



WINTER 2018

THE SNOW QUEEN LEAVES AN 'ICE'-WARM GLOW!



The Prenton Theatre Company's 'The Snow Queen' delivered everything we ask of a classic pantomime – drama, catchy tunes, slapstick comedy and dancing, plus some suitably evil characters to encourage lively audience participation!

Our talented Company's superb production entranced their audiences with their version of this popular panto – transporting us to a faraway land that has been trapped in a perpetual winter by the Snow Queen (Jessica) and her trusty 'henchmen', Jack Frost (Cerys) and Snowbell (Mab). With the Summer Queen (Olivia) ensuring good finally triumphs over evil, the cast successfully left everyone leaving with a warm glow!

PiXL Provides the Pathway
– see centre pages

More Snow Queen
photographs on
the back page

Another year of great
GCSE results
on page 4-5



PRENTON
High School for Girls

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Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Ayling BA (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Geraldine Fraser BEd (Hons) MSc

Prenton People

Congratulations to:

Mrs Kenyon, appointed Subject Leader – English.

Mrs Rice, Finance Clerk/Educational Visits Co-ordinator, on achieving her Level 3 AAT accounting qualification.

Miss Zukova, Receptionist, and Mr Tang, Year 8 Progress Leader and teacher of mathematics, on their wedding during the summer.

Our PE department - Ms Gore and Miss Doyle - who have achieved the Bronze School Games Award.

Mr Robinson, teacher of History, and Miss Doyle, teacher of PE, who have each qualified as Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessors. This means they can assess up to Bronze and Silver Award standard.

Mr Green, Teaching Assistant, and Miss McHugh, HR Manager, who have gained Qualified Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteer status.

Congratulations to Miss Doyle, appointed Teaching Staff Governor and to Lindsey Thompson as Support Staff governor.

Welcome to:

Mr Gibson, teacher of Geography, who joined us in September and appointed PSHE Lead covering Mrs Close's maternity leave in the New Year.

Samantha Norman, ITT in Maths and Olivia Bengley, ITT in History, who joined us in September.

Mrs Patricia Jones

We were sad to learn of the death in November of Mrs Patricia Jones, who was a retired teacher of Art at Prenton High School. We offer our condolences to her family.

SENCO Accolade for Mrs McGarry

Receiving recognition from one's fellow professionals is always a special achievement and we are delighted that our Head of Learning Support (SENCo), Mrs McGarry, has received the prestigious 'SENCO of the Year' award through the ADHD foundation.

The foundation works in partnership with individuals, families, doctors, teachers and many other agencies to improve emotional well-being, educational attainment, behaviour, and life chances through a better understanding and self-management of ADHD.

Mrs McGarry is pictured here with a representative from the nutritional support company Equazen, sponsors of her award. Many congratulations!



Headlines

We have had so many wonderful opportunities to celebrate and reflect upon the achievements of both students and staff throughout this term, and the Celebration and Awards Evenings in November were both perfect examples.

I was immensely proud to inform our returning 'Class of 2018' that their superb set of GCSE results this summer put them among the top 30% of schools in the country. Bearing in mind that these new GCSE courses were the toughest yet, I was especially delighted for students, the staff and families. Among the many awards presented that evening were to students who, in addition to gaining excellent examination results, had 100% attendance throughout their five years at Prenton High School. There is, without doubt, a direct correlation between excellent attendance and examination success - current students, please maintain your commitment in this area!

Our Celebration Evening earlier in the month gave a chance to recognise the achievements and endeavours of our younger students. I am often lost for words when I witness how they adapt so well to their new secondary school and the confident approach with which they display their talents and take on responsibility so early. It is no wonder that we attracted so many to our Autumn Open events and received so many positive comments from our visitors. In addition, we celebrated the success of over 90 students who received their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, testament to their ongoing hard work, resilience and community contributions over the last year.

Looking forward, I am determined in my commitment to help our students accomplish even more. To this end, we have been working on two important developments this term - the first was the launch of PiXL, Partners in Excellence which adds to the sound academic foundations that we have in place, whilst also encouraging an appreciation and respect for each other's differences as well as taking on some form of responsibility at every opportunity. I believe these initiatives will give our students a strong competitive advantage when they are applying for places in higher and further education, and in the workplace.

Linking closely with PiXL and continuing to secure the best for our students, we have been taking a critical look at our Vision and Values, working with staff, Governors and students. A group of students has presented our collective ideas back to staff and to Governors, ready to launch in school and with our stakeholders in the New Year.

Prenton is fortunate to have such dedicated staff, all contributing in different ways to giving students the very best education and experiences, evident through every page of this edition of High Life.

I thank everyone for making this term yet another successful one in the life of our school and wish staff, students and their families, and our neighbours a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Mrs Lisa Ayling
Headteacher

Auditor's Approval

Congratulations to the Finance team, HR Manager Mrs McHugh, and Mrs Hodson, Director of Finance and Operations on receiving the unqualified audit that Langton's Accountants presented to the Governors Finance, Premise, Pay and Personnel Committee in November. One key area that is scrutinised within the audit framework is the school's approach to value for money and in a letter written jointly by Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, and Mrs Eaton, Chair of Governors, all staff were thanked for their continued support in these challenging times.

ALUMNI

Laura is Wirral Apprentice of the Year

Former student Laura Lovelady has won the prestigious Wirral Apprentice of the Year 2018 award. Laura, who left Prenton High School in 2015, works at the Leverhulme Hotel in Port Sunlight, Merseyside's highest rated 4-star hotel.

Laura was chauffeured to the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Awards ceremony, held at the Liverpool Exhibition Centre, in the hotel's pink Rolls Royce. There, she was given afternoon tea before receiving her award.

After leaving school, Laura joined the 16 to 19 programme that covers academic, technical and vocational study programmes, including traineeships and supported internships. Well done, Laura!

Ellie's Top Appointment

It was wonderful to hear from Ellie Parry, who left us in 2015. Ellie has worked hard over the past three years, following her passion for Food Technology. Having passed all her exams and gaining her catering qualifications, Ellie is now Chef at the Red Fox in Thornton Hough. Thanks for inspiring us, Ellie!

NEWS

Yet another year of fantastic results for students of Prenton High School!

The phenomenally hard work of all of our students, staff and whole school community has really paid off.

In a year that has seen new specifications, new qualifications and a new grading system, our students could not be deterred and have once again performed strongly when compared to results across the country. Students performed strongly in English and maths, with results above the national average when compared with all 16-year-old students in the UK. Three quarters of our students achieved at least a grade 4 in English and maths, with nearly a third of our students achieving a grade 7-9 in English.

Key performance indicators show improvements across the board, with particularly impressive results in English with twice as many students achieving the very top grades compared to the previous year, and over 80% of students achieving a grade 4 or above.

With our broad curriculum offer, students have succeeded across a wide range of subject areas, giving them the best possible opportunities and choices post 16. At Prenton we believe in our vision statement: 'Making a positive difference today to achieve a better

tomorrow'. With these results students are well equipped for a bright future.

Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, commented: "As Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of how focused and hard working all of the students were in their studies and would like to thank them, and recognise the support they have received from home. The partnership between home and school is something of which we are very proud and we value the important role that parents and carers play in student success. Staff and Governors at Prenton consistently go the extra mile and the results are testament to their continued pursuit of making a difference to every single student."



To see our commitment to extra-curricular provision, as well as what we offer in the classroom, we encourage visits to our school so that you can see for yourself what we have to offer. We were delighted to see so many visitors at our Autumn open events, but if you missed any of these, simply contact the school and appropriate arrangements will be made to welcome you and show you around on a normal working day.

Many congratulations to our hard working staff and students!



Open Evening tells us: 'You are Awesome!'

Our October Open Evening and Open Morning proved yet again that Prenton is popular with students from over 30 local primary schools, joined by family members, coming to see what our school has to offer.

The particular 'likes' from visitors were the friendly and welcoming feel, the excellent resources in our school, how passionate the staff were, and the very polite, friendly and helpful students they met.

When asked about why parents and carers would be happy for their daughter to attend Prenton, responses included the nurturing atmosphere, a feeling that their daughter would be safe at the school, the school's ethos and the excellent academic results, good class sizes and, notably, one remarking we were: 'The best all-female school in Wirral!'

Other comments included: 'My mind was blown with all the activities and learning', 'Love the feel of one big family', and 'An awesome school!'

Please don't forget, you can keep in touch with the many wonderful things our students achieve through our website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk and twitter: @prentonhigh

Thank you to those students who helped give our guests such a warm welcome!

Aiming High for University

Thirteen Year 11 students joined Mrs Fraser, Deputy Headteacher, and Mr Taylor, LRB Manager, to a PiXL Conference at the home of Lancashire County Cricket Club, The Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester.

'Getting into the Top Universities', conducted by PiXL 6's Peter Rawling, provided information, inspiration, and advice on the different courses universities offer, applicants' skills looked for, and how students can best prepare themselves to gain a place in any one of the UK's top universities. A session from Freddie Warner of King's College London gave information about his University and a picture of what life is like at a top major-city university.

