



PRENTON THEATRE COMPANY'S SEASONAL CRACKER!



It is the time to have some seasonal fun and our hard-working and talented Prenton Theatre Company students had the perfect solution - oh, yes they did!

Their production of 'A Christmas Carol in Pantomime' was the ideal tonic, transporting us to a fantasy land of song, dance and comedy. More photographs from the show on page 26.



PRENTON'S PASSION IMPRESSES OUR GUESTS

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Open Evening and Open Day this term. We always enjoy having visitors to our school and our staff and students are very proud to show our guests some of the wonderful things accomplished in our school.

There was a buzz of activity throughout the building and the many Subject Workshops proved to be a big draw – including a café in MFL, an American West murder mystery in History, Mala bead bracelet making in RE, a coding challenge and robotic arms in IT, dancing on custard in Physics, and ice cream making and forensic investigations conducted in Chemistry. Our English department took on a Charles Dickens theme, and there was a chance to make acrylic glasses using our 3D printer in Product Design. There were ‘You’ve been Framed’ cakes in Food Nutrition for visitors to enjoy and an introduction to violin playing and drumming in Music. Guests to the Drama Studio were treated to scenes from Cinderella and High School Musical and for those looking to a physically active future, cheerleading and gym activities were on display in the PE department.

In her speech in the Main Hall, Head Girl Niah outlined the passion that staff and students have in the school, and with over 800 students in the building at one time, we get the impression that Prenton is likely to be a popular choice for many!



Here are just a few of the many positive comments made by our visitors:

“In particular, I enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere and was impressed with how approachable staff and students were.”

“There is so much to do for my daughter - I liked the fact that there are lots of extra-curricular activities to choose from.”

“The school was bright, clean, and not too big.”

“The children were very polite and we received warm welcomes in every room.”

“I would be happy for my daughter to come to Prenton because of its good reputation and outstanding results.”

“You develop young leaders – there is a nurturing atmosphere and I feel my daughter would fit in really well and be happy here.”

“Nice class sizes, the best all-female school in Wirral.”

“The school is positive, inclusive and progressive.”

“There are excellent opportunities for my daughter and an excellent curriculum.”

“We met happy, safe, aspirational children who clearly enjoyed learning.”

“We were shown around by lovely, helpful, Year 7 students – all the girls did you proud!”

“Seems like an awesome school - thank you to all the staff and pupils for the many activities; a lot of effort went into making it a fantastic experience.”

“A very impressive evening!”

Headlines



The autumn term is not only the longest in the academic year but also an important time for our students. All of the hard work and preparations for a smooth transition for our new intake of Year 7 students is put into place, along with supporting existing students in their progression through the school towards the final goals and challenges of Year 11.

This term certainly started on a high note and our overall August GCSE results were once again impressive – matched with some remarkable individual achievements. Our students clearly coped well with the tougher exams in maths and English as their results in these subjects were above the National average. The challenge has been set for our current Year 11 students to raise the bar even further; already we have seen their commitment to their studies in the recent trial GCSE exams.

We welcomed a full intake of Year 7 students in September and I am delighted to say that our school has never been as full as it is now. Prenton is clearly a popular school within our local community, and I am most proud of our reputation for high quality teaching and learning, as well as being a school community that has high aspirations and provides a wide range of additional opportunities for all of our students. Our students grow in confidence as they learn, leaving us in Year 11 as well rounded, articulate young women qualified to go and make their mark in the world.

This term we have seen new form representatives elected to leadership positions across the school, our student leaders, alongside our Student Senior Leadership Team, play an essential role in developing many aspects of the school, placing student voice at the heart of our community.

Over the summer, two of our students, Lily-May and Anna, had the wonderful experience of travelling to Japan to represent the UK in an international robotics competition. You will see a full report of their trip on pages 16 and 17, but this was a significant achievement for our students, and we are all very proud of them. I sincerely thank all those sponsors - individuals and corporate - who made it possible for them to travel to Japan to compete and put Prenton on the world stage in robotics.

In this edition of High Life you will read about our Celebration and Award Evenings, the fabulous first cohort to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, the many team and individual achievements and successes in sports and the arts as well as the many charities our students tirelessly support. Thank you to everyone for making this term so positive and for supporting our students on the way to so many wonderful achievements.

I wish staff, students and their families, and our neighbours,
a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Mrs Lisa Ayling

Headteacher



Congratulations to our GCSE students!

There were lots of happy faces around in August when our 'Year of 2017' received their GCSE results. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to gain so many wonderful grades and good luck for the future - well done, we are very proud of you!



Once again, our students celebrated another strong set of GCSE results with successes across the curriculum. Results in both English and maths were again above national averages when compared with all entries across the UK - with 66% of students achieving at least a grade 4 in English and maths.

Headteacher Mrs Lisa Ayling said on Results' Day: "We are delighted with the results as a school and for our individual students. The results are once again a testament to our hard working and committed staff and students. We wish our students well as they embark upon their post-16 studies".

We really encourage visits to our school and will be publishing our Spring Open Events in the New Year – keep an eye on our website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk or twitter: @prentonhigh. Otherwise, simply contact the school and appropriate arrangements will be made to welcome you and show you around on a normal working day.

GOOD NEWS!

At the end of November, we had a one-day short inspection from Ofsted. We are delighted to have received their report which confirms we continue to be a good school. Their report has been shared with parents and is published both on our website as well as Ofsted's.

OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME

When the new academic year started, our new intake of Year 7 students quickly settled in – thanks to their new form tutors and Peer Mentors. Student Senior Leadership team member Megan is pictured here introducing herself to Mrs Burns' form.

Their first day saw them meeting up with friends, making new friends, and getting to know their way around their new school.

Welcome everyone, we hope you enjoy your days at Prenton!



BECOMING NEW BUDDIES AT BUSHCRAFT

For the fourth consecutive summer our 2017 Year 7 students were invited to join us on the Bushcraft residential trip to Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire in July.

It was a wonderful opportunity for team-building and to make new friends, prior to starting in September. They enjoyed a number of outdoor adventures and activities – cooking on open fires, sleeping under canvas, building shelters, archery, orienteering and tree rope climbing. Cholmondeley offers a unique, safe, environment for the girls to learn new skills and to get to know each other whilst having lots of fun.



CELEBRATION EVENING BRINGS OUT THE PRIDE AT PRENTON

It was an evening of celebration and an opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on all the wonderful qualities that our students have demonstrated over the past academic year. Our 104 prize winners had already shown determination and resilience and, in her introduction, Headteacher Mrs Ayling spoke of the pride we all share in their achievements. “You should feel good about what you have accomplished and enjoy the positive feelings these bring about”, she told a hall of students and their families brimming with pride.

Head Girl Niah, pictured here, endorsed the Headteacher’s message highlighting pride, along with passion, as the theme for her welcome address. Niah recognised that the awards in themselves were not what drew us here, but the pride the awards create – not just in the students, but also for their parents and the staff. These awards were the result of much hard work and effort and she encouraged students to continue to strive hard so that they can achieve where they want to be in life. Before the awards were presented, we enjoyed listening to the Junior Choir, with lead singer Molly, singing their stirring version of the Fight Song.



Congratulations to Olivia and Lauren (pictured) and all our award winners for making it an evening of pride at Prenton!

An Awards' Evening to Remember

We welcomed last summer's leavers back into school, joined by our current Year 11 students for our Annual Awards Evening. It was with great delight that our invitation to be our guest speaker was accepted by former student Helen Taylor. After leaving us in 2011, Helen studied for her A levels at Birkenhead Sixth Form College, going on to achieve a First Class Honours Degree in Biochemistry at the University of Liverpool. She is currently studying for her PhD in Chemistry at the University of Manchester, working in antibiotic research and genetic engineering.

