



HAIRSPRAY SWINGS WITH SIXTIES STYLE!



Bringing the bright lights of Broadway to Birkenhead, Prenton Theatre Company's colourful, high-energy, summer production of *Hairspray* thoroughly entertained its audiences over three consecutive nights!

We were introduced to how a dance-loving teenager, Tracy Turnblad (Olivia, Year 8), becomes an overnight celebrity and a trendsetter in dance, fun and fashion. Our hard working PTC cast musically transported us back to the 1960s with a series of infectiously catchy numbers from the show including 'Good Morning Baltimore', 'The Nicest Kids in Town', 'You Can't Stop the Beat', and 'Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now'. With eighteen songs in the production, it was guaranteed that we each came away singing at least one of the songs from the show! *(Continued on back page.)*

TRUST | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | KINDNESS | ENDEAVOUR



PRENTON
High School for Girls

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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Geraldine Fraser BEd (Hons) MSc

Prenton People

Congratulations to:

Mrs Hepke, appointed Progress Leader for Upper School.

Miss Davies, appointed Assistant Progress Leader for Upper School.

Miss Pemberton, who joined us as teacher of Performing Arts, and Dance this term, and has also been appointed Year 8 Progress Leader.

Mr Gibson, appointed Lead for Student Engagement.

Mrs Jacqui Hodson, Director of Finance & Operations, now **Mrs Chatburn** following her marriage to Alan.

Miss Doyle, who gave birth to Freddie in March.

Miss Sarah Green, teacher of PE, who will join us from St Francis of Assisi to cover **Miss Doyle's** maternity.

Mr Manktelow, who will join us as teacher of Maths.

Miss Walmsley, who joined us in July as teacher of Science.

Miss Brazil, who will join us as teacher of Science.

Miss Goode, who will join us as teacher of English.

Mr Devling, who will join us as teacher of English.

Mrs Debbie Haynes, who has been appointed Librarian, Full Time.

Mrs Lisa Rice, taking over the role of Finance Manager from Mrs McCreddie, in the autumn.

Mrs Ehsana Begum who has been appointed as Finance Officer from September.

Mrs Alison Gilbert, appointed School Counsellor, who will join us in September.

Mrs Katherine Green as our Communications Officer, who will join us in September.

Miss Natalie Kelly, who will join us as Data and Exams Assistant.

Au Revoir and Good Luck to:

Miss Hockenhull, teacher of Science, who has been appointed Head of Science at Ridgeway High School.

Miss Jones, teacher of English, who has taken up a position to teach abroad.

Miss Crabb, covering **Miss Doyle's** maternity leave, who has secured a Full Time permanent post in Physical Education at Helsby High School from September.

Mrs Winter, who is joining Birkenhead High School Academy as a teacher of Maths.

Mr Steve Taylor, LRB & PR Manager, who has retired.

Miss Clare Worsnup, HR Manager.

Mrs Barbara Larsen, Behaviour and Rewards Manager.

Mrs Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor.

Miss Courtney Birss, Digital Media Apprentice, following completion of her Apprenticeship.

Miss Taft, ITT, who is joining St John Plessington as teacher of English.

TOMBOLA AND CAKES HELP SPONSORSHIP

The fundraising efforts of 7R1 and 7H2, a cake sale and a tombola, have raised money this term to help support a Year 7 Ugandan student. The Year 7 sponsorship will continue in future years with the student as she progresses through senior school. A great idea, everyone!

Headlines



As we reach the end of another academic year we look back with pride on some of the many significant achievements across the school this year. Our Year 11 students worked incredibly hard throughout their GCSEs, supported, as ever, by our dedicated staff and I wish our class of 2019 the very best of luck for the future as they continue their own individual journeys, built upon the solid foundations that they have developed at Prenton.

We have high expectations for academic success in every one of our students, and this underpins all that we do. However, there is something else we value enormously and include in each school year. You will see evidence of this extra dimension as you read this, and previous, editions of High Life. I urge you to read the coverage of all the additional, extra-curricular opportunities and experiences our students have encountered – the trips abroad and nearer home, the Duke of Edinburgh and many sporting achievements, the Prenton Theatre Company performances, leadership opportunities, art and photography exhibitions, author visits and creative work in the community with local primary schools. These are just a handful of examples of how we endeavour to make a positive difference for our students. In addition, we have just heard that we have won a substantial grant that means many students will be able to travel to London to experience live theatre and take part in professional theatre workshops in the West End next year!

We embed in our students the core values of Trust, Respect, Integrity, Kindness and Endeavour which underpin success in all aspects of life in school and beyond; this year we have started to introduce the LORIC qualities of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication to develop the skills needed to succeed in life.

Combining academic and extra-curricular opportunities contributes to our leavers departing as confident young people, ready to play integral roles in the world. Our new Year 7 intake are joining us at an exciting time and we look forward to welcoming them into our community. We will take great delight in seeing them, like many before them, fly high at Prenton High!

I wish you a safe, peaceful, and happy summer and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Mrs Lisa Ayling

Headteacher



PRENTON ALUMNI

Well Done Anna – and Erin, Claudia, Niah, Anya and Ella!

We are delighted to learn that six former Prenton High School students have gained student leadership positions for the academic year 2019-2020 at Birkenhead Sixth Form College.

Congratulations to Anna (pictured), who represented Prenton and the UK at the 2017 RoboCup Finals in Japan, appointed to the College's new role of Head Student. Anna leads a new student leadership structure put in place by the College, that reflects its ongoing growth and student needs. The College describe Anna's cheerful and empathetic disposition, along with her drive and organisational skills, as making her ideally suited to leading a superb team of Ambassadors and carrying the student voice.



Anna leads a team that includes five other former Prenton students - Erin, one of eight Deputy Head Students and in charge of Wellbeing, and Claudia, Niah, Anya and Ella each appointed as Student Ambassadors.

On being named Head Student, Anna said: "I'm chuffed with myself to be honest! My parents were really happy for me too. I just can't wait to get started!"

Well done to you all – Prenton is proud of you!

Art Exhibition for our Birkenhead Sixth Formers

Congratulations to former students Eleanor and Anthony who had their artwork displayed at the end of year exhibition at Birkenhead Sixth Form College.

The exhibition is the culmination of their two-year A-level course in which they have covered a wide range of themes in their studies, and using a variety of mediums in their work - photography, textiles, painting and paper manipulation to create their final pieces. Good luck to you both in the future!

A SWEET WAY TO BOOST THE YEAR 11 PROM FUND

It was a 'cake' way to finish a week – a competitive bake-off between Ms Craven's Year 11 'Cake-licious' team and Mrs Winter's 'Me and My Marvellous Merry-men (and women!)'.

It looked like some serious positioning around the staffroom table might be taking place as staff clambered for these super Easter-themed goodies at break time. With all proceeds going to the Year 11 Prom fund, it was all in a good cause too! Thanks to everyone who had been busy on the girls' behalf.

'Bon Voyage', Year 11!

There were a number of treats in store for our Class of 2019 following the last GCSE examination as they joined together for one Final Assembly.

Following refreshments, accompanied by messages of Congratulations and Good Luck, provided by the Dining Hall Staff, they assembled in the Main Hall for the last time. Year 11 Progress Leader, Ms Craven, set the scene with a presentation of statistics covering the past five years, complete with a series of awards recognising special IRIS and Attendance achievements.

Ms Craven and Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, each provided encouraging words for our Class of 2019 as they embark on the next chapter of their lives - and the messages were clear: we are very proud of each and every one of you, believe in yourselves and aim high, and keep in touch!

To the musical accompaniment of The Greatest Showman, a presentation of photographs reminded students of their time in Prenton, demonstrating just how much they had achieved – including in sport, fund raising, charity work, and success in competitions and school work. With lyrics from Black Eyed Peas' 'I Gotta Feelin' re-

written especially for the occasion by Mrs Williams, Student Services, and pre-recorded and sung by Mrs Burns, Subject Leader Music/ITT Professional Mentor, it was a suitable opportunity for the Year 11 Form Tutors to display their 'miming to music' skills, complete with super-sized eyebrows!