As one student afterwards commented: 'It was a really useful morning, giving me lots of good information to think about.'



Helping to Unlock Your Greatness!

Following the 'Getting into the Top Universities' PiXL conference at the Emirates Old Trafford Cricket Ground, there are two helpful links for students (and their families too) that we are happy to endorse.

By using these links and selecting and watching the many clips on offer, conference leader Peter Rawling made the point that students' applications to establishments offering higher and further education would be that much stronger. His view was, that by using these sites, students would be able to talk to interviewers that much more knowledgeably about their chosen subjects, giving them that competitive edge over other candidates.

You can use the links below or you can find them under the Student Portal section of our website. See what you think by researching more into your favourite topic – both sites are free too!

<http://mooc.org/> <https://www.ted.com/talks>

Year 7s Celebrating 100%

Year 7 Progress Leader Mrs Hepke was delighted with the huge number of Year 7 students who completed 100% attendance over their first half term at Prenton. To say 'Well done!' to each of her '100 Per Cent' club, she brought in trays of doughnuts to share with them at lunchtime - Jasmin, Jamie-Lea and Lily are photographed here with theirs.



This was a wonderful effort. Maintain your great attendance everyone - and keep Mrs Hepke smiling!

Study Skills, Revision and Preparation Raise Results

With the new GCSE exams far more challenging than ever before, how are you going to raise your game? That was the challenge to a Year 11 'Prepare to Perform' session following the half-term break organised by Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Fraser with Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Sagar. The range of helpful ideas to support students included making intervention sessions more bespoke to students' needs.

Additionally, a Year 11 assembly was the platform for presentations from Mrs Kenyon, Subject Leader - English, Mrs Watson, Subject Leader - Maths, and Miss Doyle, teacher of PE, provided tips and advice on organising revision, with plenty of useful techniques and good websites to use, ensuring the best exam preparation. As one Year 11 said afterwards: "It is great to know we have so much support available."

We wish all our Year 11 students every success following November's Pre-Public Examinations.



Prenton is Proud of You!

Our 2018 Celebration Evening was a wonderful opportunity for Years 8,9 and 10 students to share with their families a retrospective look on the achievements of the past twelve months and to consider the huge possibilities that lie ahead. And with ninety-nine awards and special awards being presented, there was certainly much to celebrate!

In her opening address Mrs Ayling, Headteacher, congratulated students on the many skills and qualities they had demonstrated so far in their time at Prenton, both in their hard work at school and the wider community. By taking advantage of the many leadership roles the school offers – from participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, being Prenton Parliament and Charity representatives to Sports leaders and Eco-council members - means they are gaining valuable skills and laying the foundations for further future roles of responsibility, strengthening their applications to join the Student Senior Leadership Team.

As she looked around the room, Mrs Ayling said she was excited by the endless possibilities ahead for students and we would be helping by developing students' skills in the key areas around LORICs (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication). She encouraged them to reflect on what it feels like to feel proud of themselves – pride in feeling good about what they have achieved – and that we were all proud of every single one; this is just the beginning of success at school - and beyond!

In her words of welcome Head Girl and Student Senior Leadership Team member Beth congratulated students on their achievements and encouraged them to wear their badges with pride. She hoped these prestigious awards would be useful in demonstrating their effort, determination and resilience when applying for future positions of responsibility in school - such as the Student Leadership Team - and when compiling their CVs. Her advice was to use their awards as a motivation to gaining further, continued, successes.

Thanks to the School Choir who sang 'How Far I'll Go' from the film Moana, and to Vice Chair of Governors, Dr Jeremy Coen, for awarding the Governors' Awards as part of the Special Recognition Awards. Congratulations to each one of our Award-winners - including students Rose (Award for RE), Georgia (Award for Music), and Phoebe (Headteacher's Award for Academic Excellence) pictured here together at the end of the ceremony. Head Girl Beth, Headteacher Mrs Ayling and Deputy Headteacher Mrs Fraser are also photographed here.



In Celebration of Success

We were delighted to welcome back to school last summer's leavers, joined by current Year 11 students, for our Annual Awards Evening.

It was a pleasure also to meet up once again with our guest speaker, and former student, Chloe Pierce. Chloe's speech outlined her inspirational journey since leaving Prenton just three years ago. She joined the Police Cadets whilst studying childcare at Wirral Metropolitan College in order to follow a dream she had had since childhood - to become a police officer. As a Cadet, she achieved 'The Police Cadet of the Year Award' in 2017 and then, following an intensive nine-month application process, successfully earned a place with Merseyside Police. Joining them 45 years to the day her father had become a Police Officer, Chloe was able to take his same Officer number. Currently a probationary Constable, Chloe is part of the investigations unit as part of her training. She praised the support she had received at Prenton, particularly in English, and referred to those extra PE lessons helping her cope with some of the more physically demanding Police assessments! Chloe urged her young audience to work hard and not to be put off in following their dreams.

Headteacher, Mrs Ayling congratulated the 'Year of 2018', telling them of her pride that their results put them in the top 30% of all schools in the country. It was a busy evening

with 240 awards presented, each giving us reason to celebrate and recognise a year of success and endeavour across the whole school.

Included in the Special Recognition Awards were: The Lyndsey Batey Award for Resilience to Heather (Year 10) and Erin (Year 11); The Governors' Award for Making a Difference to Olivia (Year 10) and to Melissa (Year 11) and The Headteacher's Award for Academic Excellence to Laura (Year 10) and Katie (Year 11).

Thanks to our Choir who sang Auli'i Cravalho's 'How Far I'll Go' to open the evening and congratulations to everyone – please don't forget to keep in touch and share your future successes!



Preparing Future Pathways

An evening crammed with useful information was greeted with enthusiasm by our Year 11 students and their parents and carers following an invitation from Year 11 Progress Leader Ms Craven.

Recognising that this is a very important year – not only preparing for GCSE examinations but also planning their future pathways after leaving us – the information evening outlined the support and guidance available, shared important dates and outlined how parents can support their daughters through this

crucial time. The evening was also supported by sessions with local providers of Further Education: Birkenhead Sixth Form College, Wirral Metropolitan College, The City of Liverpool College, Cheshire College South & West, Mploy Apprenticeships as well as study and revision skills presented by Shaping Futures from University of Liverpool.

Thank you to everyone who supported the evening; we are sure it will make a difference for our students.

Assembly's Career Advice to Year 10s

Matt Pulson from Mploy introduced himself to a Year 10 assembly in December, in which he explained his role as Careers Advisor and gave a brief explanation regarding the new on-line Work Experience system. All students will receive a one-to-one appointment as part of the support offered to make decisions about their choices after Prenton.

Meeting at the Mosque

Mrs Major, Assistant SENCo, Mrs Wright, teacher of Child Development/Health & Social Care/Retail Business, and Mrs O'Neill, teaching assistant, joined representatives from MEAS and other Wirral schools where they met the Imam for a tour of the Wirral Deen Centre mosque.

Opening the Door to Apprenticeships

Thanks to organisers, the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub, we were given a performance of 'Have You Heard About Apprenticeships?' by the Open the Door Theatre in Education players.

Ours was one of over 80 performances given throughout the region by this knowledgeable cast, giving students useful information, outlining the advantages of considering apprenticeships, and exploring the range of options and that are open to them in the future.



Pathways Day leaves Positive Impressions

We thank each of the wonderful volunteers from national and local companies, industry, charities and educational and support establishments who gave us their valuable time to help on our Year 11 Post 16 Pathways Day prior to half-term.

With important decisions about their futures soon to be made by our Year 11 students, Pathways Day is designed to help provide guidance with their College Applications and CVs, along with giving useful sessions on Financial Literacy, Apprenticeships, Mindfulness and Coping with Stress, and a Mock Interview with one of the experienced volunteers.

The students' hard work preparing for the day made their mark on our interviewers as their feedback was most positive – remarking on how well they had performed under pressure and that students had demonstrated an impressive number of achievements whilst at Prenton, speaking both knowledgably and passionately about the different positions of responsibility they had held in school. "I came away feeling really enthused by this generation of students," said one. Thank you once again for spending the day with us!



Lucy Promotes Prenton

When Joe and Jack from Reel Northern Productions came into school to work on our promotional film, we had lots of interest from students willing to be a part of the day.

They are pictured here filming Year 8 student Lucy who is choosing a new book to read at after-school Home Learning Club in the Learning Resource Base. The film was 'premiered' at our Open Evening in October and can be seen on our website.



Preparing Year 7s for Future Success

What are your aspirations and what does personal success mean to you, Year 7s?

These are just a couple of the many questions and challenges that Tim Hall from BeGo Coaching & Training posed during his day in school.

Encouraging a Growth Mindset, his sessions gave students a great start to their time at Prenton High School by helping them look at the learning process and encouraging the desire to have good learning habits. Wanting to learn, doing your best, and putting in effort will always lead to results, he says.