In Helen's inspirational address, she told of her positive experiences whilst at Prenton and the enthusiastic support she had received from the staff, giving her a love for her subject and helping to build up her confidence to progress.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity for our students past and present to reflect on their last five years at Prenton High School and to celebrate a wonderful spectrum of achievements and GCSE success.

Thanks to the School Choir and to our Year 11 GCSE Music students for entertaining us, too. The pictures show: guest speaker Helen Taylor, Mrs Ayling with Emily Owen, and Chelsea Atkins with Ruby Clark



WELL DONE FOR BEING 7R2

Students from 7R2 conducted a Year 7 assembly and their theme was everyone's Well-Being.

Their presentation was a hands-on affair, with participants holding up red or green cards to indicate whether a series of statements were true or false. There were some good tips too on keeping happy – meditate or read a book before going to bed, have a bath with some relaxing music, play with the family cats, meet up and have lots of laughs with friends, walk the dog, and “I feel happy when my phone doesn't take over my life!” And their final piece of advice? “Look after yourself as you would a best friend.” It was a great way to start the day 7R2 – well done and thank-you!

Gold ticket gives a great start to the day

Well done to all these Year 7 Bedford House students, enjoying a special breakfast.

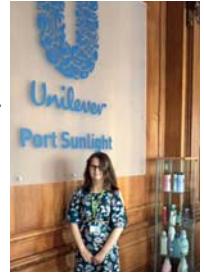


Their hard work and effort over the last half-term gained them a gold ticket to breakfast with their year's Progress Leader, Miss Roberts. A great way to start the last day before the half-term break!

'Thank You' to our Work Experience Hosts!

The opportunity to gain valuable work experience is a wonderful way to be introduced to the world of work. This summer, our Year 10 students spent just over a week with a wide range of businesses – from smaller successful local enterprises to multi-national companies such as Unilever.

Ms Kelly, Student Leadership, thanks all those companies and MPLOY who made this year's Work Experience possible and for their continued support – we received some wonderful feedback on our students. Newly appointed in July, Head Girl Niah is pictured here during her work experience at Unilever, Port Sunlight.



Amy's Dancing Recognition

Hot on the heels of winning the Jan Smith Award at the Louise Forster School of Dance earlier this year, Year 9 student Amy continues to impress.

Amy, whose dedication to dance means she trains for over nine hours each week, has just gained two new awards for her trophy cabinet. She represents her dance school in competitions held around the area and, in the latest one, she has gained a trophy recognising her individual dance skills and a medal for her team dance.

Congratulations, Amy!



For Cinema Club – it's-Elf!

Our Cinema Club and Duke of Edinburgh team of Kira, Lily, Georgia and Lucie have been busy bringing in some popular films for students to see. With all funds contributing to the Duke of Edinburgh fundraising pot, when the seasonally spooky film 'Coraline' was screened, there were some appropriately scary refreshments provided to get everyone through the film!

As can be seen here, the team helped students feel 'Christmassy' at the end of November when they showed the 2003 American Christmas fantasy comedy film 'Elf'.



OUR SCIENTISTS TEST THE 'TUBE'!

Well done to Mr Hignett, Subject Leader Science, and teacher of Science Mr McParlin, who each finished the 12th annual BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K race on the first weekend of October.

The race started in Liverpool with competitors running through the Kingsway Tunnel, ending at New Brighton. Although not raising money this time, both our runners were very happy to finish – next race possibly a marathon, gentlemen?!

Mr Robinson rises to the challenge

Many of us have one of those days with its up and downs – but in Mr Robinson's case, it was literally more than most.

Taking part in the National Three Peaks Challenge our teacher of History left the classroom behind him and climbed the three highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales. The total distance he covered was 26 miles, climbing a total of 9,843 feet vertical ascent – all within 24 hours.

Driving between each summit was equally as challenging as the climb up the summits of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon and, as leader of our Duke of Edinburgh scheme, the pressure was on Mr Robinson to successfully demonstrate all his map-reading and compass skills.

Well done, sir!

COURTNEY OVERCOMES HER FEAR

Learning to have confidence in and around areas of water is something worth mastering, and one bad experience can take a long time to overcome.

Some years ago, someone thought it amusing to throw current Year 10 student Courtney into the water at a water park giving her a fear of water that has taken some courage to beat. It was with some trepidation that she accepted an invitation to join others from the Shaftesbury Youth Club on a trip along the canals of Cheshire. However, Courtney had a strategy to help combat her fear – she took a camera. By keeping busy taking a portfolio of creative photographs during the trip, she not only kept a record of the day for her and the group, but she soon realised that her fear of water had fast disappeared.

Shortly afterwards, and safely back on dry land, Courtney was invited to deliver a talk about her day on the barge at the one hundred and thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Shaftesbury Youth Club in October. Courtney says that presenting to a full room of adults that included their President, Chairman, Treasurer and CEO plus the Mayor, Cllr Ann McLachlan, helped to overcome another fear as well!

Courtney has another trip on the water planned – don't forget to take your camera again, Courtney!



NAUGHTY ELVES INFILTRATE DINING HALL

The prospect of troublesome elves was the last thing Catering Manager Jane and her staff need – especially with all those Christmas dinners in prospect - so she asked students to point them out to her staff whenever they see them.

It looks like Year 7 student Phoebe, pictured here, has spotted a couple of our little troublemakers.



Rhiannon becoming a Major Force in Majorettes

Well done to Year 7 student Rhiannon, who in her spare time, represents the local Majorette troupe 'Royal Onyx'.

The skills of a Majorette are to perform a choreographed dance and movement, at the same time spinning and turning a baton – often seen with marching bands during parades. Rhiannon, who has been dancing for ten years practises hard during the week and, between April and September, enters competitions with Royal Onyx, against other troupes around the North West and North Wales. Competition is fierce, so it is a wonderful achievement for Rhiannon that she has recently been awarded the Premier Dance Association's Senior 2 Overall Mascot shield and received a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of her skills – to complement the medals she already holds. Congratulations, Rhiannon!



A TIMELY MESSAGE FROM MISS

Mrs McGarry, Head of Learning Support, recently spotted the school's library fiction book 'Skin' by Adrienne Vrettos on her bookshelf. Before returning it to the LRB, she read the blurb - which gave her an overwhelming desire to read the book.

Mrs McGarry usually favours non-fiction books, so she was pleasantly surprised to find that she had read 'Skin' within 24 hours and had thoroughly enjoyed it – so much so that she emailed the author to tell her about her amazing writing and how she was touched by the story.

Imagine Mrs McGarry's delight when author Adrienne responded with her 'joy to know that it is still being read' and that, until she had received the note, she had been suffering from 'writerly nerves', so it had arrived at the perfect moment!

Until Ms Vrettos' next book lands on the shelves, 'Skin' by Adrienne Vrettos is available in the LRB.

PLANNING FOR GCSE SUCCESS

Good preparation and organisation is vital to succeed in all that we do and, to help our Year 11 students and their parents, Year 11 Progress Leader Mr Tang and Mr Andrew Newton from Leading Matters held an evening giving useful strategies for this important year ahead.

This was the fourth year of our 'Welcome to Year 11' evening and Andrew's wide experience in education meant that students and parents could benefit from his advice and tips for success.

The evening was full of advice about effective preparation for the forthcoming GCSE examinations and included practical revision techniques, memory training, and how to avoid stress.

Thank you Mr Tang and Mr Newton! Congratulations to all who exercised their right to vote.