The music continued with Mr Simon leading a group of students dancing to Little Big's 'Skibidi', and then it was over to Ms Craven to provide a final and emotional goodbye to everyone. We all endorse her hope that students follow 'Craven's Creed' – be kind, be strong, don't give up, and be proud of yourselves and what you have achieved.

With Head Girl Beth and Amy and Poppy from the Student Senior Leadership Team presenting Ms Craven with bouquets of flowers, it only remained for our Class of 2019 to pick up their Leavers' Book, a personalised card for each student from Ms Craven, and receive everyone's very best wishes for the future.



THE PERFECT PROM PROVIDES A PERFECT GOODBYE

Held at one of the world's most iconic buildings and against one of the most widely recognised waterfronts, our Year of 2019 celebrated their five years at Prenton with their Prom in the Royal Liver Building situated by Liverpool's famous Pier Head. As you can see, with such an amazing setting and wonderful weather, it was the perfect backdrop to show off all the gorgeous dresses and outfits! Year 11 Progress Leader, Ms Craven, said it was a wonderful evening – and a lovely way to say goodbye. Good luck, everyone!



BATTLE OF THE (TEACHER'S) BRAINS

Our Student Senior Leadership Team came up with another clever idea to raise money for their Prom – their 'brainwave' was to ask two teams of teachers to go head to head in their Battle of the Brains.

Our paying lunchtime audience of students packed the Main Hall to witness a group of (very competitive) teachers display their word and number skills and knowledge in a series of challenges that included rounds based on Countdown, Anagrams, Music, Charades, and a General Knowledge quiz – that ended testing their knowledge on the coming GCSE exams: When is the last exam and in what subject is it? Details of which we are sure our students had profound knowledge!



PARENTS PLEASE NOTE!

Starting with the Year 10 Progress Evening earlier this term, all future appointments for Progress Evenings will be made by accessing your ParentMail account. Parents, please ensure your account is active!

ACTS OF KINDNESS FIT IN WITH OUR VALUES

When was the last time you tidied your bedroom without being asked, helped an elderly person across the road, or given a homeless man some food?

Kindness formed the theme of 7R1's assembly to their peers, looking at examples in which people have tried to brighten up somebody else's day – such as placing flowers at a bus stop, helping to get someone home who had had a seizure on a train, or paying for a paramedic's petrol as a gesture of thanks for his work in the NHS.

As one of our core values that includes Trust, Respect, Integrity and Endeavour, students were encouraged to start their random acts of Kindness today, in school. Opening a door for someone or looking after a fellow student who is feeling left out can make a big difference to others and would be a great start.

7R1 ended by demonstrating their Kindness jar, filling it with notes of recent individual acts of kindness. Well done 7R1, for helping us to become even better citizens!

PARK WITH CARE, PLEASE!

Please could all parents, carers, and visitors to our school park with consideration for our neighbours, local residents and students. Under no circumstances should car users block the drive of a resident or use a private drive as a parking space. Thank you for your cooperation.

Revision and Study Skills Day Gets Us Thinking!

Learning more about 'Brain Power' replaced Year 10's usual curriculum subjects as they prepared for the coming academic year with a Revision and Study Skills Day.



Staff delivered a series of sessions over the morning covering Revision techniques, Managing Stress and Wellbeing, Thinking Card Strategies, and How the Brain Works. Students were treated to an afternoon with Mohammed Nawaz from Learning Performance, in which they learned the difference between Study and Revision, and with billions of neurons in our brains, there is no such thing as a good or bad memory!

The day was a great boost in helping our Year 10s succeed in, and cope with, the important GCSE year ahead. We hope you received some great techniques to help you on your way!

Helping Put the Cream on the Wimbledon Strawberries!

Year 7 students Frankie, Sasha and Aleysha are pictured raising money to put towards those little 'extras' that contribute to making our trip to Wimbledon such an enjoyable experience – strawberries and cream come to mind!

When organiser Mrs Hepke, Year 7 Progress Leader, took some lucky tennis fans from School to watch the tennis on Day 6 at Wimbledon, they saw Andy Murray - and up and coming tennis star 'Coco' Gauff!

Lucky Year 7 students Ellie and Aleysha can be seen here waiting for the tennis to begin



CELEBRATING AMERICAN DAY

Because we had an important date at the Bebington Oval participating in Sports Day on July 4, we had a 24-hour delay before we could join our American cousins' celebration of their important date - Independence Day.

It was worth the wait, however, as the Chartwells Dining Hall Staff prepared American pancakes with cream and fruit or syrup at break-time, and beef, chicken, and veggie burgers or hot dogs at lunch time. To complete the meal, students could choose from Mickey Mouse shortbread, American muffins or popcorn.

It was win-win in the end, as we all 'had two nice days!'

Our Leavers Have Their Say

Taking the opportunity to endorse the well-known quotation: 'Feedback is the breakfast of champions', we are happy to provide you just some of the wonderful feedback given to us prior to saying goodbye to our Class of 2019 Year 11 students:

I have made amazing friends and met amazing teachers; I am glad I came to Prenton!

Prenton has taught me that hard work pays off and to never give up. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has helped me through the years and helped my confidence get better.

I'm so grateful for the opportunities I've been given at Prenton; I'll be leaving with so many amazing memories!

Prenton is a very welcoming school and like a second home to me.

A supporting school and teachers who want you to achieve your best.

I made friends for life and the teachers were always helpful and supportive. I will always be a Prenton girl!

I have loved my time at Prenton and learned key skills and made friends for life. I will never forget it.

I have grown at Prenton!

My time at Prenton has been fab, I have made lots of friends, got involved in many things, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which I'll never forget.

I enjoyed my time at Prenton. I felt safe, the teachers were helpful and I made friends for a lifetime.

I couldn't ask for a better high school experience. I had the best trips, the best teachers and made the best of friends.

My time at Prenton has meant the world to me and I wish I could do it all over again. Thank you!

I have really enjoyed my time at Prenton, I will surely never forget it. The teachers are so supportive and I have certainly made friends for life.

I thoroughly enjoyed completing the Duke of Edinburgh, taking part in sports activities and the Humanities trip to Rome.

I made significant academic progress and I had many opportunities and took part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

I have learned so much from amazing teachers, have made treasured memories, and experienced other cultures from life-changing trips.

Miss Suleiman's Eid Treats!

Staff had a tasty selection of Eid treats with a distinctly Nigerian flavour awaiting them at break-time, thanks to teacher of Maths, Miss Suleiman – and it wasn't long before her home-made Jolloff Rice, Spicy Chicken, and Puff Puffs disappeared!

It was a most thoughtful gesture at the end of a week that started with Eid celebrations following the fasting month of Ramadan. Thank you, and Eid Mubarak, Miss Suleiman!

AUTUMN OPEN EVENTS

This autumn, we will be extending a warm welcome to Primary school pupils, parents, and carers, to see how Prenton High School is 'Making a positive difference today for a better tomorrow'.

Our Open Evening is on **Thursday 4 October**, 6pm to 8pm, with the Headteacher's talk at 6.15pm and 7pm. The Open Morning for parents and carers only, will be on **Monday 8 October**, 9.30am to 11.30am. We will be delighted to see you, and proud to show you around!

UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIALS OPEN DOORS TO HIGHER LEARNING

Thanks to organiser Ms Craven, Year 11 Progress Leader, there were a number of outings to the University of Liverpool this term. These included two, three-day, residential summer schools. One group of Year 10 students learned more about the Health and Life Sciences that the University offers and another took part in their Dangerous Science sessions.

Twenty-five Year 9 students also attended a Humanities Summer Fair at the University in June.

Primary Schools

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with a number of local Primary Schools as part of our Elevate programme. They have been creating some stunning art from re-cycled books and materials with Ms Julie Dodd, our Artist in Residence.

Thank you to Julie, and to: Oxton St Saviours CE Primary, Woodlands Community Primary, Bedford Drive Primary, Mersey Park Primary, Brackenwood Junior, Woodslee Primary, Christ Church C of E Primary, Mendell Primary, and The Priory Primary.

Thank You, Mersey Park! Year 5 pupils from Mersey Park Primary School came into Prenton to give our Year 7 students a real treat – their stunning performance of *The Greatest Showman* entertained us as it was packed with superb singing and dancing routines. Thank you for giving us a special Feel Good Friday!



