

Prenton

# Highlife

Spring Edition 2016



## Enjoying the spring sunshine in our garden

Our Prenton Daisies gardening club meets every Tuesday and Thursday - and whenever the sun comes out, as it did one Friday in early March. Year 7 student Jessica is pictured here enjoying some spring sunshine and our first display of daffodils.



*Making a Difference*

# We are a Top 100 school nationally

**W**e have just received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating us on being in the top 100 non-selective state funded schools nationally showing sustained improvement in GCSE results between 2013-15 (based upon the percentage of students achieving five or more A\*-C grades, including English and maths). Thanking staff **for their work in this important area of young persons' education, the Minister also congratulated them for their hard work and professionalism.**

Endorsing his comments, Headteacher Mrs Ayling says: "This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the tremendous efforts that all the staff put into supporting our students every single day. We all have so much to be proud of."

**The Secretary of State's letter can be seen on our website.**

## And congratulations to our September 2016 students!

**F**ollowing on from hearing that we are one of the top 100 non-selective state funded schools nationally, we have now received our allocation list for our new intake in September.

Once again we have been allocated a full cohort, the third consecutive year that we have been in this position. This is a positive reflection of the commitment of our staff, Governors, students and parents to making Prenton a school of choice for our local community.

Congratulations to all those students who will be joining us in September 2016. We look forward to welcoming you to our Induction Evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 6pm – **8pm (Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm) and to Induction Day on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am to 11.30am and 2pm to 4pm (parents and carers only).**

In the welcome pack to our new students was an invitation to a three day residential trip with the Bushcraft Company at Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire, in July. We are delighted that so many of you have responded **to say that you will be attending. It's a great way to get to know each other whilst having fun and making new friends before the term starts in September.**

# A warm welcome assured to our Spring Open Events

We are delighted to invite you to our Spring Open Events:

## Open Evening

**Thursday 28 April**

6pm – 8pm

(Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm)

## Open Day

**Wednesday 4 May**

9.30am to 11.30am and 2pm to 4pm

(Parents and carers only)

We very much look forward to welcoming you!

## A clean bill of health

Following an Environmental Health inspection this term, we are delighted to have received the highest food hygiene rating for our catering facilities.

## BTEC report

Congratulations to Exams Officer Miss McSorley, Teacher of Child Development and Health & Social Care Mrs Wright, and Second in Science Mr O'Neil for the very successful report following a BTEC visit this term.

## Kira's cut for Trust

**O**ver the Christmas holiday Year 7 student Kira was certainly one person whose thoughts turned to helping others.



Before returning to school, she decided to help the Little Princess Trust by having her hair cut – the Trust then use it to make wigs for cancer patients. Well done, Kira, what a nice seasonal gesture.



# Making 2016 extremely ECO friendly



**The team that is helping us to make 2016 a really eco-friendly year has already made a great start.**

Members of the ECO council have been providing advice and encouragement on recycling at lunchtimes and there are now even more grey bins around school for our recyclable items.

ECO Council chair Mia is pictured here planning the year ahead with some of the ECO team at their first meeting of the year.

They have the Green Flag award for the school in their sights – as well as reducing the amount of rubbish we send to landfill by recycling as much as possible. We hope all in school can help!

## No more lost letters with Parentmail!

**This newsletter is the first to be sent out to parents using Parentmail.**

It's a great way to ensure you receive all communications sent out by the school, as well as allowing parents to pay for trips and lunches online. If you have yet to sign up to Parentmail, please contact the School Office now. Staff will be delighted to help you to join our growing numbers.

# Saying 'Yes' with NCS

**W**e welcomed Tom, Lewis and Chris from the National Citizen Service (NCS) into school this term. The NCS-YES network offers a marvellous opportunity for our Year 11 students to make the most of the long summer break, following their GCSE exams.



Their programme starts with a week away from home, staying with team-mates at an outdoor activity centre where they take part in activities that are designed to push themselves, building confidence, developing teamwork, and decision-making and leadership skills.

They then put their new-found skills into practice as part of a team, by completing a social action project that will make a difference in the local community. It is hoped that by completing the project, future CVs, UCAS or college applications will really stand out.

## Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016

**If you are shopping at Sainsbury's between now and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, please don't forget to ask for your Active Kids vouchers!**

The more vouchers collected means the more new equipment we can order. Please encourage friends, family and neighbours to send them in to us as well, we would really appreciate it!

### Bake Off raises money for Prom

The Bake-Off before half-term organised by Mrs Winter raised **money for this summer's Prom**. The treats on offer included an especially fat-free trifle made by **Miss O'Neill**. Thanks to all our contributors for your support!

In previous years, the Active Kids promotion has provided us with new sports equipment and utensils for our D&T Food students to use.

Year 7 student Amy is pictured here placing her voucher in the LRB collection point – the first of many we hope.



## Holly jumps clear as a top British show jumper

**W**e are very proud of Deputy Head Girl and Student Senior Leadership Team member Holly, who, with her horse Gita V-D Neyn, has progressed to being in the top 25 British show jumpers in the Bronze League category.

In this highly competitive category, jumps can be up to 1.3 metres in height and league points are awarded for every placing, with extra points given for every clear round. Competitions are held all year round – indoors in winter and outdoors at other times.

Gita was bred in Belgium and although they have only been together for one year, she and Holly are now amongst the country's top 25 in the Bronze League Championship class. Holly and Gita have competed all around the country, quite often against as many as 190 other riders and horses.

Holly has been horse-riding for most of her life and her current ambition is to compete in the next European Show Jumping Championships. Good luck to you both – you are proving to be a formidable team!



