



WE'RE MAKING THE PRENTON PROMISE!



At Prenton High School, we are confident that we 'make a difference' to the lives and aspirations of the students we teach. The emphasis continues to be on improving the outcomes for all our students through great lessons and experiences, resulting in qualifications that enable them to progress to higher and further education.

The school is also very aware that the modern world now demands more of our young people than successful academic achievement – their ability to demonstrate experiences and responsibilities outside the classroom are required and, indeed, expected by the time they leave us. So this is where the newly announced 'Prenton Promise' comes in – see Page 2



MAKING THE PRENTON PROMISE!

The 'Prenton Promise' is our commitment to offer all our students a range of opportunities and experiences that prepare them for life after Prenton. In return, throughout their time at the school, students promise to take an active part in the plethora of clubs and societies we offer and in a range of social, spiritual and cultural activities. By participating in these activities, they will broaden their horizons and develop a sense of participation and good citizenship.

By actively engaging in the 'Prenton Promise', all students will be encouraged to take part in a range of activities each year and a number of specific activities at least once during their time at Prenton. Students will be able to track their progress and should aim to complete their Promise at the end of their five years at school.

Our front page photograph shows Headteacher Mrs Ayling, Mr Taylor Assistant Headteacher and Ms Kelly, Student Leadership, pictured here with Year 7 students: Mia, Evie, Eloise, Ellie, Emillia, Juliette, Freya, Abbey and Lily.

P.S. We have just received some very encouraging feedback from Mrs Bowen's form, 7H2. Mrs Bowen reports that her students have made an excellent start in completing many of their target promises for this academic year, creating a very positive atmosphere in her classroom. Students say they are really enjoying the activities set out in the 'Promise' and felt they have accomplished much in a short space of time. A really good start, ladies; keep it going!

Here is the promise in full:



PRENTON Promise

Every year

- ✓ Go on a cultural trip (museum, theatre, gallery)
- ✓ Take part regularly in an extra-curricular club
- ✓ Actively take part in a charity activity or project to help the school or wider community
- ✓ Take part in your form assembly
- ✓ Represent your house or form in an inter-house/form/ reward activity
- ✓ Regularly take part in an out of school activity (E.g. sport or music)
- ✓ Read at least one book every half term

During your time at Prenton

- ✓ Take part in a residential experience
- ✓ Meet an inspiring person who can widen your knowledge
- ✓ Visit a place of worship and gain an understanding of a different culture
- ✓ Be an ambassador for the school (E.g. Open Evening)
- ✓ Actively take part in an Enterprise activity
- ✓ Achieve a Gold IRIS award
- ✓ Take on a position of leadership
- ✓ Perform or present to an audience in or out of school, or represent school in an activity/competition/event
- ✓ Take part in a meaningful work experience activity
- ✓ Take part in a mock interview
- ✓ Mentor a younger student
- ✓ Gain a part time job or undertake voluntary work
- ✓ Achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award

Making a Difference

Headlines



I believe that the quality-first teaching and dedication of our staff here at Prenton High School really makes a difference to the learning and the lives of our students; exemplified again this summer, when our GCSE results in both English and maths were once again well above national averages. In this edition of High Life, you can also read of our girls' many wonderful achievements, demonstrating how they continue to respond to all the opportunities the school provides.

And yet we are not sitting back on this success; with the launch of three more exciting projects this term, our aim is to continue to transform and enrich our students' time with us. These new opportunities will not only build character and resilience for our students but will further prepare them for, and improve their chances of, success in the next stages of their lives.

The term began with 'curtains up' on the Prenton Theatre Company. It meant that students and staff had to commit to working after school on three evenings each week – and the take-up was stunning, with over 100 students involved. Not only that, the number of students staying behind has remained high over the course of the term. They have all worked so hard, providing us with a wonderful Christmas performance at the end of this term.

There is a similar level of commitment and dedication with the Art department's after-school GCSE Photography course, where students are committed to two years of study. In return, they have been receiving first-class advice, helping them to absorb new skills and encouraging their creativity. It has been terrific to see each Tuesday, after school, students out and about with their cameras, taking a fresh look at the world around them through their camera lenses.

During the term, we were delighted to announce 'The Prenton Promise'. 'The Prenton Promise', complements students' academic success and will encourage and recognise their wider experiences and responsibilities undertaken whilst at Prenton High School. It will be a formal record of achievement that will make every Prenton student an even stronger candidate when applying for that important future career or pathway application.

I urge every student to fully commit to this exciting new venture and challenge each of you to accomplish as many skills and experiences as possible during your time with us. Let's all make that 'Prenton Promise' and I look forward to seeing each of you grow as a result throughout your time at Prenton.

It just remains for me to wish staff, students, parents and friends and neighbours a very peaceful Christmas and I look forward to a happy, successful, and exciting New Year for all.

Mrs Lisa Ayling
Headteacher



NEWS

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Year 8, 9 and 10 students and their families met up just before the half-term break to recognise and celebrate their achievements over the last year.

The celebratory mood was set from the start as guests arrived - thanks to Ellie, Lois and Jessica singing in the foyer. Getting the evening under way, the Junior Choir then sang in the Main Hall. Following inspirational addresses from Headteacher Mrs Ayling and Head Girl Lydia Portbury, the presentation of Subject, PE and Special Awards began.

Congratulations to each one of the 105 award recipients, especially to Natalia who received 'The Governors' Award for Making a Difference' from Vice-Chair of Governors, Mrs Lyn Eaton. Also to Abigail, who received 'The Bethany Bush Award for Resilience' and to Melissa (pictured here) who was presented with 'The Headteacher's Award for Outstanding Achievement' from Mrs Ayling.



Well done everyone – it has been a wonderful year!

BETH'S PERFECT PICTURE

When the Liverpool Echo published two 8-page supplements carrying photographs taken by readers, capturing life from around Merseyside, there was a nice surprise for one of students.

Amongst the selection was a beautifully taken picture by our Year 9 student Beth of the padlocks fixed to the railings by the Albert Dock. Not only that – a picture of the flowers in Port Sunlight village taken by Beth's father also appeared in the same edition of the newspaper. It looks like there could be some friendly family rivalry in the coming days – good luck to you both!



The best pictures from both supplements will form the Echo's 2017 calendar.

We remember

Armistice Day, 11th November, fell on a Friday this year. At 11am precisely, a bell was rung to begin a minute's silence, giving everyone some time to remember those who have given their lives for our country. As always, our students showed absolute respect whilst observing the silence.



