

# PRENTON highlife

Summer 2016



## Lydia heads Student Senior Leadership Team



Headteacher Mrs Ayling and Deputy Headteacher Mrs Fraser are pictured with Lydia Portbury (fourth from right) who has been appointed Head Girl and will lead the Student Senior Leadership Team for the coming year.

Supporting Lydia will be Deputy Head Girls Eleanor Sandman and Sumayyah Haque, and Assistant Head Girls Rachel Westcott, Lauren Disley and Lily Evans.

Other Student Leadership Team appointments with specific role responsibilities are: Hannah Roylance, Mehr Fatima, Sophie Hayman, Zoe Carey, Aimee Byrne, Olivia Johns, Freya Dennett, Jane Clappison, Mia Harrison, Jaymi-Lea Cotgrave, Leila Bell and Abbey Holmes. Congratulations to everyone!



**Making a Difference**

# Recognition from SSAT

The last edition of High Life reported that we had received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating us on being in the top 100 non-selective state funded schools. This recognition was for showing sustained improvement in GCSE results between 2013 and 2015 (based upon the percentage of students achieving five or more A\*-C grades, including English and maths).

His letter thanked staff for their work in this important area of young persons' education and the Minister also congratulated staff for their hard work and professionalism.

In mid-April Headteacher Mrs Ayling also received a letter from the SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network). Their letter affirmed our position in the top 20% of non-selective schools nationally for progress in the 2015 end of KS4 examinations. They congratulated our achievement that endorsed: 'the hard work and dedication to your students'.

**Congratulations to everyone who have worked so hard to help us achieve this remarkable position!**

## Open success

At the start of term, we thoroughly enjoyed opening up the school for primary school pupils and their families for our first Open Event of the year.

The Headteacher's welcome was introduced by Prenton's Got Talent winners, Molly and Jayne, and supported by speeches about life at our school from Head Girl Abi, and Year 7 student Jessica (pictured here).

There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the school and with activities in each department across the school to engage them. Many of our guests also commented upon the enthusiasm and commitment of staff, the confidence of our girls and how impressive are our facilities.



# Headlines

As this academic year draws to a close, I am reminded of the continual change and renewal that takes place regularly in our school. For example, following the GCSE examinations and their wonderful Prom at Thornton Hall Hotel, we have just said goodbye to our Year 11 students – at least until Results Day in August! I wish each one the very best of luck for the future and am sure that their hard work will bring them success in all they do.

As one group leaves us, I am delighted to welcome a new one, and this September's intake is no exception. Once again, we are over-subscribed for September and I am proud that the school is proving so popular. It puts us in a privileged position, making us a strong part of the community. I feel truly humbled when I see everything that goes on around school and I am proud that recent results have placed us in the top 20% of non-selective schools nationally for progress in the 2015 KS4 examinations. It is a well-deserved recognition of both staff and students who show relentless commitment.

I am personally privileged when I see not only all of the extra things that happen around school, but also the incredible quality of our lessons. I see staff challenging students and witness the wonderful relationships they have – continually stretching them and building their aspirations.

This time last year we announced our new Student Senior Leadership Team, led by Head Girl Abi Cotter which, along with the newly renamed Prenton Parliament (formerly the School Council), gave students a voice at all levels. We've already seen a student committee presenting to governors for the first time and with Miss Roberts as Year 11 Progress Leader and Ms Kelly in her role having responsibility for Student Leadership, we can widen the opportunities even more in the coming year.

Over the past two months we were delighted to host our Elevate programme, in which over 260 Year 5 pupils from local primary schools spent a day with us. They discovered more about life in a secondary school, not only sampling some typical lessons in each department, but also having some fun as well! I am proud that it all underlines the school's sense of community, which, in turn, is also a strong part of the wider community.

May I wish students, staff, parents, governors and neighbours a very happy and peaceful summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.



Mrs Lisa Ayling  
Headteacher



## **Elevate provides a winning formula**

**Our Elevate programme run each year invites Year 5 primary school pupils to spend a day with us. It provides them with a taste of secondary school life through a series of typical lessons they can expect in a number of key subjects.**

This summer we welcomed a total of 262 pupils from local junior schools to our Elevate programme which included boys and girls from Brackenwood Junior School. They were welcomed by a group of Year 8 students who guided them around school throughout the day. Their visit to the Science department included hands-on experiments with Subject Leader, Mr Hignett. Helped by Year 10 students Sam, Mia (pictured here), Shannon and Melanie, they made copper sulphate crystals by mixing copper oxide and sulphuric acid, and used microscopes to look at salt crystal structures.



Five schools in all joined us – Church Drive, Brackenwood, Woodlands, Bedford Drive and Mersey Park - feedback from the days has been very positive; we hope you all found the day informative and fun!

## **Making friends at Bushcraft**

For the third consecutive year, there will be a wonderful opportunity for staff and our new 2016 intake of Year 7 students to get to know each other in readiness for the new term. The July Bushcraft course at Cholmondley Castle in Cheshire is aimed at making new friendships before starting with us in September through a range of outdoor activities and adventures – and learning new skills and having lots of fun into the bargain!