## A lesson in Road Safety

**D**id you know that the group most likely to be involved in road incidents are those between 12 and 19 years old – and the most dangerous time for 12 to 16 year olds is between 3pm and 5pm, with a Friday being the worst day?



The good news for our Year 10 students is that the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has been into school, making us aware of the everyday dangers we all face, both on and near the roads, and giving us tips on how to stay safe – they should know as it is the Service that is called upon to help whenever there are serious road accidents.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service representative Vincent Taylor is pictured here with Emma and Sumayyah.



# Taking a multicultural look at our world



**T**o help our Year 7 students gain a better knowledge and understanding of just some of many diverse and rich cultures that surround us, the Multicultural Craft Fair held in the Main Hall was a wonderful way for them to further their knowledge.

Organised by Studio Teacher Mrs Major, students were able to join representatives from local Bangladeshi, Chinese, Polish and Spanish communities. They were given interesting and unusual facts and some folklore stories about each country, learning about national symbols, costumes and dress, and with our Bangladeshi friends, the easy way to put on a sari.

They then had the chance to work on some typical craft items from each country – trying on a Chinese dragon costume and learning how to write their names and some numbers in Mandarin Chinese, making Wycinanki – Polish paper cut designs, designing their own greetings cards reflecting a distinct Spanish flavour and creating pictures using the national flower of Bangladesh, the water lily.

**A world-winning day!**

# Year 7s challenge racism

**W**irral's Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) representatives work

in primary and secondary schools to help raise achievement, remove language barriers and encourage social integration.

Organised by Year 7 Progress Leader Miss Hockenhill, Anna Turnbull and Sheema Kalam from MEAS came in to run a workshop with our students about challenging racism, stereotyping and prejudice.

Students investigated the causes of racism and what behaviour and language is **and is not acceptable in today's multi-cultural** society.



## Libby's dancing USA

**Over the spring half term, Year 9 student Libby headed to New York with her dance troupe, the Jennifer Ellison Dance Academy.**

Along with 14 others, Libby had trained hard in preparation for their **shows, performed at New York's Hard Rock Café.** Their revue included both commercial and contemporary dance – well danced, Libby!

*Libby is pictured in New York in front of the iconic Statue of Liberty*





## — Prenton People

### **Congratulations to:**

**Mrs Louise Moore**, appointed Subject Leader – Art & Design Technology with effect from 1st September 2016

**Mrs Jo Smith** appointed Midday Supervisor with effect March.

**Ms Elizabeth Grattan** appointed Design & Technology Technician with effect January.

**Mrs R Fraser** on her wedding

**Miss Georgina O'Connor** who has joined us as Temporary Admin Assistant

We also wish a warm welcome to our new ITT trainees – **Stephanie Caldwell** (Maths), **Christopher Alker** (Humanities), **Gillian Davies** (English) and **Jennifer McMahon** (Music) who will be with us until June

### **Au Revoir and good luck to:**

**Mrs Lisa Jones** Receptionist

**Miss Jay Whitby** Supply Teacher

## — Alumni

### **Former Head Girl Gillian returns to Prenton**

**W**e wish Gillian Davies a warm welcome. Gillian was our Head Girl in 2008/2009 and has joined us on a schools direct placement for six weeks.

After leaving Prenton High School, Gillian went on to Birkenhead Sixth Form College where she studied 'A' level English Language, English Literature and Geography. Gillian then studied for her degree in English at the University of Manchester. The Schools' Direct placement is helping her to qualify as a Secondary school teacher – good luck, Gillian!

## **PTA**

Thanks to the wonderful money-raising power of our team from the PTA, and the support they receive at school events throughout the year, they have agreed to fund maths prizes for numeracy, a Year 8 enterprise day, in which they will be designing an App, and providing some science equipment.

Congratulations also to the thirteen winners of the PTA's Easter raffle!

### Art students' Anglesey weekend workshop

**Thanks to organiser Miss Churton, acting Subject Leader of Art, three Year 10 students travelled to the Conway Centre, Anglesey, for an art workshop.**

They joined one hundred and twenty students from other schools in our area to study influential artists and their work. In teams, students then worked together on their projects, inspiring each other and using their own skills and ideas to create their personal interpretations of the works they had studied.

Year 10 student Lucy is pictured here with some of her work from the weekend. Lucy studied the work of artist Val Britton and the theme she was working to was "The Consequences of Good and Bad Government".



## — Gardening Club

### Daisies help RSPB Birdwatch

**For the second successive year, Prenton Daisies Gardening Club is swapping 'barrows for binoculars!**



Taking advantage of the quieter time of year for gardening activities earlier in the term, the Daisies quietly observed and logged the different feathered visitors to the school garden as part of the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch. The RSPB provided a bird ID poster and a survey sheet for students to use.

The collated data has been sent to the RSPB, who will use the information to monitor declines and increases in bird population across the country.

### Dragons look in on in Valentine theme day

**If you were not sure what to buy a loved one for St Valentine's Day, help was at hand, thanks to our Year 8s.**

Their valentine enterprise theme day was a collaborative venture between the Maths and Design and Technology departments. Products were designed, materials costed, produced, priced and marketed all in one morning; the timing was perfect for a special St Valentine's sale the next day.

The range of items on sale was impressive, from special soap, cookies and sweets, messages in bottles, love pops to badges, cards and heart-shaped chalk boards. There was a serious side to the venture, with students in teams, each trying to generate as much profit as possible. The afternoon was spent in the Dragons' Den, with teams being quizzed about their business propositions by some specially invited guests.