Treats – and a few tricks – in the Dining Hall

Halloween can be a scary time for our students, especially when entering the Dining Hall at lunchtime.

Thanks to our suitably costumed Chartwells Dining Hall staff, we were treated to a few 'tricks' - with witches, alien creatures and ghosts setting the scene. Fortunately, the treats on the menu outnumbered the tricks - with eyeball biscuits, Ghostbuster cakes, chocolate broomsticks, severed-finger hot dog rolls, and pumpkin burgers and cakes on offer. Thanks for getting us in the spirit of Halloween!



IS THEIR FUTURE HISTORY?

Thanks to organiser Ms Craven, twenty-five Year 8 students visited the History department at the University of Liverpool in November.

They received lectures on 'Slavery and Freedom', 'The Cold War', 'Imagining History: The Pentonville Five Strike Experience', and 'Making History'.

PRENTON ALUMNI

HANNAH'S KILIMANJARO CLIMB FOR CHARITY

Hannah Williams left Prenton two years ago and, having gained her A Levels at Birkenhead Sixth Form College, she has started at the University of Liverpool studying Tropical Disease Biology.



Not forgetting our school ethos, Hannah is determined to use any spare time at Liverpool 'to make a difference'.

She is already involved with a Liverpool charity, fundraising to tackle poverty and homelessness in the city. However, she is soon to take on a much 'higher' challenge by signing up to climb Mount Kilimanjaro next August. She will be raising funds for Childreach International and, specifically, generating money for a project in Tanzania that enables schools to grow grain and develop their own vegetable gardens. The project ensures that children can enjoy at least one hot meal a day at school throughout the whole year.

Well done and good luck, Hannah! If you would like to sponsor her, the link to her page is: www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/hannahwilliams3

PRENTON PEOPLE

GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU TO:

Miss J Robertson, Subject Leader - PE
Mr D Richardson, Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs A Shaw, Science Technician
Mr K Kaminski IT Technician
Governors Mr Chis Pierce and Mrs Paula Condliffe Hughes; and to Mr S Taylor (LRB) who has finished his term as Staff Governor

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mrs Sarah McCoy (nee Murphy) on her wedding
Miss G Churton who gave birth to a baby girl, Sapphire

WELCOME TO:

Miss N Gore, joining us in January as Subject Leader - PE
Miss E Jones joining us as Teacher of Mathematics
Mr C Hughes who has joined us as IT Technician

WELCOME BACK TO:

Mrs A Winter, Mrs K Kenyon, Mrs E Begum, Mrs S Close and Miss E Hockenhull, each back from their Maternity Leave



Emma's inspiring design

In its natural habitat, the kingfisher is usually captured as a flash of iridescent blue – however we hope this one will be around for a bit longer!



Thanks to last year's Year 11 student Emma, her GCSE final exam piece of a kingfisher was chosen for the front cover of this year's student planner. Emma is photographed here with her complimentary copy of the planner - thank you Emma for your inspired design.

FOCUSSING ON A LIVERPOOL VIEW

Liverpool was clearly in the sights of our ten GCSE Photography students this term when they snapped the city's many wonderful buildings and environment.

Their first visit took in the city centre and the waterfront that included the famous Three Graces. On their second trip they took shots around the two cathedrals and along Bold Street.

They looked at the different architectural styles, as well as what might be found on the surface of the buildings - like graffiti, textures, reliefs and old posters. They are putting together a range of images that show the architectural diversity in Liverpool but also the condition of the buildings and the city landscape. Back in school they will be working on their photographic collages using Photoshop software.

Charity & Fundraising and Community

Launching our new School Charity

Thanks to our Deputy House Champions Laura, Olivia, Alicia, Gina, Rhiannon and Hannah, this year's new charity has been launched – The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

We welcomed Elspeth Wilson, Fundraising Manager from the Clatterbridge charity, to our assemblies when she outlined talk the different types of work that they do and the important support they provide to more than 30,000 patients each year. She also suggested some successful fundraising ideas and gave everyone an insight into the exciting developments that are happening with the charity over the next few years – including the new Liverpool hospital currently under construction and which should be ready in 2019. Good luck with the fundraising!

We're Wearing Pink!

Our school's dress code was slightly relaxed for our 'Wear it Pink' day organised by Teaching Assistant, Mrs McCoy. Pink accessories could be seen all around school – as well as lots of cakes – raising over £400 for the charity Breast Cancer Now!



Together with the 'Wear it Pink' event, a Staff Bake-Off, organised by teacher of Maths Mrs Johns, and a Year 9 Cake Sale also took place on the day.

IT'S OUR RACE FOR LIFE

Before the half-term break, students and staff held a series of lunchtime running sessions. The aim was to complete as many laps as possible of the Sports Hall or, weather permitting, the netball courts. Each lap raised money for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life promotion.

Well done to our Year 7s who collectively ran the equivalent of 3.2 marathons – and to Headteacher Mrs Ayling who also joined in and completed 30 laps. Pictured here taking a quick break are Marita, Abbey, Leah, Tyler and Emillia.

Thanks to Miss Doyle and Miss Edwards from our PE Department for organising this event which raised £46 for Cancer Research UK, a charity that is close to many in our school.



Helping Lucy's Pineapple Fund

When Form 7R1 Charity representative Ella-Louise heard about the courageous battle that a local girl, Lucy, was fighting with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), she persuaded her form to help Lucy's Pineapple Fund as their chosen charity cause.

They organised a cake sale with a difference – baking a number of cakes for staff to taste and giving them the opportunity to vote for which one they preferred. The money raised will go to helping Lucy receive alternate treatment as currently, treatment is limited on the NHS. There has been very little research into DIPG and therefore, comparatively little is known about her type of cancer.

If you aren't able to taste these wonderful cakes, please help support Lucy by going onto her Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-pineapple>

The page tells us that the fund is almost half-way to reaching its target and Lucy is currently in Mexico and responding well to their treatment programme. Well done to Ella-Louise and 7R1. Our very best wishes go to Lucy.

TOILETRIES FOR TEENS AT CHRISTMAS

Students have been busy preparing Christmas boxes and hampers containing toiletries suitable for teenagers. The boxes containing such items as soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, wipes, body spray and skin cleanser will be given to teenagers in need in our local community through Response and Wirral Foodbank before Christmas.

Our students and Charity representatives thank everyone for their support and also send their appreciation to the Arriva Sports and Social Club who generously donated £100 to our project.

UNITED ON SUPPORT FOR UNICEF PROJECT

OutRight is a special campaign for schools across the UK, aimed at empowering and encouraging young people to speak out about children's rights on World Children's Day (20 November). It's a campaign for children and young people, by children and young people and together, we can help create a fairer and safer world for refugee children.



The campaign is led in school by Mrs Major, Assistant SENCo, helped by her Year 9 English students and all forms will be involved in activities that will be held over a number of weeks. The first activity was to raise money for UNICEF, so the group set up a 'pop-up' sweet sale at break-time – Amy is pictured here ready for the rush!

RHIANNON'S A SANTA-DASHER!

Congratulations to Year 8 student Rhiannon who entered Liverpool's 14th annual Santa Dash in early December.

It is the third year she has taken part and this year's run has raised nearly £60 so far for her chosen charity Phab, a charity that inspires and supports children, young people and adults with and without disabilities to make more of life together.



Rhiannon is pictured here with her latest medal, along with those she gained from previous years.

Well done, Rhiannon!

Looking to the Future

IT'S PATHWAYS' DAY FOR YEAR 11

We offer a huge 'thank you' to all the wonderful volunteers from local and national businesses, industry, charities, and educational and support establishments, who gave up their valuable time to help on our Year 11 Post 16 Pathways' day.