DINING HALL SERVES UP A SCARE

Each year our wonderful Catering team spring a 'shocking' surprise on Halloween – and this year was no different!

Diners entering the hall had to duck their way through a sea of suspended witches' hats to reach the counters decorated with bats, illuminated pumpkins, skeletons and all types of scary figures. They then found the usual staff had been 'replaced' by some rather scarily dressed figures, seen here!



In fact, students were treated to a range of cakes made especially for the occasion by Mrs Davies and her staff – in the shape of witches hats, chocolate broomsticks, chocolate sponge with marzipan melons, Ghostbuster and bones marshmallows and blood-red shortbreads. Thank you to all the Catering staff who worked so hard to 'trick and treat' us!

Mya's special letter from the Queen

For many of us, it is only when we reach the grand age of 100 that we might receive a message from Her Majesty the Queen – but Year 7 student Mya has beaten this by a good many years!

Prior to the Queen's ninetieth birthday in June, Mya wrote to congratulate the Queen on her special birthday and to tell her a bit about herself and her interest in another high-profile UK subject, the astronaut Tim Peake.

Mya was delighted when earlier this month she received a reply from the Queen, via her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Richenda Elton, thanking her for her letter and of her thought for the Queen at the time of her birthday. Mya is pictured here proudly holding her letter – well done, Mya!



FRIENDSHIP CLUB STARTS THIS HALF TERM

Thanks to Year 11 student Zoe – and sponsor Terry McCoy from NLP Works - eleven Year 7 students are taking part in a range of activities such as making bookmarks, discussing their differing opinions on every-day topics and knitting pom-pom animals. Taking place every Wednesday lunchtime, the club will help students make new friends and also have fun while doing activities.

CATCHING UP WITH CLATTER AND CHATTER

Multi-tasking is very much encouraged in the new 'Clatter and Chatter' lunchtime club set up by Year 9 Progress Leader, Ms Craven.

Students are not just learning the art of knitting whilst making hats and scarves for the coming winter but they also have a wonderful opportunity for a good chat!

Jayne and Chloe are pictured here enjoying a catch up in the club's first session.



SCHOOL ENJOYS SOME LATE AUTUMN SUNSHINE

Most people will agree that this autumn has been one of the most colourful in recent years. The school is photographed here looking resplendent in the early morning sunshine around mid-term. The autumn colour of the leaves adds to the picture!



Preparing for Open Evening

Year 7 student Faith is pictured here preparing to greet guests with a heart dissection in the Biology department. She is joined here with Student Teacher Miss Cotterill and Year 10 students Sophie and Kaitlin. For those of a more nervous disposition, the Science department also laid on some ice-cream using liquid nitrogen, as well as a forensic investigation!

It was one of many different activities across the school that gave our guests the opportunity to see the high standard of work that our students produce!



Great behaviour out of school, ladies

Well done to those who use the number 17 bus, you have been a credit to our school. We know this because a member of the public who regularly uses the bus contacted the school this term to praise the conduct of their fellow passengers – our students.

In another call from a member of the public, a lady called to say thanks and to commend the actions of a group of our students. One Friday afternoon she was walking from Bedford Drive with her 6 year-old boy when he suddenly ran out into the road. The quick reaction of our girls meant he was stopped and safely returned to his grateful Mum. Well done everyone, we are very proud of you!

PRENTON'S PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

When the USA went to the polls in November, LRB Assistant Mrs Haynes thought it would be a good idea for students to think about wider world events that could possibly affect them in the future.

She ran a parallel election here at Prenton, posing the question: 'If you could vote in the US Presidential election, who would you vote for?'. Voters could view a short PowerPoint presentation before going to the polls and confidentially making their choice. The result here in school clearly went against America's choice - our electorate had 81% in favour of Hillary Clinton, 7% for Donald Trump, and 12% undecided. Thanks to everyone who took part in our own piece of democracy!

Pictured are Lily, Kaitlyn and Zoe who were among the first to use their vote.



EXPLORER'S BOOK TAKES US ON AN OVERSEAS JOURNEY

Did you know that Britain has overseas islands scattered across all Seven Seas, home to 270,000 British citizens? Also that the 47 inhabitants of the Pitcairn Islands make it the smallest country in the world by population?

Thanks to the generosity of explorer and geographer Stewart McPherson, the Learning Resource Base has received a copy of his new book for the school library. His narrative provides hundreds of facts and figures for each area and describes life, landscapes, the history and the people who inhabit some of the UK's most remote Overseas Territories.

'Britain's Treasure Islands' includes a collection of stunning photographs and maps, and records Stewart's journey around the world. For such a large volume, it's hard to put down – as Year 10 Geography students Lily-May and Ellie show here!



25 YEARS SINCE JEKYLL WENT INTO HIDING

Our thanks go to Teacher of RE, Mr Hart, who spotted an item about our school in a recent Liverpool Echo. Their clip, from 25 years ago, describes how a jackdaw clearly enjoyed a brief stay at Prenton, so much so that it was christened 'Jekyll' by the students. After two days with us, Jekyll flew off – possibly into 'hyding'?!

Need to talk to someone? Kooth is here!

We were grateful to Sophie Carr from Kooth.com who came in to school during Anti-Bullying Week.

Students were given the ideal vehicle to find help should they need advice and guidance on a range of issues such as: anti-bullying, friendships, school, self-esteem, stress, anxiety and anger management. Kooth.com is the website that has friendly, trained advisors available to chat online 365 days of the year up to 10pm each evening. As well as finding them on **www.kooth.com**, you can follow Kooth on twitter too: **@xenzone.uk**.

Don't forget that staff at school are also on hand to help. If you have a concern about yourself or someone else, please pass it on.



Sophie is pictured here checking out their site with Year 8 student Katherine.

LOST LETTERS AT THE BOTTOM OF SCHOOL BAGS? SIGN UP FOR PARENTMAIL!

More and more parents are signing up for ParentMail, the easy way for school to communicate with you via email or text - and for you to pay for your daughter's trips and events online.

By joining, you can make payments for school trips, revision guides, top up your daughter's lunch card and review what has been purchased from the school dining hall. This facility allows you to budget for costs - and there are no additional fees for paying by credit card.

ParentMail can be sent to Mums, Dads and Carers at the same time ensuring the whole family receives messages reliably and on time - so no more lost letters at the bottom of school bags!

