



Arts & Media School
ISLINGTON



Head's Half Termly Update

Autumn Term 1 - October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Welcome back

The year has started with excellent news to share from our summer 2024 results. The overall average progress made of our year 11 cohort across their best 8 subjects showed that they achieved significantly above their expected outcomes. This means that our comprehensive intake were able to realise the school vision of every child a scholar and our top scholar achieved 7 grade 9's, 4 grade 8's and 1 grade 7! Well done to all our students, staff and parents who worked very hard to enable access to their next stage of learning in Key stage 5.



Important News



We are moving to a new MIS platform which means that from 4th November 2024 the school will move to a new communications portal called ARBOR. The school is keen to improve its communications with parents/carers, and in an ever changing world - consistent, transparent, timely online response is key to our success. From November onwards this will be the **ONLY** portal used for communications - you will be able to:

- Send and receive emails to a member of the school team
- Receive notifications of achievements
- Receive internal communications regarding events
- Book onto meetings when notified
- Access your child's timetable and check their school attendance data
- Check/change your own contact details and update information for your child
- Receive school reports
- Notifications or sanctions
- Book onto clubs/trips
- Pay for uniforms, accessories such as calculators and school trips

What happens next?

On or around the 4th November, if you are the priority contact for your child, you will receive an email from the school inviting you to sign up to the portal - you will not be able to activate your account until you have this information.

How to set up your Arbor account: [Arbor Parent App](#)

We urge all of our parents/guardians to sign up to this system - this is our way of inviting you to communicate with us directly and efficiently whilst enabling us to update you as soon as we can with all relevant information as soon as it is available with one click of a button. The school will no longer be sending paper copies of information unless we are legally bound to do so.



If you are having trouble accessing the app or portal via your mobile phone/ computer, please come into school and a member of the school team will be able to assist you.

From November.

- Attendance phone calls will still be made to check the well-being of your child.
- Only necessary phone calls home will be made
- Homework will still be recorded on Classcharts.

School Meals:

Until further notice - you should still make payments for school meals via the Parent Pay App.

YONDR - the move to a phone-free school



After consultation with all stakeholders and a trial period at the end of the Summer term, we are delighted to report at the end of this half-term that AMSI is now a 'phone-free school'!



We will be seeking feedback on this initiative from the school community at the end of this term and will share this with you in due course. As a reminder, please expect to be asked to collect your child's phone if they forgot to bring the pouch in and/or it has not been replaced if damaged/stolen. There is a £25 cost for the latter which can be paid for through Parent pay.

Black History Month

This October we have been exploring the theme of 'reclaiming narratives' for Black History Month. Whilst our curriculum is already diversified, inclusive and representative of many cultures and backgrounds, we have taken the opportunity this month to explore the nationally directed narrative in further detail. More detail regarding the highlights across the school will be shared in AMSI News at the end of the Autumn term.



Sporting Scholars

AMSI hosted the KS4 Boys Badminton tournament. There were 7 teams across 4 schools and AMSI 'A' team finished joint top along with St Mary Magdalene's Academy both only losing 1 game. Well done to our scholarly players: Hassan, Ibrahim, Ezana, Eyman, Gabriel, Alexander, Marshae, Aidan, and AJ.



KS4 Boys



KS3 Boys

We hosted the KS3 Islington Badminton tournament at AMSI on 22nd October and once again our year 9 team finished 2nd and only lost one game. Our 2nd team were the only year 8s present and managed to finish in 4th place so well done to them also! Year 8 students involved were: Evan, Zac, Yusuf, Amor, Joseph, Gabriel, Dylan and Siraj.

Attendance and Punctuality

We continue our drive to increase student attendance and have ended this half-term with celebration assemblies for all year groups. It is pleasing to see so many 100% attenders so far this year and we encourage those who have had time off to 'reboot' upon our return after the holiday and be in school every day. The link between attendance and achievement is clear and this is emphasised to students by the whole staff body at every opportunity. Please ensure that your child

attends every day unless they are clearly unwell – an attendance figure of 90% equates to a student missing half a year of education over the course of their time with us which is obviously detrimental in many ways.

