



“ABSOLUTELY SUPERB - ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!”



Our school performances of 'High School Musical' this term rightly attracted many wonderful reviews. Read more about our 2017 Summer Spectacular on page 21, plus pictures from the show on the back page of this issue.

NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Read more on page 2

Photos from the Prom

See them all on page 2

SPORTS DAY!

Read all about it on page 27



NIAH HEADS NEW STUDENT SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Many congratulations to Niah Harrop who has been appointed Head Girl for the next academic year. She is supported by Deputy Head Girls Anya Headland and Megan McWha, and Assistant Head Girls Vicky Davidson, Ellie Fraser and Melissa Howard. Our new team is pictured here with Headteacher, Mrs Ayling.



Prenton's Perfect Prom

Our 'Year Of 2017' enjoyed a splendid Prom at Thornton Hall Hotel in July. It is always a special occasion for students to celebrate their five years at Prenton and, as the pictures show, this year was no exception!



Headlines



Reflecting upon the many activities and achievements of the last term, many of which can be seen in this issue of High Life, I am always amazed at the sheer intensity of school life here at Prenton High School. Take into consideration the work undertaken in the previous two terms and it amounts to an extremely busy and successful academic year! Naturally, I have a deep sense of pride in all the achievements of staff and students alike, but I feel there are some over the past year that are worth a particular mention.

It has been the first year of the Prenton Promise, a commitment that offers all students a range of opportunities and experiences to prepare them for life after Prenton. In turn, students commit to taking a full part in school life, taking advantage of as many opportunities as they can. In doing so, I believe that students are enriched through gaining new skills and qualities, such as resilience, leadership, teamwork, confidence, commitment, and learning about themselves, that will serve them well in the future – and ones that employers expect and appreciate.

Students have certainly experienced a wide range of activities, at the same time showing some special skills this year. The many school trips, some curricular based and some extra-curricular, have been enriching, and becoming UK RoboCup champions, undertaking voluntary work and raising funds in order to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, as well as taking part in the school's wonderful Summer Production, will provide memories that will remain with our students for life.

The enthusiasm and energy with which students have involved themselves in the Prenton Promise has been remarkable, and I urge students to maintain their commitment.

We said goodbye this term to our Year 11 students - the Class of 2017 - and I must give them a special mention. Ladies, your hard work, commitment and dedication to your studies throughout the year has been superb. I was proud to join you for your Prom and I am looking forward to seeing you on Results day in August. I wish you the very best of luck in the future – please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing.

Of course, as one Year 11 cohort leaves, we quickly look forward to next year, with the appointment of our new Student Senior Leadership Team, led by Head Girl Niah. I congratulate each one of you and wish you well; I am sure you will enjoy and learn from the responsibilities that come with the new challenges ahead.

The students have had a wonderful year. I thank them for their commitment, staff for their dedication and you as parents, carers and families for your ongoing support. It just leaves me to wish you all a sunny and peaceful summer holiday.

Mrs Lisa Ayling

Headteacher



Bonding with Bushcraft

What better way to make new friends and to get to know each other before joining your new school, than to have a few days away camping?

This year many of our new intake of Year 7 students have accepted our invitation to join in a three-day outdoor residential Bushcraft course at Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire. We look forward to hearing of your experiences and to seeing some exciting photographs when you start with us in September.

ELEVATE HELPS STUDENTS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Our Elevate programme is a great way for junior schoolchildren to learn more about life at Prenton High School. Staff and students welcomed children from Higher Bebington Junior School, Woodchurch Road Primary School, Church Drive Primary School, Christchurch CE Primary School, Poulton Lancelyn Primary School, and Woodlands Primary.

We do hope you will come back and visit us again!

HELPING US TO DREAM

During the first week back from the Easter break Year 9 student Molly treated our daily assemblies to 'Dreams', a song by Fleetwood Mac from their album 'Rumours'.

Molly is pictured here singing to her Year 9 peer group; a great way to start the new term's assemblies, thank you Molly!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AS AUTUMN OPEN EVENT DATES ANNOUNCED

Parents with daughters in Year 5 or Year 6 are cordially invited to our Autumn Open Evening on Thursday 5 October 6pm to 8pm; Headteacher's talks at 6.15pm and 7pm.

There is also an opportunity to see our school in action on our Open Day, Friday 6 October, 9.30am to 11.30am, and 2.00pm to 4.00pm – at the request of Primary schools, this event is for parents and carers only.

If you are one of those parents who has the important choice ahead of you of which secondary school is best for your daughter and you are unable to make either of these dates, please contact the School Office and a mutually convenient time can be arranged: schooloffice@prentontonhighschool.co.uk or 0151 644 8113.

You are assured a very warm welcome!

OPEN EVENTS ATTRACT LOTS OF ‘LIKES’

We were proud to welcome prospective parents and their daughters at the end of April, with two events aimed at providing visitors with a flavour of the strong ethos of our school and the many opportunities we offer to our students.

The Wednesday Open Evening event for parents and daughters gave a chance to see the school’s facilities, resources and curriculum provision. In addition to talks from the Headteacher, members of the Student Senior Leadership Team and a Year 7 student, visitors were also encouraged to tour the school – assisted by our enthusiastic student guides – and to experience first-hand some of the exciting work done in each department.

At the end of their visit, parents had plenty of ‘likes’ – including the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, the enthusiasm of staff and students, the school’s impressive academic record, and the high expectations for all students.

Parents were also able to come and see the school in action on a normal working day at the Open Morning on Friday and they remarked on the exciting lessons they saw and the positive atmosphere around school.

Here are some of the ‘likes’ we received:

“Very welcoming, fab canteen, sports hall - and lots of school clubs”

“My daughter liked it because all the girls said how friendly everybody is”

“Friendly, caring atmosphere, enthusiastic staff and students”

“Exam results, lots of school activities and interesting lessons”

“Amazing facilities; warm, friendly teachers”

“Our Year 7 guides were amazing; they said so many really lovely and positive things about Prenton High! Thank you!”

“Brilliant night – my daughter really enjoyed it”

“I think my daughter will thrive to the best of her ability”

“I feel my daughter would be happy and secure. She would be supported and encouraged to achieve her best”

“Our guides were amazing. 10/10 and staff were great; facilities excellent! Could go on and on!”

“Good facilities and ethos - exciting looking lessons”

“My daughter can’t wait to attend”

“A very friendly positive environment – so much variety”

“Thank you for having us - it just blew us away!”

LAUREN TALKS LIPA

Thanks to organiser Ms Craven, Year 9 had an assembly presentation from The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) representative Lauren. Students heard about LIPA’s Widening Participation programme that provides an outreach activities programme for schools. Designed to help students learn more about the career options that performing arts offer, including backstage roles and working with sound, Lauren outlined LIPA’s range of courses, tours, talks and workshops.

GEORGIA TAKES TO THE AIRWAVES

Year 7 student Georgia appeared on Radio Merseyside's prestigious morning show with Tony Snell. Georgia was invited to the station after she phoned the show's producer requesting the opportunity to talk on air about the loss of the Complete Works Dance Studio that was destroyed in the New Ferry explosion. Well done, Georgia!



A Minute for Manchester – and for London

We joined others across the country to observe a minute's silence in memory of all who lost their lives following the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester in May.