During the sessions students wrote down their aspirations and shaped their paper into darts to see how far their dreams could travel (pictured here). Tim included some juggling lessons too – demonstrating if they followed a process and take the steps given, that with practise, they will succeed!

Thanks to organisers Mrs McGarry, Head of Learning Support, and Year 7 Progress Leader Mrs Hepke.



Double Congratulations, Chartwells!

We were delighted to learn that Chartwells, our catering provider, have been awarded a 5 for food hygiene following their latest inspection.

This rating is the highest that can be applied to food providers and confirms that hygiene standards are exceptional and fully comply with the law. We are immensely proud of the food service that is provided for our students and staff.

We would like to thank and congratulate our Catering Manager Mrs Jane Davies and her fantastic team.

Adding to this award, our Dining Hall team have also been named as the Chartwells 'Team of the Term'. It is a recognition of the excellent service they give us daily and we are delighted they have received this accolade. Well done to you all!



Running a Running Club

Thanks to Miss Dunbar, Student Services, and Miss Hockenhill, Year 10 Progress Leader and teacher of Science, you may have seen a number of staff running along the local roads on Friday evenings after school. They planned gradual increases from week to week in both distance and speed so that beginners could 'find their feet' – then back home with a warm glow for the weekend!

Halloween Tricks and Treats

There was so much spookiness in school it was hard to know 'witch' way to turn!



Although the Chartwells catering staff have never looked quite as scary as this, it did not stop them from giving us a seriously spooky menu to bite into at lunchtime. Ghouls and ghosts would have felt perfectly at home in a Dining Hall eerily decorated for the occasion - and would have loved the special Halloween menu on offer. There were spiders, spider's webs, tomato eye-balls, ghostbusters, pumpkins, themed pizzas, 'finger' hot dogs, and cakes galore.

Thanks to Mr Graves, our 'Overlord of Light' for the day, our Main Hall was given a subterranean feel with an ethereally eerie green glow enveloping those with packed lunches. The hand-picked display of horror books in the LRB meant there was no hiding place in school for the faint-hearted, as Phoebe and Emily serenely show here!



Prom Team serve up Halloween Treats

Their toffee apples sold like hot cakes! Year 11 students prepared their own Halloween toffee apples, raising money towards extras for their Prom next summer. Abbie, Daisy, Mia and Junemarie are pictured here before the rush - thanks to everyone who helped to serve up this thoughtful seasonal treat.



Kindness and Politeness Make a Difference!

We thank Mrs Derby who telephoned to say how polite a dozen or so of our students were when she stopped her car to let them cross the road safely by Bedford Road. Each one gave her eye contact and thanked her, she says. Well done, girls, your kindness and display of good manners was appreciated.

When Nature Calls...

Thanks to 7B1 students who used their assembly to remind us that 19 November was World Toilet Day.

Theirs was a deadly serious message as it is estimated that 1.8 billion people worldwide use a drinking water source that could be contaminated. World



Toilet Day was about taking action to ensure that everyone has a safe toilet by 2030. To help strengthen their message, a number of 7B1 students jointly read out a poem describing how children are now benefitting from having a water supply, and Lucie-Leigh (pictured) read out her own poem to the assembly.

Thank you, 7B1!

Busy Assemblies for Year 7

There was so much information to impart to our Year 7s that Mrs Hepke, Year 7 Progress Leader, held two assemblies in the same week.

In readiness for Anti-Bullying week, we welcomed Emily from Kooth - a free, safe and confidential online counselling and emotional well-being platform for young people - who gave a talk about the support that is available from both Kooth and the school.

Mrs Hepke also took the opportunity to hand out certificates to those students who participated in the CREST day held in October (more details on the 'Science' pages). CREST is part of a nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) which inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

Congratulations on completing the day's Science-based activities to: Alicia, Roxanne,



We're Thinking Pink

Our annual 'Wear it Pink' day raises awareness of Breast Cancer and helps to raise funds towards the valuable research being undertaken by the Breast Cancer Charity.

In exchange for a monetary donation, the usual dress code for staff and students was complemented by pink accessories – as modelled here with Elen, Samia and Nadean. A 'Major' staff Cake-Off raised money for the charity too, introducing a competitive spirit into the day – between Mr Major's Humanities team and Mrs Major's SEND team. The staff room was filled with Blonde Brownies, Sparkly Oreo Cupcakes, Tiramisu, Chocolate Swirl cakes, muffins, Lemon and Ginger cakes, and a highly understated Ultimate Chocolate Cake!

Tasting sessions throughout the day by our dedicated staff followed, with votes cast for their favourite confection. Thanks to organisers Mrs Winter and Mrs McCoy, and following some serious sampling, it was the SEND team who came out victors with Mrs Major's cheesecake a runaway favourite!



Listening to the Student Voice

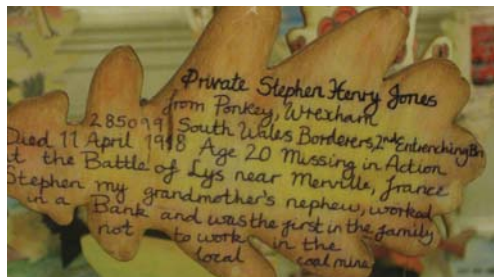
The second in an innovative series of surveys has been held to find out how Year 7 students feel about what is going well for them and what 'would be even better if...'

With students' comments collated by Form Tutors, Mrs Hepke, Year 7 Progress Leader, feels this important process is an effective measure to gauge just how settled students are and provides a great opportunity to introduce positive changes. Her assembly provided valuable feedback on the latest topics raised and, as a result, many encouraging comments have been passed on to others throughout the school.

Art and Photography

The Fallen Leaf Project Exhibition

The private viewing of an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War at the Williamson Art Gallery exhibition launched a series of events around the area. Among the many guests joining staff and their families from Prenton High School were Tranmere-born actress Dame Patricia Routledge and the Rt Hon Frank Field MP.



The evening opened with music from the Wilfred Owen Choir and the displays of art and sculptures - now open to the public until Saturday 22 December - include the stunningly poignant 'Fallen Leaf' installation, an idea conceived and created by our Artist in Residence, Mrs Julie Dodd. Her idea, based on a simple oak leaf, the emblem of the Cheshire Regiment, inspired Julie to use each leaf as the format to represent the fallen - and as the vehicle for others to place their individual messages of remembrance to those lost in the war.

Over the past year, Julie has been busy running a series of workshops with Prenton staff and students, working with the many primary schools



who came into Prenton as part of our Elevate programme over the summer term and visiting primary schools this term in the run-up to the exhibition. They decorated the laser-cut leaves with personal stories of family members, photographs, personal responses, views and reflections of war, all combining with Julie's skilled eye to present a 'Fallen Leaf' effect at the exhibition – as can be seen here.

Dame Patricia is pictured here with Julie at the opening.



See More on Instagram!

If the superb art and photography we produce leaves you wanting to see more, please visit our celebration of work on Instagram: Prentonhighart – and be inspired!

Design and Food Technology

Ciara's Serves up a Real Treat

After winning through the latest stage of the Future Chef competition organised by Springboard UK - the charity that helps young people achieve their potential – Year 10 student Ciara won through against five other competitors from three schools. Ciara's winning meal was a tasty pan-fried duck breast in a rich cherry sauce, accompanied by dauphinoise potatoes and a rainbow of carrots. A dessert of chocolate mouth-watering profiteroles followed.

Since then, Ciara has also been working on her dessert with Mentor Chef James Holden prior to the Future Chef regional finals. They are pictured here working on Gateaux St Honeré - mouth-watering creations using a base of sweet crust pastry, built up with choux pastry filled with cream Nutella and dipped in caramel, topped with spun sugar.

Ciara is certainly carving a name for herself in the world of chefs! Her talents have been recognised by a local restaurant as she has been offered a position with them, working alongside their Head Chef.

Well done, Ciara – and good luck in February!



Memphis Clocks - and 'Blocks'

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Design Technology students have been demonstrating just how creative they can be!

Year 7 students have quickly picked up their wood and laser-cutting skills to each make their own individual 'blockhead' each influenced by a theme of their choice ranging from their favourite games, fashion, animals and film stars.

Year 8's work has been inspired by the 'Memphis' movement, the Italian design and architecture group started the 1980s as a reaction to the slick, black, designs of the previous decade and challenging the idea that products had to follow conventional shapes, colours, patterns and textures. In contrast the Memphis Group offered bright, colourful, shocking pieces and their design collaborative was named Memphis after the Bob Dylan song "Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again".

Looking at some of the Memphis clocks on the photograph it no wonder Ms Kelly, teacher of DT, is delighted with their work so far!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Storm Callum Did Not Stop Silver Students!

Having successfully completed their qualifying weekend in September, our Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award candidates have returned to the Lancashire countryside – this time for their assessment expedition.

Unfortunately for our intrepid students an unwelcome weekend guest joined them in the form of Storm Callum, bringing very wet and windy weather. There were reports of rivers of water running down country lanes and waterlogged tents, prompting the experienced Duke of Edinburgh volunteer helpers to understatedly describe the conditions as 'exceptional weather'!