# Prenton's a popular choice!

Following recent appeals hearings, we now have a total of 165 students joining us in September 2016.

This is the third consecutive year that we have had a full intake in Year 7, proving Prenton to be a popular choice for primary pupils.



On Induction Day, our new students not only started to find their way around school but were also treated to a selection of music from our latest school production and an Eco-Fashion show, courtesy of Mia (pictured here) and all the other of our Year 9 Design Technology students of course!

## Dates for your diary

If you are currently looking at secondary schools for your Year 6 daughter this autumn, it is an excellent time to consider Prenton High School! We have two Open Events for prospective parents and daughters in early October:

### Open Evening – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

6pm – 8pm  
(Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm)

### Open Day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am to 11.30am and 2pm to 4pm  
(Parents and carers only)

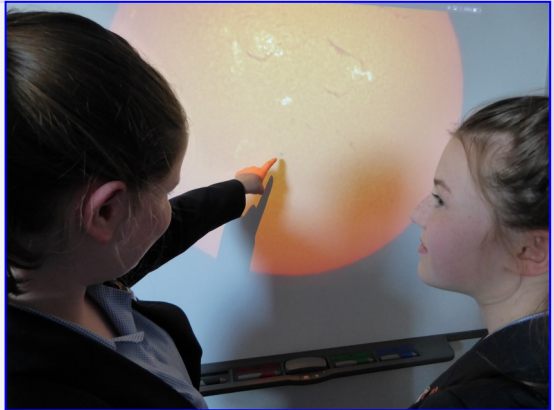
**We very much look forward to welcoming you!**

## Mercury in Motion

Skywatchers enjoyed the opportunity to observe Planet Mercury in transit across the sun on 9th May and Year 7 students Lauren and Lily are pictured here safely watching a live feed from the NASA website in the LRB.

The little planet will not transit again until 2019 and then 2032, so it was a quite a special moment.

**PIC 5**



## Coming soon....

We have two additional GCSE qualifications running for our current Year 9 students as they begin the new term as Year 10s. The highly successful Statistics course will run again and this year we will offer Photography. Students will study these additional qualifications after school alongside their usual GCSE courses. Watch this space for news of their successes!

## Duke of Edinburgh arrives at Prenton

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has long been recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award. It equips all young people for life regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills and interests and is a personal challenge, not a competition. It pushes young people to their personal limits and recognises their achievements consistently.

We are delighted to announce that teacher of Humanities Mr Robinson has now been trained to deliver the programme at Prenton and there is clear evidence that the scheme will be strongly supported – a special parents' and students' meeting was held in a packed main hall. Keep in touch via our website or Twitter: @prentonhigh for further details!

## All set for Trips Days

In recognition of their hard work and excellent behaviour over the past year, students headed off in a number of directions at the end of term.

Destinations included London, Blackpool, Chester Zoo, Thurstaston, Claremont Farm, and the University of Liverpool. Look out on Twitter for news of the various activities and events.



Fingers were crossed for some sunshine!

***Thanks to Ms Craven we have this wonderful photo of our Year 8s enjoying their 'flight' on the London Eye***

# Prenton Daisies

## Daisies enjoy the fruits of their labours

When the Prenton Daisies Gardening Club returned from the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, a wonderful first crop of rhubarb had appeared in the school garden.

This home-grown crop inspired Mrs Owen, the Headteacher's P.A., to transform the sticks of rhubarb into a wonderful crumble for our gardeners to share.

On a sunny afternoon, there's nothing quite like eating your own produce outdoors and the rhubarb crumble accompanied by ice cream and custard was a real al fresco treat - thanks Mrs Owen!



## Daisies become space biologists

Our Prenton Daisies along with Mrs Simpson's form 10R1 became enthusiastic 'Space Biologists' when 200 rocket seeds arrived in school early this term.

The seeds were planted as part of an experiment undertaken in schools across the UK in conjunction with RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the European Space Agency.

Two packs, one in a blue and one red, were delivered, each containing 100 seeds of the salad plant rocket - but only one of the packs had just returned from the International space station having been stored in microgravity. Over the following 35 days, students observed and recorded any differences in plant growth between the two sets of seeds. Their findings will help space scientists see whether it is possible to grow our own food on other planets millions of miles away from Earth.

Our Space Biologists used structured scientific methods, measuring and recording key data as the seeds germinated and grew. At the end of the experiment they uploaded data onto a national database, enabling every school to contribute to a global scientific understanding of growing plants in space.

Our experiment completed, we learned that it was the blue packet that had been in space – it was not as advanced as the seeds from the red packet, proving that life is better down here!

*Prenton Daisies Hannah, Ellie, Molly and Courtney are pictured here preparing the seeds safely on earth*





## Dewch ymlaen Cymru! - Come on Wales!



The flag is a give-away as to which team this group of supporters was hoping wins in the Wales v Portugal match.

