

2015 magazine

Alder Grange
Newsletter
issue 12



Wildcats crowned the best for the fourth year in a row!

Our fantastic cheerleaders are celebrating after being crowned the best in the UK for the fourth year in a row. Our brilliant team competed against 109 other teams in the UKCA National Schools Cheerleading Championships at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester to clinch the title.

They competed in different categories and key stage groups, and each team completed a two and a half minute routine in front of a panel of judges. It's a magnificent achievement for us, as we've also won the Rossendale Schools Cheerleading Championships for the last 14 years running.

The 2015 team was made up of 73 pupils from Years 7 to 10, who were kept very busy raising money for their entry fees, bus hire and outfits through raffles and cake sales.

Our Wildcats came first in Key Stage Three Level Two cheerleading, with an amazing routine choreographed by sixth form student Bronte Hampton.

Our Jazz Cats came second in the Key Stage Four Pom dance, and the Thunder Cats were fourth and sixth in the Key Stage Three street cheer, with the Cub Cats Key Stage Three cheerleading Level One finishing in fourth place.

Year 10 students Sarah Crowder and Sien Ritson helped to run street cheer practices, along with sixth formers Emma Pickup and Shannon Duffy.

Mrs Archer said: "We're thrilled to have retained the title of UKCA National Schools Champions.

"All our teams have worked extremely hard to put together great performances and we're delighted with the results."

We're currently looking for sponsors for our cheerleading team. Anyone who can help should contact 01706 223171.

Much loved headteacher retires after 25 years

Staff and pupils bid an emotional farewell to our charismatic Executive Headteacher who retired in December.

Mr Hulland, widely regarded as the man who transformed the school's reputation, put our school and Rossendale on the map after winning UK Headteacher of the Year in 2004.

A special assembly was held at school to mark the end of his 40-year teaching career.

Mr Hulland moved to Alder Grange in 1990 to take on a Deputy Headteacher position. He remained in that role until 1997, when he then stepped up to become Headteacher until 2012, before being appointed Executive Headteacher.

When Mr Hulland first arrived at Alder Grange in 1990 he had a massive challenge on his hands.

"Alder Grange was bottom of the pile in terms of first preferences, and the authority had made the decision to close the school and turn it into something different altogether," he recalls.

"So the school had a lovely philosophy, but we had to pull hard on the stick if we were going to give that philosophy some legs."

He soon found out what the word dedication really means.

"It was extremely hard work, you can't take a school in those circumstances and make it a truly outstanding and resilient place overnight - it took time and a lot of work by a lot of people.

"But great schools are about great teams. The best thing a Headteacher can do is hire people smarter and better than you can ever be, then mould them into a team and let them fly," he says.

Mr Hulland's job as Executive Headteacher was helping secure the strategic development of the school. He helped establish the Teacher Training partnership, and has been involved with the Leadership Academy, which methodically trains the new generation of school leaders, middle leaders, classroom teachers and headteachers.

He has also worked as a consultant at Edge Hill University, developing their license on the national professional qualifications for middle and senior leadership and headship.

Mr Hulland will continue to help out with school advisory work at Alder Grange, and he is helping colleagues across the school to implement the new Ofsted framework.



He is also acting as a coach for middle leadership, senior leadership and headship training.

Mr Hulland says there are many highlights from his time at Alder Grange, including being awarded the Northwest Secondary Head of the Year and UK Head of the Year in 2004.

"It was terrifying and wonderful at the same time, and on a personal level it opened up the door to so many opportunities. It created opportunities to work with and spend time with some of the most exceptional people I've ever come across.

"I was invited to represent Lancashire at a World Summit in Educational Leadership in Boston in 2005 and that led on to other things. It was a real game changer for the school. It allowed us to be involved with a design council, and opened up the debate on what designer schools should look like."

Iain says teaching is about the sense of reward you get working with young people and seeing them start to develop, which he says has been a constant privilege.