Summer Brings a New Look!

Whilst many of us will be enjoying a welcome summer break, others will be working hard making a series of innovative changes to the school.

These include new staging, theatre style seating and new AV equipment in the Main Hall, the introduction of modern teacher walls and state of the art interactive boards in a number of science rooms and ICT suites, the creation of a new IT suite, re surfacing of our external netball courts, improvements to our roof, and installation of new serving counters in the dining hall. We can't wait until September!

Welcome Back

The first week's assemblies of the summer term provided excellent opportunities – not just to welcome each year group back to school after the spring holiday - but also to re-affirm our school values.



Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, opened the week with a Year 11 assembly that reacquainted her audience with her expectations on TRIKE - our agreed, collective values of Trust, Respect, Integrity, Kindness, and Endeavour. We anticipated seeing an abundance of these wonderful values and hope you see plenty of evidence of them in this issue of High Life!

Making Homework 'Easier'!

The way we do Homework has changed – now our students are using the latest Cloud technology to help them organise their home learning and, because this keeps paperwork to a minimum, we are more environmentally friendly too! It is called “Show My Homework”.

Along with ‘Show My Home Work’, (SMHW), students are provided with a Microsoft 365 e-mail account that has a One Drive to store work. It also allows access to the Microsoft Office Suite of programmes including Word, PowerPoint and Excel online, and students can download the office suite to their own machines at home free of charge. Homework is set by teachers via ‘Show My Homework’, which is accessible via the Web, or an APP, which is supported on most mobile devices. These two systems working together will allow students to do more homework paperless helping us meet our Eco School responsibilities.

Students will be informed via notifications of homework set, content, resources to

support, length of time to take, submission methods and date to be completed. Access is gained through a single sign-in option via their school e-mail address and school network password. Parents are given a PIN code to access their daughter’s account, which provides all the same information their daughter gets so they can be supported at home.

Homework is an essential part of learning. It enables students to check understanding and to develop independent learning skills. Do not forget that the Learning Resource Base is open Monday to Thursday until 4.30pm, where students have access to computers and library resources such as the printer and photocopier.

Feedback has been very positive and, as one student said: “This homework was both fun and challenging; SMHW gives me so much data and I really liked doing it!”

This new strategy combines to help our students produce their very best work!

Kind Words from Year 7s Parents

As our Year 7 students’ first year at Prenton draws to a close and their parents came in for their latest Progress Evening, we asked them for their thoughts. Here is a selection of the kind things they said:

Thank you. Every single aspect of my daughter’s learning and your vision is a credit to you all, and for that we, as parents, are delighted.

It’s great to hear that the staff can see my daughter’s potential and are keen to enable her to achieve great things.

We’ve received fabulous support and understanding of our daughter’s needs. All teachers are a credit to the school. You are fabulous!

Your staff are lovely and very helpful.

I’m very pleased with my daughter’s progress and learning in Year 7.

Very pleased with the teacher’s advice to allow my daughter to develop.

I am very pleased with my daughter’s progress; she is doing very well with her grades.

My daughter is very happy at Prenton; I feel I am always fully informed.

I am very happy with my daughter’s progress and had good feedback from her teachers.

Thank you to all staff for all of their hard work and support for my daughter. Fantastic!

MAKING A GOOD CASE FOR THE LAW

An introductory lecture from one of the country's top Defence Barristers gave our Year 9 students and staff a wonderful and fascinating insight into today's legal world.

We were delighted that Chris Daw QC, from Serjeants' Inn Chambers, London, and Lincoln's House Chambers, Manchester, was able to visit school and share his story and enthusiasm for his profession. Ranked as a Leading Silk in The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, he has appeared in many high profile cases and advises companies and personalities in the worlds of sport, entertainment and business.

Hearing a real life story is important for our students, especially when he told us about his very normal upbringing – his father was a builder, mother a shop assistant, and that he went to a state comprehensive school in Milton Keynes before moving to Southport where he studied for his A levels. Although he wished he had done better at school it was clear that, following a computer personality test suggesting he suited a career in Law, he had found something he was interested in, was passionate about, and clearly enjoyed. Observing trials at Liverpool Crown Court – some for drug crimes and murder – only aroused his interest even further, he was hooked!

In addition to gaining his Degree in Law at the University of Manchester, Chris told how he using the Inns of Court School of Law Library to great effect and attending the mandatory 24 dinners at Gray's Inn, before being called to the Bar at the age of 23. After spending a year in Barristers' Chambers he gained his new 'white' wig and gown and, at the young age of 26, undertook his first murder case. Following a series of successful defences in highly reported trials,



Chris was appointed a Queen's Counsel (QC) – which meant purchasing another new outfit that included buckled shoes, a new wig, trousers that end at the knee – and black tights from Marks and Spencer!

A subsequent Question and Answer session revealed: his thoughts on losing a case – not good at all as Chris seriously likes to win; defending those who appear to have strong cases against them – it is more difficult defending those he thinks are innocent in case he loses; and would he bring back the Death Penalty – in case there was a miscarriage of justice, no!

Chris's talk included some really useful advice for our students, relevant whether or not they were thinking of entering the legal profession. He built up his reputation on excellence in everything he did. Unless aiming for a specific career in which subjects matter, it is important to aim for high grades in each subject, thus helping to make up the building blocks of a good all round education – "learning all adds up". "Pick the subjects you love, do whatever you want, focus on something you are interested in, and do not feel restricted in the things you can do as there are so many fascinating and rewarding careers out there!"

Thanks also to Mrs Fraser, Deputy Headteacher, for organising the event. Look out for Chris's new TV series – "Crime: Are We Tough Enough?"

MOLLY'S ARCTIC ROCK 'N' ROLL

There was a nice surprise in store for Mrs Karen Williams from our Student Services team when she attended the Mayor of Wirral's Special Charity Fund night at the end of March. The evening, a highlight of the Mayoral year, showcases young Wirral talent.

Mrs Williams, a regular supporter of the annual charity event, was surprised and delighted to see Year 11 student Molly as one of the acts - accompanying herself on guitar, singing an Arctic Monkeys song. Mrs Williams' verdict? "Molly sang and played brilliantly and confidently!" Well done, Molly!

MISS HOCKENHULL'S LAST BREAKFAST

Before she departed for pastures new, Year 10 Progress Leader Miss Hockenull held a 'reward, celebratory, and goodbye' breakfast rolled into one for her Year 10 students. Good luck, Miss!

Creative Industries

Audiences love our Art

Visitors arriving to see the final performance of our school show were treated to an exhibition of Art and Photography beforehand. The exhibition demonstrated the wide range of creative skills our students achieved over the year.

Pictured here are Year 8 students Isabella and Isobel when they joined Year 10 student Natalia at lunchtime prior to the show. They were clearly impressed with the display and you can see more of the wonderful art our students create on **Instagram: prentonhighart**



AT THE END OF THE LENS

The Art department's photography competition focussed on Texture as its theme and the winner was Year 8 student Mia, with Gabrielle, Year 9, and Louisa, Year 10 awarded second and third places. Great shots, everyone!



Our Diary Date with Dairy!

Reaseheath College is one of the UK's leading specialist land-based colleges based in Nantwich, Cheshire. Thanks to a continuing £80 million investment across campus, they have some of the best specialist facilities and resources in the country, including an £8 million Advanced Engineering and Agri-Tech Centre.



When thirteen Year 10 Food and Nutrition students joined organiser Mrs English, teacher of DT (Food), on a trip to the College, they had a golden opportunity to study more about the primary and secondary processing of milk – and having designed and made their own ice-cream and chocolate milk, they were delighted to learn that they could even take some home!

MR ROBINSON'S DUKE OF EDINBURGH RECOGNITION

At a ceremony last autumn term, over ninety of our students received Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We felt our girls' remarkable achievement, helped by the encouragement of our Award leaders led by Mr Robinson from our Humanities department, should be brought to the attention of the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

In response to our letter, we received a reply from the Private Secretary to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Brigadier Archie Miller-Bakewell. He told us that His Royal Highness much appreciated our thought of sharing the excellent news with the Duke - that 22 students received their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and 70 students received Bronze Awards, all within the first two years of our introducing the scheme into Prenton High School.