Pictured here are Year 8 student Mairwen and Teacher of Art Miss Churton who are both from Wales. Joining them are Teaching Assistants Mrs Murphy and Miss Sinclair who had a slightly different reason to support Wales – they both had Wales in Mr Tang's sweep!

Although they ended up second best on the night, at least they lost to the eventual winners of the competition!

### Encouraging Active Kids

Thank you to everyone who shopped at Sainsbury's over recent months and claimed their Active Kids vouchers for our school. We received almost 2000 vouchers in total, enabling us to buy some new kit for the PE department that included relay batons and stop watches.

### Thank 'Kew', Mr Simon

The Daisies thanked Mr Simon, Subject Leader ICT, for his kind donation of vegetable and flower seeds this term – and we received packets of wild flower seeds from Kew Gardens so we could take part in the UK's biggest wild flower campaign.

We are always grateful for donations of garden pots, seeds and tools, as well as the help staff have given with the heavier work around the garden!

# Year 11s in good-bye thriller

With their exams now over, our Year 11s returned to school for an afternoon of celebration in June. Thanks to Year 11 Progress Leader Mrs Jones and Year 11 Form Tutors Mr Major, Miss Churton, Mrs Fraser, Mrs Bowen, Ms Murtagh and Miss Serrano-Mereno, our leavers were treated to a special rendition of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' at their final assembly.

After a reception serving specially made 'Class of 2016' cakes plus refreshments from our Catering staff, they joined staff for the last time in a celebration of their five years at Prenton High School. The celebratory mood included songs from Luci and Erin and Mrs

Jones and presentations in recognition of achievement and appreciation over the past five years.

We wish you all the very best of luck in the future and look forward to seeing you on Results Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August!



## Great feedback from Year 11 leavers

Before they left us we asked our Year 11s what went well for them whilst at Prenton. Here's just a few of the comments they made:

"I really enjoyed the Robotics"

"I made life-long friends"

"Great support for all the different subjects"

"Gained confidence"

"There was lots of support if I needed it"

"It was easy to make friends"

"I liked meeting new people, learning new things, creating great relationships with teachers"

"Becoming more confident"

"Great teaching"

"I got a lot of confidence to actually participate in things"

"The school made me feel part of a team and I've enjoyed my time here!"

"I liked everything, it was a great experience"

# Celebrating in style at our 2016 Prom



The Class of 2016 celebrated in style when they held their Prom at the Thornton Hall Hotel, organised by Year 11 Progress Leader Mrs Jones along with the Student Senior Leadership team. It was a wonderful evening spent together celebrating their last five years at Prenton. The evening was the perfect combination of good food, friendship, dancing – and, as the pictures show, wonderful dresses!

## Alumni

This term we welcomed former student Holly Pierce back into school. Holly, who is studying at the University of Chester, joined our Art department to gain some valuable teaching experience. It was really good to see you again, Holly!

## Prenton People

### **Thank you**

We thank Mr Joe Roper MBE for the many years of service he has given the school as Governor and Chair of Governors and send him our very best wishes following his recent retirement.

We also thank Mrs Jane Sloan for her years of service following her recent retirement as Trust Governor.

### **Congratulations**

Mr Peter Sandman appointed Chair of Governors  
Mrs Lyn Eaton appointed Vice Chair of Governors  
Mr Tang appointed Progress Leader, Year 10  
Mrs Robson appointed Progress Leader, Year 7  
Mrs Burns appointed ITT Professional Mentor  
Miss Anastasija Zukova appointed Receptionist

### **Welcome in September**

Miss Carpenter, appointed as part time Teacher of Music (Mrs Jones will be part time from September)

Mr Hart, appointed to provide maternity cover for Mrs Close in Humanities  
Mrs Bull has been appointed to cover maternity leave for Mrs Winter in Maths  
Mrs Coney has been appointed for English (Miss Addison is leaving us)  
Mrs Bloomfield has been appointed to cover Mrs Kenyon's maternity leave  
Mr McParlin has been appointed as a teacher of Science  
Mrs Moore has been appointed as Subject Leader: Art & Design Technology  
Mrs Dabek has been appointed Administration Assistant

### **Good luck**

Miss Addison, Teacher of English who is leaving to teach in Scotland

## PTA

### **PTA Easter Egg winners**

There was a scramble for raffle tickets when the PTA held their Easter raffle – with a baker's dozen of chocolate eggs to be won.

All money generated comes back to the school to help students. The lucky winners were:

Tia (7B1), Izzy (7B2), Emily (7H1), Millie and Frankie (both 7R1), Rebecca (7R2), Elissa and Charlotte (both 8H2), Faith (8H1), Lauren (9H1), Jamima (9R1), Lauren (10R1) and teacher of Design and Technology and Graphics with responsibility for Student Leadership, Ms Kelly.

Thanks also PTA for providing refreshments at the School Show!