To register for ParentMail, please email the school at:
parentmail@prentonhighschool.co.uk



STRIKING A BLOW IN ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Thanks to Behaviour and Rewards Manager Mrs Larsen, eight Year 8 and Year 9 students attended an anti-bullying conference at Wirral Grammar School for Boys. They were joined by other Wirral secondary school representatives and came away with a number of ideas that they will soon be sharing with others across the school. Our full Anti-Bullying Team are pictured here.



ParentMail also to deliver Weekly Parent Bulletin!

We are introducing a Parents' Weekly Bulletin in the New Year. The intention is to use the new Bulletin to inform parents of key events, provide reminders and to provide any other information that you and the school want or need to communicate.

Parents already signed up to ParentMail find it is a fast, reliable and convenient way to receive information and make payments to the school. In an effort to

encourage even more parents to sign up to ParentMail and, importantly, help us reach our environmental targets, the Parents' Bulletin will **only be sent using ParentMail**. Make sure you sign up so that you are fully informed.

Not registered yet? It's easy, the details are on our website www.prentonhighschool.co.uk or just email: parentmail@prentonhighschool.co.uk

Charity and Fundraising

OLIVIA'S CHAMPION EFFORT!

'Sands' is the stillbirth and neonatal death charity that supports anyone affected by the death of a baby. Their work includes improving the care bereaved parents receive, and promotes research to reduce the loss of babies' lives. It is also the charity that Year 8 student Olivia chose to support when she was elected Rose Queen for the year at her church, Christ Church in Higher Bebington. Her fundraising activities so far have included a Beetle Drive and a Christmas Coffee Morning - and she has already raised an amazing £1200! Well done Olivia, this is a wonderful effort.

Pink Day raises breast cancer awareness – and over £400

A big 'thank-you' goes out to everyone who contributed to our 'Wear it Pink' day. At the same time, there was a staff 'Pink Bake-Off' day, with a tempting selection of home-made sponge, rock and cupcakes, thanks to organiser Mrs Johns.

It was a fun way to end the half-term with a serious message – and our tremendous effort raised a total of £444.92 for the Breast Cancer Care charity.



Well done all!
Pictured are Year 7 students Jasmine, Chloe and Rhian with their pink accessories

OPEN EVENTS HELP MAKE THAT CHOICE

Following our busy Open Evening and Open Day events in October, Headteacher Mrs Ayling was delighted with all the positive comments made by the many visitors to the school.

Mrs Ayling said: “Choosing the right secondary school for your daughter can be one of the most difficult decisions for any parent – I know because I am currently in that position myself! However, the purpose of these events is

to help parents and their daughters make that choice easier; giving a wonderful opportunity to get a feel for our school, its staff and students, and its ethos. Visiting the school also provides a taste of just a few of the many experiences their daughters can expect in the next, most important, stage of their lives.”

At the end of their visit, parents said they liked the friendly, welcoming, atmosphere all around the school, with the enthusiasm of staff and students coming across most strongly. Guests remarked not only on the school’s impressive academic record and high expectations for all students but also the many excellent facilities on offer.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PARENTS AND VISITORS:

“Prenton has positive engagement, clear vision and strategy for its students”

“I was impressed with the grades students have gained and their academic achievements – fantastic results!”

“I particularly liked the smile on all the students’ faces and their enthusiasm”

“There was a really nice atmosphere; the school strikes the right balance between learning and fun”

“Prenton just ticks all the boxes - thanks for a lovely evening!”

“The school feels safe, nurturing, and has great facilities”

“I can see there will be lots of opportunities for enrichment for my daughter”

If you are one of those parents with this important choice ahead of you and were unable to attend any of our events, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office on **0151 644 8113** or: **schooloffice@prentonhighschool.co.uk**

JASMINE'S SPECIAL CUT

That Year 8 student Jasmine has had 25cms cut off the length of her hair may not sound unusual. However, she had something special in mind at the hairdressers – to donate her cut hair to The Little Princess Trust.

The Trust provides real hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland that have sadly lost their hair through their cancer treatment.

Well done, Jasmine; it was a very thoughtful gesture and we are proud of you!



ELLIE'S 'LOLLY' FROM LOLLIPOPS

Year 10 student Ellie has been busy raising money for Brain Tumour research this term by selling lollipops. Well done, Ellie!

RHIANNON'S SECOND SANTA DASH

Well done to Year 7 student Rhiannon who took part in the Mini Liverpool Santa Dash, sponsored by Radio City. It was the second year that she had completed the run and she is pictured here with both of her 2015 and 2016 medals. Rhiannon's dash raised over £50 for the disabled – well done, Rhiannon!



Help for the Homeless

At the time of writing, students are working hard preparing Christmas boxes for the homeless. The 'Twelve Gifts for Christmas' theme, led by Freya, Mehr, Mia, Abbey and Leila, House Champions from the Student Leadership Team, aims to fill each box with twelve items to make Christmas a little easier for homeless people in our community.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

What better reason to stop and have a break-time cup of coffee than when it's part of MacMillan's largest coffee morning?

Thanks to staff who helped us raise in excess of £40 in school. Also, Teacher of Music Mrs Jones raised over £170, and Mrs Owen, Headteacher's P.A., raised £50, each through hosting coffee mornings at home.

PROMOTING THE 2016 POPPY APPEAL

When the time was approaching to remember those in the Armed Forces who have risked and given their lives for our nation, our Year 9 DT students were thinking of ways to support The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Their response was to design and make a range of poppy products to sell, with all profits helping the Legion's Poppy Appeal. With the Legion's approval, Year 9's range of key rings, badges and large poppy stems were sold in school – as well as in Morrisons West Kirby, Asda in Birkenhead and Sainsbury's in Woodchurch Road.

A spokesperson from The Royal British Legion told Ms Kelly, responsible for Student Leadership and Teacher of D&T: *"Their products were amazing and a wonderful idea. It is great to see young people getting involved in our appeal"*.

On a similar theme, BBC News recently asked: *"Is Remembrance only for older veterans?"*, with one veteran's clear response being: *"Remembrance is very much for the younger generation as well"*. Well done Year 9 for your support at this time!

Chloe and Megan are pictured here on their fundraising stall at lunchtime.



HELPING DREAMS COME TRUE

The Starlight charity 'When You Wish Upon a Star' grants wishes to seriously and terminally ill children as well as entertaining over half a million children every year in hospitals and hospices throughout the UK.