"One of the nicest moments was walking into ag6 on the first day it opened. There are magical moments where we've been able to appoint young people who learned at Alder Grange who have now come back to teach here. Now people who were here as pupils and sixth formers who are at university are able to apply to come and train here with us as well - how lovely is that? It just shows the love people have for the place."

Originally from a Scottish family, Mr Hulland completed his teacher training at St John's

College in York in 1974. He took his first teaching job at Burnley Girls High School, which later became Habergham High School, where he stayed for 17 years, before moving to Alder Grange.

Mr Hulland has various plans for retirement, including travelling to Europe and America with his wife Chris. He is also very fond of the outdoors, and looks forward to spending time walking, reading and gardening. He also enjoys flying single engine light aircraft, so will have plenty to keep him busy.

Mrs Griffiths said it was difficult to express the massive contribution Mr Hulland has made to the life of Alder Grange over the last 25 years.

"The school has gained local and national recognition for the work he has led on, grown in numbers and built a sixth form under his outstanding leadership. He will be fondly remembered and much missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. We wish him all the very best for a restful and very well earned retirement."

Mr Hulland says he feels quite emotional about leaving, as Alder Grange has been his life for the past 25 years.

To be part of this lovely place for so long and part of and privileged to lead the team who have made it so special has been fabulous. There are so many people I owe thanks to, so many letters I need to write. On one hand the sense of loss will be phenomenal. But the sense of warmth around me will help. And as long as we keep making fun of each other and don't take ourselves too seriously it'll be fine," he says.

Staff and students help raise over £4,000 for Cystic Fibrosis in fun run

Our intrepid staff and students put their best foot forward to complete a 10k run to help raise over £4,000 for Cystic Fibrosis.

Archie Fitzpatrick, from Lovedough in Rossendale, has the condition and this is the fifth annual run his mum Louise has organised for the CF Trust Charity.

The run started at the New Waggoners on Burnley Road and finished at the Whitchoff Inn on Bury Road in Rawtenstall.

Eight-year-old Archie, a pupil at Crawshawbooth Primary School, did the run and completed it in just 58 minutes.

His brother Jack Fitzpatrick also took part, along with fellow Year 7 Alder Grange students Ryan Henegan, Jamie Hartley, Declan Green, Logan Hollings, and Alder Grange teachers Miss Buckle, Miss Procter and Mr Haythornthwaite.

All pupils finished the 10k run within the hour, with the teachers reaching the finish line in one hour and 10 minutes.

Miss Buckle said: "Parents of Alder Grange pupils were also involved in the run. It was a truly inspirational and fantastic event!"

Mrs Griffiths said: "We're really impressed with how well students and staff did in the run to raise money for such a fantastic cause, and we were happy to support the charity through fundraising activities and a non-uniform day at school."

On their Just Giving fundraising page, Archie's mum Louise says on the outside Archie looks 'normal' as do most young Cystic Fibrosis sufferers, but the average life expectancy for someone born with Cystic Fibrosis now is still only into their late 30's.

"Archie is such an amazing little boy who deals with his condition without a single complaint, he is an inspiration to all his family and friends, he is a funny little character with a great sense of humour, very sensitive and full of life.

"The 30 + tablets he takes daily is a way of life to him now, as is his daily physiotherapy treatments, fortnightly cough swabs and regular hospital visits. He never complains about his daily routine, he makes us all so proud," Louise said.

So far, Year 7 have raised approximately £500 for Cystic Fibrosis with a non-uniform day, cake sales, football cards and the run.

The 'Just Giving Page' is still open for donations until October.
For more information visit:
www.justgiving.com/RunForArchie2015/



Alder Grange wins Rossendale Schools Football Final



Our football team are celebrating after they raised the Rossendale Cup for the fifth time in five years.

The team beat Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School and Haslingden High respectively to set up a repeat of last year's final against Whitworth High.

This year the boys were fortunate to play on the semi-professional ground of Bacup Borough FC.