## Art

### Proud of our Art

Thanks to Miss Churton, Teacher of Art, visitors were treated to a talented display of GCSE art and design that was exhibited prior to each performance of the School Show in June. Students Meg and Paige are pictured here viewing the display.



## English, Drama, LRB & Performing Arts

### 'Hacked' wins Wirral Paperback of the Year vote



Congratulations to author Tracy Alexander for her book 'Hacked' winning the 2016 Wirral Paperback of the Year. Seventeen of our students joined up with others from secondary schools across Wirral to vote of their favourite paperback. The special gathering of readers at hosts Wirral Grammar School for Girls was the culmination of months of reading, with students finding any spare time to read their way through a shortlist of fifteen books, selected by a panel of Wirral school librarians. Coming a close second was 'Mind Games' by Teri Terry

Smith. and in joint third position were 'Deep Water' by Lu Hersey and 'Big Game' by Dan

Definitely some recommended summer holiday reading for us all!

*Some of our keen readers are pictured here at the event*

# Much Ado about Shakespeare



Measure for measure, Shakespeare's influence on our everyday language is remarkable and recently we've been going mad about the Bard!

Inspired by the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in 1616, our students of English have been studying his life and works in a number of creative ways. Their dedications to him have included raps and sonnets composed in Shakespearean style, word clouds using associated words and well known Shakespeare phrases, posters of favourite quotations, and reviews of the different representations and interpretations of his work over the last few centuries.

In one project, students answered a quiz that gave them the closest match between their own personality and a character from a Shakespeare play. They then explored the character's story in more depth, deciding whether they would have acted in a similar way to that written by Shakespeare.

To round off the project, the English department gave a Shakespeare-inspired cake to each participating student, baked in school by our Dining Hall staff. Just as we like it - all's well that ends well!

*The pictures show Year 9 student Erin, whose competition entry won a £5 shopping voucher with her interpretation of King Lear, Year 8 student Imogen who was inspired to make her own Globe Theatre as part of the project, and a selection of Shakespeare inspired cakes!*

## Polite request on car parking

Can we ask staff, parents and carers to park considerately, particularly in Hesketh Avenue and Riviera Drive? By avoiding parking our cars across drives and on grass verges, you help us to play our part in being a caring member of the local community. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Choosing new books for the LRB

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy their leisure reading at Prenton and it helps when we have a wonderful library full of great books for students to borrow.

Over recent years, Learning Resource Base staff have regularly taken groups of students to Waterstones in Liverpool One to select books. Students not only have a wide choice to suit all tastes, but also the latest releases!

Joining LRB Assistant Mrs Haynes and Teaching Assistant Mrs Wright

on a trip to Liverpool this term were twelve students – and Beth, Ellen, Natalia, Emma and Courtney are pictured here on the day in the heart of Waterstones bookstore.



## Use yEU're vote!

Should we stay or should we go? Just because those under 18s could not vote in the national EU referendum, it did not mean that their voice is not heard here in school.

Thanks to Library Assistant Mrs Haynes, voting slips were printed and ballot box prepared and students were invited to take part in Prenton's own referendum – with the same question asked and the same two choices available. Voting started briskly on the day with early exit polls suggesting the Leave campaign slightly ahead.

However, final results demonstrated that our students were very much in tune with local results with 55.7% voting Remain and 44.3% Leave.



### Busy being creative



Students have been creatively busy this term, producing some stunning work, seen here. Year 7 Design Technology students have made a superb selection of door plaques and acrylic earphone holders whilst our Year 8 Enterprise Club students made a selection of gifts in readiness for Fathers' Day.

### Blockhead project is a hit

Congratulations to our Year 8 students who have enthusiastically taken on new project in Design Technology. The 'Blockheads' project encourages hand skills, measuring, marking out, cutting and drilling - combined with laser cutting. Using their new-found skills, they then create a wooden figure to show an emotion or a career.



### The Dragons would be impressed!

Following on from the Young Enterprise Day in March, two small businesses developed in school.

The first team, Abnormalis, produce and sell personalised hand painted canvas bags and the second, Personery, sell personalised stationery products. They attended our recent Year 7 Induction evening, selling over £50 worth of stationery. Well done to both teams – considering each started with just £10, the Dragons would be delighted!



## The theme is 'Celebration'

'Celebration' was definitely the theme in Food Technology this term and the answer was an amazing array of wonderful cakes.

As can be seen here, Year 9 students created a range of cakes based on a variety of themes and Year 7 bakers held their own celebrations after producing a series of designs to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Well done everyone!



## Emily's week of luxury

In a one-off work experience of a lifetime, Year 9 student Emily spent a week's placement in various departments at her father's place of work. Nothing unusual in that you may think – except that her father works at one of the most prestigious car makers in the world, Crewe based Bentley Motors.

Kyle Garland, Emily's mentor from their Attraction & Future Talent Team, was most complimentary about her week with them. Remarking on Emily's really proactive approach during her placement, he added that she: "was also the youngest Work Experience student in HR in Bentley's history which is quite a cool achievement!"