Thanks to a sale of home-made cakes organised by Year 8 students Ebony, Samantha and Katie - pictured here -

they will be receiving a donation towards this wonderful cause. Well done to each of you!



Glowing with the Flow

'Well done' to Headteacher's PA Mrs Owen and HR Manager Ms McHugh –and their daughters – who took part in the 'Glow with the Flow' twilight walk in October.

The five-mile circular walk from West Kirby Concourse was organised by St Johns Hospice to raise funds for essential support for the care of their patients.

Prenton People

This term we welcomed four trainees on the Initial Teacher Training course – Miss Hyde in Geography, Miss Cotterill in Science, Mrs McKay in Food Technology and Mr Underwood who joined the Maths department.

Congratulations to:
Mrs Kenyon and Mrs Close who each

has had a baby boy. Mrs Winter and Mrs Begum who each has had a baby girl.

Farewell and Good Luck to:
Second in Science Mr O'Neill who is retiring and leaves us in December.

We also said goodbye to Lunchtime Supervisor Jo Smith in October.

We will be welcoming Teacher of Science Miss Bullock in January.

PTA We are most grateful to our tireless PTA team who, this term, has supported our Open Evening, the Key Stage 3 Celebration Evening and the Key Stage 4 Award Evening in November and December, plus the Christmas concerts! If you are interested in helping the school and having some fun at the same time, please contact the school office on 0151 644 8113 or email: schooloffice@prentonhighschool.co.uk

Prenton TV Drone gives Prenton TV a new perspective



Thanks to Nathan Bartley from the School TV Academy, our Prenton TV students can quite often be seen looking skywards these days. Nathan, who regularly comes into school to pass on his filming skills to our students, demonstrated his new 'toy' this term - a drone that can hold a camera. Look out for some super shots from the skies!

It's a wrap!

Prenton TV presenter Megan is pictured here delivering the final few items for the Winter edition of Prenton TV's termly round-up. The new film will be available soon for all to view on the website – the team are currently working on an 'out-takes' edition which should be highly entertaining!



MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

Our interest in the history of our school was aroused when former student Pat Smedley (nee Morris) called in to see us with her school photograph from 1951.

Prenton Secondary School for Girls as we were called then, was based in Temple Road, currently home to Devonshire Park Primary School. Pat recalls the Headmistress at the time was Miss Myfanwy Jones, who we have discovered made a remarkable contribution to education during her career and who had deep roots in Liverpool's Welsh community.

Now retired, Pat recalled that whilst at school she only ever wanted to be a nurse – an ambition she achieved, reaching the position of District Nurse based locally.

Our picture shows Lucie, Kira and Lucy with the framed photograph and with Pat on the back row.





HORTICULTURISTS PLANT NEW HEDGEROW

Hedgerows are an important part of any garden, attracting not only insects and birds but also animals such as hedgehogs onto your land. So when we received thirty hedgerow saplings – a mix of beech, hawthorn, holly and dog wood - from the Woodland Trust, our Daisies quickly planted them in the school grounds. We cannot wait until they start growing next Spring! Libby and Courtney are pictured here placing the shrubs near the garden's hedgehog house.



DAISIES' WORK IS 'OUT OF THIS WORLD'!

In the last issue of 'High Life' we reported on how our Prenton Daisies became Space Biologists when they planted two sets of rocket seeds as part of a UK-wide experiment. One set had been taken to the International Space station and stored in microgravity, and the other set had remained very much on terra firma.

Their mission was to record how the seeds grew over a period of 35 days and to report back to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the European Space Agency - and the results can now be revealed.

We have received a letter from the Royal Horticultural Society in Wisley to say that, having analysed the feedback from over 8,600 groups, the 'Earth' seeds grew better than the 'Space' seeds, but not by much - an outcome that tallies with the findings reported by our team of Prenton Daisies. The RHS thinks the slight difference is most likely caused by the space seeds being slightly affected by radiation while on board the International Space Station. They say they hope to be back in 2018 with another 'out of this world' project, so watch this 'space'!

An Evening of Celebration

Our 2016 Annual Awards Evening was a very special event, not only because we were able to catch up with and recognise the achievements of last year's Year 11 students but also our current Year 11s. In addition, we were proud to welcome back former student Ms Aleisha Edwards as our guest speaker.

Since leaving Prenton High School in 2009, Aleisha has studied and achieved her ambition to become a lawyer. Aleisha took her opportunity to study at the University of Liverpool and gain working experience at the Inner Temple in London, the epicentre of the legal world. Her determination and hard work led to her qualification as a barrister, having been called to the bar in August this year. Aleisha is currently practising law as a solicitor for Slater and Gordon in Liverpool.

In her address, Aleisha had some sound advice for her audience - always ask for help when needed, work hard and have fun whilst doing it – find a hobby and pursue it to the best of your ability. She certainly follows her own philosophy as she was Taekwondo champion whilst at Prenton and, having recently taken up rugby, has already set her sights on playing at the top level!

Following her speech and in front of an audience of proud parents, Aleisha presented last year's GCSE certificates and over eighty



Subject and Special Recognition awards. Congratulations to:

5 Years 100% attendance:

Amy Birrs and Amy Brennan

The Lyndsey Batey Award for Resilience: Zoe Carey (Year 10) and Bethany Gore McCormick (Year 11)

The Governors' Award for Making a Difference: Lydia Portbury (Year 10) and Amy Birrs (Year 11)

The Headteacher's Award for Outstanding Achievement: Olivia Johns (Year 10) and Mollie Dewsbury (Year 11)

Thanks also go to Year 10 students Ellie and Lois whose singing greeted guests on arrival and to the Choir who put us nicely into seasonal mood during the evening.

Well done everyone, we are very proud of you!

The pictures show Miss Roberts, Mrs Ayling and Ms Aleisha Edwards, Amy Birrs and Zoe Carey.



ALUMNI

FORMER STUDENTS CALL IN ON OPEN EVENING

We are always delighted to give a warm welcome to new visitors to our school on our Open Events but it is quite special when we are able to catch up with our former students. Our October Open Evening was a particular pleasure because we had so many who took the opportunity to return and tell us how well they are doing!

In brief we saw Former Head Girl Alice Hough who is studying for a degree in Psychology and Emily Tamblin studying Radiotherapy - both at the University of Liverpool - Jessica Billington studying Graphic Design and Holly Brislen studying Nursing at the University of Chester, and Hannah Kowalski studying Mathematics at Liverpool John Moores University. We also saw Birkenhead 6th Form College A level students Hannah Williams (Biology, Psychology, Law), Megan Condliffe (English, Drama, Law), Bethany Cavannah (Law, Spanish, English), and Lauryn Young (Art, Politics, Geography).