Many thanks to all the staff who helped on the day and to our particularly inquisitive Dragons – Vicky Phillips from Dunelm, Heather Eaton from ICE Creates, Steph Tickle from Young Enterprise, Barbara Foley from Clear Solutions and Mr Joe Roper, Chair of Governors at Prenton High School.

**Altogether, nearly £400 of profit was generated with congratulations to winners 8H1, for making the largest contribution.**

*Pictured here are the Straight from the Heart Team preparing their stall*



### Mothers' Day gifts are an instant hit

**All the hard work put in by our Year 8 Design and Technology enterprise club members has paid off.**

Meeting regularly each week at lunchtime, they have been developing their entrepreneurial skills by designing, producing and pricing their own range of Mothers' day gifts – ready to sell before the big day. Manufactured by setting up and using the department's laser cutter, best friend hearts, best mum hearts, chalk board hearts, angel wings and flower key rings were just a few of the gifts on offer.



This was their first sale of the year and a delighted Ms Kelly, teacher of Design & Technology with responsibility for Student Leadership, reports that they sold all their stock in one day, with profit figures about to be released.

Club members Olivia, Libby, Laura and Junemarie have a challenge on their hands – Fathers' Day will be with us soon!



# Set for a Sustainable Future

**Y**oung Enterprise is a charity that delivers business and entrepreneurial skills to young people. Their programme is in great demand across the country, and we are delighted that they have chosen to work with our Year 9 students over the coming year, helped by funding from Unilever.



The Sustainable Futures Programme provides students with grounding in the key areas of: teamwork, problem solving, financial literacy, communication, reliability, punctuality, confidence and resilience. Students will be working alongside inspirational volunteers from business who will provide positive role models for them, helping them to make the link between aspiration and employability skills.

The March masterclass gave students an opportunity to try out their buying and selling and **presentation skills through the 'Bead Challenge' in which they bought beads and added value to them by using them to make attractive products.** As the programme continues, they build **up to run their own businesses and taking up the 'Tenner Challenge'.** Following the development of a business plan, students use an initial investment of £10 to invest in products and services that they think will create a profit; aimed at making a positive impact for the school or the local community.

At the end of the course, achievements, skills and competencies learned by students will be reviewed and used for when they develop their CV and going for interviews.

*Tony Hewitt, Young Enterprise Team Leader is pictured above with our Students.*

## School Council

**L**ed by Chairperson and Year 9 student Charlotte, the **School Council representatives from across the school have been meeting this term.**

Some of the topics discussed have been: International Schools, student planners, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Form competitions, student leadership, road safety, and the facilities in the school grounds and keeping the grounds tidy.

## Paperback competition pulls in the readers

We have joined up with fifteen other Wirral Secondary schools to decide which paperback book is the best one for 2016. The Wirral Paperback of the Year has become a regular annual event, with a shortlist of 15 books selected this year.

With much reading to be done before the final takes place at Wirral Grammar School for Girls in June, our students are meeting twice a week at lunchtimes in the LRB to read their way through all the titles.



Twenty of our Year 9 readers joined up with over 200 students from around Wirral when they attended a special author event at Wirral Grammar School for Girls. There, they heard seven of the shortlisted authors describing their lives and their influences – and took part in a question and answer session with each one: Tracey Alexander, Frank Cottrell Boyce (pictured above with our students), Lu Hersey, Bryony Pearce, Dan Smith, Rob Stevens and Teri Terry.

Later, students also had the chance to talk one-to-one with the authors and our Prenton TV team of Melissa, Lucy and Lauryn interviewed Tracey Alexander, Bryony Pearce (who came dressed as the pirate Ayla, a character from her book Phoenix Rising), Rob Stevens and Teri Terry. It is all leading up to a tense finale in June!

**Footnote:** Since January, the shortlisted books have proved really popular with 10 of the titles in our top 15 books borrowed!

If you wish to follow our readers, this is the Wirral Paperback of the Year shortlist:

**Hacked** by Tracy Alexander  
**Lottery Boy** by Michael Boyne  
**Mind Games** by Teri Terry  
**The Crow Talker** by Jacob Grey  
**If You Were Me** by Sam Hepburn  
**Deep Water** by Lu Hersey  
**Skink, No Surrender** by Carl Hiaasen  
**An Island of Our Own** by Sally Nicholl  
**Gabriel's Clock** by Hilton Pashley  
**Phoenix Rising** by Bryony Pearce  
**Denton Little's Death Date** by Lance Rubin  
**Just Call My Name** by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
**Big Game** by Dan Smith  
**Would The Real Stanley Carrot Please Stand Up?** By Rob Stevens  
**The Astounding Broccoli Boy** by Frank Cottrell Boyce



Mollie, Katie, Zoe and Chloe are pictured here enjoying their reading!

## Mrs Watson's guest appearance

When Mrs Watson, Assistant Headteacher and Subject Leader of Maths, was invited to join Mrs O'Neill's Year 7 reading class, she leapt at the opportunity to share her love of reading!

Our young readers knew to expect a 'mystery guest' in their lesson, preparing a series of questions to ask about their favourite reading, and were delighted when Mrs Watson came along to join them.

Mrs Watson read a selected piece from Harry Potter and then faced a 'question and answer' session, putting her on the spot about her favourite book, her favourite author as well as what she enjoyed reading as a child.



## World Book Day winner

Congratulations to Year 9 student Katie who won the Learning Resource Base's 2016 World Book Day competition.

Six students correctly identified all twenty-five book titles - that had also been made into films – from a set of photographic clues, and Katie's name was drawn by Mrs R Fraser, Subject Leader English and Performing Arts. She received a £10 Waterstones voucher from Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, at an assembly.