In June, we also observed a one-minute silence in memory of all who lost their lives in and around Borough Market, London.

On both occasions, we considered the families of the victims and thought of those people around the world whose everyday lives are affected by ongoing acts of violence and conflict. Students were encouraged to look after each other and to show kindness and compassion both in our school and our wider communities.

AN AMAZINGLY MUSICAL START TO THE MORNING

Thanks to Year 7 students Savannah and Faith who opened their Year 7 assembly with their version of Bruno Mars' 'Just the Way You Are (Amazing)'.

Our duo sang each day to different Year assemblies throughout the week – an 'amazing' way to start each day. Thank you Savannah and Faith!



We're very Active Kids!

Thank you to all those Sainsbury shoppers who have been giving us Active Kids vouchers over recent weeks – not just those in school but our thoughtful neighbours who have contributed too!

Our 4,600 vouchers will be going towards some kit for our Duke of Edinburgh students to use: sleeping mats, compasses, and an 8-person mountain endurance shelter.

Rhiannon and Amber are pictured here making sure the vouchers are sent off safely.



AMY'S DANCE DEDICATION WINS AWARD

Congratulations to Year 8 student Amy, who was awarded the Jan Smith Award for 2017 at her dance school – the Louise Forster School of Dance.

She has been dancing for the past nine years and the award recognises her dedication, commitment and effort shown over this time.

Amy, who enjoys all types of dance but especially street dance, represents the school at competitions held around the area. Well done, Amy!



Assemblies celebrate our togetherness

Assemblies delivered on two consecutive mornings this term provided students and staff with an opportunity to examine and reflect upon our attitudes and feelings following recent events in Manchester and London.

Following the song 'Say Something', performed by Year 10 students Ellie and Lois, Teacher of Science, Mr McParlin used a powerful footballing analogy to challenge the way many of us can often judge others with pre-conceived ideas.

Our School Counsellor, Michelle Higgins, then read out a poem she had written and dedicated to a friend who, some years ago, had made an impact upon her life. Although they have since lost contact, Michelle still thinks of Amirah and of her reactions having received racist taunts.

Continuing the theme a Year 8 student, who wished to remain anonymous, wrote a challenging and powerful letter about racism that was beautifully read out by Year 10 student Megan.

Thanks to Year 7 students Oseia, Isha, (pictured) Khadiza, and Sami, the assembly ended with a presentation to help us understand more about their Muslim faith and fasting during the month of Ramadan.

With the month of Ramadan now over, we wish them and their families a happy Eid al-Fitr.



We're here to help

Thanks to Teaching Assistant Mrs Murphy who spotted this photo opportunity at an after-school Learning Club session recently.

One of our Year 7s was in need of a bit of help and guidance with her Humanities practical work recently and fortunately, there were some Year 10s around to help her.

A wonderful piece of teamwork folks!



KEEPING THE PRENTON PROMISE

The Prenton Promise, introduced during the last autumn term, is our commitment to offer all students a range of opportunities and experiences that prepare them for life after Prenton.

In return, students promise to take part in as many activities as possible and, reading this copy of High Life, you can see just how busy staff and students have been, not just this term but also throughout the year.

We are very proud of the achievements of the Prenton Theatre Company, culminating in our actors, singers and dancers giving three evening performances of 'High School Musical' that truly enthralled and delighted audiences. Their dedication in regularly attending rehearsals, their sheer hard work, and creativity during the year has been impressive - for example, our dancers even choreographed and performed their own dances. Adding in the excellent sound and lighting, the staff band and the official photography, meant audiences went home full of superlatives!

In the field of Robotics, our students Anna and Lily-May won the UK Championships, beating many from all-boys' schools,

grammar and public schools. They will now follow in the footsteps of many Prenton RoboCup teams before them, following a huge fundraising effort, representing the UK on their trip to Japan this summer.

There were thirty-four trips this term - over two each week - including Bletchley Park, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Liverpool, Waterstones Liverpool, Liverpool Empire, The Big Bang Exhibition and numerous sporting events.

Completing our first year - and first trips - of the Duke of Edinburgh Award resulted in 57 Bronze Certificates gained, with participants all learning resilience and teamwork, with lots of fundraising, community work, and map reading along the way!

The Bikeability course, giving students the confidence to cope with our busy roads on their bicycles, resulting in Level 2 and Level 3 certificates being gained, is just one further example of the many exciting opportunities there are in order to achieve the Prenton Promise.

Well done everyone

DINING WITH A GLOBAL TWIST

We returned from the Easter break to a new set of exciting daily menus on offer in our Dining Hall.

Thanks to Jane and her staff from Chartwells, students can 'travel the world' with three weeks' worth of different menus, each one to stir the imagination. Each day has a choice from three headings: Global Adventure, High Street Faves and Speedy Italian. Options include dishes that would not be out of place

in Thai, Chinese, Indian, Mexican, British, Caribbean or Japanese restaurants - and there is plenty of choice for vegetarians too! Dining Hall Manager Jane says that the new menus reflect our wider tastes in 2017 and is always happy to get feedback from her customers.

The new menu certainly appears to be a hit with Georgia, Paige, Jess and Zoe!



AU REVOIR YEAR 11

It had been a long programme of exams for our Year 11 students, starting in mid-May and finishing towards the end of June. Before their extended, well-earned summer break started, they were invited to a special Leavers' Assembly in school.

Following afternoon tea in the Dining Hall, the party moved through to the Main Hall for the 'main event'. Leavers heard inspiring addresses from the Headteacher, Mrs Ayling, Year 11 Progress Leader Miss Roberts, and Student Senior Leadership Team members of Head Girl Lydia, Deputy Head Girl Sumayyah, and Assistant Head Girl Rachel.

Leavers' assemblies are usually a time for Year 11 Form Tutors to showcase their skills and this one was no exception. The Class of 2017 were treated to a lip-sync battle between Mr Morrish (as Billy Joe from Green Day), Mrs Bull (Cyndi Lauper), Mr Simon (Ed Sheeran), Mrs Simpson (Flo Rida), Mrs Sagar (Justin Timberlake, ably accompanied and backed by Miss Barr and Miss Doyle) and Mrs Burns (Macklemore). Not to be out-performed by their tutors, we also had a wonderful live rendition of One Direction's 'Story of My Life' from Samantha and Amy.

With surprise visits from Mr O'Neil, who retired at Christmas, and, from her maternity leave, Mrs Close with her son Sebastian, the event finished with each student presented with their own Leavers' Book, full of memories of their time at Prenton High School. It was not quite 'good-bye' though - more 'au revoir', as we all met up again at the Prom - with of course Results Day to look forward to, on Thursday 24 August, from 10am. Good luck for a wonderful future to you all!



Leavers' comments 2017

Thank you to all those Year 11s who left so many positive thoughts about your time with us. Here are just a few of the nice things you said:

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Prenton. My good grades will mean I can follow my chosen career"

"Prenton has been amazing and a wonderful experience"

"I found the staff were always there to support everyone"

"Everything went so well for me at Prenton High School"

"I discovered I loved reading due to the LRB's library"

"Prenton made me believe in myself. There are so many other opportunities to do other things while you are learning"

"Prenton really built my confidence"

"I made great friends at Prenton High School"

"I have amazing memories, made with staff and students"

"I had an amazing time at Prenton – I had so much help; I love all the staff!"