Please keep in touch everyone, it was great to see you again!

The photo shows Megan and Bethany visiting the MFL department.



ECO COUNCIL NEWS

Green Flag status is our Eco-Target

Our Eco-Team have been instrumental this term in introducing further opportunities for us to re-cycle. Wirral Council has been set a target of recycling 50% of its waste by Central Government and, as a school, we work hard to meet this figure and also keep our costs down.

In a presentation - with video links - our Eco-Team made for Form Tutors to deliver to students across school, they

encouraged us all to recycle and help us to at least match the Council's target.

There are now some smart new bins for use at lunchtimes – green tops for paper, cans, cardboard, plastic bottle lids and glass and plastic drinks bottles, and red tops for food waste, food wrappers, carrier bags and tissues. Year 10 student Mia, Chair of the Eco-Team, reports that we have made a great start, beating our targets so far.

She says that the team has another target – Green Flag status, so let's all help them by carefully disposing of our waste!



Focussing on a new GCSE

This term, the Art department have made an exciting new opportunity open to students – GCSE Photography. The course, that started in September, is led by Mrs Moore, Art and Design Technology Subject Leader, and runs for two hours each week after school, over a two-year period.

Mrs Moore reports: “Photography has changed a great deal over the last decade and the course is a computer based class with students taking photographs and then editing them on Adobe software. They are studying Surrealism and are using Photoshop to edit their own photographs and InDesign to create a digital portfolio.”

The technical focus this term has been on low light photography, teaching students the camera skills necessary to create images using ISO, Shutter speed and F-stop settings on the cameras. Students have Nikon 3300 DSLR cameras to use but Mrs Moore also allows them to bring in their own cameras - if they have the correct settings and are learning how to use those cameras alongside the school equipment!

One of our GCSE students, Emily, said: “I’m really enjoying the course and love being creative with my shots. I’m finding it so interesting.”

Pictured here is one of her Surrealist ‘works in progress’.



BLOOD BROTHERS

As well as being a set text for our GCSE students, Willy Russell’s ‘Blood Brothers’ - a tale of class division, poverty, love and tragedy - continues to be as popular as ever with audiences!

Thanks to Year 7 Progress Leader and Teacher of English Mrs Robson, a trip to the Empire Theatre, Liverpool, was organised this term for fifty of our Year 10 and Year 11 English Literature GCSE students. They had the opportunity to see a first-class production of the play performed by a cast that included: Lyn Paul (Mrs Johnson), Sean Jones (Mickey), Joel Benedict (his Blood Brother, Eddie) Danielle Corlass (his wife Linda) and Dean Chisnall (Narrator).

The photograph shows Year 11 students Samantha and Lucy at the theatre, along with staff members Mrs Burns and Mrs Major.



NEW BOOKS ARRIVE IN THE LRB

It was a red letter day for the Learning Resource Base when a new set of Book Trust books arrived in November. The Trust encourages young people to read, their view being that children who read for pleasure are much more likely to do better in their studies. Clearly enjoying a preview of the new books before they go on the LRB’s shelves are: LRB Assistants Zahira, Liaba and Jasmine.





JEWELLERY TO IMPRESS

Proving that beautiful jewellery is not just to be found in the London jewellers based around Hatton Garden, our Year 10 Design Technology students have been busy creating a few wonderful designs of their own.

Their brief was: 'to design a modern statement necklace made out of Perspex and manufactured on the laser cutter'. Students were also asked to create a brand name, using different fonts and lettering styles and make a display stand for their work.

Holly, Freya, Miya and Erin are pictured here with their acrylic jewellery and all we can say is that De Beers and Asprey should take a serious note of these latest trends from Prenton!



Re-cycling with Enterprise

Thanks to a joint venture between our Maths and Design Technology departments, our Year 7 students extended the choice of recycled Christmas decorations this year. Enterprise days of previous years focussed on 'Trees from Trash', but this time they have added wreaths and stars. Everything had to be made from recycled materials, so there was great demand for newspapers, magazines, cardboard tubes and egg boxes, washing powder and detergent containers, and unwanted red or gold Christmas baubles.

Enterprise days provide students with an insight into the world of work with teams each operating as a small company, appointing a Project Manager, Production Manager, Quality Controller, Finance Director, and a Sales Manager.

The final products were on sale around school and at the Christmas concerts.

CHRISTMAS GETS A CUTTING EDGE

Our laser cutter has been in great demand this term and, following the successful sale of poppies for Remembrance Day, our Year 9 students have been designing and laser cutting Christmas decorations. They went on sale at the Christmas concerts at the end of term, raising money for our Duke of Edinburgh fund.

LUNCH IS BEING PREPARED FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

In January, our local residents have been invited to join us for lunch provided by our Year 10 Catering students. Look out for an update in our next edition of High Life!

TOP UNILEVER TEAM HELP STUDENT ENTERPRISE

Ten Year 10 students are learning all about business enterprise – and have tapped in to some of the best commercial brains there are!

The sessions this term, which were led by Steph Tickle from Young Enterprise, were supported by a top team from Unilever whose brands are known worldwide. Just like in the commercial world, students are holding senior Board positions and directorships and starting with an initial investment, will devise, design and create their own products. Teams will also cost and sell their products, competing against each other to see who can generate the most profit.

The Unilever team are: Kim Lewis (HR Manager), Jason Phoenix (IT Director), Kirsty Taylor (HR Advisor), Tony Isles (Data Centre Director) and Chervonne Cullen (HR Advisor).

OUR CHOCOLATE LOGS ARE TREE-MENDOUS!

Putting us in a seasonal and culinary mood, our Year 7 students have been busy creating some very chocolatey logs at the end of term. Winner of the 7B2 competition was Poppy, with Keighley in second place and Amelia third. Nevertheless, the quality of everyone's chocolate logs was so high that judges, Business Director, Mrs Hodson, and LRB Manager, Mr Taylor, had some very difficult decisions to make!



Menu for even better results!

Over the summer break, our DT Food department had some shiny new fan ovens and top quality induction hobs installed. Mrs English, Teacher of DT Food, is delighted with them, reporting that the ovens cook efficiently and evenly and that students find the hobs are much easier to clean than the old ones! Mrs English also took delivery of some new, better quality, pots and pans - that make for more even heat transference - along with deeper sided frying pans. Most of the old pans were sold or given to a Children's Charity shop.