It is such an important time for our Year 11 students, and this red letter day in the calendar is designed to prepare them for the decisions they are about to make in the future. The day provided help and guidance on: College Applications - as well as a chance to meet representatives from Birkenhead 6th Form College - Mindfulness and Coping with Stress, Selling Yourself to Future Employers, Apprenticeships, Job Market Information and

a Mock Interview with one of our experienced volunteers.

Our students clearly impressed at least one of our interviewers, as he later



told us: "I have conducted interviews at Prenton for a number of years now, and this group of students have without doubt been the best prepared I've met - and with so many outstanding accomplishments on their CVs.

Congratulations to you all!"

OPENING THE DOOR TO APPRENTICESHIPS

The local Apprenticeship Hub aims to increase the awareness, the number, and the quality of apprenticeships available in the region. They support and co-ordinate apprenticeship activities to make apprenticeships work for businesses and young people.

Thanks to the Hub, who sponsored the event, we welcomed The Open Door Theatre in Education to present a twenty-minute performance entitled 'Apprentice?' highlighting the opportunities and benefits to those Year 10 students who may be considering taking up an apprenticeship. The performance was rounded off with a question and answer session.

HELPING TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE

'Shaping Futures' is an initiative from Merseyside Collaborative Partnership (MCOP) to encourage even higher numbers to university from around Merseyside.

We are delighted that we have been selected to be one of the schools identified by MCOP to support the aspirations of our students. Thanks to Ms Craven, Year 10 Progress Leader, a six-week programme of study skills and revision club has been launched for twenty-five of our Year 10 students. Each week will have a different focus, such as time management or revision techniques and the course commenced with some ice-breakers and a Home Learning session. The representative working with us is Kevin Hornblower, who is based at the University of Liverpool and Aimée Rigby.

A PERFECT CV IS THE AIM

A CV (curriculum vitae) is one of the most important documents we will ever compose – it provides colleges and prospective employers with an expected résumé of achievement. To help our Year 8 and Year 9 students plan and think about the time when they need to write their CVs, staff from Jobcentre Plus visited school. They provided valuable advice about CV writing, college applications, and the current local job market.

With providing content for student CVs in mind, taking up the challenges set by the Prenton Promise provide a great way to make college applications that much stronger.

Design Technology

Design Technology skills on Display

Our Design Technology department regularly produces work that demonstrates the skills and the creativity of students across the school.

Since joining us in September, our Year 7 students have shown how quickly they have adapted to the work of cutting and filing by producing a series of colourful giant tags. At the end of last term Year 8 students made some retro-style clocks, and also rose to the challenge of designing and creating products to make the most of recycled items, such as plant pots and milk containers for our Prenton Daisies to use in the garden – and can be seen on some teachers' desks!

As the photograph shows, they made a colourful collection.



TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN – AND ROBOTS, OF COURSE!



Following a number of weeks in a whirlwind of planning and fundraising, Year 10 students Anna and Lily-May headed to Japan for the World RoboCup Championships at the start of the summer break.

Once they – and their robot Alan – had qualified to compete on the world stage in Nagoya, the challenge to get them to Japan started in earnest and their requests for financial support gained momentum. Helped by publicity through interviews at Radio City and by the BBC North West Tonight team coming into school, they were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of the school and staff, family and friends, and their sponsors – Rentalcars.com, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Arriva Sports and Social, Prenton High School PTA and Urenco.

Certainly, in the time leading up to our champions Anna and Lily-May catching the first of three long-haul flights to Japan, they experienced a taste of life in the fast lane. By winning the 2017 UK RoboCup Championships, they were following in the illustrious steps of seven previous Prenton robotics teams.

At the end of their sixteen-hour journey they arrived at Nagoya airport in 45-degree heat with humidity to match, and greeted by signs welcoming them to the RoboCup World Championships. Although tired from their journey, they were re-energised by the prospect of taking part in a major global competition through their own skills in programming and robotics. An hour-long train journey followed, giving the girls a first look at this amazingly different country – with its quirky tin-roofed houses, ornate temples and flashy hotels that lined the track. A six-minute walk from the Sakae subway station to the hotel became a 50-minute navigational challenge for our intrepid team, but soon they were enjoying their first meal – in a friendly Australian restaurant!

After an early night, they acclimatised with a day of sightseeing before the competition started. Visits to Nagoya Castle, Ōsu Kannon Temple and the Port of Nagoya Aquarium (Japan's version of SeaWorld) provided a wonderful insight into Japan's culture. Even the rain did nothing to dampen an epic day, rounded off with a burger in TGI Fridays.

Thanks to our
Corporate Sponsors



Competition Setup day gave the girls a chance to familiarise themselves with the train journey to Portmesse which, for the next five days, would become their routine. On checking-in at the venue, it quickly became apparent to Anna and Lily-May that 'Team Prenton' was not just the only all-female team, but also the smallest team in the world to qualify for the Junior Rescue Line competition! Soon making friends with members of other international teams, the girls quickly found their robotics 'groove' and, together with Alan, settled in really well.

The venue, the size of two aircraft hangars and always abuzz with activity, was filled with competitors working on their robots - built to play football, perform medical procedures, undertake household tasks or merely to entertain. The Rescue Line on which Anna and Lily-May were working completely filled the Nagoya Futsal (mini-football) team stadium and once Alan's setup was complete, another early morning start beckoned and the competition was ready to begin in earnest.

The first day saw Alan and the girls competing well; finishing in the top 20 of the best teams. The second day saw Prenton's highest position - reaching 13th in the world. At every step of the way, Lily and Anna's sense of humour shone through but, by now, Alan was not able to keep up with the girls' enthusiasm and was feeling the pressure, the humidity playing havoc with his battery. That the courses were becoming more complicated than anything he had faced before added to the challenge! The individual competition was won at the end of day three by a well-practiced Iranian team whose members, at the age of 19, were the oldest and most experienced in their field.

A random draw meant that our girls teamed up with Egypt and Slovenia for the 'Superteam'

Competition. Egypt had the misfortune of their robot being seized and dismantled by officials at Cairo Airport due to security concerns, so a minor miracle was required for our Superstars to reach the placings. Nevertheless, they all handled the situation with a positive, co-operative, spirit, working their way through the rounds with good heart and, at the end, generously celebrating the success of the winning team.

Against a backdrop of high-speed bullet trains and steam engines from years gone by, joining the closing party shared with hundreds of teenagers from all over the world in the National Railway Museum of Japan was a memorable experience - in spite of the choice of cold burgers and pasta in a well-meant attempt at catering for the Western visitors. After a morning of good-byes, the girls relaxed with an afternoon browsing designer shops and shopping malls, taking in the fashions of this wonderful country.

Parent Governor and mother to Anna, Mrs Sass, who accompanied the girls, spoke of the deep impression that the Japanese had made upon them, a community who clearly took their health seriously and treat elders and children with love and respect. The team was met with kindness and hospitality throughout the trip; a smile overcoming any language barrier. She was proud to chaperone Anna and Lily-May, whom she praises as two wonderful, talented young women, on their incredible journey, one that will be remembered with fondness, friendship and adventure. They thank everyone who helped to make it happen.

Well done ladies, you were a credit to Prenton High School – and to the UK!

CHEFS PROVIDE A TASTE OF THE FUTURE

Year 10 culinary stars Olivia and Ciara were our two entrants in the 'Future Chef Competition', that took place in Liverpool in December.



Ciara is seen here with judge Gareth Billington - Head Chef at Everton Football Club – her winning menu means that she will go on to compete in the Regional finals in February. She cooked Chicken Milanese served with pasta, followed by pear poached in steeped apple juice and cinnamon, served with a home-made ginger biscuit and mascarpone topping. Olivia created a mouth-watering fish pie – with haddock, salmon and prawns in a roux sauce – with lemon tart for dessert.

