk, making fruit kebabs & smoothies, as well as looking after their environment.

The recycling project has been very successful at Ambergate and is still going from strength to strength. There are recycling bins all around school and they are emptied regularly.

The students have completed an environmental review of the whole school site, compiled an action plan and carried out all the tasks they had set themselves to make our school more Eco.

Eco themes have been a part of the curriculum as well this term to help achieve the silver award.

Alongside all of these activities, Eco lunch club is still well attended and the group have given the outdoor science class room a real facelift.

Mrs Capindale, TA who leads the club said, "The Ambergate Eco Group and Committee have worked extremely hard over the last 4 months and we have now achieved our Silver Eco award. This is wonderful recognition for all involved, thank you".



Teachers relay run over 120 miles in less than 24 hours to raise money for their pupils!



GANF staff organised an epic fundraising challenge across a weekend to raise money for an outdoor amphitheatre for their pupils up at the Forest School.

James Ellis - Headteacher, Ashley Caress - Deputy Headteacher, Richard Butterworth – Teacher, Matt Page – Instructor, Toby Ellis - Instructor, Joe Bogumsky – Enrichment Co-ordinator, and Darren Wilson - Financial Analyst, completed the #greatGANFrun - a relay-run

of 120 miles in less than 24 hours, across Lincolnshire!

They all felt passionately about a project at the Forest School. The pupils have created a make shift stage so they can perform in the outdoors to an audience. This has proved very successful and is helping immensely with pupil self-esteem and well-being, but they needed to raise over £2,000 to install a safer, sturdier, stage and seating area for the pupils.

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THE CHALLENGE

James, Ash, Richard, Matt, Toby, Joe and Darren began their 24hour Relay-Run on Friday 20th July at 4.10pm from Ambergate Sports College in Grantham, Lincs. The relay then took them over 120 miles across Lincolnshire, running from school to school within the Trust, throughout the night. From Grantham, the boys ran to Caythorpe, Spilsby, Boston, Spalding, and back to Grantham. Arriving back in Grantham at 3.20pm – well within their goal of 24 hours!



During these times of austerity, the runners all believe strongly in providing over and above the national curriculum for their pupils, so GANF Schools created the #greatGANFrun challenge to raise invaluable funds to install a new mini amphitheatre for the children.

The challenge was followed throughout by Lincs FM and BBC Radio Lincolnshire, and BBC East Midlands Today came down to the finish line to welcome them home, along with pupils, parents and other staff members!

The GANF team raised over £2,500 during their challenge.

James Ellis, Headteacher at Ambergate Sports College, said, “We were blown away by the level of support from everyone who followed us. It gave us a huge incentive to keep going through some very tough moments. We never imagined we would return to Ambergate and have such a fantastic welcome home - thank you so much to everyone who came to support us at the finish line.

“We are unbelievably proud to work for such fantastic schools and for the school to get the level of media coverage it did was incredible. We hope to begin installation of the mini amphitheatre for the children, as soon as possible.”



Record GCSE results for Ambergate!

Ambergate pupils picked up their GCSE results today which proved to be the best set of results in the school's history.

Pupils faced the challenge of the new grading system of 1-9 with more emphasis on examinations and less on coursework.

14 GCSEs were graded as 4 or above making 2018 a truly fantastic year!

Chloe Webb achieved grade 4 in all six subjects taken including Maths, English and Science.

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Lucas Wilson achieved five GCSEs including a grade 4 in Maths. Both Lucas and Chloe have secured places at Grantham College for September along with Jade Walsh who achieved GCSEs in Maths, English, Science, History and Geography.

The highest grade was a 7 for Maths for a pupil who, along with 4 other GCSEs at 4 and above, has now secured a place on an accountancy course, starting in September.

Headteacher James Ellis was delighted. He said, "I am overwhelmingly proud of all the pupils for achieving such fantastic results".



British Council International School Award success for GANF Schools

Both Sandon School and Ambergate Sports College have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education.

Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

The international work of the schools included seven key areas:

Pupils celebrated Diwali and were taught about the story and religion behind the ceremony.

Students were paired with pen pals in Germany.

Some of those pupils were provided with the opportunity to take part in an exchange trip with their German peers.

A Christmas International Day celebrated and recognised the traditions of other countries.

Fairtrade Fortnight developed community links through events such as coffee mornings.

Values have been developed and discussed on a regular basis in assembly.

Research with parents contributed to flags being formulated to celebrate each child's heritage.

One specific project included the hospitality students baking for a cake sale. £100 was raised which allowed one pupil's grandmother (Julia Kerby) and mother (Sam Kerby) to fund 20 mosquito nets for children at the Wema Centre in Kenya through the charity they work with.