## Congratulations to Book Review winners

In a competition run by our English department in the run-up to World Book Day, there were five Year 7 students who impressed, either by their poster design to encourage reading or their written review of their favourite book. Lucy and Eva (7B1) Emily and Anna-Rose (7H1) and Samantha (7R1) each received a £5 WH Smith voucher.

## Recognition for our creative writers

Congratulations to Niah who has won the Year 9 Creative Writing competition organised by the English Department.



She is pictured above with the other award winners following the presentation of her award at a special assembly - that promoted a love for reading in preparation for World Book Day the next day. Well done also to Megan who came second and to Erin in third place.

The judges were clearly impressed with the standard of entries for the competition as Melissa, Demi-Lee and Ellie were recognised too, for their outstanding contributions.



Year 10 Creative Writer winner Molly is pictured here with third placed Zoe



## — Food Design Technology —

### Cooking up an Oriental Classic

Our Cooking Club's January meeting certainly had an authentic Chinese flavour.

With Chinese New Year approaching, it was a good time to try the intricate recipe for making a classic oriental dish – glass noodles. Thanks to Initial Teacher Trainee Miss La, they were taken step by step through the complex process, using ingredients that included mung bean flour, garlic, ginger, soy sauce and rice vinegar.

A great way to dish-up a Chinese New Year treat!



### Taking up the chocolate challenge

**A** group of Year 9 students travelled to Patisserie and Chocolatier Slattery's thanks to subject leader DT (Food) Mrs English.

They received instruction on working with chocolate, taking up their challenge to make chocolate novelties.

It was a dream trip for our chocolate lovers!



## — Humanities —

### Our Italian adventure

Following the success of their first trip two years ago, the Humanities Faculty organised a second trip to Italy for forty of their GCSE students over the half-term break.

Based in Sorrento, it was an ideal location for students to learn more about the geography and history of the area. They had a busy schedule during their stay – with a day trip to the island of Capri, by jet boat over a choppy sea, reaching the top of **Vesuvius's volcanic crater in the Mount Vesuvius National Park**, and viewing the remains of ancient Pompeii.

There was time for a shopping trip to Sorrento for some souvenirs and, of course, the opportunity to make their own authentic Italian pizzas.



## A creative look at castles

Year 7 Humanities students have been studying motte-and-bailey castles this term. Introduced by the Normans after their invasion in 1066, these are fortifications with keep situated on a raised earthwork (a motte), with an enclosed courtyard (a bailey), surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.

As part of their home learning, our students have been working on their own models and bringing them in to school. The high standard of work and creativity students have displayed was impressive with a variety of materials used in their construction.

Eva is pictured here with her motte-and-bailey cake, cleverly constructed using mini rolls, chocolate fingers, matchmakers and jam. Olivia can also be seen here with her creative work.

It cannot have been as good as this when the Normans were around!



## History Girls

A group of Year 10 History students have started working with Beth Wilson, a PhD student from The University of Liverpool.



Beth's master classes, run on Mondays over seven weeks, will teach our students about source work and research techniques with a particular focus on the transatlantic slave trade.

The course will culminate with a visit to the university to meet members of the academic staff with our students providing them with a presentation.



## International Group's first meeting of 2016

The Humanities faculty have started a national symbols project with a school in the Punjab, India.

For their first meeting of 2016, students brought in some symbols that are unique to our part of the world - and posters, coins, notes, football shirts and lambananas were all popular first thoughts!



Led by Year 9 students Erin (Chairperson) and Freya (Secretary), and Ellie (Deputy Chair) the group will learn about the national symbols that are unique to our European countries and produce artwork depicting the symbols and research the internet and reference books to further their understanding.

In setting up this International Group, Subject Leader of Humanities Mr Major says: "This project will broaden our ties with schools abroad. It will be a great way for them to extend their knowledge of the world and to involve themselves in a Citizenship activity that will hopefully lead to other exciting projects."

## Useful advice from Brook and DARA

The Year 8 PHSE theme day provided students with wealth of information, helping them to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices and to improve their personal health and well-being.

Thanks to organiser Mrs Close, Subject Leader of PSRE, representatives from Brook, based in Whetstone Lane, and the DARA Project (Drug, Alcohol, & Relationships Awareness Project) came in to school to deliver a series of lectures and thought-provoking exercises.

Students received advice on topics that included sexual health, relationships, well-being, drugs, addiction and alcohol.

Thanks also to Dean Cattell and his team from Brook and Zoe Abernethy from DARA for their support on the day.



# Theme days cover major religions and self esteem

Year 8 students have had two theme days, one of which entailed travelling to Liverpool.

There they learnt more about two major religions by visiting the Princes Road Synagogue and the Liverpool Mosque and Islamic Institute in Allerton. They then took part in question and answer sessions before travelling to the International Slavery Museum at the Albert Dock.

The aim of the trip, organised by Subject Leader of RE Mrs Close, was to give students an understanding of their local area, taking in the rich religious diversity of Liverpool and its historical and geographical importance.

On the second theme day students took part in a PSHE workshop organised by Deputy Headteacher Mrs Fraser and Miss Eastwood, Assistant Headteacher (Student Services). Students looked at self-image, studying in groups the pressures placed on young people - through advertising for example - to conform and to look perfect in their **appearance. They defined the 'perfect'** look and through their discussions quickly realised that such a look is synthetic.

The girls were encouraged to believe in themselves and to celebrate that we are all unique.

The day ended with students filming brief clips recording how, by avoiding the trap of low self-esteem, their positive aspirations will mould their future success. Our Prenton TV team will edit the clips to use in a short film for students to view as a reminder of the day. The film is inspired by the **Sport England film 'This Girl Can!'**

We will produce our version with the **title 'Prenton Girls Can!'**. Watch this space!