Brigadier Miller-Bakewell added that Mr Robinson and all his staff volunteers

should be pleased with such high levels of participation in the Award and that he was forwarding our correspondence to the Chief Executive of the Award.

We then received a most complimentary letter from David Oates, Interim Chief Executive of The Duke of Edinburgh Award, remarking on the great partnership that had developed between their North of England office and us. He spoke of the enthusiasm of the Award's delivery at Prenton and how much he appreciated the commitment of Mr Robinson and his colleagues.

We and our Duke of Edinburgh Award students agree – and with 23 Silver and 48 Bronze Awards likely this year, it is great work everyone!

Mr Robinson is pictured here taking a break from one of his DoE briefings with some of this year's candidates



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

One of our school values - Endeavour - was a quality in high demand for our Silver Duke of Edinburgh students this term. They battled against severe weather conditions on two occasions, and although they had brilliant sunshine at the end of the expedition section of their first outing, all students showed excellent commitment. Their second practice expedition in the Trough of Bowland, however, had to be curtailed due to the particularly wet weather.



Our Bronze students were more fortunate on their first practice weekend of the term at Thurstaston with their leaders: Mr Robinson, Miss Roberts, Mr Green, Miss Hepke and Mrs Brown, reporting back that at least it did not rain on this occasion!



We hope the barometer is set 'Fair' for the forty-seven Year 9 students setting out on their July expedition to Delamere.

English & LRB



ELLIE'S LINES WIN GREAT WAR ACCOLADE

Following local poet Charlie Lea's WW1 workshops last November with our Year 7 students as part of the Wilfred Owen Commemoration event, he was asked by Frank Field MP to select a winning entry from each of the Wirral schools involved.

We are delighted that 7H2 student Ellie-Mae was selected by Charlie to be one of ten young poets to attend a celebration event in early May at the Williamson Art Gallery. Congratulations to Ellie-Mae (pictured) who

read her poem to the assembled audience of families and friends. She received a commemoration certificate to mark the occasion and a special set of Wilfred Owen stamps as a prize.

Well done,
Ellie-Mae, we are very proud of your achievement!



BLOOD BROTHERS IN BLACKPOOL Thank you to Mrs Robson, Mrs Major, Mr Green, and Miss Dunbar who accompanied sixty-six Year 9,10, and 11 students to see Blood Brothers in Blackpool. It was an enjoyable outing as well as helping them with their GCSE studies of the play.

SAVAGE ISLAND IS WIRRAL PAPERBACK OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to author Bryony Pearce, whose book *Savage Island* has been chosen by Wirral secondary school students as their 2019 Wirral Paperback of the Year.

Bryony's book, a horror story and the first ever on geocaching, is sub-titled 'Hunt or be Hunted'. Indeed, Bryony captured everyone's attention at an author event earlier this year when she gave students a lesson on how to spot a psychopath!

Since last November, fifteen of our Year 8 and Year 9 students have joined other young Wirral readers in reading their way through a shortlist of twelve books, selected by schools' librarians. Six schools attended the exciting voting event, hosted at Prenton, to decide on the winner. Whilst the counting took place, students had the opportunity to listen to author Paula Rawsthorne who came into school to talk about her latest book, *The New Boy*.

Runners-up were *White Rabbit*, *Red Wolf* by Tom Pollack, and *Moonrise* by Sarah Crossan. Some of our keen readers are pictured here with Paula.



THANKS LRB HELPERS!

Seeing our hard working Learning Resource Base assistants in action each day gave Deputy Head Girl Amy an idea – why don't we thank them for all the support they have provided over the year?

Amy's idea of raising money through a sale of well-read and unwanted books funded a special lunch for our industrious librarians! They swapped their normal lunchtime duties of issuing and returning books, and tidying the shelves to spend some time together and enjoy a wonderful selection of crisps, popcorn, and cake!

Thanks everyone for your help over the past year – and thanks to Amy (pictured, right) for coming up with such a nice idea!



MORE NEW TITLES FOR THE LIBRARY

Year 8 Library Assistant, Neve, is pictured here preparing a small selection of new titles that have just arrived for the school library.



Many of the titles in this £1,000 purchase have been requested by students and others are replacing some old 'well-thumbed' favourites. We wish you happy reading!

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SHARON GOSLING LAUNCHES HER NEW BOOK AT PRENTON

When one of the country's top children's and young adult authors, Sharon Gosling, visited us this term, she used her visit to launch her exciting new book: *The Golden Butterfly*.

Sharon spent the lunchtime in the LRB signing copies of her new book and in the afternoon joined Year 7 and Year 9 English classes. 'The Golden Butterfly' takes the reader back to 1897 and relates how Luciana, the granddaughter of magician Magnificent Marko, gets drawn into a world of danger and deception whilst trying to protect her grandfather's greatest legacy – the trick of the Golden Butterfly.

Sharon has an amazing writing background - starting as an entertainment journalist, writing magazine articles and books about science fiction television shows. She's also written, produced and directed audio dramas. In 2011, she wrote *The Diamond Thief*, which went on to win the Redbridge Children's Award in 2014. This was followed by the sequels *The Ruby Airship* and *The Sapphire Cutlass*. Her

debut Young Adult novel, *FIR*, is a Red Eye Horror novel - very popular with our students!

Sharon also still writes books about television and film – most recently she has co-written tie-ins for the *Tomb Raider* and *Wonder Woman* films as well as the television series companion *The Art and Making of Penny Dreadful*.

Thanks, Sharon, for choosing Prenton High School to launch your newly published Young Adult novel, *The Golden Butterfly*.

Sharon is pictured here with students Sophie, Jessica, Phoebe, Emily, Bethany and Rose in the school library.



We're Up for a Debate!

Many congratulations to our debating team of Year 8 students Phoebe and Mia (pictured) and Year 9 student Faith who took part in the PiXL 'Up for Debate' competition.

We were one of twenty-five competing schools from across the North West who travelled to St Peter's School in York during the Spring holiday in April. Representing Prenton High School, they spoke in two debates (one pre-prepared, which was about the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports, and one unseen, which was about controlled assessment v examinations).

Mrs Kenyon, Subject Leader – English, reports that all three students performed brilliantly, speaking confidently in front of an audience and two PiXL judges. Whilst they did not make the final, they took the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills. Well done, everyone!



CLASSICAL MUSIC TO READ THE CLASSICS

Students enjoyed an extra-special addition to help bring some calm to their school day when they sat down to read in the school library - the LRB staff had laid on some restful classical music atmosphere at lunchtime for them!

Year 8 students Lily, Tia, Elizabeth and Olivia, are pictured here with their books, and what was more appropriate than classics from the library shelves – Charles Dickens, Daniel Defoe, Jane Austin and Charlotte Bronte, for example?!



Eco Team



It's 'Go' for Green

Having passed the initial stage of our Green Flag Award application, we are pleased to announce that, following a detailed inspection, we have successfully achieved Green Flag status!

Our Eco team's posters around school constantly urge us to help save the planet; avoid littering, not to waste electricity and water, and to recycle wherever possible. Wasima, Becky, Robyn and Ali are photographed here, and they ask us to stay vigilant and keep being eco-friendly.

Congratulations to Mrs Wright and her Eco team of students.



Humanities



LOOKING INTO CHESTER'S RICH HERITAGE

There were two Year 7 Humanities department field trips to Chester, investigating its rich heritage. Their visit covered the cathedral, walking the City walls, lunching by the River Dee, and winding back the centuries when students studied the Roman amphitheatre and gardens!



PSHE DAY

Thanks to Mr Gibson, teacher of PSHE and Geography, a day of activities saw Year 7 students looking at body image, and why people change their own body image. Year 8s looked at the range of eating disorders we see in society today; Year 9s at self-esteem, and Year 10 researched their forthcoming work experience.

Crime and Punishment Workshop

Mrs Simpson's Year 10 RE group attended a Wirral Youth for Christ workshop on Crime and Punishment.

A POIGNANT MESSAGE FOR TODAY FROM THE PAST

The Holocaust Educational Trust was founded in 1988 during the passage of the War Crimes Act, with the aim to raise awareness and understanding in schools and amongst the wider public of the Holocaust - or Shoah, meaning destruction - and its relevance today.