Year 11 student Courtney's unfailingly good spirits throughout the experience were acknowledged with the presentation of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award pen, but a big 'Well Done' goes to the whole group for not only surviving a very wet weekend but also for qualifying in this section of the Award. As the pictures show, there were plenty of smiles in the face of adversity!

Many thanks to staff Mrs Johns, Mrs Brown, Mrs English and Mrs Pinder for their support over the weekend.



Recognition for Emily's Community Work

Year 10 student Emily has been working hard for her Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, and some of that work has just been recognised.

The Award asks for some work in the community over a period of six months and Emily has been supporting the Rotary Club in Heswall with their work with people with disabilities. She has been assisting them each week with days to the theatre, river cruises, festivals and dances. However, it was for her latest venture that Emily has been recognised - with a Rotary Club medal - gained for her help at a Games for the Disabled in Chester. There, she supported the teams competing in rounders, tennis, curling, cycling, cricket and the more obscure 'Dunk the Teddy' competition!



Well done, Emily!

A Special 'Duke of Edinburgh' Celebration

A full Main Hall of proud parents, carers and their families watched proudly as our second Duke of Edinburgh Graduation ceremony took place. An impressive 70 Bronze awards and 22 Silver Awards were awarded to students, making it a very special occasion.

In the main address of the evening our Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator and teacher of History, Mr Robinson, congratulated the students on their tremendous achievement in completing these Awards. It was the second set of Bronze awards and first of Silver that Mr Robinson has overseen and he complimented everyone on their aspirational commitment, resilience, attitude and perseverance throughout their time on this adventure. The scheme had encouraged them to experience activities in which they never normally would have participated. He had been truly impressed when witnessing their battles with the elements on their expeditions. The way they had come through adversity showed that, even when they found life hard, the girls of Prenton know how to look on the brighter side! Mr Robinson also thanked the team of staff who had worked tirelessly, both in school and on expedition, along with the support given by Dave Holme and Jo Roberts from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Following words of congratulations from Dave Holme and actor and scheme supporter, James Sutton, who praised their resilience and encouraged them to use this award as a stepping stone to further success, they both presented the certificates and congratulated the students individually – some of whom are pictured here. Thank you to you both for coming along to take part in this special occasion for our students.



Calling our next cohort of Duke of Edinburgh students

We continue to have the highest number of students taking part in the award across the Wirral - if you would like to join this popular Award Scheme, please see Mr Robinson in the Humanities department.

PiXL Provides the Pathway that gives Students the Edge



In a series of assemblies delivered by Mrs Fraser, Deputy Headteacher, a new powerful initiative has been launched, designed to give Prenton High School students 'The Edge' - helping to open doors for them and to take their next future steps with confidence.

PiXL - Partners in Excellence - is a not for profit organisation through which the school shares best practice with others throughout the country, helping to raise standards and, vitally, giving students a better future and brighter hope. The programme has three pillars - Currency, Character, and Culture – with the character focus providing the Prenton Pathway to Success.

Important academic qualifications that students and staff work hard to achieve whilst at Prenton are covered by the Currency element and this will, of course, continue. However, more is now sought by colleges and employers than excellent qualifications – and this is where the PiXL programme helps to give our students 'The Edge'. As students demonstrate they have developed as people whilst at school, their applications will stand out above others with similar qualifications.

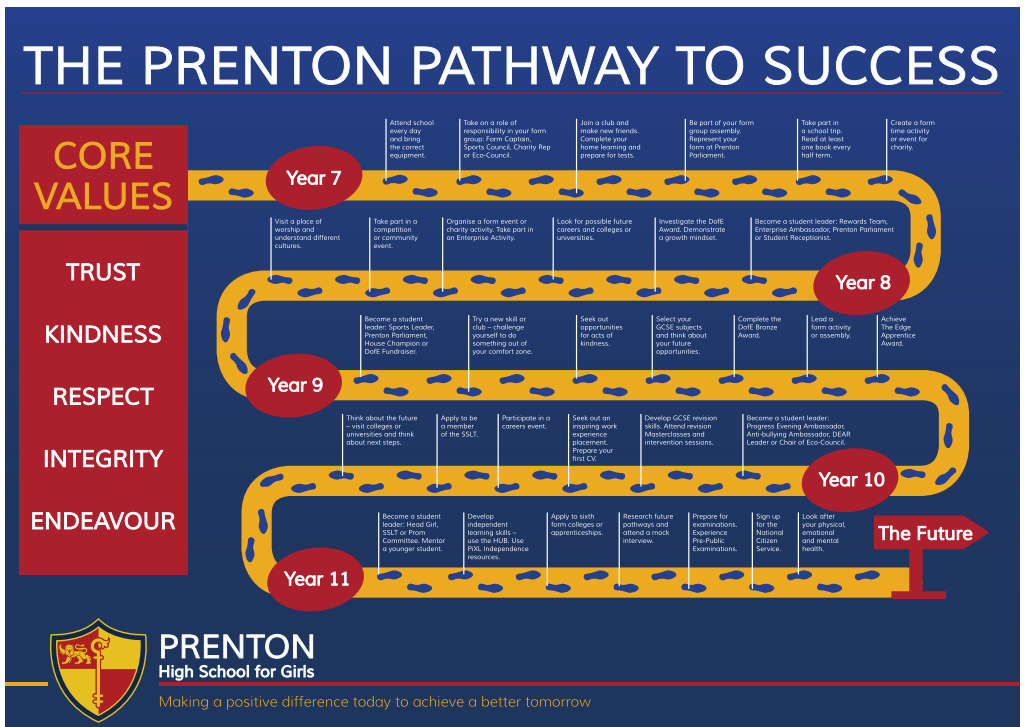
Character helps too - by developing the PiXL 'LORIC' skills: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. By taking advantage of the many clubs, opportunities and experiences provided in

school, students can record the valuable life-skills that they have gained.

The Pathway to Success is completed by our looking at Culture – the Them and Us project encourages ‘difference is good’, in which we celebrate our differences, show kindness and respect to each other, and live in harmony, both in and outside school. Mrs Fraser’s message is that, with PiXL, there is a realistic opportunity for us all to transform society!



The Prenton Pathway to Success posters are being presented in assemblies by Mr S Taylor, Subject Leader Art and Design Technology, and Student Leadership and placed in form rooms so that students can easily access our core values and see what progress they are expected to make each year they are in school. Thanks to Year 7 student Keeley who opened the Years 7 and 9 joint assembly for the launch, singing Michael Jackson’s: Heal the World.



Dame Patricia joins poets to help us Commemorate

To be inspired and then write our own poems is a fitting and personal way to commemorate the end of the First World War and to mark the centenary of the death of Wilfred Owen, one of the leading poets of the First World War, who had lived in Birkenhead.

Helping us understand the influences - the horrors and terrifying emotions - that Wilfred Owen experienced and subsequently described so vividly in his works, were two poets, Martin Beyst and Charles Lea from 'Read Now, Write Now'. They worked with Year 7 students throughout the day, firstly analysing Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est', then helping and encouraging students to plan and write their own poems.

We were delighted to welcome Dame Patricia Routledge, patron of the Wilfred Owen Commemoration, into school to observe the students at work. Dame Patricia's contributions were very much appreciated – especially her dramatic, unrehearsed, reading of 'Dulce et Decorum Est' for one set of lucky students. She is pictured here in the LRB, with poet Charles Lea keenly listening!

Thanks to Mrs Kenyon, Subject Leader - English, for organising such a significant day for our students.



A 'Stupendous' Welcome for author Tom!

The moment author Tom Pollock arrived in school he was whisked up to the Learning Resource base for a book-signing - and was given what he later described as a 'stupendous' welcome!



Tom's latest novel 'White Rabbit, Red Wolf' is described as a 'shattering tale of murder, maths and the mind' and its popularity has ensured its shortlisting as a nominated 2019 Wirral Paperback of the Year book, being read by secondary school students across Wirral.

The book takes its hero, maths prodigy Pete Blankman, into the exciting world of espionage in which state and family secrets intertwine. Pete suffers from severe panic attacks that cripple his life with fear and Tom draws on his own mental health condition which, like Pete in the book, requires courage on a daily basis to overcome. After listening to Tom reading a brief extract from the book that detailed Pete's condition, one student said: 'As soon as he started to read the first sentence, I could relate to everything he was talking about.'

Tom has written four novels and is an ambassador for Talklife, the peer support network for youth mental health where he blogs about his experiences with depression, anxiety and bulimia.

2019 looks like a busy year ahead for Tom as not only will the winner of the Wirral Paperback of the Year will be announced but also his new novel is to be launched! Thank you, Tom, for such an inspiring talk and taking the time to come in and see us.



Thanks to Learning Resource Base assistant Mrs Haynes for organising Tom's visit - you can learn more about Tom on twitter: @tomhpollock

Blood Brothers Seen

Thanks to Mrs Sagar, Assistant Headteacher, and Mrs Allison, teacher of English, a group of lucky students travelled to the Floral Pavilion Theatre, New Brighton, to see the Willy Russell play Blood Brothers.