We look forward to some more award winning recipes from you both!

SPICES ARE NICE AT COOKING CLUB

Autumn is a wonderful season, especially because of all the nicely ripened fruit and vegetables on offer!

For many, autumn means lots of apples – and that is where our creative cooks come in. With Cooking Club officially open for the new school year and our need for some seasonally comforting food, our Cooking Club members have teamed up a well-proven combination for their first dish – home grown apples and the exotic spice, cinnamon.



Year 8 student Grace is pictured here proudly displaying her evening's work!

THINGS ARE STIRRING IN COOKING CLUB!

The air was full of all those wonderful spicy aromas that say an extra special baking experience is taking place – preparing a Christmas cake!



As pictured here, our Cooking Club members have been busy stirring up a treat for their friends and families – it's such a pity we cannot bring you those wonderful accompanying aromas!

Duke of Edinburgh

FIRST STEPS TO GOLD!

At our first Duke of Edinburgh Award Graduation ceremony, over 50 Bronze Awards were presented in front of an admiring audience of parents, carers and their families.

Joining Jo Roberts from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme was James Sutton, Hollyoaks actor and supporter of outdoor pursuits, who presented the awards. He was impressed with the high ratio of students completing the course and with their positive attitudes. Their work in, and the giving they provided to, the community was both admirable and important.

Duke of Edinburgh organiser in school, Mr Robinson, says how proud he is of the students' commitment in this achievement and is looking forward to the next stage, for them to gain the Silver Award.

Well done everyone, there could be Gold in the hills for you in the future!



English and LRB



HAMPER GENERATES A BOOK BUYING BUZZ!

Year 8 students Ellie and Lauren really enjoyed last year's Wirral Paperback of the Year, organised by Prenton High School with other local secondary schools.

When they heard that we were going to participate in the 2018 event, they wondered what they could do to support our involvement. As there are twelve books shortlisted and a number of copies of each book needed for our readers to judge, Ellie and Lauren set about raising money to help fund their purchase. With parents' support, they arrived in school with a wonderful, sweet-packed, hamper that promptly started school buzzing as they went around selling raffle tickets at every free moment. Their efforts will contribute an extra £110 to our book-buying power!

The 2018 event has already received promises from authors Will Hill, Sarah Alexander, Virginia Bergin, Alice Broadway, Simon Green and Non Pratt, recognising the prestige and interest that our Paperback of the Year generates. Students across school will receive more details after half-term about reading groups and book availability. Congratulations to Year 8 student Demi-Lee who won the raffle, and to Ellie and Lauren for their superb fundraising. Thank you, you have definitely made a difference!



KATHRYN'S A KNOCKOUT!

School was abuzz with excitement when we welcomed top Young Adult author Kathryn Evans.

Do not be deceived by her appearance (she models her dress sense between book characters Mrs Pepperpot and Tess from Tess of the d'Urbervilles!) as Kathryn is a serious author and successful businesswoman. Her book 'More of Me' was shortlisted for Wirral secondary schools' 2017 Wirral Paperback of the Year.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students heard her personal and inspirational story, learning how she overcame many obstacles and setbacks in her early life, resiliently and tenaciously working to attain her goals. Her love of reading was an instrumental part in her success and students quickly learned that her enthusiasm for books was infectious.

Afterwards, four writing competition winners and six fund-raising bakers had lunch, provided by our Chartwells Dining Hall staff, with Kathryn before she was set to work signing fifty copies of her latest book!

Kathryn spent the afternoon session conducting a creative writing workshop with our Year 10 students.

Our thanks go to our ever-supportive PTA for being our main sponsors for the day helping to fund Katherine's visit, Chartwells, and to Kathryn and Authors Abroad for giving us such an inspiring time.

Here are just a few of the things our students said following her visit:

"I loved her confidence and thought she was an excellent role model." - Year 9 student
"I loved Kathryn's presentation and hearing

about her journey to becoming a successful author" – Year 8 student

"I loved the way Kathryn dressed and her love of reading!" - Year 9 student

"I currently write myself and it taught me to persevere!" - Year 8 student

"I persuaded my Mum to buy her book for me and Kathryn signed it for me too!" – Year 7 student

P.S. Following her visit, we received a note from Kathryn which we are keen to share:

Hello!

I wanted to write and thank you for an INCREDIBLE day. I felt utterly spoiled in every way. Your girls are a delight – engaged and enthusiastic and bursting with imagination, it honestly was a joy to spend the day with you all. I will be writing a blog post and I'll send you a link when it's done because it will feature evidence of how fabulous you all were.

With huge fondness which I hope you will pass on to your wonderful pupils,

Kathy X

Kathryn Evans

Nominated for the 2017 Carnegie Medal
Winner of the SCBWI Crystal Kite 2017 and
the EIBF First Book Award 2016



CAKE SALE HELPS AUTHOR VISIT

Thanks to the many wonderful bakers who supported our cake sale to raise money towards bringing top children's author Kathryn Evans to the school in October.

Year 8 students Grace, Jessica, Faith, Lauren and Ellie are pictured here before the sale began



CANDLELIT CLASSROOM HELPS US GO GOTHIC

With the nights drawing in towards the dark winter solstice, many creative minds turn to darker matters.

So when Mrs Major's Year 9 English students were asked to complete their own gothic short stories for their final assessments, they turned up for their lesson to find a darkened classroom with candles, a gothic visual on the wall and some gothic music playing in the background.

Hopefully the mood was set for some extra-spectre work!



Blood Brothers

The LRB copy of Blood Brothers is well-read and no wonder – as well as being a set English Literature text for our GCSE students, Willy Russell's popular tale contains a compelling cocktail of themes: class division, poverty, love, and tragedy.

Thanks to Year 8 Progress Leader and teacher of English, Mrs Robson, a group of Year 10 and 11 students headed to The Storyhouse Theatre in Chester to see their latest production of Blood Brothers.

GOVERNANCE

Earlier this year, we held a parent governor election and were delighted to attract three new Parent Governors – Dr Jeremy Coen, Mrs Alison Sass and Ms Kerry Weston. All three bring a different skill set to the governing body. We are privileged to have such a highly capable and committed governing body!

Each of our Governors is also a link governor where their skills are matched to a specific area within school. Link Governor roles are either curriculum based where a Governor works closely, for example, with the Subject Leaders for Maths, Science and English or student focused roles, where a Governor may work closely with staff responsible for providing pastoral support to students. These 'link' roles have enabled Governors to form close working relationships with school staff and gain an in depth understanding of the roles and responsibilities within school and the provision – both academic and pastoral - available to students.

The appointment of our three new Governors follows the departure of two former parent Governors, Chris Pierce and Paula Condliffe-Hughes together with staff Governor Steve Taylor. All three worked tirelessly as Governors and supported the school through periods of considerable change and challenge. We are grateful to them for their unwavering support and huge personal commitment.



GEOGRAPHERS STUDY LIVERPOOL

How much do we know about one of the world's great cities, situated right on our doorstep? As part of their GCSE Geography course, our Year 11 students headed for Liverpool with the aim of improving their understanding of this famous city.

Whilst there, they researched the historical and geographical significance of Liverpool and found out more about the main opportunities that the city offers and the challenges the area faces.

There was no time to stand still as they visited the Pier Head, Museum of Liverpool, the Albert and King's Docks, the city centre, Chinatown and St. George's Mount - all in one day.



BROOK WORKSHOP INFORMS YEAR 11

The main theme of the December Brook Bitesize PSHE sessions was Sex and Relationships.