# Staying safe online

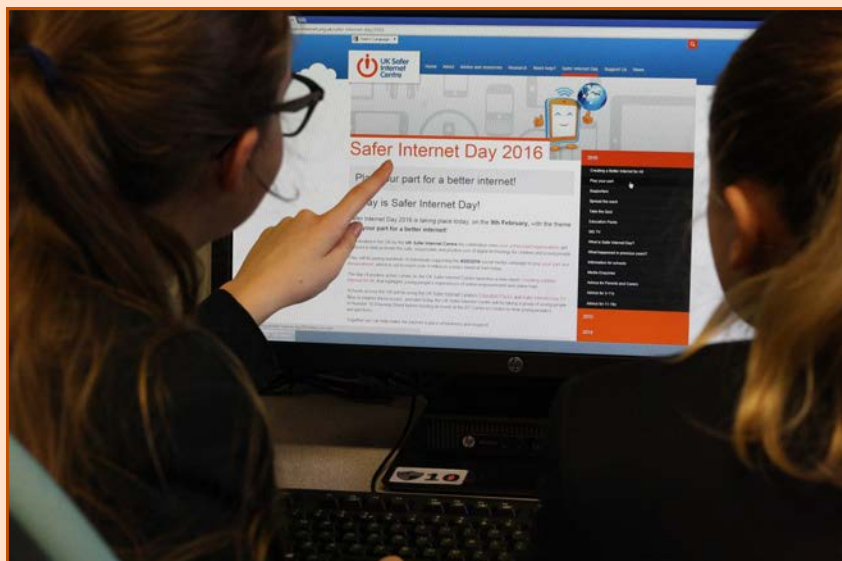
February 9<sup>th</sup> was UK Safer Internet Day 2016 and students played their part in trying to make the internet a safer and better place.

They used the day to inspire a kind, respectful and inclusive internet, and help raise awareness about the issue of online hate.

Building up to the day, Mr Simon, Subject Leader ICT, delivered daily assemblies to all year groups on the importance of staying safe and thinking carefully before we post anything online and launched a poster competition.

Year 9 students and LRB assistants Isobelle and Tegan can be seen here looking over the UK Safer Internet Centre's website.

*Winners of the poster competition will be announced early in the summer term.*



# Ashleigh's anti-bullying film wins award



Congratulations to Year 9 student Ashleigh who has been awarded second prize in a world-wide competition.

**Her film's powerful message, entitled 'Too Late', is aimed at teenagers and tracks the ultimately tragic consequences of cyber and social media bullying.**

Ashleigh was inspired to make the film by her favourite actor Birkenhead-born Taron Egerton, who is associated with All Rise, an organisation committed to online responsibility, and who was one of the judges.

Well done, Ashleigh!



## GCSE Stats team use data from students

When teacher of mathematics Mrs Winter tasked Year 11 GCSE Statistics students to gather data to analyse for their course, our students wanted to use only genuine information that they themselves had gathered – what was better than to ask others around school for their help?

In one exercise, a series of sessions with English students from all years was organised, with each given four words to look up in the dictionary, writing down the time it took them to find each word, along with the page number it was on. They hoped to demonstrate that the older you are, the quicker you are at finding a word in a dictionary.

First to complete the challenge were our Year 7 students – Crystal is pictured here with Year 7 student Abbie.

In their second project, the Stats students asked others in school to help them identify if there **might be a similar relationship between someone reading a modern book and 'old fashioned' text like Shakespeare.**



## Chloe's to keep on Countdowning!

Whilst teacher of mathematics Mrs Johns Was attending a recording of Channel 4's Countdown recently, she remembered that one of her Year 8 students, Chloe, is a big fan of the programme too.

Chloe follows the maths challenges, quite often keeping up with the speedy calculations being made by their mathematical genius and co-host Rachel Riley.

With the recording completed, Mrs Johns obtained a personalised written message from Rachel to pass on to Chloe, who is proudly displaying it here:

**"Thanks for Countdowning!"**





# Lauryn gains Maths Gold

**C**ongratulations to our team of mathematicians who have excelled in the 2016 UK Maths Trust challenge.

A special 'well done' goes to Year 9 student Lauryn, who gained their **Gold award**. 'Gold' is only awarded to the top 7% of those entered into this national competition and Lauryn was 15 points ahead of the qualifying standard! This means she will enter the follow-on round, the Grey Kangaroo, taking place in March.



Congratulations to Silver certificates holders Year 10 students Jamie-Lea and Olivia and to Year 9 student Olivia; also to Bronze certificate holders Lydia, Leila and Sumayyah from Year 10 and to Anna, Melissa and Erin from Year 9.

## Mathematicians equal to the challenge

**T**he aim of the charity UK Maths Trust (UKMT) is to advance the education of young people in Mathematics. Each year they organise national competitions for students aged 11 to 18 across the UK.

This year, 13 students from Year 9 and 17 from Year 10 represented Prenton in the Intermediate challenge, for those in Year 11 or below. Pictured here answering the 25 challenging questions within one hour are Lydia, Lily and Leila.



## Maths team '8' up the numbers

**C**ongratulations to our team of Year 8 and Year 9 mathematicians who took part in the regional final of the UK Mathematics Trust team Challenge this week competing against fifteen other teams from Wirral and Chester: Katie, Melissa, Abbey and Katie.

As keen mathematicians, the team quickly spotted that the number 8 was a recurring theme on the day – not only were two of the team in Year 8 but they were also team 8, sitting on table 8, held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and they finished in a very creditable 8<sup>th</sup> position.