Well done Emily!

## Students review their Work Experience

This year our Year 10 Work Experience students spent five days with local employers, returning to school to spend a day providing feedback and evaluating their experiences. They will also use the time to update their CVs in preparation for the entry into Year 11, prepare letters of thanks to the employers who gave them work experience, and to attend Aspirations workshops. Finally, an assembly will be held to celebrate their successes!

## Humanities

### Humanities students on the move

Our students have certainly been on the move this term! Two Geography trips saw Year 8s completing data collection work in the local area and Year 9s on a field trip to Royden Park and Parkgate.



Year 10s studied Burgess's concentric circle theory of urban growth, which suggests that urban communities and social groups spread outwards from the centre in identifiable concentric rings. Our students can be seen here making their own models based on their own observations locally.



### Looking at University

A group of Year 10 Humanities students - our very own History Girls - travelled to the University of Liverpool where they had a tour of the History faculty.



## ICT & Computing

### Whitney's wise words win with Internet Safety

Congratulations to Year 7 student Whitney who won the Safer Internet Day with her poster aimed at parents and highlighting the challenges that cyber-bullying and meeting strangers off the internet present to young people. Whitney won a £20 shopping voucher for her winning design.



There were two joint runners-up, each pictured here with the poster display in the behind them: Leah from Year 7, and Year 8 student Laura.

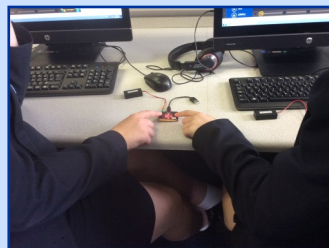


Well done everyone!

### The chips are down in the ICT competition

When we received a delivery of BBC Microbits, ICT Subject Leader Mr Simon felt it was a good opportunity to have a competition that allowed Year 7 students to learn more about coding. By creatively using the Microbit with chips they had the chance to win a first prize of £20 or one of the two runners-up prizes of £10.

Students have quickly put their knowledge of computer coding to design and program their own Microbit and although the winner has yet to be announced, Mr Simon has already seen a number of intriguing games using Javascript language. Great coding ladies!



### Prenton TV - now on Episode 7!

**Our Prenton TV team have been working hard each week after school, keeping a look out for a good story on which to report. Once identified, each piece was filmed, edited and presented with the 'final cut' shown at assemblies at the end of term.**

**Find out what has impressed our TV team this term by viewing the latest episode now on our website!**

## Chloe's slice of Pi

Pi is a significant number for mathematicians, being the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It is calculated by dividing 22 by 7 as a fraction. This division does not give a perfect answer when converting to decimal, resulting in an endless set of numbers after the decimal point.

When teacher of mathematics, Mrs Johns gave her class some background about Pi, it captured the imagination of Year 8 student Chloe. She came up with a personal challenge - to remember as many of the Pi digits as possible. Helped by the Pi song at the outset, Chloe can now recall 61 digits with ease – and counting!

Here are the first 50 digits if you would like to try for yourself:  
 $\pi = 3.1415926535897932384626433827950288419716939937510$

Good luck and well done Chloe.

**Stop Press:** *Chloe is now up to 77 digits!*



## Elissa leaps forward for the Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Year 8 student Elissa who not only gained a Gold certificate in the UKMT Maths Challenge but she did in style! Elissa qualified for the UKMT's Junior Kangaroo follow-on round by being in the top 7% of those taking part across the UK – Gold is awarded for those with 81 points or more and Elissa scored 93.

The UKMT Junior Maths Challenge is an opportunity for our young mathematicians to compete against others across the country. Fifteen Year 7 students and fifteen Year 8 students were entered for the 2016 competition. All competed with distinction with the following students gaining awards:

Gold Certificate winners – Elissa and Abbey (both Year 8)  
Silver Certificate winners - Charlotte (Year 8) and Lucie (Year 7)  
Bronze Certificate winners - Emma, Junemarie, Bethany, Alicia, Kate and Jadyn (all Year 8)



## Abi's family favourites

Following extensive research into her family, Year 7 student Abi certainly 'knows who she is'!

She produced a family tree along with a display of photographs as part of a home learning project set by teacher of MFL, Miss Serrano-Moreno. Abi's chart describes who everyone is in perfect French and how they are related to her, using a range of French vocabulary she had learned from other topics covered in her lessons.

Miss Serrano-Moreno was most impressed with Abi's work – and with over 30 supporting pictures of her relatives in her display, so are we!



## Loire Valley trip planned

MFL are planning a 2017 trip to the Loire valley, famous for its architectural heritage of chateaux and historic towns – keep an eye on the website and ParentMail for more details.

# Music & Performing Arts

## The Prenton Theatre Company – coming soon!

To build on the success of the school show, we intend to go one step further.

From September Mrs Burns, Subject Leader for Music, will launch the brand new Prenton Theatre Company. A series of clubs will run after school to harness and develop talent in music, drama and dance. The members of the PTC will also have opportunities to visit the theatre to pick up tips and ideas from the professionals.