"I feel that in Prenton I have developed as a person, with new friends for life"

"I gained a great education at Prenton High School"

PLACING VOTES IN OUR PRENTON POLL!

Although our students were not quite old enough to vote in the June General Election, they could exercise their right to vote in Prenton's very own polling day.

To be certain students had as much information as they needed about the main policies of each of the major political parties, a display and an electronic presentation was available in the Learning Resource Base, making it easier to make a final decision on which way to vote.

With just over one day to go before the nation – and Prenton students – headed to the polls, LRB Assistants Kyla and Abigail from Year 7 are pictured here preparing the ballot papers.



... AND PRENTON DECIDES!

Mirroring the General Election results locally, our students clearly voted for Labour in the Prenton mini-election. Had the nationwide ballot produced these figures, there would be no hung parliament!

Labour came first with 87.4% of the vote, Conservatives second (5.3%), followed by the Green Party (5%), UKIP (1.4%), then the Liberal Democrats (0.8%). There were just three spoiled votes and, with Year 11 students otherwise engaged due to exams, we had a 60% turnout, reflecting favourably with many national statistics.

Congratulations to all who exercised their right to vote.



Libby has the World at her Feet

In February 2016 Year 10 student Libby headed to New York with her dance school, Jelli Studios, founded by Jennifer Ellison. Now Libby has been on her travels once more, to Offenburg, Germany, returning as a World Champion.

With over 12,000 competitors from 47 countries attending, Libby's dance school was one of four from around England representing the country, making her achievement all the more special. Libby gained 1st place in the Junior Hip-Hop and Contemporary Dance, 2nd place in Senior Commercial Dance, and 4th place in Junior Commercial Dance.

Libby is a life-long dancer who has worked hard to attain her World Champion status – she trains four evenings each week and all day each Sunday. Many congratulations, Libby, we are very proud of you!



PRENTON ALUMNI

Thanks for dropping by! It's always nice when former students call in to see us – and it's wonderful when they drop in on one of our Open Events and we can hear about their continued success.

Robyn Makin and Amy Buckenham left us last summer; Robyn is now studying Media and Theatre Make-Up at Hugh Baird College, Liverpool, and Amy is at Birkenhead 6th Form College, studying Media, Psychology, Sociology and Art at 'A' level. Thanks for calling in ladies, it was great to see you!



Thanks to Lauryn Young and Hannah Williams who, having recently completed their A Level examinations, came in to school to talk to our Year 10 students. They gave advice on putting together a great CV in preparation for their college applications, emphasising also the importance of plenty of hard work and revision when in Year 11. They are pictured here with Megan, Miya, Olivia and Ella.



2012 – CLEARLY A VINTAGE YEAR!

Congratulations to three students, all of whom left us in 2012, who have each gained First Class Honours in their degree courses - Grace Costello in History and Politics, Emma Parsons in Physical Geography (both studied at the University of Liverpool) and to Holly Pierce in Art, at the University of Chester.

Congratulations also go to Terri Ann Robinson who left us in 2006 and has graduated after studying to be a Social Worker. Well done to you all!

PRENTON PEOPLE

Au Revoir and Good Luck in the future to:

Mr Hart, Teacher of RE (Maternity Cover)

Miss Serrano-Moreno, Teacher of MFL

Mrs Dabek, Administration Assistant

Mrs Entwistle, Teaching Assistant

Mrs James, Curriculum Cover Supervisor

Mrs Ritson, Teaching Assistant

Miss Sinclair, HLTA

Mrs Sheen, Senior Science Technician

Miss Carpenter, Teacher of Music

Dr Lett, Supply Teacher

ITT students **Mr Ritchie**, **Miss Gladwin** and **Mr Sweeney**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Miss Hockenhull, who gave birth to a baby boy in April.

Miss Davies, appointed Teacher of English

Mrs Hepke, appointed Teacher of MFL and Temporary Year 9 Progress Leader, Autumn term

Mrs Major, appointed Assistant SENCO

Mr Tang and **Miss Zukova** on their engagement

WE WELCOME THREE NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

Dr Jeremy Coen

Mrs Alison Sass

Mrs Kerry Weston

Good luck to **Miss Churton** who is going on maternity leave in September.

Welcome back to **Mrs Close**, **Mrs Kenyon** and **Mrs Winter**, returning from maternity leave.



Putting Chester in the Picture

Eight of our Year 10 photography students focussed their sights on the picturesque City of Chester. They scoured the city with their cameras looking for unusual and interesting views that depict the unique backdrop that this historic centre offers. Then, back in school, our students used their software skills to edit their images and collate a portfolio that will form part of their GCSE coursework.



ASPIRATIONAL ART IN MANCHESTER

Twenty-five Year 10 Art students headed for Manchester Metropolitan University in June to visit their graduate art and design degree show.

It was an inspiring experience for our students, helping to raise their future aspirations.

Charity & Fundraising

BAKE-OFF BOOSTS PROM Thanks to all staff who contributed to the Easter bake off, helping to add to funds for the 2017 Prom.

Cycling for Autism charity

Twelve of our Year 9 students participated in a seven-week after-school course run by Utopia Training and Development, organised and supported by Ms Dunbar from the Student Services team.



Our intrepid students can be seen here rising to the challenge set to them by climbing at Awesome Walls in Liverpool. They followed it up with eight students on the programme deciding to helping others by supporting the charity Autism Together, formally known as the Wirral Autistic Society. The girls chose Autism Together as their charity because they wanted to support a local organisation that does such great work. So, one evening, they joined Ms Dunbar on a 14-mile cycle ride along the Wirral coastline around New Brighton.

Their chosen charity is one of the country's leading providers of services and support to people with autism, including Residential Care, Supported Living & Access to Housing, Short Breaks and Respite Care, Community & Vocational Services, and has a Children and Family Service.



Ms Dunbar reports that they all showed great motivation, teamwork and commitment for a fantastic cause.

Other activities on their personal development programme were problem-solving, horse riding, climbing, kayaking and raft building. A great effort, everyone!

A SLICE OF CAKE GIVES PEACE OF MIND

The staff bake-off before half term raised £30 for Wirral Mind, an organisation that helps adults in our local community with mental health problems and learning disabilities.

Both Wirral Mind's CEO Sandra Gilbert and Staff organiser and teacher of Mathematics Mrs Johns thank all those who baked and bought cakes.

OLIVIA GETS HER GOAL

Last Autumn we reported on Year 9 student Olivia's champion effort in raising £1200 for Christ Church in Bebington and her chosen charity, SANDS, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity whose work includes improving the care bereaved parents receive and promotes research to reduce the loss of babies' lives.

Arranging coffee mornings, afternoon teas, bingo, beetle drives and children's games afternoons, Olivia has now reached her target of raising a fabulous £5,000. Congratulations Olivia, you are a star!

Food Design Technology



Cake Project Goes Heavenwards!

Thanks to the amazing efforts of our Year 9 bakers, their Celebration Cake project attracted more attention than they could ever imagine.

The brief was to design and make a cake suitable for a celebration with students asked to identify both a celebration and client for their cakes. After they had completed their research, they designed their final idea, finishing by decorating and then evaluate their cakes.