**A 'Gr8' result!**

## Pi Day is fun!

Developed by our maths department, Pi Day has proved to be a successful formula for having fun whilst honing our maths skills. Open to Year 7, 8 and 9 students, Pi Day sets a speed challenge to answer challenging maths questions - and with the clock counting down the minutes and seconds on the main hall screen, the competition winners are the team that successfully completes as many maths problems in the allotted time.



Pictured here are the winning Year 8 team of: Elissa, Mia, Elizabeth and Poppy – **plus their apple 'pi' awards.**

A great way in making maths even more exciting!

## — Modern Foreign Languages

### We love Valentine poetry

**W**riting a poem can be quite a challenge, but it becomes even more impressive when asked to compose something in another language.

Earlier in the year Subject Leader MFL Mme Rochet and Teacher of MFL Miss Serrano-Moreno asked our Year 7 students to create a poem in Spanish or French - **with a St Valentine's theme.** As a reward, the authors of the ten best poems were invited to lunch and some are pictured here enjoying their meal.

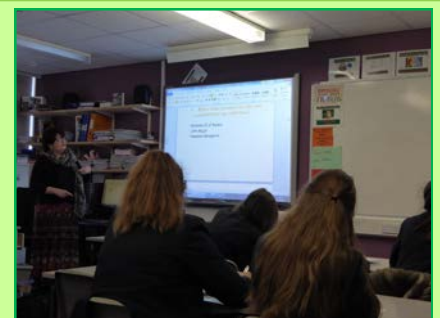


Congratulations to: Bonnie-Mae, Zoe, Emma, Erin, Olivia, Hannah, Mia, Holly, Ellie and Faye – a great effort.

### Sarah wins end of term Easter quiz

**Subject leader of MFL, Mme Rochet, used Form time on the last day of term to challenge her 9B2 class with an Easter quiz. Questions were based on and around Easter celebrations and how they are and have been celebrated around the world.**

**Congratulations to the winner, Sarah.**





## — Music and performing Arts —

# Prenton's certainly Got Talent!

**T**here was an exciting fusion of talent on show in March when we saw performances from our Prenton's Got Talent finalists, our Eco-Fashion show models and from our Year 10 Performing Arts - all on the same evening!

We were treated to two hours of entertainment from the eight 'Prenton's Got Talent' finalists, battling it out to win the chance to record a demo of their talent, along with our Year 9 students parading the catwalk with their innovative eco-friendly, recycled costumes.

The Eco-Fashion show was supported by our wonderful Year 10 performing arts performers!

Congratulations to Prenton's Got Talent winners Molly and Jayne who received certificates from Headteacher Mrs Ayling and Music Subject Leader, Mrs Burns.



## Auditions completed and rehearsals under way for summer show

There has been plenty of activity centred on the Music and Performing Arts departments, as auditions for our summer show were held and the serious business of rehearsals began.

Our 2016 Summer Spectacular will be held over three evening performances on Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd June and promises audiences a medley of entertainment with students acting, singing and dancing through a choice selection from the musicals: Grease, Wicked, Hairspray and Chicago. Keep an eye on our website and ParentMail for ticket sale details!



# We all need our sleep!

Thanks to teacher of science Ms Murtagh, students are receiving a fact-filled series of assemblies on the importance of sleep this week. As **loss of sleep seriously hurts students'** attention, memory, mood, logical reasoning and more, it is vital that we **all get a good night's sleep.**

We learned that there is a constant battle at night going on in our brains, between the cells and chemicals such as melatonin, that help put us to sleep - and those that try to keep us awake. Teenagers have a particular problem, as their melatonin is released two hours later than in adults. As scientists calculate that teenagers need 9 hours 15 minutes sleep every night - more than young children and adults – earlier nights are essential for academic success, and without the damaging effect of receiving texts on smart phones and tablets. Switch mobile devices off at least two hours before sleep for a more restful night!

The lecture finished with some helpful stress-busting exercises; many thanks Ms Murtagh.



# Ice Cream is flavour of the day

**T**he February meeting of Physics Club this week reflected the chillier side of the season with a mini-celebration of 'Ice'.

With guidance from teacher of Science Mr Morrish, our science students learned how to super-cool water down to way below 0°C - without it freezing. This was then poured onto ice and it instantly froze and formed a wonderful column of ice.

Continuing with the theme, they then made some "instant ice cream" **using Mr Morrish's special** - and very popular - recipe, using ice and salt to freeze it over a period of 30 minutes.

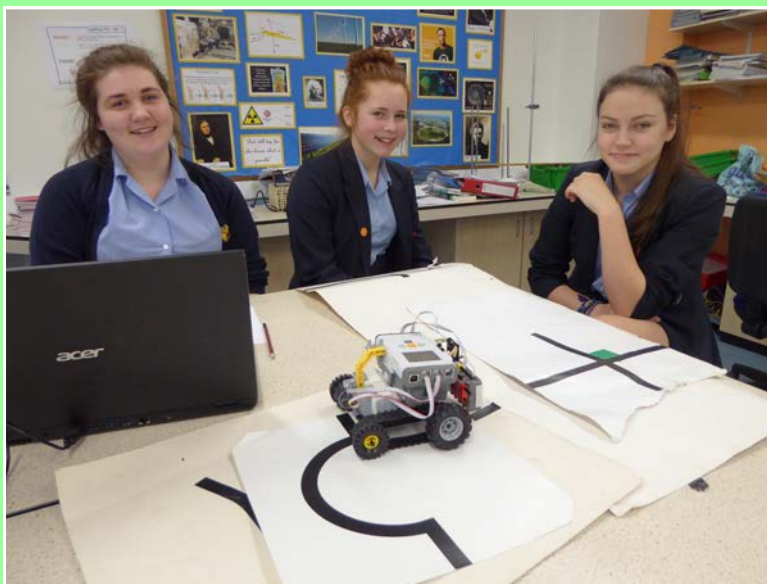
Wonderful!