Thanks to organiser Mrs Simpson, teacher of RE, we welcomed Holocaust survivor Tomi Komoly into school as part of the Trust's programme. He spoke for over an hour to a respectful audience of Year 9, 10 and 11 students, some of whom travelled to Poland later in the term where they learned more about those dark times.

Tomi provided a background of life in Hungary, how life was living as a Jewish family before World War II started. He described the contrast between his acceptance in the UK as a refugee after the war to which many refugees around the world receive today, saying he would be forever grateful. It was not until he arrived in the UK that he began to learn more about his religion; he had not really had an opportunity until then.

Speaking about the rise of Hitler and the National Socialists in Germany, he talked about The Final Solution, the importance of the railways that carried so many to their deaths in concentration camps, and asked that we are not misled by the Holocaust deniers, one main reason for him being with us today.

We heard about the humiliation of the Jews in every aspect of their lives: curfews, food rationing, confiscation of money, property, businesses and possessions, and the wearing of yellow stars for everyone over a certain age. Tomi gave reasons for why so many went along with this new order, many

thinking that this was all just a momentary mistake, so why cause trouble? Indeed, many Hungarians, like his Grandfather, had fought for their country in the First World War.

Jealousy, greed and personal nastiness had turned civilised people into beasts, he said, and, following a short delay after the war, he recognised that Germany acknowledged and accepted responsibility for what they had done, helped through education and instilling in the population to avoid any such repetition. In Hungary, however, he felt there had been little attempt to learn from its past. He quoted philosopher George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Taking a question and answer session at the end of his talk, when asked to describe the holocaust in one word, Tomi replied: "In one word I can't...The worst manifestation of humans that should never be repeated."

Thank you, Tomi, for visiting Prenton; you certainly gave us a deeper understanding of this disturbing time in our history. Five of our Year 11 RE Ambassadors are pictured here with Tomi at the end of his talk.



LEARNING FROM THE PAST IN TRIP TO POLAND

Twenty-eight Year 10 students joined Mrs Simpson, Mr Taylor, and Mrs Brown on a Humanities department trip to Poland.

The trip, which included a visit to the Nazi concentration camp museums at Auschwitz-Birkenau, provided a valuable and moving opportunity for our students to develop their cultural capital and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) awareness.

It was a moving moment when they walked through the entrance bearing the cynical slogan 'Arbeit macht frei' a German phrase meaning "work sets you free". They also visited the Book of Names, a powerful and

moving attempt to collect the names of all the Holocaust's victims. So far, there are 4.3 million names recorded at the exhibition, running to 58 volumes.



They also experienced traditional Jewish food at the Ariel restaurant, visited the Oskar Schindler factory museum, and the Galicia Jewish Museum which houses a photo exhibition of Jewish life in Krakow.

UNDERSTANDING LIFE IN A FAVELA

Year 8 Geography students have been making favelas – shantytowns - out of rubbish. Imagining what life is like in a Brazilian Favela, their work has helped them understand and develop empathy for the struggles slum dwellers experience in Brazilian cities. The illustrated 'eye' in the picture represents an example of government intervention; favelas were painted before the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympic to make them look easier on the eye to visitors.



ICT & Computing



Media City Provides a Bright Look into the Future!

Our iMedia students gained some valuable knowledge and hands-on experience when they swapped their classroom for the bright lights of Media City, Salford.

The trip helped students gain a deeper understanding of the many different careers and opportunities at work behind the scenes, many relevant to their course but also using other skills we teach at Prenton! They looked at how recordings are made, camera and lighting techniques – all linked to their GCSE course – and visited different studios

including that of North West Tonight. Students were lucky enough to observe a live Sports broadcast.

The highlight for some was using some of their Drama skills, having the opportunity to read the news and present the weather!



THIS BABY IS THE DADDY!

When a group of our Year 10 Computer Science students joined Mr Simon, Subject Leader – ICT & Computer Science, on a trip to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, they met a baby that was built in 1948!

This particular 'Baby' was the first electronic computer to store and run a program, and used ground-breaking technology for the time. Built in Manchester, it was nicknamed 'Baby' because modern computers are still based upon its basic principles.

Students also visited the 'Connecting Manchester' Exhibition showing how technology has developed over time - including the introduction of e-mail, first developed in 1971. In the interactive 'Experiment' Exhibition, they were able to measure their reactions, including trying to beat the speed of light.

As one student said later: 'It was a great to learn about the development of computers – and we had fun too!'



LOOKING FOR A CAREER THAT SUITS? U-EXPLORE CAN HELP!

That search for the perfect career has entered the digital age!

Year 9 students seeking a career that best suits them have used their ICT lessons to explore the world of work. U-Explore is an online application in which students enter their interests, work preferences, skills, and qualities. An algorithm then crunches the data and creates a list of suitable jobs based on the information provided.

The application is able to then provide more in-depth analysis on any particular role they were attracted to and it provides them with real-time data such as: starting salary, average salary, pathways into the career, qualifications needed, job availability, and if apprenticeships are available.

Mr Simon, Subject Leader – ICT & Computer Science, says that the range of jobs U Explore covers is vast; from teachers and doctors to the yet more exciting Royal Navy mine clearance divers! The pupils say they enjoyed exploring different careers using the app and that it will assist them - especially when forming statements for their C.V.s, enabling them to highlight the relevant key attributes their chosen careers demand. The app: website.u-explore.com can be used both in school and at home so career ideas can be shared!

Amber is pictured here making her own career enquiries.



CYBER DISCOVERY PROJECT

Cyber Discovery is the landmark government-led competition, aimed at attracting young people into rewarding cyber security careers. In the last issue of High Life, we reported on the excellent, initial phase, progress made by our students in the project.

Our students have made such a big impression so far on the project, that members of the Cyber Discovery team are coming in to school to learn more about their work.

Maths



We Made the Maths Challenge!

Alicia, Maisie and Chloe (Year 7) and Holly Leah, Ruby, Ella-Louise and Charlotte (Year 8) received certificates recognising their achievements in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge 2019 competition.



Alicia, Maisie, and Chloe, and Leah, Ruby, Ella-Louise and Charlotte are pictured with their Bronze Certificates, with Chloe also gaining Best in Year and Holly gaining Silver, Best in Year, and Best in School. Well done, everyone!



Music & Performing Arts



HELPING THE BBC GET THEIR TEETH INTO BITESIZE

BBC Bitesize is a service covering many Primary, Secondary and Post 16 subject syllabuses across educational authorities throughout England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Their resources provide useful learning and revision support and career advice to learners.

So when the BBC's Assistant Producer of BBC Bitesize approached Mrs Burns, Subject Leader – Music/ITT Professional Mentor, to help understand better the needs of our Key Stage 3 students, she was delighted to accept. Staff are currently helping out by answering a series of questions in order to

help her recommendations.

Mrs Burns is pictured here outside Media City, Salford, where she attended a meeting with the BBC Bitesize team about their new KS3 Music Bitesize pages. Thank you to BBC for this exciting opportunity.



OUR SUNNIEST FEEL GOOD FRIDAY!

Our 'Feel Good Friday' sessions have been giving us all a real treat – and thanks to some glorious weather and all our shining performers, the last Feel Good Friday sessions were surely our sunniest ever!

Photographed are Jess and Kaitlyn, who treated us to Another Love, and Lucy who sang Old Time Road. We also saw performances from Olivia, Emma, Savannah and Cerys, Olivia, Cerys, and a guest appearance singing a powerful 'Valerie' from teacher of Maths, Miss Jones.

A great way to end the week – and an excellent 'coda' to the term!



Getting a Taste for Music and Performing Arts

We are fortunate to have LIPA, the world class college for performers and for those who make performance possible on our doorstep, in Liverpool.

Her close relationship with the college meant that when Mrs Burns, Subject Leader – Music and Performing Arts, was keen for our Year 9 students to prepare for, and learn more about, their subject and the many opportunities their GCSE course offers and may lead to, she arranged for a whole day's activities there!

These included our backstage group making a Phoenix backdrop and light display, making a backdrop video, taking part in dance, singing and music performance workshops, ending with a performance of Rag 'n' Bone Man's 'Human'. A great introduction to an exciting GCSE course!