We're looking forward with eager anticipation to tasting even better results – if that is possible!

Ready, steady Bake!

Following the installation of our lovely new cookers and hobs, it was exciting when the monthly after-school Cookery Club to started baking this term.

Their results certainly tempted our taste buds with mouth-watering blackberry and apple cakes in September, toffee apples in October, American blueberry pancakes in November and cranberry, pistachio and orange drizzle cake in December. A great culinary start, ladies - and Mrs English tells us that it will be a 'savoury' start to the New Year!

Pictured here are Year 8 students Ellie and Leah – plus their toffee apples.





WE'RE ON TRACK!

Teacher of Humanities and organiser of our Duke of Edinburgh's challenge, Mr Robinson, is delighted with progress towards experiencing our first ventures in the great outdoors and reports that everything is on track for a very active 2017.

With over eighty students keen to participate, training will start in January, with map and compass reading, mountain safety, and putting up tents high on the agenda. This term has seen some wonderful fundraising thanks to a staff 'Bonus Ball Lottery', organised by Teaching Assistant Mrs Hitchin, and a Halloween Bake-Off organised by Year 9 student, Beth.

When Beth asked around school for contributions to her special Halloween Bake-Off competition, little did she or Mr Robinson know just how many fabulously creative cakes our students would bring in school.

Congratulations to winner Lois, runner-up Faith (both Year 7), and third placed Charlotte (Year 8). Well done also to Year 7 Paige for baking the 'most gruesome' cake in the competition!

There were also 'scary' contributions from:

Amber, Rhiannon, Jessica, Katie, Amelia-Jayne, Karina, Abi, Sofia, Freya, and Poppy (all Year 7), Emily, Jessica, Keira and Abbie (all Year 8) and Year 9 student Summer.

Mr Robinson is pictured here amongst the gravestones, ghosts, witches, bloodshot eyes, cauldrons – and even a brain!



Thanks for helping to raise over £110 and for making our Halloween a really 'cookie' one, Beth!

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

Year 8 students were given an introduction to university and what they may expect from university life during their RE lessons this term. The sessions, entitled 'It's Your Choice', were organised by Teacher of PSRE and Humanities, Mrs Simpson.

'Dove' tailing our own personality

The Dove Self-Esteem Project believes no girl should be held back by a lack of self-esteem. However, anxieties over appearance stop girls being their best selves, affecting their health, friendships and even performance at school.

This term, we invited representatives from the project to come in to school to deliver helpful workshops to our Year 9 students.



GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

The General Assembly of the United Nations marks 21st September each year as 'International Day of Peace'. The day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

7R2 students Niamh, Lauren, Paige, Jessica, Zoe, Mya, Rebecca and Olivia (pictured here) supported the day by

conducting a Year 7 assembly, informing students about the different wars and conflicts currently happening around the world. They showed how even one person can 'make a difference' by encouraging everyone to act peacefully and treating people with respect.



ABBEY AND BETH'S HUMANITIES RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Abbey and Beth who have been named as recipients of the Humanities bar-badge. The awards come following a vote held by the Humanities faculty to recognise excellent attainment and progress across Geography, History and RE.

Well done, Abbey and Beth, both pictured here proudly wearing their green bar-badges.



ASSEMBLY GREETES GIDEONS

The Gideons International aim to give people the opportunity to read the Bible and they place Bibles and New Testaments in many areas such as hotel rooms, care homes, hospitals, as well as to thousands of British secondary schools and to many university and college students.

They also make personal presentations, and we have just welcomed Doreen and Alan McGraa from Gideons who delivered a short talk and handed out New Testaments to those who would like one, at a recent assembly. This is part of our commitment to recognise all world religions and for students to develop an understanding of them. It was especially nice to see Doreen as she is a former student of our school!



PADRE JOINS US FOR COMMEMORATION

Thanks to organiser Mr Hart, Teacher of RE, we welcomed Padre Major Fran Myatt (pictured here) into school for Armistice Day.

The Padre took the Year 11 assembly, afterwards holding a question and answer session with them in their RE lessons. Now retired from Army service, Padre Myatt spoke of his experiences in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, about what makes a conflict a 'Just War' and how buying a poppy really helps look after ex-servicemen and women.

In a lighter moment, the Padre told students about his time at Sandhurst when Prince Harry, then a humble Lieutenant, walked past him, a Major (and therefore out-ranking him), without saluting. He called Prince Harry back, at which point they both saluted each other!

At 11am school held a minute's silence in commemoration for those who gave their lives serving their country.



STUDENTS' ART SHOWS SPIRIT

The ability to portray and write comprehensively on themes such as 'Could Britain be a Rainbow Nation?' and 'Visions and Prophecy' is no easy task – but that is exactly what many of our current Year 9 students successfully completed last summer.

The National Association of Teachers at Religious Education (NATRE) has been running its 'Spirited Arts' competition over the past thirteen years, attracting entries from not just the UK, but all over the world. This year our students took the Spirited Arts world by storm, exploring their own opinions and creating a series of thought-provoking art and written work.

Acknowledging the high standard of work submitted, NATRE have now sent certificates to a number of our students. Congratulations go especially to Laura, Emma, Jessica, Elizabeth (pictured here), and Matilda for their wonderful contributions.



A delighted Teacher of PSRE, Mrs Simpson, says she is now looking forward to the 2017 competition!

WORKSHOPS PROVIDE HEALTH GUIDANCE

A series of workshops was delivered by the Health Service in Schools' (HSIS) team this term. Their 'Bitesize' sessions were designed to help our Year 8 students to learn more about issues on health, relationships and personal well-being as part of their PSHE learning.

HSIS are a part of Wirral Youth Support Services and have a confidential drop-in service led by an HSIS Youth Worker and a School Nurse that provides information, guidance and one-to-one support on all health matters.





ANTI-BULLYING POSTERS ON DISPLAY

Bullying is unacceptable and comes in many forms. During Anti-Bullying Week in November, students were encouraged to create posters to help promote the anti-bullying message.

With Tween word animation, using Adobe Flash software, our Year 7, 8 and 9 ICT students created their own slogans. The shortlisted posters are currently displayed in the Learning Resource Base and students from across the school are invited to vote on the best ones. The winner, yet to be announced, will receive a £20 voucher, with the two runners'-up receiving some chocolate.

We will not tolerate bullying at Prenton. If you have a concern, be sure to pass it on to a member of staff at school.