## RoboCup Team's dramatic finish

**C**ongratulations to our RoboCup team of Maya, Emily and Anna who travelled to Princethorpe College, Warwickshire, for the UK RoboCup finals.

Our Year 9 students, the only female team in the competition, came second in the Rescue Line section. Although they finished ahead of local rivals St Anselms and Caldway Grammar School, they **lost out to Christ's College, Finchley, in London.**



It might have been a different story had not their robot read a coloured indicator incorrectly just a few millimetres from the finishing line – a truly dramatic finale but a wonderful achievement for our team, well done.

## Discovering a magical quality in custard

**T**hanks to teacher of science Mr Morrish, our March Physics Club looked into one of the lesser known qualities of custard – that given the right conditions, it is possible to walk on it.



As the picture (right) shows, the experiment also demonstrated that if you stop walking in the bowl of custard, you very soon sink into it. Foot-baths were ready on stand-by!



## Year 7s University taster

Thanks to organiser Progress Leader and teacher of science Ms Craven, Year 7 students visited the University of Liverpool. They received an interesting insight into their Science Department as part of National Science week.

## — Student Services

### Year 11 special assembly

**W**ith exams closer on the horizon for our Year 11 students, it was an assembly with some added treats.

As they gathered in the Main Hall, Year 9 student Charlotte - who had been performing to assemblies throughout the week - sang for them, followed by a useful reminder mini-lecture on revision techniques from Ms Murtagh.

At the end of the assembly each student **received an exam 'goody-bag'** that included revision cards, highlighters, post-it notes, book markers with revision website details – and some hot-chocolate and sweets to help with their stress levels!



### Well done Year 7s!

Afternoon tea and cakes were served on the last day of term as a reward for those students in Year 7 who have demonstrated outstanding behaviour and attendance.

Well done everyone for your wonderful efforts!



### G.I.R.L.S. builds confidence

Students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been meeting in groups as part of an innovative project organised by Year 7 Progress Leader Miss Hockenhill on behalf of Student Services.

**The G.I.R.L.S. project (Growing Individuals Reacting to Life's Struggles)** is delivered in a fun and interactive way, helping to build confidence, resilience and self-esteem. Students are also encouraged to have high aspirations in developing healthy lifestyles and choices, with those completing the 10 week course invited to a red-carpet event at the Town Hall early next term.



# Bedford attendance winners

**C**ongratulations to form 8B2 who achieved the highest attendance across the school since the start of this academic year.

Following the presentation of the award at a Celebration Assembly, Form Captain Fahmida can be seen here proudly holding the Attendance Cup.



# Careers convention

**B**etter known as a venue for football, the facilities at Tranmere Rovers were used for a different purpose when they hosted a Careers Convention in March.

The event was organised by Wirral Chamber of Commerce through its Young Chamber initiative and,

thanks to Ms Kelly teacher of Design & Technology with responsibility for Student Leadership, all our Year 10 students attended the event.

The convention raised awareness and highlighted the breadth of career options available, including work experience and apprenticeships schemes.

Students made the most of talking to representatives from across the business world and gain valuable careers advice.



## Taster day offers a view of the future

In our modern world, in which technology is advancing at a tremendous pace, it is highly likely that many of the jobs we will be **doing in ten to fifteen years' time have not even been invented yet!**

That was the message delivered to our Year 9 students at the beginning of their options taster day – and this uncertainty can make decisions even harder for those students who have not yet made up their minds as to their aspirations and, subsequently, what studies to pursue.

Help was at hand however, with our first **'Futures' Day' giving students the opportunity not just to reflect, talk and review with staff - and each other - about their own dreams for the future and the choices open to them, but also to try different courses on offer in school with Subject Leaders, and to ask any questions they may have.**

A group of students are seen here looking at the effects of carbohydrates on a healthy diet as part of the GCSE PE course.



## Pathways evening was inspirational

It was a very busy and informative evening in school for our Year 9 students and their families, when they learned about the different future pathways open to them.

The pathways programme has been developed to meet the needs of all of our students and ensure that they are equipped with the best possible skills and qualifications to progress at 16.

Headteacher Mrs Ayling provided information about the different pathways that students will follow in Years 10 and 11, and outlined the key curriculum choices that each student will have to make. Mrs Ayling also provided an explanation of what the core provision and optional choices are for students, with each one having a personalised pathway to best suit their individual needs.

Students and their families then had the opportunity to talk with subject leaders and staff from all of the courses on offer in Year 10. In addition representatives from Career Connect and local colleges were present to talk to students and their families about choices and the future options post 16.

**The feedback afterwards was extremely positive with parents saying that it was an "inspirational evening".**



## A sporting chance with LLS

**W**here is the next generation of sports coaches to come from?

Helping to answer that question, was Little League Sports (LLS) Quality Assurance Manager Jay Brittles and his team when they came in to talk to our Year 11 students about careers in sports education and coaching.

LLS work in partnership with schools and colleges to train the next generation of inspiring coaches and those choosing careers in the sports industry. Open to young people aged 16 and over, they deliver vocational and academic qualifications, work experience and access to a global network of Universities and employers at home and abroad.

Jay and his team are pictured here with Amy, Luci, Amirah and Holly from our Student Senior leadership team.