ALEYSHA PERFORMS HER WAY TO A DISTINCTION

Year 7 student Aleysha clearly has a talent for Musical Theatre. Although she has been singing since she was 5 years old, it was less than two years ago she gained Grade 1 in her examinations. Her ability impressed the examiners because she by-passed Grade 2 to directly progress to Grade 3 level.

Following a demanding session in which she sang and acted her way through three memorised routines: 'Somewhere over the Rainbow', 'A Change in Me', and 'Wouldn't it be Lovely?', Aleysha was awarded a Distinction in her Grade 3 examination from the

University of West London's London College of Music Examinations board.

Aleysha was expected to dress, act, and use props – and the right accents - relevant to each song she sang, so her performances must have made a big impact. Well done, Aleysha!



“GOOD MORNING, PRENTON!”

Thanks to the cast of Prenton Theatre Company’s summer production of Hairspray, there was a treat in store at the start of one Year 7 assembly.

Year 8 student Olivia – whose Hairspray stage persona is the dance-loving teenager Tracy – sang ‘Good Morning Baltimore’ for them. It was an extra-special occasion because it was the first PTC performance in front of a live audience, leaving everyone most impressed and wanting more!

Prenton Parliament

Our Parliament Gets the Job Done

Thanks to Amy, Year 10, Chair of Prenton Parliament and newly appointed Deputy Head Girl for 2019-2010, this term’s sessions ably dealt with ten items of business raised by form representatives - as well as the items raised under ‘Any Other Business’.

There was a mixture of both sadness and happiness following the last sitting of Prenton Parliament for this academic year. We were sad to say goodbye to Amy, who has completed a sterling year of tenure as Chair, but happy to welcome Year 10 student Abigail, who takes over this position of responsibility.

Amy is pictured here, handing over to Abigail after her last meeting in charge. Abigail will be supported by Year 9 student Emily as her deputy. Good luck to you all!



Prenton Daisies

Our School Garden’s Hidden Treasure

A Spring garden can be full of treasures – and, thanks to Amanda Dunbar, Student Support, when her Prenton Daisies team returned to the school garden at the beginning of term, there were a few added eggs-tras!

Gardeners Sophie and Jade are pictured here taking some time out from planting seeds to hunt for chocolate Easter eggs carefully hidden amongst the shrubs - and we hear Year 8 student Sophie claimed the biggest haul!



Being 'Body Kind'

Our Mental Health Ambassadors joined School Counsellor, Michelle Higgins, to launch national Mental Health Awareness Week in school.

The theme this year is Body Image – how we think and feel about our bodies. It is an issue that can affect all of us at any age and our thoughts and feelings about our bodies can impact us throughout our lives. They can affect the way we feel about ourselves and our mental health and wellbeing. Having body image concerns is a relatively common experience and is not a mental health problem in and of itself; however, it can be a risk factor for mental health problems.

Following a session in which discussions followed a series of short videos in the LRB, Michelle and our ambassadors (pictured here) conducted workshops each lunchtime throughout the week – including Keeping Calm in the Garden, Sing Yourself Happy, Mindfulness in the Yard, Yoga, Origami and making Pledges to be Body Kind.

Thanks to Michelle and to Mrs Haynes in the LRB who has put a display of relevant books together for students to borrow. Our bodies and minds are wonderful things – we must do all we can to look after them!



COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Knowledge is power, and recent parent seminars organised by Mrs McGarry, Head of Learning Support, were aimed at providing fuller understanding of different topics and to help parents develop useful strategies that support them.

This second parent workshop of the academic year was about supporting children who had Social and Communication challenges.

Thanks to course facilitator Chrissi Jones from the ADHD Foundation, for providing helpful advice throughout the day. As one parent said later: "I found it a really helpful and learned a lot, thank you!"

Our Men from the Met

Thanks to Paul Martin, Student Advisor Schools Liaison Officer at Wirral Met College who visited school with his colleague, Chris Gibbs, Lecturer in Hospitality and Catering at the college.

Chris is photographed providing advice and expertise on the many courses they offer to Year 9 students Lucy and Chloe during a busy lunchtime in the Learning Resource Base.

Thank you for coming in to see us, gentlemen!



Making Mental Health Matter

Our Mental Health Awareness Week activities were wide-ranging, thanks to organisers Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor, and Amanda Dunbar, Student Services. Students chose between joining the Sing Yourself Happy group inside school, Keeping Calm in the Garden and Yoga sessions, or relaxing by making origami swans.

In the foyer, students were able to make their own 'Body Kind' pledges which are displayed along the staircase. Ambassadors Emily, Emily, Isabella and Isobel are pictured here in charge of this activity. Great work, everyone!



Seeking Utopia

Twelve Year 9 students are taking part in the 2019 Utopia Personal Development Project this summer term. Thanks to course organiser Miss Dunbar, Student Services, the project offers a number of character-forming challenges. Utopia is an education, training and outreach service based at the Viking Centre, Rock Ferry, and this is the fourth consecutive year we have linked up with them to offer this exciting after school programme to our students.

The project runs for seven weeks and includes an 11km sponsored cycle ride in aid of Wirral Deaf Children's Society, an organisation nominated by one of the students on the programme. Our students have also undertaken problem-solving and team-building activities, indoor climbing, horse-riding and kayaking.

TIME FOR ME - TIME FOR BREAKFAST!

Lauren, Teagan and Penelope, are pictured here sharing breakfast with Amanda Dunbar, Student Services and Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor. They were part of a group of Year 7 students meeting up for breakfast before school started to catch up after participating in a 'Time for Me' group.



'Time for Me' met weekly over four weeks and used creative activities and discussions that engage our young people in exploring their self-identity, feelings and emotions, relationships, and their life story. A few of the group met again at the end of term to spend a 'Time for Me' therapeutic day - including lunch - in the garden.

'Time for Me' grows self-awareness, helps build new friendships, develops empathy and trust in others, and potentially recognises new strengths and resources in themselves that they didn't know they had.

NEW MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER ON ITS WAY!

Written by students for students, Mind Time newsletter is being launched next term. Our Mental Health Ambassadors will be welcoming any contributions.

WE'RE BEATING THE BLUES!

We are working with the Action for Children charity on an exciting, voluntary, programme called 'The Blues'.

Twenty-four students have been invited to join a 6-week course designed to support teenagers aged 13-19 years, giving them the tools and understanding to prevent and reduce symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression. It is based around the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy theory and focusses on the idea that our thoughts, feelings and actions are all connected. How we think impacts how we interpret things that happen to us. So if we interpret events in a negative way, it will negatively impact our feelings. Our behaviour and actions also impact the way we feel; the more positive things we do the happier we will feel!

A Drug-free life is the Healthiest Life

It is important for our young people to stay 'drugs-aware' and to receive as much valuable advice and support to maintain as healthy a lifestyle as possible.

Helping us to be knowledgeable about the dangers of drugs and to make the right decisions on keeping safe and looking after each other, we welcomed into school Kersti Lawson and Jackie Leasor from Wirral's Health Services In Schools. They led the Year 8 assembly, guiding us through the challenges we face and outlining the confidential support and advice they provide. Thank you, Kersti and Jackie.

Student Leadership

Meet Our New Student Senior Leaders!

Many congratulations to Year 10 student Lucy, who has been appointed Head Girl for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Lucy (pictured, front centre) is supported in the Student Senior Leadership Team by Deputy Head Girls Jess and Amy, and Assistant Head Girls Eva, Kira and Grace.

Announcing the new team, Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, said it was a true privilege and honour to interview all the inspirational young people who had applied for these positions

of responsibility on the SSLT, each with their own vision and passion for the roles and each with such a determination to make a positive difference to our school community.

Congratulating the successful students, Mrs Ayling says she is looking forward to working with them over the next year.

Well done, and good luck to you all over the coming year!



Can You Be a Student Leader?

This was the challenge set by Ms Kelly, Student Leadership, at Year 8 and Year 9 assemblies at the beginning of term.