Impressive Reading Figures

We recognise the importance of reading for pleasure, and students are fortunate to have a very well stocked library. Our students are actively involved in choosing the books for our shelves, both through title recommendations and trips to Waterstones - so we know that the books on offer are the books they want to read. This is borne out in our borrowing figures which, since September, are 16% more than at this period last year. To date, we have issued a very impressive 2711 books, with Year 7s showing an 18% increase, up from 978 to 1196. Even more amazingly, over the last 5 years, Year 7 borrowing figures have increased by a huge 82%. Helping these figures are keen Year 7 readers Alicia and Amy are pictured here in the playground - demonstrating one can read anywhere!

Thank you to those both in school and at home for stressing the importance of, and encouraging, reading. We truly are setting the girls up for success once they leave us.



New Library Assistants Have a Busy Time Ahead!

8B1, Mr Morrish's form, conducted an assembly in which two staged interviews demonstrated the advantages of having a CV containing not just a strong academic record but also showing a wider set of life experiences - including having held positions of responsibility and trust.

The message led fittingly into a presentation of Librarian badges by Mr Tang, Year 8 Progress Leader, to eighteen students who regularly help out in the LRB at breaks and lunchtimes. So far this academic year, the LRB has loaned well over 2000 books, a figure that almost doubles when counting total number of transactions conducted – it all means our Library Assistants are learning new skills and how to operate accurately under pressure in a very busy environment!

Christmas is Coming - Literally!

There was a new display of Christmas books in the LRB, setting a literary and festive mood in the lead-up to Christmas.

With a cracker of a choice of genre - adventure, mystery, humour, ghost, and animal stories - Library Assistants Isabella and Elizabeth, pictured here, were on hand to encourage students to come along quickly before they began to 'slide' off the shelves!



'A Christmas Carol'

Providing a timely and seasonal opportunity for all our Year 11 students, Mrs Kenyon, Subject Leader - English, arranged for the Fred Theatre Company to come into school to perform Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. With familiar characters such as Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, the performance was a useful refresher as students study the novella as part of their GCSE English Literature course. Seeing a text 'brought to life' on stage helps students remember key characters, themes and quotations.



Humanities

Discovering the York of Yesteryear

York is a fascinating city steeped in history that goes back to its foundation in Roman times. It is a city also that is of great interest to students of religion.

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

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

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



Two Tough Safety Messages that help us to stay Safe on our Roads

It is sad to read the 2017 Department for Transport data for Wirral that recorded one child killed in a road accident and ten taken to hospital during the year.

In a hard-hitting play entitled 'Time', brought to our Year 9 PSHE classes by road safety education specialists Ginificent, students were presented with a tragic tale about a group of friends torn apart by a road accident. The play covered pedestrian and bus stop safety and the distractions we are all open to whilst on or near roads. The consequences of ignoring road safety and the choices that are open to us were clearly illustrated through the shock ending to the play.

Thanks to the Ginificent players and to Mrs Close, Subject Leader - PSHE, for helping us with our road safety awareness.

For many students the move from primary to secondary school means having the freedom and responsibility of travelling to school without supervision. Without an awareness of the dangers posed by the heavy traffic on our local roads, journeys to and from school can be a daunting prospect – indeed Year 7s are statistically amongst those most at risk.

Over this term we have invited Liz Capper from Wirral Council’s Road Safety team to give a hard-hitting talk to groups of Year 7 students. Liz educates them on the many everyday dangers they face and advising them to ‘walk wise’ by providing them with valuable tips on the prevention of traffic accidents and how to stay safe on our roads.

Thanks to Mrs Close, Subject Leader - PSHE, for organising these potentially life-saving sessions.



Learning about Cancer

It is a sad fact that cancer will touch the lives of many and it is important that we can talk about it and develop our understanding as much as possible.

Thanks to Linda Power, Education and Awareness Executive of the Teenage Cancer Trust charity, our Year 10 students had an ‘Understanding Cancer Together’ talk as part of their PSHE curriculum. The Teenage Cancer Trust is a national charity dedicated to helping young people understand and fight cancer and Linda’s talk is recognised by the government as raising awareness, and helping to lead to earlier diagnoses of cancer.



Linda’s interactive presentation covered what cancer is, the common signs and symptoms, the impact of cancer on young people, the types of treatment and also looked at healthy lives and how to break down fears about cancer.

Thank you, Linda, for coming in to see us and to organise Mrs Close, Subject Leader – PSHE.

Students’ Shrines Shine

As part of their RE studies this term, our Year 8 students have been looking at the importance that shrines have in the lives of Hindus and the sacred part they play in their worship.

To help them gain a deeper understanding of the Hindu culture, students were set a Home Learning project to create their own Hindu shrine. Mrs Jones, teacher of RE, was quite rightly impressed with the hard work that went into their imaginative displays.

Students Sophie, and Isabella, Isobel and Nuha are photographed here with their work.



Reflecting and Remembering

In the week leading up to this year's Remembrance Day, marking 100 years since the Armistice that ended the hostilities of the Great War in 1918, Mr Major, Subject Leader – Humanities, conducted a series of assemblies for our students.

He is pictured here delivering his talk to the Year 9 assembly, in which he looked at the background of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, its importance to many in this country, and about the charity that supports soldiers and their families through poppy sales - the Royal British Legion. Mr Major also introduced a series of significant WW1 numbers for us to consider. For example, 65 Million - the number from across the world, including Pakistan and India - who fought in the war and 8.5 Million – the estimated number of troops killed during the war. This number included German Jews who fought alongside compatriots of other faiths. The assembly finished with the powerful poem: 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.



Thank you Mr Major for giving us these deeply thought-provoking assemblies.

Little Known Role Models Who Shaped Black History

Most have heard of leading black heroes such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela – but did you know there have been many influential black people in recent times?

As part of Black History Month, Year 7 students were challenged to a competition to seek other black role models by their teacher of RE, Mrs Simpson. Along with Diane Abbott, the first black woman to hold a seat in the House of Commons, their research discovered some unusual and surprising names! For example, they discovered Guion Bluford an American aerospace engineer and fighter pilot, who was the first African American in space, and Garrett Augustus Morgan, a Cleveland inventor and businessman best known for creating the modern-day gas mask and traffic lights!

Congratulations to the competition winners Samia, Paige (pictured here with Mrs Simpson) and Skarlet.



Fighting Online Bullying

Students can see new posters around school in the continuing series aiming to keep everyone safe online.

Thanks to Mr Simon, Subject Leader IT & Computer Science, the latest posters highlight the important topic of Cyber or Online Bullying. These posters have been displayed in school throughout the autumn term, and provide information on how to recognise unacceptable online behaviour. They also give tips on how to stop online bullying and advise who to go to if you - or someone you know - is being bullied.

The key is not to remain silent – speak out and report online bullying. By doing so, you will be helping to stop any problems. Do not forget the 'Stay Safe Online' option is available in the 'Parents' section of our website.



Competition Winners Choose Respect

Congratulations to all those who took part in Mr Simons' Anti-Bullying competitions this term with winners Fatima winning the Year 7 and Year 8 poster competition with Kainat and Mya runners-up. Year 9 students entered a Story Board competition with the theme 'Choose Respect' and this was won by Amber, with Abbey runner-up. Winners received a £20 Shopping Voucher.



Challenged and Commended on our Coding

Six Year 10 students took part in a Global Hackathon run by iamtheCODE in early September. Aimed at encouraging a million more women and girls across the world into coding by 2030, the project is linked to the United Nations Global Values charter.

The challenge for Zoe, Kaitlin, Isabelle, Jessica, Lacey, and Kiera was to think how best to achieve this objective globally then, using the latest technologies, designing and then part-making their ideas. Split into two teams, they each looked to developing an education website and mobile app, presenting their ideas to a panel of judges – and receiving a commendation for their ideas and efforts.

Thanks to organiser Mr Simon – Subject Leader IT & Computing, and many congratulations to our commended coders!

IT Department – Here to Help

The IT department and the Student Services team have joined resources on Friday lunchtimes to help any students wishing to talk about friendship concerns. The Mind to Be Kind Team are using IT's U43 as a 'Cyber Support drop-in' centre for anyone who needs advice or support for on-line issues, and six Year 9 students - Faith, Gabrielle, Grace, Nicole, Maliha, and Isabelle - are running a drop-in for any student who is feeling a little lost, upset or has difficulty with friendships, in Mrs Larsen's office in Student Services.

The ICT department also offered technical support for those with IT issues, giving a password re-set service and access issue support for IRIS, Email, One Drive and the School Network in November. Thanks for your help, IT!

Code-Crackers off to a Cracking Start!

Lily, Alex and Leah are pictured here during our first Cyber Discovery session last night. They were joined by other Year 9 and Year 10 students for an extra-curricular learning programme, aimed at students aged 14 to 18, designed to ensure that many more people enter the cyber security profession in the coming years!

This government-led competition is looking to find the code-breakers of the future to fill the employment gap in the industry. It is predicted to become one of the most challenging sectors to fill as the country becomes exposed to more threats across Cyber Space.