Mrs English, Teacher of DT Food, was so impressed with their work that her photographs were tweeted. Not long after, we had a response from Tilly Haines of Anthem Publishing in Bath, resulting in features in their on-line publication, Food Heaven Magazine.



Well done Libby and her cake (both pictured) and to Beth, Charlotte, Jessica, Laura, Olivia, and Natasha whose cakes were also featured!

COOKING CLUB HAVE A MASTERCLASS

Cooking Club went on their travels this term – for a Masterclass at Wirral Met, where they made Gateaux St Honore. Sounds delicious, ladies!

WELL LANE CHILDREN GET BAKING

With help from Year 9 students Olivia, Megan, Laura, Beth, Libby and Charlotte, our Design Technology (Food) department and Mrs English welcomed Year 5 children from Well Lane Primary School. They had great fun turning the clock back with a theme of 'rationing' and baking a "National Loaf" and some carrot cookies. Please come back again soon!

SWEET ON CHOCOLATE!

Chocolate provides many of us with one of life's little pleasures and, thanks to organiser and Teacher of DT Food, Mrs English, our Year 10 students have been finding out more about this versatile, much loved food.

Two sets of students visited the well-known Manchester Chocolatier, Slattery's, where they learned how to work creatively with chocolate, taking up a challenge to make chocolate Novelties.

They are pictured here on what would be a dream trip for many!



Duke of Edinburgh

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

Some very tired staff and students came into school one Monday morning – however there was a very good reason for it.

After picking up their brand new kit, sixty-one of our Duke of Edinburgh students headed to Chirk, near Wrexham, for their first weekend away. It was the first night away for our DoE'ers and, in addition to gaining useful skills in survival under canvas, they learned about cooking outdoors, working as a team, and map-reading. Walking between six and seven hours each day carrying full kit meant that only items deemed absolutely necessary were packed!

As one student said to exhibition leader Mr Robinson at the end of the weekend: "It was the hardest but most rewarding thing I have done".

The picture shows Maisy, Kaitlyn, Megan, Freya, Olivia, Faye and Georgia before setting off. A great start everyone, that meant fifty-seven students completed their Bronze Awards, congratulations!



D OF E DAY RAISES FUNDS

Our Duke of Edinburgh funds are looking healthier now, thanks to a number of fundraising events this term that included a day of events across the school.

Following on from last term's activities, culminating in the Easter Egg raffle, our June non-uniform



day had a cornucopia of lunchtime money-raising activities – face painting, cake selling, portrait photographs, read-athon (including a Scrabble challenge, pictured here), sing-athon, dance-athon, nap-athon, the Prenton Warrior Challenge, plus wet-sponge the teacher, make your own cake, and a Year 7 disco with DJ Jess! Thanks everyone for your generosity.

BONUS-BALL LOTTERY BOOSTS D OF E FUNDS

Thanks to Mrs Hitchin, Teaching Assistant, our Duke of Edinburgh students gained some useful additional funding this term.

Over a five-week period, staff selected a number for her Bonus Ball Lottery game, with the first National Lotto bonus ball number drawn each Saturday deciding our successful number. Congratulations to the first winner, Mrs Karen Williams, from our Student Services Team.



ANDY MILLER PUTS JASMINE INTO PRINT

When it comes to spotting writing talent, Amazon can quickly assess whether a manuscript is good enough for their Kindle e-book catalogue.

Imagine Year 8 student Jasmine's very pleasant surprise when she received a glowing critique of her 215-page book: 'Andy Miller and the Volcano of Destruction' – saying that it is 'a book of undoubted quality'. Not only that, they were going to publish her book in the Kindle category of contemporary fantasy fiction!

It took Jasmine about two months to write and her hero, Andy Miller, is not like a normal super-hero and does not have magical powers – he just wants a normal life but has to fight against his natural instincts to live dangerously.

Well done, Jasmine, this is a wonderful achievement and we cannot wait to see it being read in the LRB.

Good choices, Emillia!

Last term Year 7 student Emillia won the LRB's World Book Day competition, receiving a £10 voucher to spend in Waterstones as her prize.

On her return to school after the Easter holidays, Emillia called into the Learning Resource Base to tell us that she had chosen two books – *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon and *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Noon. We wish you happy reading, Emillia!



GANGSTA GRANNY'S JUST GREAT!

Thanks to the English department, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students travelled to the Liverpool Empire to see David Walliams' *Gangsta Granny*.

They tell us they thoroughly enjoyed the show and,

as can be seen here, Jess and Ellie even had the chance to meet Devesh Kishore who played the corner shop owner Raj!



NEW BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY SHELVES

Thanks to sixteen students from Years 7, 8 and 9, the SENCO and Learning Resource Base libraries will soon have a new set of fiction books for everyone in school to enjoy. Our new books arrived after half term break - and just in time for some summer holiday reading.

Although some national newspapers have recently criticised the lack of female characters and role models in many newly published books, this was not borne out by our students' choices; in fact, Kodi, head of children's books at Waterstones, had a range of titles on sale to appeal to every type of discerning young female reader.



Thanks, everyone, for helping us put some exciting new books on our library shelves!

DECIDING ON THE WIRRAL PAPERBACK OF THE YEAR

The Wirral Paperback of the Year competition, which attracts secondary schools from across Wirral, is now in its third year. This time there were sixteen titles shortlisted and, since December, our students have been avidly reading their way through the list.

Travelling to hosts Wirral Grammar School for Girls, nineteen Year 7, 8 and 9 students joined staff



Mrs Haynes and Mr Taylor from the LRB and Teacher of English Mrs Allison for the author meeting.



They heard presentations from local author Jon Mayhew, followed by shortlisted authors: Rhian Ivory, Anne Cassidy, Joseph Delaney, M.A. Griffin and Kathryn Evans. Our students had plenty of questions to ask at the end of each talk and, as the pictures show, were also able to get books signed by their favourite authors including Anne Cassidy – and Kathryn Evans, who we are hoping will visit us in the autumn!

‘THE ART OF BEING NORMAL’ IS PAPERBACK WINNER

Following the author event in April, there was just time for readers to finish off the sixteen shortlisted books for the final vote in June. Congratulations to Lisa Williamson, our Wirral Paperback of the Year 2017 winner announced at Prenton High School in June! We hosted the event, attended by Wirral Grammar School for Girls, Pensby High School, St Mary’s Catholic College, and Hilbre High School, with postal votes also from Weatherhead High School, West Kirby Grammar School and Wirral Grammar School for Boys. During the morning, students took part in quizzes and presentations, all relating to the shortlisted books they have been reading over the past eight months.

Our Year 7 readers Faith, Grace, Ellie, Tia, Lauren, Hannah, Jess, and Katie in



particular impressed our visitors with some remarkably creative video book trailers, themed cakes baked especially for the occasion, and artwork celebrating their own favourite books. They also delivered book and poetry readings to our visitors during the morning. Thanks must also go to our Year 10 ambassadors who looked after everyone so well throughout the morning: Zoe, Katie, Mollie and Melissa.

..AND TAKE COVER – NEW BOOKS LAND IN THE LRB!

Following the successful trip to the Waterstones bookshop in Liverpool One, we now have some new ‘editions and additions’ to the school library. Helping to register and label our new collection are Library Assistants Natalia and Lucie pictured here. It was a busy afternoon for Natalia as she was about to swap stamping books to tread the boards in the rehearsals for the school show!