Many parents, teachers and Alder Grange pupils enjoyed the evening in the sunshine, supporting the very composed Alder Grange team.

The score was 0-0 at half time. After a motivating teamtalk from PE teacher, Mr Haythornthwaite, Alder Grange came back out creating chances.

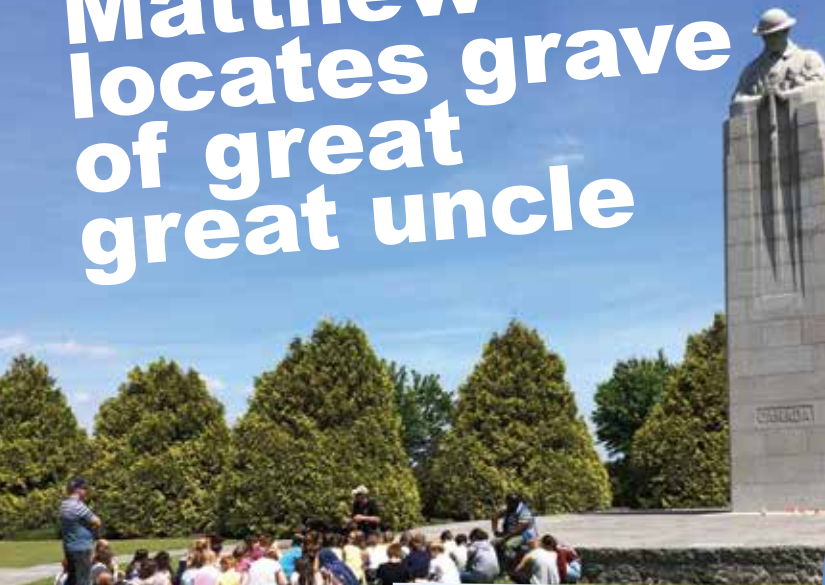
Dylan Clegg set the tone with a great effort from a short corner. Alder Grange's confidence began to shine through, and with minutes remaining a superb move between Luke Simpson and Nathan Willets led to Regan O'Brien scoring the winning goal.

Mr Haythornthwaite said: "This is a fantastic result for such a great team. They are a great squad who have played together for the past five years and have been unbeaten in Rossendale. Throughout the years they have advanced through many of the Lancashire School Football rounds to closely missing the semi-finals, a great achievement."



Archie

Matthew locates grave of great great uncle



Matthew Thompstone discovered the grave of his great great uncle on a fact-finding school trip to Belgium.

Matthew, aged 13, from Loveclough, who is in Year 8, was part of a group of 39 students who spent two days in Ypres, after travelling by ferry from Hull to Zeebrugge.

He managed to locate the grave of his great great uncle, Private Samuel Mills Layton, who served with the Grenadier Guards during the First World War, and the group were able to pay their respects.

Accompanied by Headteacher Mr Hampson and teachers Mrs Strachan, Mr Haydar and Ms Wells, the students visited Tyne Cot, Bedford House and Poelkapelle Cemeteries, as well as the trenches and the Brooding Soldier Memorial at Vancouver Corner in St Juliaan Village.

They also took part in the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate, where they laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

Mrs Strachan explained: "The students study the First World War trenches at the beginning of Year 9 and some are part of a group creating a video and other materials for Remembrance Day in November.

"It was a fantastic trip. The students were excellent, they learnt a lot from the experience. They were very mature and sensitive bearing in mind the nature of some of the places we visited," she said.



Fun on the slopes!



Our students had lots of fun on the slopes in the French Alps.

A total of 40 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 went along, with trip leader Mr Butterworth, Mrs Hannam and Headteacher Mr Hampson.

The students ranged from complete beginners to 'gold star' level. They all took part in four hours of lessons each day, plus group activities in the evening.

Headteacher Mr Hampson said the highlights of the trip were skiing into Italy, going on the luge, ice skating and bum boarding.