The challenge is run over four sessions and progress will be dependent on how fast our students solve the set problems. Our three girls pictured have already solved 30% of the challenges they have been given and are looking to progress to the next phase – good luck to you all!

Mr Simon, Subject Leader - IT/Computer Science, who has organised our sessions, encourages us to follow progress through the Join Cyber Discovery website.



MFL

Merci, gracias, danke, obrigado!

How well do our students know their teachers? Who loves languages but does not teach them? Who once lived in Russia? Who has learnt Cantonese - and who claims to be able to speak fluent Scouse?!



Seriously, having an additional language is a wonderful skill and the European Day of Languages in September highlighted the

importance of language to us all – to quote Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, “Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

Our students were treated to a week of activities encouraging their involvement in the theme of language. Our enthusiastic MFL staff of Mme Rochet, Miss Ramos Manas and Mrs Hepke organised a treasure hunt, in which students asked their teachers about their European experiences, favourite foods and places. There was a lunchtime showing of the

Spanish drama film “en español”, Year 7 inter-form quizzes and poster competitions, and a Great European Bake-Off – pictured here are the three winning entries from Year 7 students Ambra and Elizabeth, and Year 9 student Lucy. Year 8 students Chloe, Georgia and Asma are pictured with their combined France-inspired creation.



Giving us a taste of the continent, our Dining Hall staff created a special European menu for the day with a French breakfast of Pain au Chocolat and pastries, and lunchtime choices between Spanish meatballs, Italian spaghetti Bolognese, and German frankfurters – with sauerkraut, naturally!

Thanks, merci, gracias, danke, obrigado to everyone who took part!

Music and Performing Arts

Study Day Strikes a Chord

Thanks to Mrs Burns, Subject Leader - Music, our GCSE Music students had the opportunity to attend a Music Study Day at Birkenhead School in November.

Feeling Great on Feel Good Friday!

'Feel Good Fridays', in which staff and students are invited to perform in an informal setting, have become a regular monthly lunchtime feature of the school calendar. We have seen some wonderful talent on display in the Main Hall and the perfect way to finish the week on a high note - keeping those winter blues away.

Thanks to organiser Mrs Burns, Subject Leader – Music, and to all the performers - Year 8 student Olivia is pictured here - who have helped us to feel good on Fridays each month this term!

7B2 wish you a Joyeux Noel, feliz Navidad, buon Natale – and more!

A Year 7 assembly in December was both informative and entertaining, thanks to Form 7B2!

Mme Rochet, Subject Leader – MFL, clearly had some influence on her form's chosen topic: 'Christmas Around the World' which included video footage taken around school of Prenton students whose home countries celebrate Christmas with different customs to the UK and how they say 'Happy Christmas' in their mother tongue.

We heard about the importance of Christmas trees and cakes in Italy, meals that had twelve dishes (each representing Christ's apostles) in Lithuania and Latvia, that Christmas presents are exchanged on 6 January in Spain, and in France they have their big meal on Christmas Eve and exchange presents on Christmas Day. 7B2 students went on to give details of Christmas in Australia, Africa and Japan – and their assembly finished with everyone singing Jingle Bell Rock, just to set the seasonal mood. Thanks 7B2!



From Here to There

Students of the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), working with the Artistic Director of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, have created new and original pieces of Theatre in Education inspired by a seismic historical event – the Partition of India. The Partition involved the largest ever migration in human history, with over 10 million people forced to flee from ‘here to there’ depending on which side of the new border they found themselves on. Lines of people took to the roads and gathered at the train stations and, as ideas of ‘us and them’ took root, so neighbour turned upon neighbour. ‘From Here to There’ tells the human stories of partition, both those from over 70 years ago, and those that still echo today.



Using participatory theatre techniques, the performances enabled our audiences of Year 10 Performing Arts students to actively engage with issues of home, migration and difference, taking learning beyond the classroom. ‘From Here to There’ also has strong links to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Thanks to Ms Barr, teacher of Performing Arts and PE, for arranging this event for our GCSE students.

Prenton Daisies

Not just any soup!

When our Prenton Daisies Gardening club met up for the first time since the summer, they had a pleasant surprise in store.

Using the 2018 crop of home-grown vegetables from our Prenton garden - onions, shallots, carrots and rainbow carrots, yellow courgettes and broad beans - they were treated to some Spooky Purple soup – that could have been straight out of a Harry Potter story. And accompanied with a slice of bread, it all magically disappeared!

Thanks to Miss Dunbar, assisted by Mrs Brown, Mrs Owen, and Mrs O’Hagan, for giving us such a tasty start to the autumn term.



Prenton Parliament

Parliament starts September Session

After the summer recess, Prenton Parliament was soon back in business.



Congratulations to Year 10 students Amy and Lucie who now lead our new Parliament and to all the new Form representatives who have attended the first sessions of the academic year. Westminster please note – our Form representatives complete their busy agendas within the thirty-minute deadline; there is no time for long speeches! It is a wonderful and important forum for student voices to be heard, helping to make a positive difference today to achieve a better tomorrow.

Amy, pictured, has been elected Chair for the coming year with Lucie as her Deputy - they look forward to some lively and useful debates. Mr Major, Subject Leader - Humanities, is pictured preparing the way for so that the new business gets off to a flying start.

PTA Plans Ahead to 2019

Thanks to organiser Miss Doyle, teacher of PE, we held a 'working' cheese and wine evening with current and new PTA members. The PTA is very important to our students as they help fund a range of projects and items of kit through the money they raise. The current members are keen to point out to anyone interested in helping - parents, carers and grandparents, for example - that everyone is made welcome and no-one is expected to do everything! If you are interested in having some fun whilst helping our students, please contact Miss Doyle at the school or email:

doylea@prentonhighschool.co.uk

The combination of the excellent cheeses and wine worked really well as we all came away with some great new ideas for the New Year! Keep in touch via twitter @prentonhigh or our website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk

Student Services

Making 'Time for Me'

We have had such positive feedback following the therapeutic workshops entitled Time for Me. They were held over a few weeks two small groups of year 7 and 9 organised by Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor, and Amanda Dunbar, Student Services.



Student Enterprise

Making Poppies that Appeal

Thanks to their hard work, our Year 9 Design Technology students have created a range of Poppy products raising money for the 2018 Poppy Appeal.

Initially aiming to make 100 different items to mark the one hundred years since the end of the First World War, they increased production to meet demand around school. Using their talent for design and skills on the laser cutter, their sales revenue contributed to the Centenary Poppy Campaign. The variety of attractive products on offer ranged from intricately stitched felt poppy brooches to acrylic poppy stems, key rings, brooches, and pencil toppers.

Chloe, Erika, Faith and Leah are pictured at break with their stall, reporting excellent first-day sales for this good cause.



Every Second Counts!

Our Welcome to Key Stage 4 evening in September - for Year 10s and their parents - provided a wealth of information and useful strategies to help them in the run-up to their GCSE exams.

Organised by Mrs Fraser, Deputy Headteacher, and Miss Hockenull, Year 10 Progress Leader, valuable advice and top tips were delivered on Revision and Intervention, giving parents and students the opportunity to think and plan ahead, and prepare for this important time. Sessions on Mental and Emotional Health and Well-Being from School Counsellor Michelle Higgins and on Work Experience, Careers and Post-16 education from MPLOY representatives and local colleges, completed the evening.

Noting important dates for the calendar and highlighting areas such as excellent attendance, punctuality and parental support, encouraging students to stay smart and focused, the importance of good organisation of time and for revision, having proper sleep patterns, maintaining parental interest and encouragement were just some of the essential key points for success that were made. Parents were also encouraged to communicate with the school should they have any concerns.

It was also the opportunity to launch our new innovative series of GCSE Masterclasses, delivered by staff after school, that parents can book on behalf of their daughters using the link on our website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk

One big message for everyone to take away with them was: "The Countdown is on - with just 300 days left in school, every second counts!"



Here to Help on Mental Health

Staff and students organised a busy schedule of supportive activities in school for World Mental Health Day in October.

There were films and discussions during form times and lunchtime drop-in events with quizzes, drawing and poetry-writing with our Mental Health Ambassadors, Peer Educators, and School Counsellor Michelle Higgins in the Learning Resource Base, while Emily from Kooth provided advice and guidance in the foyer. Open workshops with School Nurse Fiona Green and Health Service in Schools Youth Worker Jackie Leasor produced a series of positive messages that contributed to make an impressive bunting for the main staircase. Year 9 students started the day with an assembly in which our trained Year 11 Mental Health First Aiders Laura, Neve, Abbie



(pictured) and Ellie prepared and delivered a presentation of their thoughts and advice on poor mental health. Their presentation included a short film, followed by a moving poem, written by Year 10 student Molly and delivered by Grace.

Teenage years are exciting times for many but they can also be times of stress and apprehension that, in some cases and if not

recognised and managed, give feelings that can lead to poor mental health. We are fortunate at Prenton High School as we not only have students dedicated to provide help to their peers, but also Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor, and the Student Services team led by Mrs Roberts on hand to listen and provide professional advice and support.