INVESTIGATING OUR GLOBAL VALUES

Values are what make us who we are, guiding us in everything we do. Thanks to Mr Major, Subject Leader - Humanities, our 'Global Values Week' was launched, helping us to think about our values, choices and actions.

His comprehensive programme was a further development on the Humanities British Values Week, that has been running in school for the past few years, covering such issues as democracy, the rule of law and public institutions. Form times, lessons and free time during the week will be spent once again looking at these five broad topics as well as: Self-direction (covering: freedom, independence, self-respect), Conformity (Self-discipline, tradition, respect for elders), Benevolence (friendship, loyalty, forgiveness), Universalism (broadmindedness, environment, inner harmony), and Achievement (capability, success, recognition).

This year, Global Values have also been introduced across the curriculum, with

each year group having its own bespoke programme. In Science, for example, all students discussed renewable and sustainable energy, and Year 10s and 11s undertook a full scientific investigation; in ICT, all students learned about copyright, computer misuse, and the Data Protection Act; Year 8 and Year 9 Maths students looked at foreign currencies and pay rates, and Year 8 Music students covered American blues, slavery and oppression, whilst Year 9s looked at Protest songs.

At breaktimes our Eco-Council members were on litter-patrol around the grounds and, in a special Prenton Parliament on Thursday, the agenda focussed on the five concepts outlined above with the intention of provoking discussion – a lively debate was guaranteed!

Joanna, Miya and Ellie are pictured at break promoting Self-Direction through the Duke of Edinburgh programme.



WHAT DO WE WANT? - VOTES AT 16!

With our Humanities department 'Global Values Week' over, there was one more task to complete before finishing for the half-term break.

During the week, we looked at a number of issues – such as democracy and self-direction – and, as a practical demonstration, a ballot was conducted in

the LRB on whether 16 year-olds should be able to vote in local and national elections.

Calling upon LRB Assistants Kaitlyn and Zoe to count the votes, we found that an overwhelming majority were in favour of votes at 16, by 86% to 14% - and there were no spoiled votes!

Josephine and Jayne are pictured here using their democratic rights and placing their votes.



GEOGRAPHERS TREATED TO PERFECT CLIMATE

Looking at this photograph of Freya studying at Formby you might think our latest Geography field trip had been to the South of France!

In fact, our Year 10 GCSE Geography students were much closer to home - travelling to the beach at Formby where they collected primary data on sand dune eco-systems. The following day was spent in Birkenhead, following a 'transect route' from the Central Business District to the rural-urban fringe, gathering primary data on cars, people land use change along the way.

Good work, everyone – helped by some sunshine, no doubt!



DUNE DATA COMES IN - IN JUNE

Our Year 9 Geography students also had a beautiful sunny June day when they travelled to New Brighton to collect data in the nearby sand dunes.

They used a quadrat, a portable frame that enables students to sample small areas of a habitat.

WE'RE STRONG ON CASTLES

As part of their Humanities course, Year 7 students have been looking at 'realms' and learning about the importance of castles and how they developed. Asking students to make models of castles Mrs Simpson, teacher of Humanities, was most impressed with their high standard of work.

Georgia and Amelia are photographed here with their versions of castles.



A BUSY TERM FOR HUMANITIES

In addition to fieldwork trips to Formby Point, New Brighton and Storeton Woods, there was a History trip to London at the start of the Spring Break. They visited the London Eye, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London and had a 'Ripper Tour' in the east end. They also went to Ripley's Believe it or Not and the Natural History Museum. At the end of term, there were educational trips to Chester for Year 7 students, visiting the famous walls of the city, the cathedral, the amphitheatre and to study the impact of tourism on the city.

UNIVERSITY TRIP OF DISCOVERY

A residential course at the University of Liverpool for seven Year 10 Humanities students packed in lots of information into just three days. Their Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty helped them investigate Archaeology, Criminology, Communications and Media, Sociology, Business, Law, English, Music, History, Film Studies, Politics and Operations Management.



VISIT TO THE CAPITAL OF COMPUTING AND CODE-BREAKING

Over forty Year 9, 10 and 11 Computer Science students have had a glimpse back in time, to when computers were in their infancy.

Thanks to Mr Simon, Subject Leader IT & Computing, their trip to the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park enabled them to learn about the role of early computers in wartime codebreaking. They were able to see a German Enigma machine and the electronic digital computer Colossus, complete with 1700 valves, used to break the codes of the German Lorenz cipher machine by the German High Command.

Students attended three workshops: programming the Game Snake onto early BBC Micro PCs - and hacking them, looking at the history of computer development and vintage games, and looking at the first computers and how they were used to break codes with a code breaking exercise. Students also received print-outs of their names in Binary format from first-generation machines.

These pictures of students, Emily, Kathryn, Emily, Erin and Vicky with Colossus and others sitting at original BBC Micros, show just how technology has progressed over the years!



LEARNING HOW A PYTHON TALKS

When Mr Simon, Subject Leader IT & Computing, set a Merge Sort problem in the Python programming language for his Year 10 students, he thought that a deadline of one month in which to bring him their solutions was realistic. Imagine his surprise when students started bringing in their responses in under 10 days - well ahead of the set date!

Mr Simon was particularly delighted because of the wide range of tasks students had undertaken to complete their work – and so quickly.

Their methods included contacting the person who wrote the code via the internet and to discuss the problems they were experiencing, copying the code into Google to search and identify the problems, or looking at other merge sort algorithms to see how they work.

These investigations provided a range of different solutions, and all worked. Their work mirrored how a real-world coder solves problems when they cannot get a straightforward answer. This work will also help them when they have to analyse issues on their own projects.

Well done everyone!



TAKING UP THE MATHS CHALLENGE

We entered thirty Year 7 and Year 8 students to represent the school in the 2017 UK Junior Maths Challenge.

The Challenge involves answering twenty-five multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. Their answers are marked by UKMT and we expect to receive the results very soon.



Good luck to Ellie, Zahira, Savannah and Lauren, pictured here, and to everyone else who took part. Well done to all!

CHLOE REACHES 100!

A year ago, Year 8 Chloe came to our attention for her remarkable skill as she had memorised Pi to 61 decimal places. Almost twelve months on and Chloe, now a Year 9 student, has reached one hundred.

Pi is a special number for mathematicians, being the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Calculated by dividing 22 by 7 as a fraction, its division does not give a perfect answer when converting to decimal - resulting in an endless set of numbers after the decimal point. It was her Maths teacher, Mrs Johns, who first inspired her to try and remember as many of these numbers as possible. Chloe's dedication and perseverance means she has now achieved one hundred – although she is not expecting a telegram from the Queen! Well done, Chloe!



TAKING A SERIOUS LOOK AT OUR MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Awareness Week gave us a chance to look at our mental well-being. Amongst others helping organiser Michelle Higgins, our School Counsellor was Sophie Carr, from Kooth.com, who delivered assemblies to all year groups as well as giving demonstrations about their safe and anonymous online service.

Kooth provides online help and advice on a range of issues that can affect the mental health and well-being of young people. They have friendly, trained advisors on hand and available to chat all year round up to 10pm each evening.