Maths



MATHS MASTERCLASSES

Year 8 student Lucie is taking part in monthly masterclasses at the University of Liverpool and, nearer home, Teacher of Mathematics Mr Richardson is running masterclasses for Year 7 and Year 8 students, preparing them for the UKMT Team Challenge, next March.

Music



COMING UP NEXT YEAR!

In the New Year the Prenton Theatre Company will be using outside practitioners to help develop competition pieces and pieces for the summer show in Dance, develop characterisation and auditions for the summer show in Drama, and our Musical Theatre group will be preparing for the Music for Youth Competition, to be held in March.

Maths Meeting point

Thanks to Subject Leader - Maths, Mrs Watson, we hosted a North West Maths Hub meeting in November with more than eighteen Wirral Secondary Heads of Maths attending. They used the opportunity to share and develop best practice in the subject.

Bringing some Christmas cheer

During December, the School choir performed at the Park House Nursing Home, Liverpool One (see picture), Dundoran Nursing Home and ASDA, Woodchurch Road, as part of the annual Choir Christmas Tour. They sang both traditional and popular Christmas songs.



PRENTON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS!

The introduction of The Prenton Theatre Company, launched at the beginning of term by Mrs Burns, Music and Performing Arts Subject Leader, and Ms Barr, Teacher of Performing Arts, has been enthusiastically supported by students.

Whether they prefer to perform through Musical Theatre, Dance or Drama, students have a choice to develop their skills and talents. With the Christmas Concerts in mind, they have all been working tirelessly over the last two months to make sure we finish the term in festive mood.

The first part of each evening started with a lively staging of 'Cinderella in Panto', followed by a series of musical

performances featuring solos and ensembles with a Christmas theme.

Helping to nicely build up the seasonal atmosphere before the show, guests browsed the splendid array of Christmas stalls selling our own range of 'Prenton-designed' decorations – Year 7s offered an impressive display of wreaths, stars and trees made from recycled items resulting from ideas generated by their recent enterprise project, Year 9s designed laser-cut decorations for sale, and the Duke of Edinburgh fund-raising committee had stalls and activities to tempt and entertain. All these were accompanied by refreshments from the PTA, making it a perfect start to the evening.

We held two fabulous evening's entertainment as the photographs show. ***(more pictures on back page!)***





BLOWING THE TRUMPET FOR BRASS

What a wonderful way to end the first week back after the half-term break!

When the Deva Brass Ensemble - led by Mr David Edwards (pictured) - came into school, we were treated to some musical magic, not only showing us how brass instruments sound individually but also how powerfully moving they are when all played together.

Tunes included the 'Theme from Rocky', 'Moon River' and 'The Charleston' with individual instrumentalists demonstrating their versatility during the performance. They had an important message to convey, that music is for life. The members of the ensemble demonstrate

this by coming from all walks of life – some teach music, their youngest player is studying in order to apply to a music conservatoire, and others who have had careers in business and industry and have just enjoyed playing music over the years as a hobby. It was a good opportunity to encourage more of our students to take up a brass instrument here in school and hopefully go on to enjoy playing throughout their lives.

After listening to the Deva Brass Ensemble – and with Headteacher Mrs Ayling having such fun playing the French horn with the Ensemble - we certainly hope they decide to try!



TUNING IN TO THE WORLD OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

Twenty-five Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Music students have visited MediaCity UK, Salford to meet the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra who are based there.

Thanks to Music and Performing Arts Subject Leader Mrs Burns, they were able to meet members of the orchestra and, along with 200 other guests, heard a demonstration of the sounds that different sections of the orchestra make. The orchestra then performed a number of link passages from Benjamin Britten's opera, Peter Grimes.

As one of the BBC's six performing groups, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra records and performs concerts for BBC Radio 3 as well as an annual season of concerts at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall and other venues across the north of England. It was a wonderful introduction to the world of music for our students!

JESSICA'S JOURNEY TO THE TOP

It was an inspirational assembly delivered to our Year 10 students in early December when former student and Fashion Stylist Jessica Johnston dropped by to see them.

Jessica came into school as part of our CEIAG programme, providing students with advice on future pathways and helping them to formulate their career strategies and alternatives. Her talk described how she had overcome some disappointments and knockbacks along the way but how, with the encouragement of her teachers whilst at Prenton, lots of hard work, self-belief, and asking questions when needing help, it is possible to achieve what you want to do in life.

Jessica spoke about how she worked hard to be accepted on a Fashion and Photography course at the University

of Salford, firstly by taking a BTEC and completing a Foundation year. After University, she had set her heart on a career in London but instead, after speculatively asking a photographer whose work she liked, found herself in Vienna as a magazine photographer.

She described how tough it was there, especially as she had no German, but she kept believing she would succeed. Doing a photoshoot for the England rugby team, she made a contact that finally helped her gain her ambition – a job in London. Now, she has added television to her repertoire – designing costumes and outfits for those appearing on X-Factor, Strictly Come Dancing, and Britain's Got Talent. She has even had a hand in designing some of Kylie Minogue's outfits.

Thank you for coming in to see us, Jessica – you are a true inspiration!



GUIDING STUDENTS ALONG THE POST-16 PATHWAY

Our Year 11 students have some important choices to make about their futures in the coming months – and there was plenty of help on hand for them before the half-term break.

Following a busy time perfecting their CVs for the Pathways to Post-16 Day, they each had the opportunity to attend a 'mock' interview with some of the region's most experienced interviewers, thanks to help from Sharon Mathews, Careers Inspiration Co-ordinator from the Careers Service in Manchester.

In addition to John Hall, Chief Executive of Professional Liverpool and Mrs Lesley Earl in an individual capacity, there were representatives on the day from HMRC, North West Regional Employer Engagement, Robertson Construction, Wirral MBC, Wirral Met, Ernst & Young, Mersey Fire and Rescue, Interserve, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, My Esteem, Career Connect, ice Creates and Birkenhead Sixth Form College.

The students clearly made their mark, receiving the following accolades from their interviewers:

“I was very impressed, especially how well prepared the students were; they had gone to great efforts with their CVs.”

“These girls are really good – in fact they don’t realise just how good they are.”

“The girls were polite, engaged and a pleasure to work with. We felt the day was a really valuable use of our time. The arrangements of the event were well considered and planned.”

There were also five workshops taking place on the day: Preparing for Work – Employability Skills (Wirral Young Chamber of Commerce and Interserve), Applying for College (Career Connect), and Tolerance and Respect (My Esteem).