Students joined one of seven workshops in rotation, taking a comprehensive look at different aspects of sexual health, gender issues, and mental well-being. There were opportunities to discuss how the law views sex and relationships, body image, and matters around pressure and consent.

GETTING TO KNOW THE YORK OF YORE

Founded by the ancient Romans, York is a fascinating city steeped in history and of great interest to students as a site of religious interest.

Our Humanities department ran a joint GCSE History and Religious Education trip to York for over thirty Year 10 students this term. They toured the Minster, a 13th Century Gothic cathedral, viewing its main features and learning about its' history and religious significance.

Taking the opportunity to dig deeper into York's darker past, our intrepid students entered the York Dungeons where they had a 'hands-on' and scary tour through the history of crime and punishment of days gone by.

Their day finished with a visit to the Jorvik Centre - named after the Norse name for York – going even further back in time to the Viking Age in Britain.



LUCIE'S CAKE OF COMPASSION

Thanks to a PSRE home learning project based on the theme "Where was God?", our Year 9 students demonstrated their compassion and creativity through their art and, in one case, by baking a cake.



Lucie's cake design was influenced by the Jewish religion during the Holocaust, baked using a Jewish recipe using matzo flour. Her yellow, red and pink icing represented symbols of Jews and other groups targeted by the Nazis. Lucie's supporting work reminded us that in April 1933 over 30,000 titles written by Jewish authors were burned and, in Latvia in 1941, Jews were forced into synagogues which were then set on fire.

On a lighter note, Lucie kindly donated her cake for our hard working staff to enjoy with their morning coffee. Thank you, Lucie.

ART WITH SPIRIT

The annual Spirited Arts competition is open to schools throughout the UK and it encourages students to incorporate art into their RE lessons.

We had some outstanding entries for the 2017 competition from eleven of our Year 10 students – pictured here is Matilda's artwork entitled 'Knowledge'.



BELLA, BELLA – WHAT GREAT HOME LEARNING!

It's a good time of year to be thinking of sunnier climes and, thanks to year 7H1 students Isobel and Mia, we have been transported to Italy.

As part of their Humanities home learning, in which students were tasked with constructing a collage reflecting the many aspects of Italy, we can reflect for a moment on Italian life, ancient and modern.

Thank you again Isobel and Mia for brightening up our day!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AMBASSADORS APPOINTED

Mrs Simpson, Teacher of PSRE and Humanities has appointed six RE ambassadors for this academic year.

Meeting every Wednesday, our new team of Year 10 students Megan, Beth, Jayne, Charlotte, Chloe and Elizabeth aim to raise awareness amongst their peers for their shared interest in, and enthusiasm for, Religious Education – at the same time gaining leadership experience.

A TIME TO REFLECT AND REMEMBER

Leading up to Remembrance Day Mr Major, Subject Leader - Humanities, delivered a series of morning assemblies to each year group.

Students were invited to reflect on the importance of why we remember those who died fighting for their country, and the particular significance of the poppy. Mr Major read out the moving poem written during World War I by Wilfred Owen (who was educated in Birkenhead): “Dulce et Decorum est” - “It is sweet and fitting to die for your country.” We learned about the industrial scale of the slaughter in the First World War, providing a background to the meaning of the poem’s title.



ICT & Computing



E-SAFETY MUST ALWAYS COME FIRST

Thanks to Mr Simon, Subject Leader - IT and Computing, thirty-seven Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students attended an E-Safety session in the Drama Studio at the end of November.

His lecture defined cyber-bullying, and at what point our input becomes a matter of law-breaking. Students also looked at the differences between what is personal data and how we should behave on social media. His presentation is part of the school’s continued commitment to safeguard all our students and to promote safe use of the internet and social media.

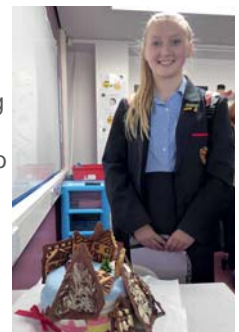
MFL

CAKE’S GREAT IN ANY LANGUAGE!

Cake, gâteau, torta, kuchen, gebak, pastel, kage or ciasto – whichever part of Europe we are from, everyone agrees it’s a popular treat! To celebrate European Day of Languages, Mme Rochet, Subject Leader MFL, directed our thoughts towards a European perspective. Students throughout the school had the opportunity to enter prize-winning quizzes and view French and Spanish language films, all designed to emphasise the importance of Europe to us and of being able to speak another language.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the Great European Bake-off - and in this our students’ creativity was exceptional.

Competition winner, Year 10 student Beth, provided a wonderful description of her cake, a two layered vanilla sponge with a top blue layer representing the Mediterranean, and a red and white second layer representing England ‘at the heart of Europe’. The fondant flags use Belgian chocolate, surrounding a chocolate Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Elizabeth Tower. At the centre of her cake is a Scandinavian village with a cascading fondant Baltic Sea – yummy! Well done also to Ayse, Year 7, who gained second place, Cleo, Year 8, in third place and Grace, Year 7, in fourth place.





SEPTEMBER START FOR G.I.R.L.S PROJECT

A ten-week Self Development Programme started in September for eight of our Year 10 students, culminating with three of our students, Molly, Jess and Lani performing their song at a red carpet event.

Youth workers and musicians from Wirral based company “MultiVox” (inspirational music coaching) and the Wirral Youth Department are going to work with our students each week until Christmas. The project aims to empower girls and raise confidence through singing and song-writing, whilst considering real life issues that affect young people today. Carmel Reynolds is photographed taking one of the sessions – she, along with her twin sister Katherine, are well-known local performers who run 13+ workshops at the Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.

Thanks to Mrs Jones, teacher of Music and Humanities, and Miss Dunbar, Student Services, for their support in this exciting project.



YOUTH VOICE CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Two Year 10 students Savanna and Neve, along with one Year 9 student Lucy, attended Wirral’s Mental Health Youth Voice Conference.

They took part in challenging workshops, discussions and debates with other young people from across Wirral. Senior Officers from Wirral Borough Council and other Senior Officers from organisations including health, police and Children’s Services attended also. They listened to young people’s concerns and ideas for improved services and understanding around mental health.



CHOIR’S CHRISTMAS NOTES

Once again the School Choir has been round and about in the run-up to Christmas, bringing their own brand of good cheer to the local community.

Shoppers in Liverpool One and the residents of the Park House Nursing Home and the Dundoran Care Home have been among those to enjoy our seasonal entertainment.



THANKS, PTA!

The PTA supports the school in many ways, and their members are enthusiastically 'ever-present' at our social events and functions. The substantial amount of money raised makes an important contribution in supporting and enhancing our students' experiences whilst at Prenton. For example, this term they have been instrumental in helping to fund the visit of top author Katherine Evans – and funded these colourful aprons for our DT students.

The PTA meets each term in the school's Learning Resource Base at 6.00pm and new members and new ideas are always welcome. The meeting dates for the remainder of this academic year are:

Wednesday 17 January 2018

Wednesday 7 March 2018

Wednesday 25 April 2018

Wednesday 13 June 2018

Please come along and see how you can help us - we hope to see you at our next meeting!



Pictures from 'A Christmas Carol'

Thanks everyone for a wonderful show!



PRENTON PARLIAMENT GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

Our Prenton Parliament representatives worked their way through a packed agenda in their November lunchtime meeting, the second of the term. The sitting was again chaired by Grace and supported by her deputy, Imogen.

The meeting prioritised the agenda items handed to Grace in previous weeks, including suggestions regarding school uniform and agreeing, after consultation with local homeless charities, that our seasonal fundraising this year will be to provide Christmas 'toiletries for teens' boxes.