Also during the week, Mental Health Nursing Student Amy Wright gave lunchtime talks in the LRB, covering topics such as body image and social media in relation to mental health. Our Student Services Team and Teaching Assistants were fully involved in the week too, running 'Let's Talk About It' sessions, along with others on Mindfulness Relaxation, Keeping Calm and Making Something, Keeping Calm in the Garden, Sing Yourself Happy, and Pledges on Caring for Me/Caring for Others. With all this help, we should all be much better informed on the importance of having good mental health and where we can go should we need help.

Students mustn't forget that we also have staff here at school who are on-hand to help, should they have a concern about themselves or anyone else.

Kooth can be followed on www.kooth.com and on twitter too: [@xenzone.uk](https://twitter.com/xenzone)



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL HITS A HIGH NOTE

We have never before seen school rivalry quite like this at Prenton High School!



In our summer production of Disney's High School Musical, the simmering tensions between star athlete Troy Bolton (Lois), Gabriella Montez (Erin), school diva and drama queen Sharpay Evans (Lucy) and her twin brother Ryan (Ashleigh), produced brilliant performances that 'wowed' our audiences over three nights. Throw in some further exceptional performances such as those of the cerebral Ms Darbus (Megan), creative Kelsi Nielson (Charlotte), and Coach Bolton (Kaitlyn), along with a supporting cast that 'put their hearts and souls into the show' - as one parent said - and some electrifying

dancing (mostly choreographed by the dancers themselves) led by Jessica and Lauren, we could see we had a hit on our hands!



Thanks to the cast - backed by the Staff Band of Mrs Rawlinson, Mrs Jones, Mr Major, Mr Richardson and Mr Corlett - audiences heard catchy classics from the original movie that included: "Stick to the Status Quo", "When There Was Me and You", "What I've Been Looking For", and a rousing version at the finale of "We're All in This Together".

Thanks to Director Mrs Burns and Musical Director Mrs Jones, Choreographer Miss Barr, technical support from Mr Graves, Mr Kaminski and Mr Taylor, and to everyone who gave their support for a wonderful show - everyone went home humming at least one great tune! More pictures on back page.

Rave Reviews for our Show

After the final night of our High School Musical performance, our star cast received many rave reviews from their audiences! Here are just a few plaudits received:

"Absolutely great - performers put heart and soul into it. Really enjoyed it!"

"Great show! Very impressed with the enthusiasm of the whole cast. Looking forward to next year!"

"Absolutely brilliant! Well done to all the girls, teachers, band and technicians."

"Absolutely superb! Great effort, well done and many thanks!"

"Fantastic performance - as usual!"

"Absolutely fantastic show! We were blown away by the sheer talent of all the girls, thank you!"

"A fantastic show, enjoyed by all. The kids were great and the band and pianist were all great too! The final thank-you's were very emotional."

"Excellent show, lots of talent!"

"Through sheer hard work, practise, teamwork and talent, the girls have given a show that was brilliant. Well done to all."

THANKS FOR THE MUSIC! When the Music department realised that many of their keyboards were looking more 'classical' than 'pop' in their heritage, teacher of Music Mrs Jones approached the EMI Music Foundation for help. With their support, we purchased seventeen new Casio keyboards for the classroom, helping the department to

enhance the curriculum provision at both Key Stages 3 and 4. Year 8 students Arwen, Ellie, Lauren and Beth are pictured here getting to know the new instruments.

Thanks, EMI!



Performing Arts

TRIPPING THE BOARDS AT LIPA

Thanks to organiser Ms Barr, teacher of Performing Arts, her group of Year 10 students - accompanied by a couple of Year 8 and Year 9 students – enjoyed an educational trip to the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA).

Greeted there by Andrea McDevitt, LIPA's Programme Manager for Dance, they received a guided tour followed by two workshops, one for contemporary dance and the second for urban dance. They also watched a dance performed by a group of LIPA students – that included former Prenton student Rebecca Woods who has joined their recently formed 6th Form College – and then had the opportunity to learn part of their routine. Thank you LIPA for a great day!

Prenton Parliament

PRENTON PARLIAMENT'S LOOK AT GLOBAL VALUES

Parliamentary debate may have been quiet at Westminster recently but views and opinions were in abundance one lunchtime here in school!

The special sitting of Prenton Parliament had an agenda that encouraged debate around the five strands of 'Global Values Week' being run by the Humanities department. Chaired by Megan and facilitated by Subject Leader of Humanities, Mr Major, the meeting was attended by form representatives from across the school.

The topics discussed by Parliament members included how much freedom we should have and what limits should there be on our freedom, how important is self-respect and self-image, conformity including the benefits of a school uniform and school traditions, friendship, loyalty, forgiveness and respect, plus our opinions on broadmindedness and the acceptance and celebration of differences between us. In a fast-paced sitting, there was just time at the end to look at our own inner peace!

Thank you Prenton Parliament members for a wonderful debate.



PTA



Thanks for your help

Once again, our enthusiastic PTA members have been supporting us during the term, supplying refreshments over three evenings at the School Show and on a very warm Sports Day. Every penny they make goes back into supporting our students - please keep supporting them in future functions!

PRENTON TV

The latest Prenton TV episode will soon be available on our website. As usual, the students have made an excellent review of Prenton life – with an added surprise built in too.

Well done to you all!

STEM

BIG BANG IS A BIG HIT

Big Bang North West is a science orientated careers fair, sponsored by AstraZeneca, and this July was held at the Exhibition Centre in Liverpool.

Amongst the challenges set for our Year 9 students was learning how to put on sterile gloves whilst keeping them sterile – with some melted chocolate being smeared on

one's hands, it was easy to see if they could manage it correctly.

Well done also to Ellie who gained 92% on the Paramedic Challenge – naturally, they want her to keep in touch!



REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

Thanks to Ms Dunbar, from the Student Services team, throughout this academic year a number of Year 8 students have been attending a series of eight STEM workshops, delivered by Career Connect coach Elish Crilly.

Elish's sessions explored the skills and qualities needed to succeed in the world of work, such as resilience, communication, confidence and commitment. There was an opportunity mid-July for the students to demonstrate these qualities when they had the chance to meet employers from industries relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and delve deeper into what

it is like working within these job areas, as well as finding out what opportunities are available.

There were some practical sessions built in too –

constructing a tetrahedron required teamwork, resilience, lots of patience!



Thanks to Career Connect coach Alex Hay who joined Elish for the day and to representatives from Fuel 10k, Laing O'Rourke Construction, HMRC, the NHS and the Army as well as Chris Smith from Sefton Business Partnership who helped to organise this 'Reach for the Future' session.

Science



GETTING OUR UK CHAMPIONS TO JAPAN

It has been a roller-coaster ride for our intrepid UK Champions, ever since they qualified to represent us at the World RoboCup Championships in Japan. The main challenge was to attract the necessary financial support to get them to Nagoya, but thanks to the many friends and

families who have donated to their 'Just Giving' page and now a main sponsor – Rentalcars.com – they are on their way.

The stories opposite also outline their busy term, gaining promotional support from BBC North West Tonight and Radio City along the way.



BBC DROP BY TO SEE ANNA, LILY-MAY – AND ALAN!

Getting to Japan for the World Championships got a little closer, thanks to a visit from the BBC North West Tonight presenter Mark Edwardson.