On the point of punctuality, as you are aware students arriving late to school i.e. after 8.40am when the main entrance closes, receive a 50 minute detention that they must sit that day – it is important that all students start their day on a positive note and are in tutor time promptly each morning.

Teaching & Learning

Our current Year 11 has made a positive start to this very important year at AMSI.

We all have high expectations for them and they will sit their first set of mock examinations from November 20th to December 10th 2024. These results, alongside forecast grades, will play a key role in college and sixth form applications, so it's important to encourage students to prepare thoroughly.

Starting revision early can help avoid last-minute cramming and unnecessary stress. A mix of revision techniques such as flashcards, mind maps, quizzes, and practice assessments can be effective. Different subjects often require different approaches, so using a variety of methods is key.

Teachers are supporting students with revision strategies, and additional resources, including helpful videos and tips, can be found on [BBC Bitesize](#). Let's work together to help students make the most of this important preparation period!

Year 10

Year 10 students have made a strong start to their new KS4 courses. As the demands of KS4 are naturally more challenging than KS3, it's essential they establish good study habits early on, including regularly reviewing their work.

Some students may feel unsure about their subject choices as they adjust to the increased workload, but it's important they persevere and build resilience. These decisions were made thoughtfully and with a clear understanding of their strengths and interests. Encouraging perseverance now will help them succeed in the long run.

Homework

Since September, we've seen a significant increase in the number of students completing their homework, reflected in our data on submissions. It's crucial that students continue to build strong homework habits, as these skills foster independence which is an essential trait for success in further education beyond AMSI.

Regular homework completion has a clear impact on both progress and attainment. Once these positive habits are firmly established, they will greatly enhance students' overall academic development. We kindly ask for your continued support in encouraging students to complete all homework assignments.

AMSI Reads

LitFest took place from 30th September to 3rd October and more about this now established event will be shared in AMSI News at the end of term. However, this half term we took part in BookBuzz. BookBuzz is a scheme run by the BookTrust that we sign up to every year. In this scheme every student in Year 7 and Year 8 receives a free book from a list of 16 books, carefully chosen by a group of teachers, librarians and reading experts. At AMSI, we believe this scheme is very important as it means that every child at our school has a book of their own. This year's BookBuzz list was a fantastic selection and needless to say our Year 7s and Year 8 were very excited to choose their book! We hope that we are able to give our students their books before we break up for half term, if not, straight after we come back.

Chromebook Scheme for Year 7

We are excited to announce the launch of our Chromebook Scheme for Year 7 students. This initiative aims to provide our students with a valuable tool for their academic journey. Each student will be offered a Lenovo 100e Chromebook, a device valued at over £200. To participate in the scheme, a one-time fee of £65 is required, which covers insurance for the device for a three-year period.

Payment Options

You may choose to pay the full fee of £65 upfront or opt for a payment plan:

Payment Plan:

- Term 1 (September 2024): £25 (deposit to receive the Chromebook)
- Term 2 (January 2025): £20
- Term 3 (April 2025): £20

The insurance covers the following:

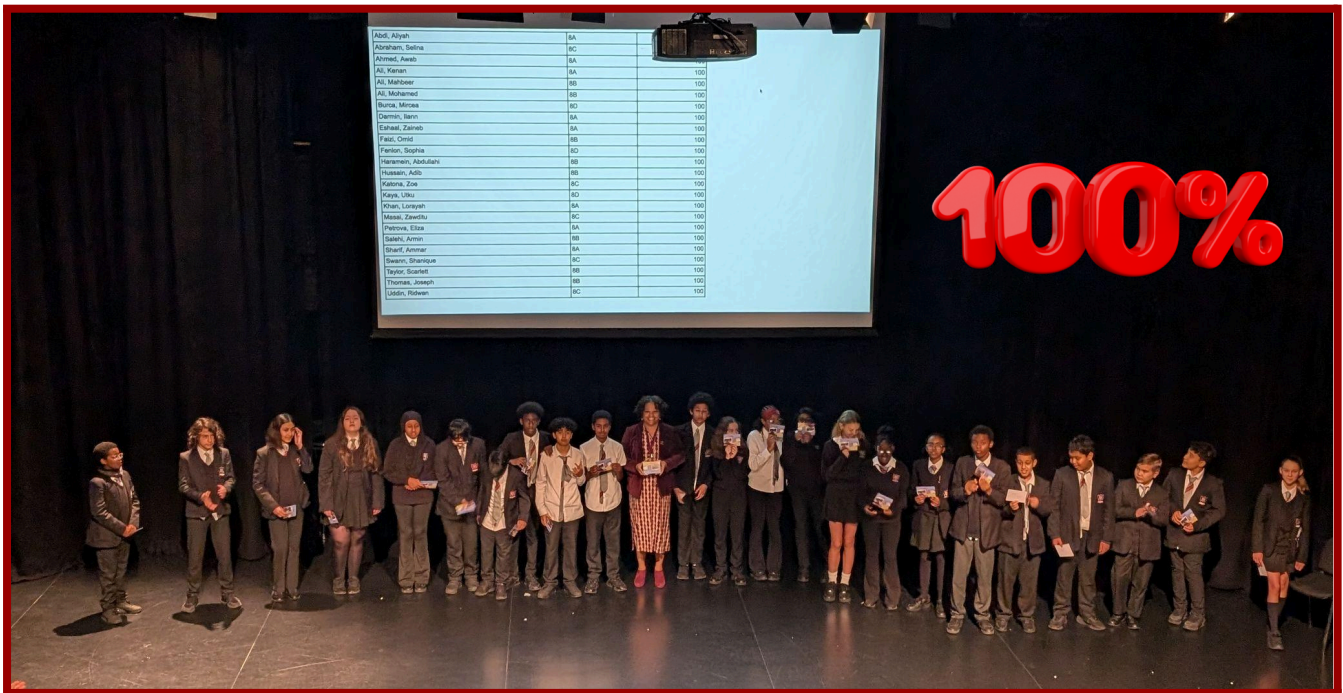
- Accidental and malicious damage
- Theft
- Breakdown
- Accidental loss (two claims without excess)
- Repair and other costs (subject to certain conditions)

To register your child for the Chromebook Scheme, please complete the online form at [Chromebooks for Year 7 - 2024](#). We believe that this Chromebook Scheme will greatly enhance your child's learning experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Behaviour and Attitudes

Parents and carers should be made aware that the current Achievement and Behaviour Policy is under review and, as we progress through this autumn term, changes will be made to both our Rewards and Behaviour Systems. These will be updated on the school website after the October half term.

Assemblies have got off to a great start! The following themes have been included this half term: fresh starts and reflection, expectations, the year so far, Black History Month, Homework, Safeguarding assemblies delivered by our Safer Schools Officer (and colleagues) and the final assembly of this half term was on the importance of attendance.



It was lovely seeing students congratulated for having 100% attendance. That means that they have been in school every day without fail for the last 8 weeks and that is surely scholarly behaviour that we must all aim for.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy to serve on the Governing Body of AMSI as a parent governor. This is an important role and it is always useful to have a parent perspective on the operational and strategic direction of the school. Whilst it means a commitment to the meeting schedule and preparing for them through the documents provided, it is a very fulfilling role that gives great insight into how your child's educational provision is shaped based on the vision and ethos of the school.

Reminders:

- Arbor will be the way to communicate with the school from next term onwards
- Students are required to bring their chromebooks fully charged to school every day
- The school door opens at 8.30am every morning - breakfast club available from 8am

- The AMSI Way includes perfect uniform at all times and following our big ten rules

Key Dates Upcoming:

4th November	Arbor is Live to the community
4th November	Danish Cultural Exchange
20th November	Year 11 Mock exams begin
28th November	Year 10 Parents Evening 04.00pm - 06.00pm
9th December	Performances in Assembly all week
10th December	History of Medicine Trip - Year 10
12th December	Festive Jumper Day
12th December	Year 8 Parents Evening 04.00pm - 06.00pm
17th December	Spanish School (NBe) cultural and educational day of exchange
20th December	End of Autumn term (Half day finish for all students)



Kind regards

Susan Service
Head teacher