### PE

Our Year 11 PE GCSE students are busy these days - in addition to having Insanity sessions and climbing at Awesome Walls in Liverpool, they are also receiving tuition for their practical exam from top trampolining coach, Jenny Murphy.

## U13 Cricketers in New Year action

**W**ell played to our Under 13 Cricket team who secured a 7-wicket win over Wirral Grammar School for Girls but lost to tournament winners Upton Hall.

Pictured here and still smiling is our team of: Freya, Cora and Abbie (Year 7 students), and Alex, Madaleine and Jessica (from Year 8). Georgia from Year 8 is not in the photograph.





## Cricketers run out of luck

It was hard luck for our Under 15 cricketers of Jodie (Captain), Chloe, Alisha, Madison, Lucy, Georgia, Lucy and Sam when they lost by the narrowest of margins.

Playing for a place in the Cheshire finals, they beat Wirral Grammar School by ten wickets and then faced Upton Hall. The match was tied after the normal number of



overs had been bowled, **taking the match to a 'bowl-out'. This too ended tied** so the teams entered into a sudden-death play-off, with Upton taking the game.

Congratulations to all our players for playing their part in such an exciting competition, and to Amelia (pictured here in action against Wirral) who was our top run-scorer, and to Alisha who was our top wicket-taker.

## U13 Cricketers are a knock-out

Congratulations to our Under-13 Cricket team of Jess, Jodie, Abbie, Georgia, Freya, Cora, Chloe and Madaleine who finished runners-up in their Cheshire Area tournament this week.

They travelled to St. Nicholas Catholic High School in Northwich, Cheshire, to play four matches, beating three other area winners and losing only to Altrincham Grammar School. Abbie was our top run scorer, hitting 5 sixes and scoring 50 runs in the semi-final, and Madaleine was the top wicket-taker with 6 wickets.

With our team comprising three Year 9s, two Year 8s and three Year 7s – it was a truly great all-round performance, ladies.



## Volleyball

**W**ell done to our **Under 13 volleyball team of eight Year 7s and our Under 15 team of two Year 7, one Year 8, and three Year 9 students. They represented the school at a Funday tournament held at Wirral Grammar School for Girls in January.**

Well played to our A and B teams of Hannah, Chloe, Megan, Maddie, Faye, Jessica, Leah, Daisy and Amy. They represented us in a tournament at Wirral Grammar School for Girls with our A team coming third overall. The tournament has also prepared them for the annual beach tournament at New Brighton in June as part of National Sport Week and was a good opportunity for our B team, who are new to volleyball, to experience a tournament; they played well and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Our U16 six-a-side volleyball team of Georgia, Amelia, Lucy, Sophie, Chloe and Alisha produced an excellent set of results in their tournament at Woodchurch in early March. They came second overall, losing only to Woodchurch Boys' team!

### **9H1 are volleyball champions**

Congratulations to 9H1 who won the Year 9 inter-form volleyball this term.

## Running

**T**hanks to **Subject Leader of PE, Miss Robertson, running is currently proving to be popular with many of our students.**

Congratulations to our seven cross-country runners who competed against other schools on 1<sup>st</sup> March at Arrowe Park: Lucy, Holly, Lauren, Abbie, Jessica, Grace (all Year 7) and Ella (Year 8).

With forty-six Year 7 and Year 8 runners competing, each one of our team ran well with Holly leading our runners finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Students headed again to Arrowe Park again a week later to compete in a one-mile race. They were timed over the distance and then repeat the run over three weeks, with the runner having the best average time declared the winner.



# Netballers show most spirit at Merseyside Games



Our Year 7 netball team of Cora, Abbie, Holly, Lucy, Jessica, Grace, Deborah, Grace and Jessica played well at the Merseyside School Games held at Wirral Grammar School for Girls on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

They beat Archbishop Beck Catholic Sports College, Fazakerley and Knowsley, drew with Sefton, and lost to Wirral B and Rainhill. They not only finished a creditable third in their section - **our team also won 'The Most Spirited Team' award.**

Jessica, Holly, Deborah, Abbie, Grace, Lucy and Grace from the team are pictured here with their certificates. Well played everyone!

## Summer term 2016

Open	Monday 18 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Half-term Holiday	Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
Open	Monday 6 June
Summer holiday commences	Friday 15 July
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 25 August

## Autumn term 2016

<b>INSET</b> (Staff only)	Thursday 1 September
<b>INSET</b> (Staff only)	Friday 2 September
Open to Staff and Students	Monday 5 September (Years 7 – 11)
Close	Friday 21 October
Half term holiday	Monday 24 – Friday 28 October
Open	Monday 31 October
Close	Wednesday 21 December
Christmas holiday	Thursday 22 December 2016 – Friday 6 January 2017

## Spring term 2017

Open	Monday 9 January 2017
Close (to students)	Thursday 16 February 2017
<b>INSET</b> (Staff only)	Friday 17 February 2017
Half term holiday	Monday 20 – Friday 24 February 2017
Open	Monday 27 February 2017
Close	Friday 31 March 2017
Spring holiday	Monday 3 April – Monday 17 April 2017

## Summer term 2017

Open	Tuesday 18 April 2017
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 1 May 2017
Close	Friday 26 May 2017
Half term holiday	Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2017
Open	Monday 5 June 2017
Close	Friday 21 July 2017
INSET days (twilight sessions)	Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 July 2017

**Please keep in touch via our website and twitter as some dates may change.**

**[www.prentonhighschool.co.uk](http://www.prentonhighschool.co.uk)**

**[@prentonhigh](https://twitter.com/prentonhigh)**





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