She was supported by our departing Student Senior Leadership Team of Head Girl Beth, Deputy Head Girls Megan and Jayne, Assistant Head Girls Amy, Poppy, and Kaitlyn. The team shared their journey of the past five years through Prenton and how they had each grasped every opportunity to gain as many different experiences as possible from the moment they joined us.

Prenton is not just about thriving on academic success, and assemblies learned about the impressive list of extra-curricular activities in which their Leadership team had engaged over the past five years. Their achievements included: debating and public speaking competitions, joining the many clubs the school offers, representing their forms in Prenton Parliament, PiXL training at Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Peer mentoring, Mental Health mentoring, taking part in Prenton Theatre Company productions, completing Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and

Silver Awards, as representatives on our Eco Council and in sport, attending the Young Medics programme and Mock Interviews, organising charity events, going on educational trips at home and abroad – and leading assemblies, of course!

The student team highlighted the importance of taking advantage of the many opportunities and responsibilities on offer, helping to build up an impressive C.V. for when the time comes to apply for college and when wanting that key job with prospective employers. Their message, before handing back to Ms Kelly, was that it was now the time for younger students to shine!

The current and latest opportunities were outlined for our Year 8 and Year 9 students – including Team Leaders on the Eco Council, for DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) and Sport, and to be on our Mind to be Kind and Progress Evening ambassadors. Ms Kelly provided a picture of the personal qualities she was seeking for the roles and what new ideas they would like to bring. Her advice was: 'Fill out your applications, now!'



AN ASSEMBLY WITH VISION AND VALUES

There was a packed agenda when Year 8 and Year 9 students held their combined assembly, led by Deputy Headteacher Mrs Fraser.

Following Year 7 student Libby singing 'Hall of Fame', Mrs Fraser reviewed the school's Vision and Values and spoke about inspirational people such as those who climb mountains, discover new medicines, play sport at the highest level, and venture into space. She then looked closer to home as here in Prenton we too have our inspirational people – our students! In recent months we have tweeted about poetry winners, Duke of Edinburgh Award winners, Mental Health and Eco representatives, LFC Academy participants, rocket-car launchers, PiXL winners, and Prenton Theatre Company performers, to name but a few!

Before they introduced themselves, Mrs Fraser talked about the process of choosing the new Student Senior Leadership Team, and described how they had been able to impress the School's Senior Team with their achievements since Year 7, many of which were through taking advantage of the many extra-curricular activities on offer in school, as well as being role-models to their peers.

Four members of our new Student Senior Leadership Team – Deputy Head Girls Jessica and Amy, and Assistant Head Girls Eva and Kira introduced themselves, giving their own visions of what they wish to achieve for everyone over the coming year. Because they were on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition - and in a 'first' for Prenton - Head Girl Lucy and Assistant Head Girl Grace introduced themselves by pre-recorded message.

We indeed have an exciting year in prospect!

LUCY'S OUR LORIC WINNER!

Put together, the qualities of: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication make LORIC, a Partners in Excellence (PiXL) acronym of which we will hear more about in the future as students receive recognition for demonstrating these attributes.

To answer the question of how best to reward our achieving Year 7 LORIC students, Ms Kelly, Student Leadership, drafted in help from Year 7s themselves by organising a competition.

Congratulations to winner Lucy, pictured centre with runners-up Gracie and Katie. Lucy's idea was for a DT laser cut trophy, which will be presented to students who have achieved in all five aspects during a trial period.

Other ideas are being generated so that those students who have achieved some, but not all, LORIC skills can be partly rewarded, encouraging them to build up to a full LORIC award!



Widening Our Skills and Knowledge

Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed a series of extra-curricular activities centred around Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

We welcomed members of the Wirral Young Chamber (of Commerce) who came into school to work with Year 7 students. They were tasked to come up with a business plan for a new product. They had to give it a unique selling point, design a logo, and create a brief marketing strategy and advertising plan and present their ideas to a panel of Dragons. Congratulations to winners 7H2.

Year 8 took part in a 'Design a Cereal Box' enterprise day on Tuesday. Working in their form teams, their challenge was to create a new healthy cereal with a superhero theme. They then designed the packaging, created a prototype for the free gift, and made a filmed advertisement. They presented their ideas to a group of Dragons in the afternoon.

Congratulations to the winning group 8B1, pictured here, with their product: 'Famberry'.

Year 9 worked with Young Enterprise on the 'Learn to Earn' programme. The programme inspires students and provides information on career options to help them make informed choices. It helps to prepare them for destinations and life beyond education by engaging students in a range of hands-on activities, including role-play interviews and a board game to help them understand how education is key to their future success and happiness.



Coaster for Coffee?

Thanks to our innovative Year 8 Enterprise team, brisk sales were reported as soon as their Father's Day products went on sale.

From an idea of their own, the team went on to develop and create a series of eye-catching key-rings and gift-wrapped coasters especially for the event. We can safely assume there were some happy fathers around on Father's Day!

Emillia and Hannah are pictured on the stall.





THE APPLIANCE OF ROCKET SCIENCE

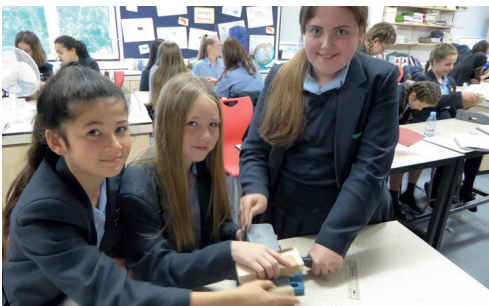
Our Year 7 students had an exciting opportunity to prove it is rocket science with this year's nationwide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) competition – 'Race for the Line'!

The objective was simple: Student teams must design and make the fastest rocket powered car they can and compete with their designs across multiple stages in a national competition. Organiser Miss Bullock, teacher of Science, recommended a strong set of wheels be an essential design feature as our cars would be no slowcoaches.

Powered by fireworks ignited via an electric spark and detonator, our test cars reached speeds of up to 70 mph and covered the statutory 25 metres in around $\frac{3}{4}$ second! After successfully taking their cars onto the test track in school, they went on to the regional finals in Manchester, coming in fourth place - just missing out on first place in the national finals by 0.003 second!

Thanks to Neil Mack, HR Manager at Survitec Group Ltd, our students had a local sponsor too for their materials!

Ciara, Chloe and Summer can be seen here making a start by discovering some aerodynamic secrets.



LAUNCHING ETHICAL PRODUCTS AT THE BIG BANG!

Year 9 students Evie, Lily, and Keira and Year 8 students Angel, Ellie, Alex, and Libby joined teacher of Science Mr Morrish to compete in the Big Bang competition in Liverpool. A total of 39 school teams, ranging from Year 8s to 6th Formers, entered this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event.

Mr Morrish reports our girls presented to judges up to 3 times during the morning, very confidently and performing well under intense questioning about their ethical shampoo and teeth product ideas. He said their positivity did both themselves and the school proud. Although not winning any of the rewards, our teams were complimented repeatedly by the judges for their ideas and presentations.

After the competition they had the chance to view the rest of the Big Bang show and meet industry and training leaders in the fields of STEM.





SPORTS DAY LIGHTS UP THE OVAL

Against the impressive backdrop of the Bebington Oval, made famous by the 1981 film Chariots of Fire, a new set of Olympians graced the stadium for the 2019 Prenton High School Sports day.

With over 350 Years 7, 8 and 9s attending our gloriously sunny Sports Day, the stadium resounded to the loud cheers of encouragement – and accompanying Samba band rhythm – as the competing 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and relay runners sped past before them. We saw long and high jumping, and throwing competitions, with staff joining too in their own space hopper, sack, and egg and spoon races, as well as the most competitive combined staff and students relay race.

Congratulations to form winners 7B2, 8H2, and 9H2; House winners Bedford (Year 7); and Hesketh (Years 8 and 9), and to overall winners, Hesketh House. Miss Gore, Subject Leader PE, thanked all the staff and students who contributed to such an enjoyable day - and to Mrs Green, former teacher of Maths, for her superb co-ordination of all the results!



SPORTS LEADERS PREPARE FOR WIRRAL SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Our Year 9 and Year 10 Sports Leaders attended a training day at the Hive, Birkenhead, during the term. Here, they developed a range of leadership skills that they can apply to a range of inclusive sports. This has enabled our Sports Leaders' team to run an inclusive festival next year as part of the Wirral School Games.