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Stela Plamenova, Headteacher at Sandon School, commented: "The students at GANF have very little exposure to different cultures and so my aim was to bring other cultures to them to celebrate our diverse and ever changing society. As part of our work towards the Award, there has been a big emphasis on British Values of tolerance, respect and democracy through the Heritage Project.

The accreditation process also enriched our Teaching and Learning through new practices and perspectives. The colleagues who led the International work, Catherine Henderson-Slater and Simon Buckberry, introduced a wide range of artistic and cultural opportunities through our curriculum as well as extra activities such as traditional dance workshops, themed days and lunchtime clubs.

The whole GANF community is very excited with the recognition for their hard work with the Award from the British Council that is globally recognised."

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.'

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Pakistan. Around 5,500 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school.
- A whole school approach to international work.
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools.
- Year-round international activity.
- Involvement of the wider community.



Harvest Festival 2018

Sandon pupils took part in their annual harvest festival on Friday 28th October in a special assembly. They brought in foods such as dried pasta, rice and tinned goods that will be donated to the Grantham Food Bank. Each class enjoyed sharing their harvest work and songs.



Hospitality students raise money for children in Kenya

A family holiday combined with a school cake sale has contributed to £100 being raised to fund 20 mosquito nets for the Wema Centre in Kenya.

A pupil from Sandon School in Grantham, along with three generations of his family, recently visited a children's home in Kenya during their family holiday this summer.

Leo, his mother Samantha and grandmother Julia, were taken aback by the Wema Centre's dedication to rescuing children off the streets in the African country, the Kerby family considered how they could support the cause back home.

They decided to call on the help of Sandon School, where Leo attends as a pupil, to ask the Hospitality students to bake and sell cakes as a fundraising initiative.

After executing their talents in the kitchen and selling their delicious cakes at the Jubilee Centre in Grantham, the pupils' dedication and hard work soon paid off as £100 was raised, enough to fund 20 mosquito nets for the Wema Centre.

Harvinder Panesar, Hospitality tutor at Sandon School, explained: "The cakes that our Hospitality students baked will make a difference to the children at the Wema Centre in Kenya, isn't that amazing! I am so proud of our students."

Leo's mother Samantha detailed the emotional impact of the project: "Leo sang to the children in Kenya - my 'non-verbal' son that felt confident enough to perform to strangers! The GANF students have helped us to make a huge difference to these children's lives."

Sandon's Hospitality students run a coffee shop at the Jubilee Centre on London Road in Grantham. Their pop up coffee shop, 'Tasty Treats', is open every Tuesday and Wednesday morning during term time, between 10am – 12pm. Everyone is welcome!

GANF scoops Gold Award in supporting vulnerable children and young adults

Caring2Learn is a Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) research project, funded and supported by the Department for Education through their Partners in Practice programme. The aim of the project is to improve outcomes for Lincolnshire's looked after, post-looked after and other vulnerable children and young people.

The LCC want all Lincolnshire education settings to be confident in nurturing vulnerable children and young people so they achieve better than expected progress and they want carers, foster carers and residential care workers, to champion education in the home. All looked after children and young people should feel safe and feel they belong in their home and school. This will provide them with a solid foundation to have the confidence to go on to learn, be aspirational and achieve their full potential.

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GANF were initially part of a pilot study which involved staff and researchers from University College London (UCL) to examine this further. This is where GANF Schools began to engage in the Caring2Learn Award.

As part of the project, we identified and shared best practice across the Caring2Learn support network, and also began to make changes and improvements. GANF worked towards a three-tier accreditation scheme, working towards either a Gold, Silver or Bronze award.



The concept of a 'Caring School' is divided into four sections which are contained within the Caring Schools Toolkit. These are:

- Ethos and Leadership
- A Child Centred Approach
- Working with Carers
- Working together with other settings, agencies and professionals

GANF have been awarded the Gold Caring2Learn Award. This supports our Ofsted inspections from 2017, identifying both schools as Outstanding respectively. A conference was held at Belton Woods Hotel to celebrate. GANF were one of 24 recognised for their support and dedication to 'looked after' children in Lincolnshire.

[Pictured above: GANF staff members, Torie Workman and Simon Buckberry]

[Photo courtesy of The Grantham Journal]



GANF are 'All Together' GOLD!

Throughout the last academic year Ambergate and Sandon have been working together to achieve the All Together School Status from the Anti-Bullying Alliance. We are pleased to announce that both Sandon School and Ambergate Sports College have been awarded GOLD Status!

An 'All Together School' is a school that has been recognised for its work to reduce bullying and improve the wellbeing of its pupils over the course of the All Together programme.

In order to achieve this status Ambergate and Sandon pupils took part in a range of anti-bullying activities, their views were gained in a well-being questionnaire and anti-bullying became a prominent focus across both schools.