This was the first time students from Alder Grange had been to Montgenevre, and they also visited the nearby historic town of Briancon, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Mr Butterworth added: "The students behaved impeccably and represented the school very well. We all had a fantastic time and it was a great learning experience."

Award is plain sailing for Kimberley



Our student and budding sailor Kimberley Hartley is celebrating her 'Competent Crew' sailing award, after clocking up 100 nautical miles on the west coast of Scotland.

Kimberley, aged 14, from Rawtenstall, achieved the award through the Royal Yachting Association, which included sail handling, ropework, fire precautions and emergency equipment.

She has been a keen dinghy sailor for several years and is an active member of Rossendale Valley Sailing Club.

Kimberley's ultimate goal is to become a Marine Biologist, and she also plans to do a course in scuba diving.

She has already completed three stages of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) youth sailing scheme and races at club level.

Kimberley has just signed up for LSSA (Lancashire School Sailing Association) where she will be part of a Lancashire team, sailing in a national event on Rutland Water in the East Midlands this summer. She is currently looking for grants to enable her to get a competitive boat.

The Year 9 pupil has a keen interest in sailing larger boats. Last winter she spent Wednesday evenings studying RYA Day Skipper Theory. She successfully completed her certificate, which covered meteorology, chart work, tidal heights/flows and pilotage.

Her dad Matt Hartley said Kimberley put some of her experience into practice in April last year.

"She was an active crew member on a 46' Yacht, Lancastrian, covering over 100 nautical miles including some night sailing on the south coast.

"The yacht was a 41' Oceanis called Chimere and Kim visited lots of harbours, bays and villages including Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, Tarbert, Inverkipp, and anchored just south of HMNB Faslane," Mr Hartley said.

"She saw a porpoise, some seals and jellyfish, which she was very excited about."

Mrs Griffiths said: "Kimberley has done extremely well to achieve these qualifications outside school time, whilst still working hard on her studies. "We are very proud of her and will continue to support her in her quest for success."

Olympic athletes celebrate pupils' sporting successes



OLYMPIC handball player Holly Lam-Moores returned to her roots to mark the sporting successes of our pupils.

The 24-year-old former Alder Grange pupil was a special guest, along with fellow Olympian Chris McDermott, at our fourth sports presentation evening.

Chris, who is the Great Britain handball team's most capped player, gave an

inspirational talk to parents and pupils at the event.

The evening was a great success and staff paid tribute to the commitment and dedication of both the pupils and the PE department throughout the year.

Taking home the title of sports personalities of 2014-2015 were: Year 7 Chloe Broughton and Corey Haworth; Year 8 Ivy Rieken and David Goldswain; Year 9 Hannah Falconer and Brennan Boys; Year 10 Holly Lawton and Thomas McKay.

The Leadership Sport Award was won by Sarah Crowder; the Commitment to Sport Award by Chloe Broughton; KS3 Sports Personality was Amelia Chadfield and KS4 Sports Personality was Sarah Crowder.

Mrs Holland said: "The evening was a true celebration of success from all the pupils.

The support from parents and the hard work from the PE teachers is fantastic. It's evenings like this which make you so proud!"

Team strike gold at borough athletics competition



Our pupils were a runaway success at a borough wide athletics competition.

We took home 35 gold medals and set four new records at the Rossendale Schools Athletics competition at Seedhill in Nelson.

Our team displayed commitment and enthusiasm in all their events, with Year 7 pupils Ryan Heneghan and Phoebe Barker taking home the first gold medals in the 1500m – with Phoebe equalling the competition record.

Chloe Broughton, also in Year 7, brought home golds in both the 800m and the javelin.

The Year 8 team strengthened the success with Rafiul Islam winning the triple jump, Max Haworth the 400m and Charlie Norman the 200m.

Both Jasmine Jarrett and Kaine Cassell raised the bar in the high jump competition.

Jacob Walmsley and Jahid Miah both completed the double, Jacob in the discus and javelin, Jahid in the shot put and 100m – contributing to the Year 8 boys being crowned winners.