OUR TRIBE TAKES TO THE WATER

Twelve lucky students accompanied Miss Gore, Miss McCabe and Miss Hepke kayaking around the Royal Albert Dock complex of waterways in Liverpool. Their day was part of an initiative put in place by Miss Gore and the Youth Sport Trust called 'Find My Tribe'. Students meet up weekly to access a range of activities and events in which confidence and communication skills are developed through sport - they even helped out at our summer show!



HANNAH BOUNCES TO GLORY

Congratulations to Year 10 student Hannah, who has been trampolining since she was 8 years old, and clearly knows her Turntables from her Cradles and Back Drop Half Twists!

Hannah, who trampolines for her club Drill, Grange Road West, competed in the North West trampolining championships, coming a very creditable third place. She is now looking to compete in the English Championships in September. Great trampolining and good luck, Hannah!



AN ENGLAND PLACE FOR BOWLER, MILLIE!

We were delighted to hear that Year 9 student Millie had picked up a host of medals during the half-term!

She travelled to Dunstable for The National Association of Youth Bowling Clubs Junior National Championships. Millie was clearly on great form, winning 4 gold medals – in the Singles, Doubles (with her brother Charlie), and for All Events.



Millie was the only bowler out of 392 competitors to get the rare achievement of 4 golds (a 'clean sweep'), especially as she needed to rely on other bowlers in the team and doubles events. There was a major recognition of Millie's ability too – her win cemented a place for her in the Junior Team England team for the Youth Triple Crown over in Ireland to be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Well done, Millie!

SOME STUNNING DATA FROM PE!

This year the PE department has been tracking and monitoring our participation in sport. They have looked at a range of activities such as the number of clubs students have attended, number of competitions completed, and the number of teams entered in competitions. Their findings are impressive, and include over 1250 hours of walking per week, nearly 2500 participants in our Active Playground, and almost 5000 participants in our extra-curricular sports clubs! A complete list of their findings can be seen on our website, to be updated soon with new data covering the full year.

SPORTS LEADERS ACCREDITATION

Our Level 1 and Level 2 Sports Leaders have now completed the final sport needed to gain their accreditation.

They have each completed 30 hours of leadership work, delivered a 1-hour sports session, and have been responsible for a range of leadership roles throughout the year. Their list of activities included: Active Play, Girls Active, British Wheelchair Basketball Young Leaders, Boccia Young Leaders, Volleyball Young Officials, Sports day organisation and officiating, Find Your Tribe sessions and running the club with the LFC foundation.

Sports Leaders Complete their Training

Congratulations to all those students who completed their 'Step in to Sports' Sports Leaders training in April: Eloise, Lillie, Alex, Alisha, Cleo, Amber, Olivea, Amy, Chloe, Lois (all Year 9), and Millie and Paige (both Year 10).

During this training students learnt a range of employability skills and, where able, to apply them to a range of activities such as Girl's Active and Find Your Tribe sessions within our extra-curricular time table.

WE'VE COMPLETED THE CUBE!

The theme for the 2019 National Sports Week is Five Ways to Wellbeing: being active, connecting, giving back, taking notice, and learning.

Thanks to our PE department, we have completed eight activities in support of the week, timetabled as 'the cube'! Year groups 7 to 10 have been involved, competing to gain the most House points - congratulations to Hesketh House with Bedford and Riviera in second and third places, respectively.

In achieving 'the cube', much fun has been had, with activities such as bouncing a tennis ball just once from behind a line and into a bucket, welly throwing, a fancy dress obstacle race, demonstrating their Boccia ball rolling skills, and 'the plank', in which all team members attempt to stay on a plank for 45 seconds or longer.



Premier League Kicks Tournament

Well done to Amy, (Year 9), Bonnie-Mae, Abbie (both Year 10), and Amy, Daisy (both pictured here), Junemarie, Madaleine, and Chloe (all Year 11), who travelled to the University of Warwick in April to play for the Liverpool FC Foundation team in the Premier League Kicks Tournament.

There were 65 professional football clubs represented and the team our girls played for reached Round 16 (the same stage that the LFC Boys' team went out), exiting only following a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

Tony Cosgrove, LFC Foundation project lead, said: "Both sides represented the club and the LFC Foundation exceptionally on the day and produced some memorable moments, always with a smile on their faces."



BASKETBALLERS NET A NORTH WEST FOURTH PLACE!

Our Basketball team of Year 7 students Ciara, Megan, Bethan, Lucy, Lucy, Ambra, Sasha and Ellie travelled to Manchester to compete in the North West Basketball finals.

They competed against teams from Manchester and St Helens, finishing 4th in the JR NBA North West basketball league. Thank you to Miss Doyle for developing the team and entering the league, and to Miss Crabb for continuing to train them up for the final.

Miss Gore, Subject Leader – PE, reports that our team played really well and were a credit to the school - Ciara is pictured here going for goal during one of their games.



VOLLEYBALLERS WINNING WAYS

On the first weekend of the spring break, our Under 14 Volleyball team travelled with Miss Gore, Subject Leader – PE, to Wigan to take part in a North West league competition.

They not only won five of their eight games but some have been invited to compete for a place in the North West of England team! Congratulations to Jess (Year 8), Eloise, Amber and Lois (all Year 9); a great achievement!



ENGLAND NETBALL FESTIVAL

Joining up with 300 students from over 30 schools from across Merseyside, sixteen of our Year 7, 8 and 9 netballers attended the Vitality Netball World Cup Legacy's North West School Tournament in June.

The competition raised the profile of netball and united students from across the area as

each school represented different countries in this year's main event. Although we did not progress to the final stages of the tournament, our players gained much from the experience and learnt what the team sport of netball offers in developing confidence and building many transferable skills.

HESKETH HAVE THE EDGE IN INTER-FORM ROUNDERS

In the June Inter-form competitions, the 7H1 team of Millie, Emily, Reme, Letitia, Sasha, and Grace won the Year 7 competition, Ruby, Jess and Faye from 8R1 won the Year 8 competition, and joint winners of the Year 9 competition were 9H1 (Tayla, Keira and Olivea) and 9H2 (Eloise, Zoe, Amy and Cleo).

2019/20 DIARY

Autumn Term 2019

Inset Day (Staff only)

Inset Day (Staff only)

School opens (Staff and students)

Open Evening

Inset Day

Open Morning

School closes

Half term Holiday

School opens

School closes

Christmas Holiday

Monday 2 September

Tuesday 3 September

Wednesday 4 September

Thursday 3 October 6pm to 8pm

Friday 4 October

Monday 7 October 9.30am to 12.30pm

Friday 25 October

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

Monday 4 November

Friday 20 December

Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January 2020



Spring Term 2020

School opens

School closes

Half term holiday

School opens

School closes

Spring holiday

Monday 6 January

Friday 14 February

Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

Monday 24 February

Friday 3 April

Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April

Summer Term 2020

School opens

Bank Holiday

School closes

Half term

School closes

Monday 20 April

Monday 4 May

Friday 22 May

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Friday 17 July at 1pm

Details to follow for further dates – please keep in touch via our

website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk and **twitter:** @prentonhigh

Many congratulations on giving us three entertaining evenings packed with vibrant singing and wonderfully synchronised dancing to each of our thirty-four Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students in the cast, ably supported by fellow students - six stage hands, one hair and make-up artist, and the three engineers, Amber, Eva, and Amber – who devised and supervised all the sound and lighting settings themselves! Thanks to our band consisting of: Mrs Rowlinson – Band Director & Piano, Mrs Jones – Keyboard, Mrs Burns – Woodwind, Mr Corlett – Percussion, and Mr Jones – Guitar & Bass.

Special thanks too, to Director/Music Director - Mrs Jones, Co-director - Jessica (Year 10); Drama Director - Mrs Burns; Choreographer - Miss Rebecca Woods; Set Designer - Ms Dodd; Sound - Mr Hughes; Lighting - Mr Graves; Stage Manager - Miss McCabe; Hair and Makeup - Miss Gore and Miss Pemberton. Thanks also to the many staff who supported the show and to our ever-supportive Friends of Prenton, who provided refreshments during the intervals.