We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work!

## School show makes musical magic

**One of the highlights we look forward to each year is our school production – and this year was no exception!**

'Musicals through the Decades' provided a dazzling array of singing, dancing and acting talent that gave audiences three consecutive nights of wonderful entertainment. Solo performances from Year 10 Performing Art students Ellie singing 'Naughty' from Matilda and Lauren singing 'On My Own' from Les Miserables concluded each half that presented scenes from the musicals Chicago, Hairspray, Wicked and Grease.

Congratulations to all our performers, supporting staff, stage, sound and lighting technicians – not forgetting Director Mrs Burns, Director of Dance Miss Barr, Assistant Choreographer Rebecca, and the staff band of Mr Richardson, Mr Robinson, Mrs Jones, Mrs Rawlinson, Mr Major and Mr Corlett. Thanks also to our tireless PTA who supported each evening by providing refreshments and raffle prizes!



## Kathryn's key start

The offer of a free piano from a neighbour has inspired Year 7 student Kathryn to play it seriously.

Kathryn's dedication and hard work has meant she has just passed her Grade 1 Piano examination with merit. Her examiner commented about one piece she played that "some of the lyrical sadness of the music came over", and of another: "You caught some of the fun spirit of the piece".

Kathryn is pictured here practising in school. It is a great start, Kathryn – very well played!



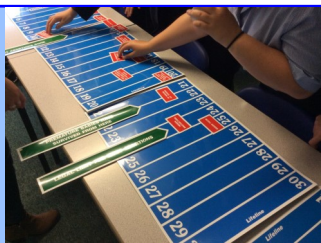
## PHSE

### Looking at healthy lifestyles

As part of their PSHE course, we invited Brook Health and Wellbeing from Birkenhead to run a theme day for our Year 9 students. During the day they participated in seminars on sexual health and awareness and healthy relationships.

### Exploring Christian beliefs

We were grateful to the Wirral Youth for Christ representatives who came into school to work with our Year 10 RE GCSE students. They helped our students explore Christian beliefs as part of their course.



## Student Services, SENCO & Community

### Doctors give first aid advice

Thanks to organiser and SENCO, Mrs McGarry, we were grateful to two doctors from Chester who came in to school to work with our students.

Dr Robyn Powell and Dr Debbie Beck spent an afternoon providing some career inspiration for our Year 9 and Year 10 students along with some valuable practical first aid advice.

Dr Powell is pictured here giving advice on artificial respiration with Year 9 student Maya.



### Running and raising money

Congratulations to Miss O'Neill and Mrs Davies who raised £155 by running 10K and 5K respectively in the Birkenhead Park Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research and to Mrs Gratton DT technician who ran the 5K Brimstage Mud Run.

Helping us to put the calories back on thanks go to the Senior Leadership team, home-made strawberry and cream scones were provided to staff one break. Almost £60 was raised for Wirral St John's Hospice – thank you!

## Bake-off supports African school

The May Bake-off raised £60 for the Rock of Joy Primary School in Masaka, Uganda, to help their provision of facilities for their children. Peter, husband of Teacher of mathematics Mrs Johns, travelled there in May to undertake some charity work with them.

## Challenging stereotypes

The Dove Self-Esteem team challenged our Year 7s to think about the pressures placed on them by personal and social media.

Thanks to Progress Leader Miss Hockenhill, Dove representatives Jess Levinson Young and Richard Alexander ran a series of sessions aimed at boosting body confidence and self-esteem. The team asked students to challenge the way our culture dictates the way we should look, and to investigate how images in the media are carefully prepared and digitally altered – so that they no longer truly reflect the real person featured.

The pressure to look like one of these appearance ideals in the media is often reflected in our own behaviour. At the end of the session, students were encouraged to make a promise they will make every effort to keep, avoiding this media stereotyping and to have the confidence to celebrate their individuality.



## GIRLS get red carpet recognition

Our students joined others from around Wirral when they attended a red carpet Awards ceremony at Wallasey Town Hall. The event recognised their achievements in completing the G.I.R.L.S Project.

The project, managed by Wirral Council's Youth Support Service, was a 12-week personal development programme for young women, focusing on the benefits of healthy lifestyle choices.

Fay, Katherine and Gracie-Lee are pictured here at the event with the Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Les Rowlands.





## Congratulations Charlotte

Well done to Year 8 student Charlotte (pictured, right) who received the Headteacher's Award from Mrs Ayling at a special assembly that also saw awards for top IRIS points.



## Trash that litter please!



Our Year 7 students took part in a 'Bin it' roadshow, taking a look at the environment and the effects that litter has on it.

## And to Riviera students

Jadyn, Melissa, Emma, Caitlin and Jasmine who each received the Headteacher's Award at the end of term.



## Utopia project builds confidence

Thanks to Danny and Philip from the Utopia Project based in Birkenhead, a group of students have started an exciting new education programme.