He interviewed our UK RoboCup champions Anna and Lily-May to learn of their successes and their achievement – along with their robot ‘Alan’ – in qualifying for the World finals in Nagoya.

The item was broadcast in the evening slot on BBC One on Friday 30 June, and included an interview with Headteacher, Mrs Ayling, and a very impressed Dr Louise Dennis, Researcher, at the University of Liverpool. The programme’s presenters all clearly fell in love with Alan and, following the item’s transmission, the campaign received a most welcome financial boost.

ASSEMBLY’S APPRECIATION OF THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

Science is not just awesome, it is AWESOME! That was the message that Subject Leader in Science, Mr Hignett, delivered to two assemblies.

He transported us through the magical world of Science and encouraged students to consider what ‘science-ey’ things they intend to experience that day.

Asking questions is vital in science, and by doing so many so-called old wives’ tales can be disproven – for example, who has heard that if you swallow chewing gum, it stays in your stomach for seven years? Wrong! Will eating crusts give you curly hair? No!

RADIO CITY HELPS THE PLAN TO GET ALAN TO JAPAN!

For many of us a live radio interview would be a daunting prospect. However, when our RoboCup team of Anna and Lily-May, visited the Radio City tower with Mr Hignett, Subject Leader, Science, they were perfectly relaxed – demonstrating the nerves of steel that helped them become the 2017 UK RoboCup champions!



Anna and Lily-May were quizzed live on air, not just by presenter Mick Coyle but also by Radio City’s Education Correspondent Les Stewart. They talked about Prenton’s unrivalled success over the last eleven years in the competition, reaching the World Championships held around the globe an incredible seven times. Our two students clearly demonstrated that they, with their robot Alan, had inherited the school’s robotics ‘gene’ with qualification to compete this summer in Nagoya, Japan – seen by many as the home of robotics.

For years, the world’s greatest scientists have been making astute observations and asking the right questions and, when successful, such as Alexander Fleming’s discovery of antibiotics, and Edward Jenner’s with his smallpox vaccination, the lives of millions are saved. In order for something to be acknowledged as scientific fact, there must be scientific evidence.

Following a look at some of the marvels of science – amazing biological life such as Crinoids and Archerfish – we were challenged to a few optical illusions, helping our brains prepare for the day ahead!

Thanks also to singer Jess who introduced the assembly with her Ellie Goulding version of ‘Your Song’.



YOUNG MEDICS HEAD TO UNIVERSITY

Our links with the University of Liverpool continue this term, thanks to organiser Ms Craven.

Three Year 9 students – Poppy, Kaitlyn and Jadyn – have been accepted onto a four-year programme called ‘Young Medics’ run by the University.

They will spend one or two days each term on campus gaining knowledge on many sorts of matters medical.

Our three students have already joined students from other schools in the area for their first introductory session, which they each say they enjoyed tremendously. After hearing about life at the University, they had a lecture on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), along with a practical demonstration, looked at the diagnosis of allergies - including asthma - how to check pulses and breathing, and looked at the different types of surgeon that work in the Health Service.

Sounds like a busy start ladies; we look forward to hearing more over the coming years!

SCIENCE AMBASSADORS PROMOTE SCIENCE

Following a trip to the University of Liverpool where they received training to receive and provide training, our ten Year 9 Science Ambassadors supported our Elevate programme, encouraging Primary children into Science.

SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOLS

Thanks to Teacher of Science and Year 9 Progress Leader Ms Craven, eight Year 10 students attended a three-day residential Health and Life Sciences Faculty course at the University of Liverpool. Their course included a look at Medicine, Life Science, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Psychology and Global Health.

A separate group of six Year 10 students also attended a Science and Engineering Faculty Dangerous Science Summer School at the University of Liverpool in July. They looked at Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science.

Studio

STUDIO'S STAR AWARD WINNERS

There was just one last duty that Mrs Major, English and Studio teacher, wished to perform before her Year 11 group finished their final lesson together.

She had been so impressed with the hard work and effort that her students had put into their English and English Literature over the

past year she decided a celebration was in order. Along with some cool drinks (it was one of the hottest days of the year after all) and cakes, each student was presented with a certificate to formally mark the occasion. Well done everyone and good luck in your examinations!



NEW PEER MENTORS APPOINTED

Congratulations to our new Year 10 Peer Mentors who will be around school to help from September!



PARENT WORKSHOPS AIM TO HELP AND INFORM

Following an invitation to all parents with daughters in Years 7 to 10, we held the first in a series of planned workshops.

The aim is to provide an opportunity for the school, outside agencies, and parents to information share and problem solve a number of topics, helping everyone to support each other to our mutual benefit.

The workshops included some of the key concerns that schools and parents currently face: Internet Safety and Social Media, Teenage Mental Health, Drug Taking Behaviours, and Behaviour Management and Implementing Consequences.

For the session covering drug-taking behaviours, we welcomed Constable Jo Tivendale (pictured here) from the Safer Schools Police.



Thank you to all those who attended and the feedback we received enthusiastically indicated that the afternoon was useful and informative. For parents interested in attending future events, please keep an eye on our ParentMail in the autumn term.

BROOK ARE HERE TO HELP

Year 9 students have been learning more about the free and confidential service offered by Brook in Birkenhead. They offer not just advice on sexual health but also on matters relating to gender, sexuality, health and wellbeing, abuse and violence, staying safe online, and relationships as well as others.

Students who attended the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) day say that they found the sessions most informative and helpful.

PERFORMANCE TACKLES SERIOUS ISSUES

Thanks to Behaviour and Rewards Manager, Mrs Larsen, who arranged for Year 9 students to see the Last Minute Theatre Company's performance of 'On One Condition', a play examining the issue, dangers and risk, of child sexual exploitation.

STAYING SAFE OVER SUMMER

Student Services held a special session for our Year 9 students, aimed at keeping them safe over the summer holidays.

Representatives from Operation Oriel, School Police Officers Jo Tivendale and Kelly Atherton, NHS Hospital Admissions Nurses Kate Griffiths and Emma Crawford, and Joel Williams from Catch 22, Wirral's Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation Service, gave Year 9 students an awareness of the issue of so called designer drugs, in particular Ecstasy. Outlining the risks and the consequences, their work complemented our assemblies, PHSE lessons and the work that we have undertaken with parents over the year. **The best way to stay healthy and safe is to say 'No'**

Student Leadership

LEADING THE WAY ON STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Following the Easter break a Year 7 assembly was treated to a talk from Deputy Head Girl Eleanor and Assistant Head Girl Lauren.

Their joint presentation was a motivational reminder about the many leadership

opportunities that are open to all students during the whole of their time at Prenton. Eleanor and Lauren encouraged them to become fully involved in school life, just as they had when they started in Year 7.



Sport



SUN SHINES FOR SPORTS DAY

The setting of the Bebington Oval – famous for featuring in the film 'Chariots of Fire' - was as perfect as the weather for our 2017 Sports Day.

There was a competitive spirit in the air as our athletes fought hard to gain House points and Form points in the summer sunshine. There was something for everyone: 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m races, hurdles, high jumping, long jumping, discus, shot and rounders ball throwing, skipping, space-hoppers, speed-bouncing, potato and spoon, sack races, finishing with a series of sprint relay races - there were even opportunities for the staff to demonstrate their prowess on the track and the space hoppers!!