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One of the main tasks of becoming an 'All Together School' was for pupils to understand the definition of bullying;

'Bullying is something that can hurt you on the inside or on the outside. It can hurt you on the outside by hitting you and hurting you physically, and it can hurt you on the inside by name calling or hurting your feelings. Bullying is done on purpose, it is not an accident. It is bullying if these things happen more than once.'

This supported pupils to identify behaviours that were not allowed within school and establish what they would do if they or somebody else was being bullied;

Ambergate and Sandon will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week next term during 12th November through to 16th November.



Successful Charity Coffee Morning

On Friday 28th September one of Miss Morton's Hospitality classes from Ambergate hosted a Coffee Morning to help raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

The class decided they wanted to use the skills they have been learning in their lessons to raise money for a good cause. The pupils chose to hold a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

On the lead up to the day pupils and staff took up their own time to make and donate cakes for the sale.

On the morning of the event all of the lower school classes and staff were invited to come and buy one of the amazing cakes that were made. They served cakes to pupils along with a juice to wash it down, and for the staff the class showed off their coffee and tea making skills.

The pupils did an excellent job of running the Coffee Morning with great service skills and they all really enjoyed the morning.

The event was a huge success with pupils managing to raise a massive £120! All of which will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done Hospitality Class!





FOSA News

Well what a busy few months we have had and the summer holidays didn't stop us either! Yorkshire Bank have gone above and beyond to support us as always, so thank you to them.

Going back to June, the Father's Day Pop up Shop was another great success and the children really enjoyed picking gifts for their male carers.

The Leavers Prom was supported by FOSA and this year the leavers undertook many tasks to raise some funds towards this. A great evening was had by all.

We also held a quiz night in June and saw returning faces to put their teams in again. This saw us raise £400.

We held the Annual Summer Fayre at Ambergate this year and the weather was fabulous! We raised a record amount of money...thank you to all involved, it really was teamwork at its best! £1,303 raised!

July saw Dysart Park Family Fun Day where some of our pupils took part in '3 Parks Challenge' which is a sponsored walk, while FOSA held a tombola stall. This is a very well attended event which is mainly organised by Yorkshire Bank so we are very happy to support. £357.60 raised!

Two parents of Ambergate pupils saw the fantastic effort of The Great GANF run, by our staff and wanted to do something to raise funds too! The two of them cycled from Skegness to Grantham. What a sterling effort from them both (amount raised to be confirmed).

We shared a Joules seconds sale with another local school which was absolutely packed! Thank you again to our friends at Yorkshire Bank for this one which made FOSA £479.60.

During the school holidays we held a tombola stall at the Local Fire Station Open Day and this was a huge success, and a great family day out! We raise £113 and thank goodness the weather was better than last year!

FOSA took part in the Green Tokens Scheme at Asda and we won £200 for this! Karen from Asda came into Sandon School and presented us with a cheque. Thank you to her!!

Lastly, we held another quiz night in September and despite it being Gravity Fields we still saw lots of people and managed to raise £340.

Thank you all for your continued support so far this year and if you have any queries or would like to join FOSA please email katie.bennington@ganf-cit.co.uk

RECYCLE BIN - SANDON CAR PARK

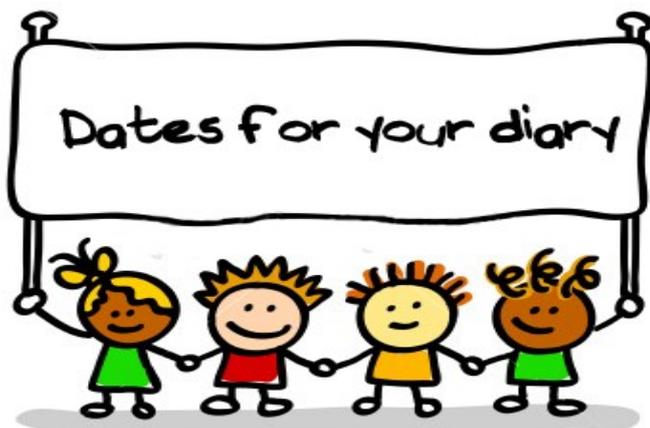
"Having a sort out?"

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 :-)





Diary Dates

October

19th—Last Day of Term

29th—Back to School

November

1st—Sandon Class Presentations

15th—Sandon Parents Morning

16th—Ambergate Parents Morning

22nd—FOSA Christmas Market

December

8th—GANF Pupils Christmas Party

12th—Singing Hands Performance

14th—Pantomime

18th—Lower School Christmas Performance

19th—Upper School Christmas Performance

20th—Sandon Christmas Lunch

21st—Ambergate Christmas Lunch

21st—Last Day of Term

Back to School on Monday 7th January 2019



"Where Learning Comes First"

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