Year 9 continued the success, with Jeremy Darrell winning the 100m and the 200m.

Joe Simpson won the javelin and then went on to smash the discus record by throwing a convincing 33.24m.

Amelia Chadfield broke the 200m record by half a second, winning the event in 28.94 seconds. She completed her haul of medals by also winning the long jump and the 1500m.

Melissa Rose doubled her success with a 300m and 800m victory and Hameem Ali stormed home in the 400m.

The final event of the day was the Year 9 relays, both won by our determined pupils. The Year 9 boys relay team broke the record from 2012 with a convincing winning time of 51.84 seconds. The Year 9 girls and boys were both given the winning titles.

Mrs Holland said: "It was a fantastic day for all involved. We are very proud of every pupil. They were a credit to us and the school."

In total 75 athletes took part in the event, with 84 podium places up for grabs.

Students explore Larkhill Rise Forest School



Our pupils had fun exploring a forest school and creating a mini playground using various materials.

Year 7 pupils developed a range of skills through an exploration of adventure play areas in their English class.

Their teacher, Mrs Mutchell, arranged for students to visit Larkhill Rise Forest School, in the grounds of nearby Bright Futures Nursery and St Paul's School in Rawtenstall.

Activities included making friendship bracelets, exploring the environment, describing elements of the environment and creating a mini adventure play area for Lego figures, which was particularly successful.

Both sessions were led by Mr White, a Forest School trained teacher.

Mrs Mutchell said: "Students enjoyed working in small groups, using their imagination and using found items to create a play area."

This linked to the work they have been doing in class, thinking about what can be included in adventure play and whether or not expensive and man-made items are necessary to provide entertainment.

"It went really well and feedback from students suggests that they really enjoyed the sessions. Several students asked if they could visit again," Mrs Mutchell added.



Alder Grange welcomes new head boy and girl and deputies team



Charlotte

Sam

A big thanks to Year 12 Students Daniel Ratcliffe, age 17, and Lalima Bibi, age 17, for their help with compiling and designing this year's newsletter - great work!

We have welcomed a new set of senior pupils to take over as Head Boy and Head Girl.

Head Boy is now Sam Cardy and Head Girl is Charlotte Forbes. Deputies are Kit McKiernan, Sarah Crowder, Grayson Seaton and Rohan Haworth.