Thanks to Subject Leader Miss Robertson and Miss Doyle of the PE department for such a great day and congratulations to Year 7 winners 7H2, Year 8 winners 8H2 and 8B2 (on equal points), and Year 9 winners 9B1 and 9B2 (also tying). House winners were:- Year 7: Hesketh House, Year 8: Bedford House and Year 9: Bedford House. Overall House winners were Bedford House.



KNOWING THE CODE KEEPS US SAFE ON THE ROAD



As our picture shows, it was a wonderful day for a group of our Year 7 and 8s to head out of school on a bike ride! There was a serious side to the day, as they were taking part in the Bikeability Cycling Proficiency scheme, providing students with the necessary skills to tackle our busy roads.

The Bikeability scheme, administered by the Department of Transport, has helped over two million cyclists improve their highway skills, helping riders gain confidence and helping them feel safe in the saddle.

Thanks to the staff from Bikeability who came in to train our students.

CLEO'S CLASS EARNS CALL-UP

Many congratulations to Year 7 student Cleo, who has just been invited to join the North West of England Under-13 basketball squad.

Cleo came to the selectors' notice playing for the Mersey Mavericks Basketball Club in Liverpool - although she has already made an impact in school, being on the winning 7H2 side in the inter-form basketball tournament! Basketball clearly runs in Cleo's family - her mother is Manager of the Mersey Mavericks, a Level Four Basketball Referee, and has officiated in the British Basketball League, her father used to play for the Arrows Basketball Club, her sister Georgia is in the Great Britain basketball squad, and her brother is also a keen player.

Well done Cleo, we will eagerly watch your progress to the top!



CRICKETERS' SECOND TASTE OF SUCCESS

Congratulations once again to our Under 13 Cricket team. Fresh from coming third at the U13 Northern Indoor final, they were unbeaten in the first half of the U13 Outdoor Cricket finals.

In our first match, we beat Bebington High School who opened the batting, and making 27 for 6. We overhauled their total after three of the allotted seven overs, finishing on a total of 84 for 2. Our second game was against Upton Hall and, after losing the toss, we batted first making 91 for 1 with Amy making 22 from 4 balls, - then bowling them all out for 26. Our final game was against Pensby, in which they batted first making 25 all out. We chased their total down in two overs to win by 10 wickets. Well done to the whole team and to our top wicket-taker in the tournament Cora (with five wickets) and top run-scorer Freya (with 48 runs).

CRICKET HEROES TAKE ON THE NORTH

As Cheshire champions, our Under 13 team of Freya (captain), Lily, Cora, Jess, Amy, Eloise, Lily and Keira competed in the U13 Northern Indoor Cricket Finals at the end of April. They battled magnificently throughout the day, reaching the semi-finals – and matching our previous best performance. Team manager Mr Taylor (teacher of History) reports that competition amongst the North of England county champions was fierce.

In our group matches, we played Derbyshire champions West Park School, Lancashire champions Horizon College, and County

Durham champions Durham High School for Girls. Prenton managed to win two games, beating West Park by 14 runs and Durham by 22 runs, but losing to last year's English champions, Horizon College, by 43 runs. This was enough to reach the semi-finals in which we were drawn against former English champions, and current Merseyside champions, Ormskirk School.

Sadly, the game ended in defeat for us, losing by 33 runs. It was a fantastic experience for our team and, as in the Cheshire championships, Freya ended up as our top run scorer and wicket taker, scoring 66 runs and taking 8 wickets: a brilliant performance from our captain.

Many congratulations to our team – we are all very proud of your achievement!

OUTDOOR CRICKET CHAMPIONS

Our Under 13 Cricketers strike again! On the day when the England men's team were being soundly beaten by Pakistan in the Champions Trophy semi-final in Cardiff, our team were battling their way to become Wirral Under-13 Outdoor Cricket Champions.

In the preliminary matches held in May, the team beat Pensby High School, Bebington High Sports College, and Upton Hall School.

Mr Taylor, Team Manager and teacher of Humanities, reports that, in the second leg of the competition held at Wallasey Cricket Club, we defeated Kingsway Academy twice in the 'final'. We won the first game by 50 runs and the second by 68 runs in which Kingsway were all out for 9.

Congratulations to our run-making, wicket-taking, team. On the day, Amy was the top run scorer and Keira the top wicket taker.

Their efforts meant that they qualified to play in the Cheshire finals – see separate report opposite.

CRICKETERS ARE LOOKING NORTH!

Congratulations to our Under 13 Cricket team, some of whom are pictured here – they came runners-up in the Cheshire outdoor cricket finals.

They travelled to Warrington Cricket Club where they firstly dismissed St Nicholas Catholic High School, Northwich, by 37 runs, then Fallibroome Academy, Macclesfield, by 22 runs.

Reaching through to the semi-finals we played a tense and closely matched game against Sandbach High School. Batting first, we scored 86 runs, with Sandbach's innings just short with 65 runs from their 7 overs.

In the final we played Cheadle Hulme High School, and from a disappointing start of losing captain Freya second ball, we never really recovered making 49 runs. Cheadle Hulme chased this down to win by 5 wickets.

The result meant that we qualified for the northern finals that were planned to be held in Barnsley. The top run scorer was Freya and the top wicket taker was Jess. Well played everyone!



AMY'S BIG BREAK WITH CITY

With the summer's football transfer market in full swing, there is one signing that has not yet made the headlines – Year 7H2 student Amy will be playing for Manchester City Girls next season.

A defender, Amy is just one of two girls from Wirral who will be making weekly trips to Manchester. She was scouted whilst playing for her local club, Peninsula Stars FC based in Wallasey. Well done Amy - come on, City!



RAIN STOPS PLAY BUT...

Unfortunately, the team's trip to Barnsley was halted on the morning of departure due to rain. However, we have been drawn to play in the national cricket finals on 7 September. Out of 5,000 teams who entered, we are one of the last four!

2017/18 DIARY

Results Day

Thursday 24 August

Autumn term 2017

INSET (Staff only)

INSET (Staff only)

Open

Open Evening

Open Day (Parents and Carers only)

Monday 4 September

Tuesday 5 September

Wednesday 6 September (Years 7 – 11)

Thursday 5th October 6pm to 8pm

Friday 6 October 9.30am to 11.30am
2pm to 4pm

School closes

Half term holiday

Open

School closes

Friday 20 October

Monday 23 – Friday 27 October

Monday 30 October

Wednesday 20 December

Christmas holiday

Thursday 21 December 2017 –
Friday 5 January 2018

Spring term 2018

Open

Close (to students)

Half term holiday

INSET (Staff only)

School closes

Monday 8 January

Friday 16 February

Monday 19 – Friday 23 February

Monday 26 February

Thursday 29 March

Good Friday

Spring holiday

Friday 30 March

Monday 2 April – Friday 13 April

Summer term 2018

Open

Bank holiday

School closes

Half term holiday

Open

School closes

INSET (Staff only)

INSET (Staff only)

Monday 16 April

Monday 7 May

Friday 25 May

Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June

Monday 4 June

Friday 20 July

Monday 23 July

Tuesday 24 July

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

www.prentonhighschool.co.uk | Twitter @prentonhigh