Students also had an opportunity to discuss various aspects of the Dining Hall provision with Mr Robbie Patton from Chartwell's. Thanks go to Mr Patton for attending the meeting, and well done to all the form representatives who completed business in the allotted time!

Thanks to 7B1 student Ellie for taking the photograph during one of the debates.



SEASON OF MISTS - AND GARDEN SURPRISES

Our Gardening club members were delighted to be back in the school garden on their return from the summer break.

With great anticipation they headed for the vegetable area where there were a few surprises as much had grown over the holidays! Year 9 student Mab is pictured here with the bed of carrots and courgettes that she planted with fellow gardener Emily, also in Year 9. They produced a wonderful crop of vegetables between them.

Welcome back to all our gardeners!





A BRIGHT FUTURE AT UNILEVER

'All About STEM' works on many exciting STEM projects and, thanks to them and teacher of Science Mr Morrish and Ms Kelly, Student Leadership, five of our year 9 students have been attending a 'Bright Futures' course at Unilever.

Kira, Eleanor, Natalia, Lucie and Abbie have joined up with teams from other schools on the project taking place over a number of months. Initially attending workshops and taking part in various activities that introduce them to the range of Unilever departments, they have been gaining an understanding of the variety of processes involved in the making of Unilever products.

Following on, students have been set a project brief to create ideas that encourage young people to clean their teeth. Our team will present their work to Unilever staff at a judging and celebration event on site next year. They then have the option of entering their project work into the National Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers competition heats at the Big Bang North West in 2018. Their projects would also be eligible for CREST Award accreditation, British Science Association's flagship programme for young people, should they wish to submit them for assessment.



HEALTH SKILLS SHOW

Our students have attended the Liverpool City Region Health Skills Show at The Titanic Hotel, sponsored by The Apprenticeship Hub & Shaping Futures in partnership with Merseyside Health Sector Career and Engagement Hub.

UNDERSTANDING THE QUALITIES OF CUSTARD

October's STEM club might also have been of interest to members of our Cooking club – as lots of custard was involved.

The club's focus was to investigate 'Non-Newtonian Fluids', those that turn solid if they are 'shocked' in any way. To test this theory out, students were challenged to run on custard, and not to sink.

Mr Morrish, teacher of Science and STEM club organiser, reports a successful conclusion to proving Newton's theory – but as soon as the students stopped running, the custard quickly gained its revenge!

OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AMBASSADORS IN SCIENCE

Following their training from the Institute of Physics at University of Liverpool in July, our Year 10 Science Ambassadors of Chantelle, Libby, Laura, Georgia (pictured), Katie, Abbey, Lacey, Chantise, Jayne and Jady, and have received their IOP Science Ambassador badges.

Their training meant that they qualified to present outreach sessions to younger pupils and they quickly jumped into action by conducting one of our Primary Liaison sessions at the end of the summer term. Their

lesson was space based, with an element of fun – talking about how astronauts' nappies work, what would happen without a helmet in space, and demonstrating film-tub rockets and water rockets. Mr Morrish, Teacher of Science who led the project, was delighted with their presentation and the confident way they answered the pupils' questions.

Well done to everyone, we look forward to your next presentation!



Student Services

TEAM LAUNCH ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Did you know that bullying is still a concern in UK schools and that many days are missed nationally by students each year for fear of being bullied?

Helping to highlight the unacceptability of bullying, our own Student Anti-Bullying team launched Anti-Bullying Week here in school. In a series of assemblies with a powerful message, the team asked students to celebrate our many differences and to reflect on how we treat others. They encouraged us to be mindful how we speak to each other and treat others - not just as individuals, but also between friendship groups. Students pledged to treat each other with acceptance and kindness.

Supporting the work of the student Anti-Bullying team, our Student Services teams put together a programme of help and advice sessions each lunchtime with Resilience,

Headspace and Self-Esteem workshops.

Also included were an All Different, All Equal

mementos sale, a cake sale, a poetry competition, and a friendship wall. Here they posted notes on what they like about their friends and what makes them different. A friendship workshop in which students created their own cube, each side posed a question that was intended to be a conversation starter.



Sophie from the online anti-bullying site Kooth also joined us, along with Katrina from Brook who conducted an LGBT drop-in and Kayte Walsh for a friendship workshop.

A busy week indeed – but remember anti-bullying never stops! Thank you everyone for producing such a comprehensive and important programme – together we aim to beat the bullies. See #standuptobullying and #standupspkout on twitter.

PUTTING ANTI-BULLYING INTO VERSE

Congratulations to the twenty-five finalists in our Anti-Bullying themed poetry competition organised by Mrs Larsen, Rewards & Behaviour Manager.

Students and staff were invited to the LRB one lunchtime to vote on their favourite piece and the winner is soon to be announced on our website.

PROMOTING ANTI-BULLYING WITH POSTERS

Thanks to Mr Simon, Subject Leader - IT & Computing, our IT students used their software skills to create posters supporting the anti-bullying message. Well done to the ten finalists who had their posters displayed in the LRB. Following a ballot to decide everyone's favourite, congratulations to winner Chloe, pictured with second and third prize-winners Charlotte and Grace.



REVISION MASTERCLASS FOR YEAR 11

What is the best way to remember that vital quotation in support of a GCSE English Literature question?

The answer to this and many other questions was given at a revision strategy session especially tailored for our Year 11 students. Thanks to Deputy Headteacher Mrs Fraser, the double lesson was packed with tried and trusted ways to help students prepare for their imminent trial exams and GCSEs next year. With so many revision techniques on offer, there was bound to be one that works for you!

As one student said afterwards: "The session was really interesting and gave me lots of great revision ideas. I know they will be very useful to me, thanks!"



OPEN FOR HEADSPACE

HeadSpace is a weekly lunchtime group where students can talk about anything that is on their mind. The group is facilitated by School Counsellor Michelle Higgins and Mrs McCoy our Learning Support Assistant, but the emphasis is on peer to peer support. Students listen to each other and offer support and advice on different issues. Michelle says: "It is lovely to see young people supporting other young people. Students who come along to this group show such maturity".

The group is open to anyone in Years 8,9,10 and 11.

PROVIDING POWER TO OUR PARENTS

Being a parent will often throw up an unexpected challenge, raising issues that not always have right and wrong answers, especially once children become teenagers!

This is where our Student Services team felt they could help, so they developed a short, informative, programme designed to guide parents through the teenage 'minefield'. Parents were invited to join our team for an evening in which they looked at different aspects of teenage life today, providing them with a safe forum in which to discuss any concerns or worries.

The session took a close look at adolescence and the struggle our children face growing up. They also discussed the trauma of parenting a teen, the art of listening, and encouraged to be kind to themselves as parents.

It was a really positive night, and the feedback was that parents really benefitted from getting to know one another and sharing experiences. We hope to be able to hold more of these workshops next year so please keep an eye on ParentMail and the website.

BROOK HELP BRIDGE THE GAP

Our thanks go to the team from Mersey Brook who came into school as part of Sexual Health Awareness Week 2017.

They presented to a Year 11 assembly promoting healthy relationships and ran a session on resilience and life skills with a group of Year 9 students.

Their enthusiastic and topical approach provided much useful information and helped to bridge any gaps in knowledge and advice that students may have needed.



FREE TO MAKE A FUSS

FUSS (Free Uniform for Secondary Schools) outlets supply FREE school uniform and PE kit without judgement of family circumstances – as well as reducing the textile landfill.