Utopia's course provides alternative solutions to cope with the demands placed on today's students, inspiring them with a series of life-long skills and helping them with life-style choices, personal development, and building confidence.

One of the first team-building exercises they undertook was to get everyone off ground level using a limited number of props (pictured here), followed by completing a 15k bike ride raising money for MacMillan Cancer Support.



# Flashmob rules!

**With many experiencing the pressure of exams this term, dancing has proved itself to help in reducing stress levels.**

Thanks to Health Mentor and School Counsellor Michelle Higgins and her dedicated team of student ambassadors, they created, planned and presented a series of different activities to promote Mental Health Awareness Week with their Flashmob dancing high on the agenda.



Throughout the week, staff and students were invited to make their own affirmations – personal statements that can be re-visited during a working day to encourage a positive mindset, helping to overcome our natural instincts to be self-deprecating. There were also displays of student artwork and information on the LRB noticeboard and outside the Dining Hall, with lunchtime Headspace and Mindfulness sessions encouraging calm and being still in body and mind.

Because exercise and not taking yourself too seriously can be both good for you, Flashmob rehearsals took place in the Drama Studio throughout the week leading up to a mass Flashmob dancing to Pharrell Williams' 'Happy' in the Main Hall on the Friday lunchtime.

## Year 10s receive Career Connect recognition

Having completed the course this year working with Career Connect, five of our Year 10 students received their Open Awards in Skills for Further Learning and Employment this term – well done everyone!



## Well done Year 9s!

Just before we started the half-term break, Year 9 students enjoyed an afternoon tea served by staff in recognition of their hard work.

## Tradition tree bears fruits of understanding

Our multicultural morning organised by Mrs Major, Studio Teacher, in July provided our Year 9s with an insight into the life of four countries - Poland, Bangladesh, China and Portugal. As students gained interesting facts about each



country, they pinned a note to a special Tree of Tradition. Megan and Paige can be seen here placing their fact to the tree – which, as you can see, ended up completely laden with notes.

Although it was the day of the Portugal v Poland Euro 2016 football match, there was nothing but total concord between the two nations here at Prenton, demonstrating to students the importance of peace between nations!

## Studio

### Successes for Year 11s

Congratulations to Studio Teacher Mrs Major's Year 11 studio students who received their awards for excellence at the end of May.

Each winner of the five categories received a certificate and a voucher in recognition of their achievements on the day and will, additionally, receive their Entry Level English qualification on results day in August. Well done to Monta, Courtney, Jasmine, Saima and Farhana.



## Prenton Parliament

### School Council changes name and elects new team

In a busy term for our School Council one of their far-reaching decisions was to re-name themselves as The Prenton Parliament, a title more representative of the work they do and their approach to it.

Congratulations to the new leadership team on the Parliament for the coming 12 months:

**Chair - Lauren Disley**  
**Deputy - Megan McWha**  
**Secretary - Melissa Howard**

Recent meetings of the School Council discussed issues that included: the Duke of Edinburgh Award, litter prevention, charity fund-raising and road safety and requests for traffic calming measures locally. The outgoing leadership team of Charlotte Lewis, Eleanor Sandman and Anya Headland were thanked for all their hard work over the last year.

## Science

### What makes the best bath bomb?

At the end of term, thanks to Ms Craven and as part of the 'Scrub Up on Science' challenge, students will be exploring which is the best combination of ingredients for the most impressive bath bomb – with the best fizz being high on their wish list.

**Stop Press:** Congratulations to Year 8 winners Laura, Libby and Olivia whose bath bombs were designed in the most interesting shapes!

# Yes, it really is rocket science!

What scientist wouldn't like the opportunity to design and test a rocket? Thanks to Physics Club, our students were able to aim for the sky with their own rocket!

Using pop bottles for the rocket bodies, they spent the first week designing and building their craft, hoping that theirs would be the one that went highest. Learning about pressure in more than one sense, our rocket scientists came back the following week to test them out.

With much excitement and anticipation, just like we see at NASA, a series of launches were made from the school playground. Teacher of Science Mr Morrish, who runs Physics Club, says that the rocket made by Year 7 students Whitney and Amy flew the highest he'd ever seen one fly!

The pictures show Molly and Natalia working on their design, Amy and Lucy with their rockets, and Beth well prepared for the fall-out from her rocket that Mr Morrish is fuelling-up!



### Among the best in England!

Congratulations to Georgia, Amelia and Lucy who represent the Liverpool FC Foundation in Under 16 volleyball.

Our three students teamed up with two students from Wirral Grammar School for Girls, to make up a most formidable five-a-side volleyball team. They travelled to the national Volleyball Centre in Kettering, Northamptonshire, for a tournament organised by Volleyball England.

Nine teams from all over England competed including Arsenal, West Ham United, Wigan Athletic, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Stoke City. Our team played eleven games and won ten, losing in the final to Stoke City.

Well done team, we hear there were some great performances and a truly competitive spirit shown throughout the day! They are pictured here with their runners-up medals.