Our team of trained students and staff are always on hand to help anyone with concerns and to demonstrate that we try do as much as we possibly can to ensure all our students enjoy excellent mental health. Thank you!

Many Strong Messages in Anti-Bullying Week

The sentiments were clear – ‘Choose Respect – Give it to Get it; we want no part in bullying!’

Thanks to organiser Mrs Larsen, Behaviour and Rewards Manager, and the Student Services staff, students took part in a variety of themed activities during this year’s Anti Bullying week. In addition to attending assemblies encouraging self-respect - whilst on and offline - by PC Jo Tivendale from Merseyside Police and participating in ‘Headspace’ sessions with Michelle Higgins, School Counsellor. During the week students also made a display of inspirational messages that covered an anti-bullying tree, built a wall using blocks showing their personalised anti-bullying slogans, designed and sold painted themed pebbles, and held a cake and wrist band sale (Lucy-Mai, Elisha, Issie and Georgia are pictured).

The week ended with a Treasure Hunt in the school garden in which students’ themed pebbles were buried and, once found by their owners, were replaced by a small plant as a record of their anti-bullying feelings.



Kooth can Help

The effects of bullying can have a massive impact on all individuals and the theme for this year’s Anti-Bullying Week was ‘Choose Respect’. Helping us to take a stand against bullying and to raise awareness of the strategies we can use to overcome bullying and the support available we welcomed Emily Hawkes from Kooth.com into school.

Emily’s presentation to a combined Year 7 and Year 8 assembly included details of Kooth’s online, confidential, 24-hour service and the differing support agencies and help they can access. Emily also ran lunchtime drop-in sessions during the week – thank you, Emily.

Thank you also to Year 7 student Lily, who opened the assembly with her moving rendition of the Christina Perri song: ‘A Thousand Years’.

Don’t Forget our Masterclasses!

The Revision Masterclass booking system is now available through the School Life section of our website. Masterclasses provide a wealth of support for Year 10 and 11 students whether by offering advice on key areas of the curriculum, technical detail, exam literacy, or giving time to answering student-led topics through subject surgeries.

For those thinking ahead to A-levels and beyond and wishing to research subjects more deeply, there are many free MOOC lectures and TED talks available on the internet too!

Student Leadership

An Inspiring Assembly for Year 7

A group of Year 7s are already keen to take on leadership roles!



Having put their names forward for election and voted for by their peers, a Year 7 assembly celebrated the appointment of Form Captains, Deputy Form Captains, Sports representatives, Eco Council representatives, Charity representatives and Prenton Parliament representatives.

They are pictured here proudly wearing their badges – good luck everyone, we are sure you are going to 'Make a Difference' during your time at Prenton High School! Thanks also to Year 9 student Cerys who opened the assembly with a song, and to the Student Senior Leadership Team and the Year 10 sports representatives who introduced themselves to our new students and inspired them to follow in their footsteps.

RETURN OF CINEMA CLUB

Our Cinema club committee of Lucie, Lily, Georgia and Kira are pictured here preparing the new season of films. To help them select the best possible showings, they are asking students across school for their suggestions. Don't forget to keep them informed about the films you would like to see!



Going for Green

Our new Eco Council has Green Flag Award status set clearly in their sights and have held their first meeting started to start the process.

They agreed an environmental review and audit as their first priority, covering ten separate areas - Biodiversity, Energy, Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Litter, Marine, School Grounds, Transport, Waste, and Water - which will include recording how we cover these environmental issues in our curriculum work. A group of Eco Council members are pictured here with Ms Kelly planning their campaign – thanks to her and to Mrs Wright for helping to get us Go Green!



Top Civic Honour for Megan and Maisie

Year 7 students Maisie and Megan have received a top Civic honour in recognition of three year's dedication.

The Wirral Civic Award for Young People is open to everyone between the ages of 8 and 12 and promotes good citizenship through a greater awareness of Wirral, self-reliance, service to others, personal achievement in physical activities, and wise use of leisure time.

Maisie and Megan, who joined us in September from Bedford Drive Primary School, have now completed three year's work in each of these areas to achieve their awards. Each year they gained a badge and certificate to mark a further twelve months of successful progress. The challenge took them at least half an hour most



evenings to complete over the three years, during which time Maisie learnt to swim and Megan learnt keyboard, for example.

They were the only two who attended the special ceremony to receive their awards from the Mayor of Wirral – and Maisie and Megan are pictured here proudly showing their badges.

Well done to you both; we applaud your resilience and dedication!

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's time to Disco!

Thanks to form 11R2, their idea to raise money for their Prom came alive on the disco floor!

The Years 7 and 8 disco gave them the opportunity to dance to music played by Year 9 student Jess – known as 'DJ Jessie B' for the evening – and for Year 11s to raise money for their big night out next year.

Thanks to all the Year 11 students for organising the event and also to Santa, who somehow managed a few hours away from his busy schedule, for taking charge of the door!

Science and STEM

Inspired by All About STEM

'All About STEM' works on many different projects to bring exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to schools and, in early October, we welcomed Dave and Michelle to work with our Year 7 students.

During five morning workshops they learned about electricity, Nano technology, coding, magnetic storage and ergonomics. The afternoon session gave them the opportunity to design the classroom of the future that links all the aspects of what they have learnt.

Thanks to Dave and Michelle from @allaboutstem and organiser Ms Bullock, teacher of Science, for inspiring our Year 7s!



Is There a Young Medic in the School?

Thanks to organiser Ms Craven, a group of Year 11 students visited the University of Liverpool in November to attend their 'Young Medics' event and seventeen Year 8 students visited the University in December to take a look at the past, visiting their Archaeology, Classics, and Egyptology department. They covered the Cold War, the Ford Motor Company strikes of the 1960s, and evolution throughout the ages.

Santa for Seniors

Christmas is a time for meeting up and sharing gifts with family and friends – but what about those less fortunate who will be spending Christmas alone or homeless?

Previously, our students have organised 'Christmas in a Box' for the homeless, and 'Toiletries for Teens' - and this year we continue our annual tradition of helping to bring joy to others in the community. Thanks to three Year 10 Student Leaders, Kira, Lucy and Milly and the Peer Mentors working with Year 7 students, we have given our 2018 Christmas Giving a slight twist. Their 'Santa for Seniors' project started with the Giving Tree in the foyer covered with tags that were labelled with a suggested gift from a list of basic every-day items to buy. Gifts were then placed in the bag under the tree ready for distribution.

STEM Leads to a Bright Future

Unilever opened its doors to four Year 9 students - Evie, Lily, Leah and Keira - when they were invited to be part of an 'All About STEM' Bright Futures project looking at real world problems from a STEM perspective. Joining teams from other Wirral schools our students, who will be looking at plastic-free packaging over the coming months, will also be taking part in activities that introduce them to a range of Unilever departments, helping them gain an understanding of the many processes involved in the making of Unilever products.

Thanks to Mr Morrish, teacher of Science, for accompanying our students on this exciting opportunity.



Sport

PE department gains Bronze

Staff in our PE department have gone 'bronze' – and it has nothing to do with the wonderful weather we experienced this summer!

The department has been awarded the Bronze award following an application for the School Games Mark, a Government led award scheme facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust. The award recognises schools for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and into the community.

The school last applied for this award soon after its launch in 2012, gaining a bronze award. However, over the years the 'bar has been raised' with the scheme developing and standards improving – especially in the areas of leadership and seeking increased numbers of participants in physical activities.

We are delighted to have been recognised for our success to date and Ms Gore, Subject Leader – PE, and Ms Doyle teacher of PE, have already put plans in place to work towards the silver award. Congratulations to you both!

Under 16s Produce Exceptional Performance

Our Under 16 netball team attended the Merseyside Schools Netball Nationals this term hosted by Wirral Grammar for Girls.

Team manager, Miss Doyle, reports that they put in an exceptional performance, finishing a most respectable fourth in their group. Miss Doyle says 'Well done!' to the team of Lois, Jessica, Cora, Eloise, Holly, Grace, Daisy, Madaleine and Leah - and sends a big thank you to parents who supported the event too.



Cricket Team Successes Recognised

The Wirral Sports Forum Annual Awards ceremony is the largest, most prestigious multi- sports awards event on Wirral and their annual awards ceremony for 2018 was held at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight with the Mayor of Wirral Councillor Tony Smith attending. There were eleven categories open to all Wirral based sports people and awards reflect the achievements of all those dedicated teams and individuals connected with Wirral sport.

Sponsored by Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign, we are proud to announce that our Under 13 Cricket team won the 'School Sports Team (Girls) of the Year'. This award is presented to the school team that has achieved the highest level of Regional or National success in the Year and our winning team - who overcame Upton Hall's Under 15 cricketers also shortlisted for the award - reached the final of the Under 13 Wirral Outdoor Competition in June and reached the National finals.