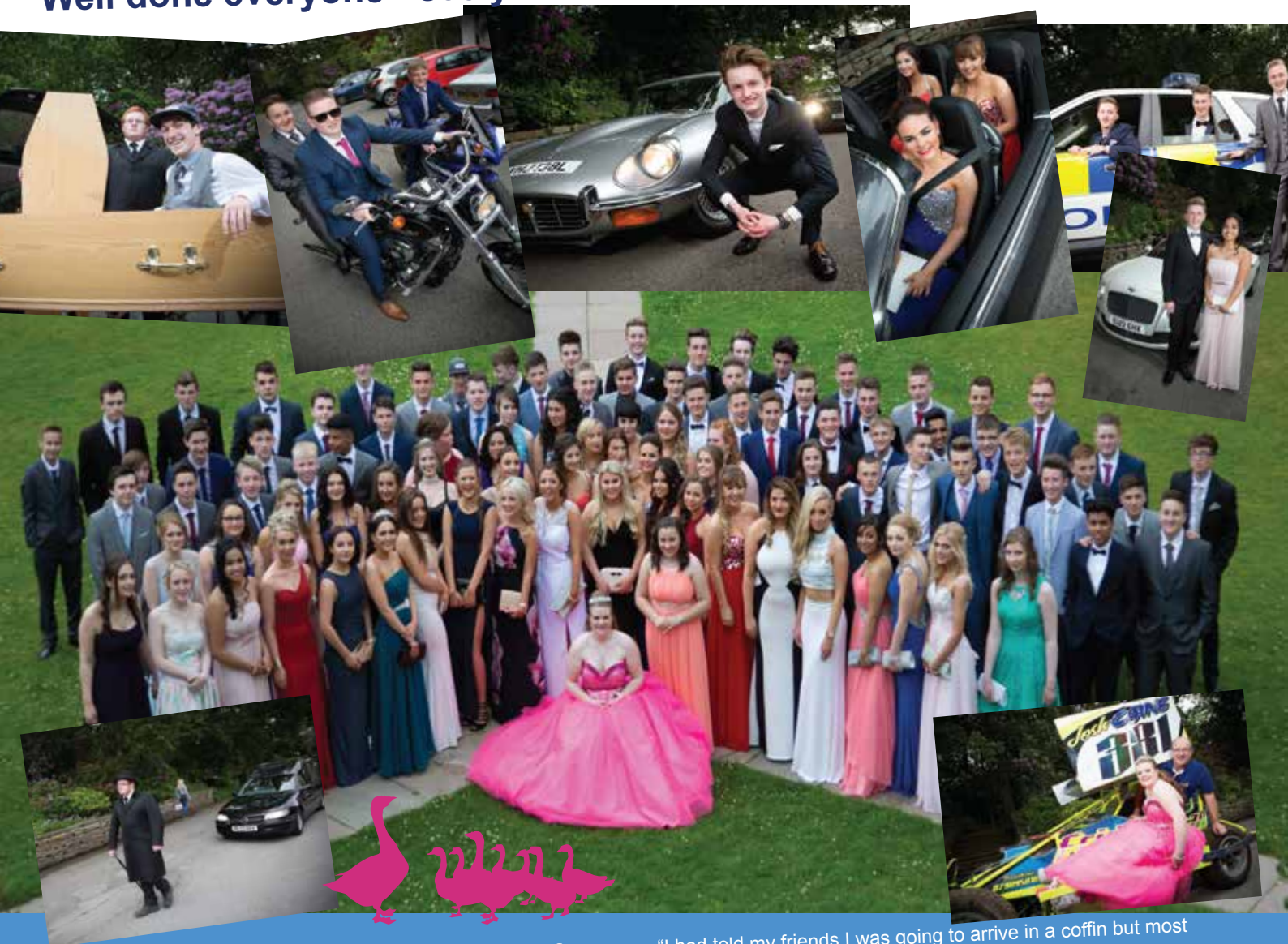
The Year 10 pupils were nominated by staff and students, and had to write a letter of application before going through a tough interview process.

Mrs Griffiths said they have all been given different responsibilities, from teaching and learning to student discipline, monitoring the school uniform and peer mediation.

"They have already started work by organising litter picking, helping at after school events and leading school council meetings, and they're doing a great job so far," Mrs Griffiths said.

Year 11 students celebrate with end of year Prom

Well done everyone - see you back at sixth form in September



Our Year 11 students marked the end of their exams by arriving in style at their end of year Prom.

Around 100 students, who have just finished their GCSE exams, chose to arrive in a range of different vehicles, with a police car, a stock car and even an undertaker's hearse rolling up at the front door of the Higher Trapp Country House Hotel in Simonstone.

Meghan Caine arrived wearing a pink dress in her brother Josh Caine's stock car, while Simon May chose to arrive inside a coffin.

His older brother Ethan, also a former Alder Grange student, is currently doing an apprenticeship at a Rossendale undertakers, and came up with the idea.

Simon, 16, of Hall Carr Road, Rawtenstall, said he was in the coffin for about an hour and it was "quite peaceful".

"I had told my friends I was going to arrive in a coffin but most of them didn't believe me. I think it was one of the more unusual ways to arrive."

Simon added that he was glad his exams were over and he really enjoyed the Prom.

Everyone enjoyed a dinner and disco and a fantastic evening was had by all.

Mrs Griffiths said they had all worked very hard throughout the year.

"They were a really lovely year group with a lot of character. I'm very proud of them and it's great to see that most of them will be returning in September to continue their studies at ag6."

We also held a prom evening for our Year 13 students at the Sixth Form.