There are a number of FUSS hubs around Wirral but they have announced that their permanent Shop-Hub is now open at 3-5 Borough Pavement, The Pyramids, Birkenhead (opposite Lloyds Bank and Home Bargains) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10.30am to 1.00pm. The shop holds stocks for Primary and Secondary Schools in the Birkenhead area, for more details see their website: www.wirralfuss.co.uk

Introducing our Student Senior Leadership Team

Led by Head Girl Niah, our new Student Senior Leadership Team introduced themselves to students across the school in a series of year assemblies at the beginning of term. Each member of the team also outlined their individual roles and responsibilities, along with their hopes and ambitions for the coming year.

Easily recognised around school by their white shirts (SSL team member Vicky is pictured here with some Year 7 students), the team are keen to be available should anyone need their help, stressing that all Prenton students should feel both safe and happy in school.



PETIT DEJEUNER RAISES PROM MONEY

Year 11 students are saying 'Merci beaucoup' to Mme Rochet, Subject Leader - MFL, as her French breakfast for staff raised £30 towards their Prom.

Her breakfast included croissants, Viennoiseries and lots of chocolate, making this breakfast treat in school a very popular event!



LEAH'S GREAT KICK-START!

After just six weeks of attending Kickboxing sessions at the Welcome Centre in Birkenhead, Leah has landed herself a red belt.



Our Year 8 student is now looking forward to the next stage in her chosen sport – going for yellow. Well fought Leah!

LADIES NETBALL LEAGUE SUCCESS

It's been a very encouraging - and active - start to the year for our netball team.

In addition to playing fixtures against other secondary schools, they play as Prenton Girls in the Birkenhead Ladies League. Their winter season opened with two emphatic wins - 29-4 against Zodiac and 19-7 against Dolly Gold. They are currently in fourth position, having played 8 and winning 6.

You can follow our success on the leagues website www.clubleague.co.uk

WE'RE RESTARTING HEARTS!

'Restart a Heart Day' is an annual initiative aimed at training as many people as possible in CPR.

The Resuscitation Council (UK), British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and the North West Ambulance Service are working together to help train as many school children in the UK to know how to save a life – and that is where our PE department comes in.

We are one of only eleven schools across Merseyside taking part in this national campaign, aimed at increasing the chance of survival following an out of hospital cardiac arrest. Students have joined sessions in the Gym, with CPR training incorporated into timetabled PE lessons over the day.

Run by teacher of PE Miss Doyle, Mrs Sanderson our Health and Safety Officer, and

volunteers from the North West Ambulance Service and Merseyside Fire Service, students practised CPR training on our own mannequins and all attending the day received certificates from the British Heart Foundation. Our heart 'restarters' Emily and Aimee are photographed here practising their newly learned techniques.

Well done everyone – your new skills could save a life!



Cerys is in Safe Hands

Don't be fooled by the photograph – Amber really does have everything under control!

Thanks to Teacher of PE, Miss Doyle, our Year 8 students Amber and Cerys are each acting the parts of needing and providing life-saving help. Their training is part of a whole-school programme in which each Sports Council representative receives different life-saving skills each week. In turn, they then led a form-time session teaching their peers emergency first aid skills - such as how to put someone in the recovery position and how to deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). All in all, it looks like we're in safe hands.



NEW GYMNASTICS COMPETITION REALLY TAKES OFF!

For energetic students who are familiar with a straddle jump, a full turn and a round off tuck back somersault, our first gymnastics competition has been for you!

Thanks to Miss Edwards, Teacher of PE, lunchtime routines have changed from rolls in the Dining Hall to forward rolls in the Gymnasium – and she has been impressed with the number of keen gymnasts who have entered the PE department's competition to see who is our school's top performer.

As we can see here, Year 7 student Georgia's routine is so fast, the camera could not cope! Good luck, everyone.



TASMIN AND ANNIE ARE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Year 8 student Tasmin whose equestrian skills have been recognised by her riding school recently.

Tasmin is a member of Foxes Horse Riding School in Ledsham where she teams up with a horse called Annie. Together they competed in the Foxes Client Dressage league as part of the school's Winter Championships, winning Tasmin the title of Junior Champion and a splendid trophy. Tasmin, who has been riding for three years, also received a rosette as the school's Reserve Champion – well done, Tasmin and Annie!



NETBALL MATCH IS A PROM FUNDRAISER

Raising money does not get much tougher than this! In a highly competitive netball match, a lunchtime game of staff versus staff was a fiercely-fought affair.

Although spectators could see that not all rules of the game were being strictly adhered to in this match, it was certainly well supported vocally by students and our own cheerleaders, with lots of encouragement given to both sides. The game ended, diplomatically, in a draw with the eventual winners decided by a penalty shoot-out.

The aching muscles the following day were very much appreciated by our Year 11 students as the game, organised by Miss Doyle, Teacher of PE, raised £45 towards their Prom, to be held in the summer.



PRENTON CRICKETERS ARE AMONG THE NATION'S ELITE!

It has been a wonderful year for Prenton High School for Girls Under 13 cricket team.

Their first achievement was to become Wirral Under 13 champions, followed up by gaining the Cheshire Under 13 champions title. This qualified them to compete in the Northern Finals in July, unfortunately called off due to rain.

However, luck was on their side as they were awarded qualification to compete in the National Finals. Representing the North of England, they arrived at the England National Cricket Performance Centre at Loughborough along with teams from the Midlands, the South East of England and South West England.

WE'VE HIT THEM FOR SEVEN!

Many congratulations to our Under 13 Cricket team of Eloise, Amy, Keira, Lillie, Caitlin, Gracie-Mae, Jess, Olivia, Jess and Hollie.

Our side now joins an elite of Prenton teams as we have now been U13 Indoor Wirral champions for seven consecutive years – you're a knock-out!

In the exciting atmosphere at the centre – personalised shirts for each participant, a running commentary, stumps that lit up, and music after each over - they reached the semi-finals, losing a hard fought game to Tunbridge Wells Grammar School who achieved 82 for 3 wickets in their seven overs. Prenton's reply was 54 for 2 in their innings.

Their achievement makes the Prenton team fourth-best Under 13 team in the country and the best comprehensive team in the whole of England!

Congratulations to the team of: Freya (Captain), Jessica, Keira, Lillie, Grace, Cora, Mollie May, Amy and Eloise - an amazing achievement!



UNDER 15S JUST TWO RUNS SHORT

We hosted the U15 Wirral Indoor Cricket Finals in November, losing out to Upton Hall by just two runs.

Upton batted first and made 91 for 6 from their 10 overs, after some excellent bowling and fielding by our side. We then made 89 for six wickets in our 10 overs, just two runs short. In the exciting finale, we needed 6 from the last ball to win – but we could only manage 3. Well done to Jessica and Jess who both retired on 20 not out.

Well played Freya, Cora, Jessica, Grace, Holly, Jess, Madaleine and Jess.

2018 DIARY

Spring term 2018

Open
Close (to students)

Half term holiday

INSET (Staff only)
School closes

Good Friday
Spring holiday

Monday 8 January
Friday 16 February

Monday 19 – Friday 23 February

Monday 26 February
Thursday 29 March

Friday 30 March
Monday 2 April – Friday 13 April

Summer term 2018

Open

Bank holiday

School closes

Half term holiday

Open

School closes

INSET (Staff only)
INSET (Staff only)

Monday 16 April

Monday 7 May

Friday 25 May

Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June

Monday 4 June

Friday 20 July

Monday 23 July
Tuesday 24 July

Parents - please keep in touch via ParentMail,
our website and twitter as some dates may change.

www.prentonhighschool.co.uk | Twitter @prentonhigh



We wish all staff and students at
Prenton High School for Girls
a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year

We look forward to our continuing partnership in 2018