You can see more pictures on the Liverpool FC Foundation twitter feed link: [#PL4S #Volleyball](#)



### Volleyballers gain Silver

We were represented by two Under 12 teams at an inter-schools volleyball tournament hosted by Wirral Grammar School for Girls this term.

With 16 boys' and girls' teams competing, our A team of Jess, Lucy, Leah and Madaleine and B team of Grace, Holly, Jessica and Megan each played in a pool of four teams. Both progressed to the quarter finals with our A team winning all their matches and the B team winning two.

Both teams won their quarter finals and had to play each other – resulting in the successful B team playing Wirral in the final, losing a closely fought game by 16-14. Congratulations to each of our silver medalists!



## Cricketers strike out

The Wirral Under 13 outdoor championships are now so popular that they are played over two halves. Congratulations to our team of Jess, Madaleine, Alex, Cora, Freya, Abbie, Georgia and Jodie who represented the school and proving themselves to be a formidable side.

In the first half of the championships they initially played Ridgeway High School, scoring 92 runs from their 7 overs - Abbie and Jess each scoring 25 runs - with Ridgeway scoring 9 in reply.

The team's second match was against Upton Hall School, scoring 68 runs over 7 overs. In this match, Jess scored a magnificent 50, with 28 runs off the final over. Upton were bowled out for 42 runs, with our bowler Freya taking two wickets.

Because there was no time on the day, the second half of the championship took place in late June (See report below!)

## Now we are U13 champions!

Our teams have been competing in the Under 13 Wirral outdoor cricket championships for the past four years – and our latest win means we remain unbeaten during this time.

A proud team manager and Teacher of Humanities, Mr B. Taylor, reports that in the 2016 tournament we won our games against Pensby and Upton Hall in the group stage and defeating Upton Hall again in the final by 7 wickets.



With Freya scoring the most runs and Georgia being the top wicket taker, many congratulations go to the full team of: Freya, Abbie, Lily, Cora, Alex, Jess, Madaleine, Georgia and Jodie.

We are all proud of your wonderful achievement, well done!

# Under 15s title win make us double cricket champions!



Not to be outdone, our Under 15 cricketers of Meg, Alisha, Amelia, Lucy, Ellie, Jodie, Madison, Chloe and Sam also became Wirral's Under 15 Outdoor Cricket Champions too!

## National Sports Week 2016

Thanks to Subject Leader PE, Miss Robertson, students across school joined in National Sports Week in June. Among the activities in which they participated were a Volleyball Beach Tournament and an inter-schools Wirral Rounders Tournament.



## **Courtney's outstanding commitment recognised**

Congratulations to Year 8 student Courtney whose effort and commitment to her football team - Upton FC, an Ability Counts team - has been described as outstanding. Her award is in recognition of her turning up all season for training, her enthusiastic participation and for not giving up.

A very proud Courtney is pictured here with her award, well done!



## **Charlotte wins silver**

**Well done to Year 9 student Charlotte who travelled to the Taekwondo Association of Great Britain's 2016 Welsh Championships in Cardiff and gained a silver medal for sparring.**

# Diary

**INSET** (Staff only)  
**INSET** (Staff only)  
Open (Staff and Students)  
Open Evening

Open Day

Close  
Half term holiday  
Open  
Close  
Christmas holiday  
January 2017

## Autumn term 2016

Thursday 1 September  
Friday 2 September  
Monday 5 September (Years 7 – 11)  
Thursday 6 October (6pm to 8pm,  
Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm)  
Friday 7 October (9.30am to 9.30am to  
11.30am and 2pm to 4pm, parents and  
carers only)  
Friday 21 October  
Monday 24 – Friday 28 October  
Monday 31 October  
Wednesday 21 December  
Thursday 22 December 2016 – Friday 6

## Spring term 2017

Open  
Close (to students)  
**INSET** (Staff only)  
Half term holiday  
Open  
Close  
Spring holiday

Monday 9 January 2017  
Thursday 16 February 2017  
Friday 17 February 2017  
Monday 20 – Friday 24 February 2017  
Monday 27 February 2017  
Friday 31 March 2017  
Monday 3 April – Monday 17 April 2017

## Summer term 2017

Open  
May Day Bank Holiday  
Close  
Half term holiday  
Open  
Close

Tuesday 18 April 2017  
Monday 1 May 2017  
Friday 26 May 2017  
Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2017  
Monday 5 June 2017  
Friday 21 July 2017

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

[www.prentonhighschool.co.uk](http://www.prentonhighschool.co.uk)  
[@prentonhigh](https://twitter.com/prentonhigh)



## Making a Difference

**Headteacher:** Mrs Lisa Ayling BA (Hons) NPQH

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Geraldine Fraser BEd (Hons) MSc

**Head Girl:** Lydia Portbury | **Deputy Head Girls:** Eleanor Sandman & Sumayyah Haque | **Assistant Head Girls:** Rachel Westcott, Lauren Disley, Lily Evans

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