Many congratulations to Cora, Grace, Jess, Lillie, Eloise, Freya and Keira – and to Team Manager Mr B Taylor! They are photographed here with Megan Cummins, current England gymnast and This Girl Can ambassador for Wirral.



Six-Wicket Win makes us Wirral Champions!

Our Under-15 cricket team won the Under-15 Indoor Wirral final, held at Upton Hall School in December.

A delighted team manager, Mr B Taylor, reports that it was a two innings a side contest, in which Upton first made 70 for 5 and we replied with a 104 for 4. In their second innings Upton made 48 all out, to leave Prenton needing 15 runs to win - which we reached having lost two wickets and resulting in a 6 wicket win. It was a wonderful team performance with Lillie, Cora and Freya all had to retire having made more than 15 runs. The team comprised Cora (captain), Freya (wicketkeeper), Lillie, Keira, Eloise, Jess, Lauren, Grace and Holly.



Well done to our team and good luck in your next challenge - the Under 15 Cheshire finals in the New Year!

Time to 'Wake-up with a Shake-up'!

Shaking off the cobwebs after the summer break and helping us to start the busy day ahead both fit and alert has been easier this year. Our innovative PE team of Ms Gore and Miss Doyle invited staff and students to a week of their specially prepared 'Wake-up with a Shake-up' programme – and demonstrating that exercise is a great way to start the day!



New Sport gives us Net Gains

A new sport has been introduced by our PE department that has really grabbed our interest - football tennis. Played on a court with a football kicked over a tennis net, it has proved a hit with players and spectators alike.

We had a week of intense lunchtime competition between each year group and a staff team and it was our Year 7 students who topped the table - they even beat a highly motivated staff team into second place!

Well done Year 7s, our new reigning football tennis champions!



Holly's Virtual Race helps Charity

'Well done' to Year 10 student Holly who ran 10k in the Great British Cake Off Virtual Race.



A virtual race is one that can be run, jogged, or walked from any location you choose on a road, trail, track, or treadmill, and allows you to run your own race, at your own pace, and timing it yourself. There is a charge to enter with some of the money going to charity – so far 'Race for Charity' has raised over £50,000 nationally.

Holly, photographed here with her medal, ran her race around the New Brighton area and was accompanied by her parents and, for most of the way, her younger brother. Congratulations to you all!

Restart a Heart Day

Year 7 and Year 9 students gained what could potentially be life-saving training when they were taught to 'Restart a Heart'.

The Resuscitation Council (UK), British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and the North West Ambulance Service work together to help train as many school children as possible across the country in vital life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills. There was also the opportunity for all year groups across the school to participate during lunchtime. Run by teachers of PE, Miss Doyle and Ms Barr, and Mrs Sanderson our Health and Safety Manager, Year 7 students Lucy-Mai and Rosie and Ellie and Elen can be seen here trying out their newly learnt skills – everyone who attended the course also received a special Restart a Heart certificate!



Hornets Have a New Home!

The Wirral Hornets Basketball club have been enjoying their Saturday mornings since they have made Prenton their home!

Thanks to Miss Doyle, teacher of PE, and the Wirral Hornets, our Sports Hall now echoes to the buzz of basketball every Saturday morning - and here we can see a group of our Year 7 students who have joined the club which is open to all between the ages of 6 and 11. Lexi, Isabelle, Lucy, Ruby, Ruby, Belle, Lily, Sasha and Aleysha are photographed with coach and former Prenton High School student Georgia.



Come along and join them - sessions are every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon.

Going for Goal with Liverpool FC

Thanks to Liverpool FC Foundation coach Leah McAteer students are receiving some top-flight football training.

Miss Gore, Subject Leader - PE, reports that our students are working hard with Leah to develop their passing and control skills – pictured here passing on her skills to keen Year 8 footballer Neve.



We Ran the Scouse 5K!

Not everyone had an extra hour in bed when the clocks went back in October!

With the Arriva Scouse 5k taking place, there were many jogging and walking around Liverpool city centre bringing lots of fun to the occasion by wearing a wig in their colour of choice and comedy moustaches. Many used the event to raise money for their favourite charity – which was exactly what two 'Prentonians' decided to do!

Mrs Green who, following her retirement in the summer has taken up running, signed up for the Scouse 5k 'in a moment of madness' to raise money for AMEND who help ACC Support UK to provide information and support to those affected by Adrenocortical Cancer (ACC).



Year 8 student Mia (pictured here with her medal) also ran the distance with her parents, raising money for The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, the only dedicated charity for patients and research at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Well done to you both – a wonderful effort!

Our Own Marathon Man!

Congratulations to Mr Taylor, teacher of History, who ran the MBNA Chester Marathon – voted one of the Runner's World favourite marathons. He certainly got to know the area well during his run – which started at Chester Racecourse on a route that took him past all Chester's iconic landmarks before heading out into the countryside of Cheshire and North Wales and returning to the banks of the River Dee for the finish.



Having lost a family member to the incurable disease Mr Taylor not only raised around £600 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association but also ran the race in an impressive 3 hours 6 minutes and 55 seconds, coming 307th out of the 5,000 runners.

Sports Leaders Appointed

Congratulations to the twenty-Five students from Year 7, 8 and 9 who were appointed 'Sports Leaders' this term:

Grace, Olivia, Megan, Lily, Ciara, Bethan, Amber, Isabelle and Emilie in Year 7, Isobel, Charlotte, Faye, Ruby, Trudi, Lucy and Jess in Year 8, and Lois, Alex, Alisha, Lucy, Amber, Lillie, Chloe, Olivia and Eloise from Year 9.

Sports Council Sits

It was straight down to business for our newly elected Sports Council representatives when they held their inaugural meeting of this academic year.

Led by Miss Gore, Subject Leader - PE, and Miss Doyle, teacher of PE, there was much to discuss during their lunchtime session – from a recap of sporting success so far this year, helping the PTA who support them, the organisation of inter-form teams and their selection, to the busy extra-curricular timetable. They ask representatives to encourage students to attend at least one club every week – and the top attendees will be invited to a rewards party at the end of term!

Congratulations to all new representatives and good luck in the year ahead.



Charlotte's Winning Swims

Congratulations to Year student Charlotte, a keen member of Woodchurch Swimming Club, who has been voted Girl Swimmer of the Year.

Just to round off a very successful weekend, Charlotte came second in two competitions over the two days – for breaststroke in her inter-club match and for backstroke in the Wirral Peninsular Group



Gala, competing against clubs from the area. Charlotte is pictured with her trophy and medals. Great swimming, Charlotte!

Hard Work Pays Off for Leah!

There is no doubt that the Korean martial art of Taekwondo is a tough and competitive sport. This makes the achievement of Year 9 student, Leah, even more remarkable. Having gained a Yellow Tag, she trains twice a week at the Shaftesbury Youth Club, and her dedication to her sport has made a difference - Leah has been awarded a trophy that recognises the outstanding progress she has made in her group over the past year.

Many congratulations, Leah!



We're Loving Our Sport

Miss Gore and Miss Doyle are delighted to report that 41% of the school attended one or more extra-curricular sports sessions in the first half of the term. Furthermore, Year 7 students have made a fantastic start with 65% attending one or more sessions in the first seven weeks. Well done everyone – and there is a new extra-curricular timetable out now so there are even more reasons to keep fit and healthy!



Our Year 9 Netball Team of: Lauren, Lillie, Amy, Lois, Alisha, Savannah, Eloise, Amber, Kiera, and Alex.

Congratulations to our Under 16 Merseyside Netball National Qualifiers - Madaleine, Leah, Daisy, Grace, Cora, Jessica, Holly, Eloise and Lois who played exceptionally well and finished 4th in their group.

Diary

Spring term 2019

Open	Monday 7 January 2019
Close	Friday 15 February 2019
Half term holiday	Monday 18 – Friday 22 February 2019
Open	Monday 25 February 2019
Close	Friday 29 March 2019
Spring holiday	Monday 1 April – Friday 12 April 2019

Summer term 2019

Open	Monday 15 April 2019
Good Friday/Bank Holiday	Friday 19 April 2019
Easter Monday/Bank Holiday	Monday 22 April 2019
Bank holiday	Monday 6 May 2019
Close	Friday 24 May 2019
Half term holiday	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2019
Open	Monday 3 June 2019
Close	1pm on Friday 19 July 2019
INSET (Staff only)	Monday 22 July 2019
INSET (Staff only)	Tuesday 23 July 2019



No wonder the air around school turned a little colder in mid-December - it was the Prenton Theatre Company's production of the Snow Queen! Thanks to: Musical Director Mrs Jones, Director of Drama Mrs Burns, Director of Dance Miss Barr, band members Mrs Rowlinson, Mrs Jones, Mr Jones and Mr Corlett, stage managers Miss McCabe and Miss N Jones, set designer Miss Dodd, and the whole Prenton Theatre Company cast and supporting crew - including Years 9 and 10 students Amber, Eva and Amber as apprentice sound and lighting engineers, ably assisting Mr Graves and Mr Hughes, by introducing some wonderful innovative ideas to the production.