Finally, students received an ‘Introduction to Apprenticeships’ session with Sophie Larsen and former student Tanvi Sharma. Tanvi, who left Prenton to join Birkenhead High School where she is currently Head Girl, gave an insight into life studying for her A levels. Sophie works for the uranium enrichment company URENCO based at Capenhurst and encouraged students to seriously consider a career in Engineering.

Earlier in the term we welcomed education consultant Andrew Newton from Leading Matters Ltd who gave a talk to Year 11 students and parents. His series of topics was designed to help both parents and daughters prepare for the coming year and focussed on exam success through effective preparation. His evening session, based on his wide experience and knowledge of education throughout the region, covered practical revision techniques, managing stress and how parents can support their daughters as they prepare for their final GCSE examinations in the summer..

Thank you everyone for giving us such a positive start to the year!



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Thank you to organiser Ms Craven, Year 9 Progress Leader and Teacher of Science, and teachers of Science, Mr O'Neil and Mr Morrish, who supported a number of trips helping our students to

It's University Challenge for our students

Our Year 9 students have been taking a closer look at what University has to offer. In the first of two trips to Liverpool, ten students visited the University of Liverpool where they experienced a Physics lecture, undertook experiments relating to volcanoes, and participated in a creative writing workshop - as well as a having a conducted tour of the campus.

A few days later, a further ten students took up the Oxford-Cambridge Challenge Day at the Liverpool Museum. There they had the opportunity to learn more about Archaeology, Chemistry, Classics, Engineering, Geography, Oncology, Sociology, and Latin American Studies. Quite a challenge indeed!



achieve in STEM activities and to learn more about Higher Education this term.

There were two Year 9 STEM trips to the Daresbury Laboratories, Warrington; one of their presentations was entitled 'Big Bang' and the other 'Girls into Technology', organised by IBM. The visits outlined below were also made.

Big Bang is Big Hit

A group of our Year 9 students headed to the main City of Liverpool College Building, Liverpool, to attend their 'Big Bang North West' event this term.

Joining eleven other schools from Wirral and Liverpool, they took part in two workshops, using the new laboratories the College has had especially fitted out for all of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.



Working alongside students from Prescott High School, the first session on Engineering looked at programming language. They typed a short program to make a set of traffic lights work, and then changed various elements of the program script to produce different effects with the lights. Next was a Biology session in which they extracted their own DNA from cheek cells, making a small vial necklace so they could carry around their own visible DNA.

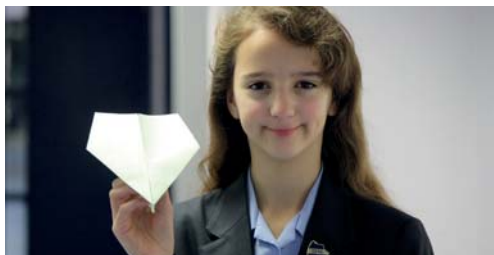
The feedback from many of the students afterwards was that the day was a definite hit!

KEIRA'S JUST 'PLANE' GOOD!

The December STEM Club meeting had a nice blend of serious study and some serious fun!

Following a theoretical look at the science of aerodynamics, there was time for Club members to spring into action with some practical work. Using their newly gained knowledge, students built paper aeroplanes with the aim of seeing who could send their prototype the furthest distance.

Congratulations to winner Year 8 Keira, whose 'plane reached an amazing 11.9 metres!



ADVOCATING UNIVERSITY

Thanks to student advocates Dean Farquhar and Holly Phillips, who called into school to talk to our Year 8 students.

Their presentations aimed to separate the myths from the facts about life at university and looked at the range of subjects Liverpool offers. They provided students with information about the route they need to take to study in their chosen fields and the GCSE grades they need to achieve. Our students also explored the job opportunities that specific degrees offered.

Pathways to Law

The Widening Participation and Outreach Team at the University of Liverpool has been working in partnership with the Sutton Trust to raise aspirations and awareness of Higher Education for young people. They have recently launched a new programme in which a number of our Year 10 students have been able to take part.

'Pathways to Law' is a 4-year programme which aims to support participants directly into studying Law at University. It is a rolling programme where participants will develop their skills and knowledge regarding Law, starting in Year 10 and continuing into Years 11, 12 and 13.

The Year 10 programme consists of three sessions in November, February and April with the University's Law academics on campus where students can develop their understanding of Law, meet current Law undergraduates to discover more about university and be introduced to the career opportunities available within the Law sector. Thanks again to Progress Leader and Teacher of Science, Ms Craven, for organising this opportunity.

MELISSA'S MEDICAL MISSION

Along with students from around the area, Year 10 student Melissa is attending a Merseyside Young Medics meeting each term at the University of Liverpool.

MIND MATTERS

There have been some big changes announced for our Emotional Health and Well-Being service this year.

Last year we welcomed Michelle Higgins who joined us on a part time basis as Health Mentor. This year Michelle's role has been made full time and her title has changed to School Counsellor. Michelle says: "Students were confused by the 'Health Mentor' title last year, thinking I was a school nurse. Most students know what a Counsellor is and so this new title for my role is clearer for them".

Being full time means that Michelle is able to devote more time in developing

new initiatives, such as the 'Breathing Space' work with students described below, and delivering some parent information sessions. Michelle has also been working with students to produce an in-house mental health newsletter called 'MindMatters', providing students with a vehicle in which they can contribute articles and communicate with each other about a positive approach to mental health. 'MindMatters' is an idea that came from students themselves and we hope that the first issue will be published early in the New Year.

Michelle has also moved – her nice, cosy, counselling room is now near the PE department – and close to the school garden. Michelle tells us that the new room is lovely and students really like it!

GIVING US BREATHING SPACE

A new initiative called 'Breathing Space' was started this term, aimed at helping Year 10 students manage any anxieties and worries they may have.

Thanks to Miss Dunbar from Student Services and School Counsellor Michelle Higgins, the 'Breathing Space' course ran for four weeks.

A chance to meet our new Student Leaders

Our Student Senior Leadership Team have been busy helping younger students with their Reading Challenge and the Team had introduced themselves to a Year 7 assembly, in which they offered support and guidance.

PEER MENTORS HELP YEAR 7S

Our year 10 Peer Mentors have been helping Year 7 students settle into school, spending one form time each week with their 'twinned' year 7 forms. Year 10s have spent the time conducting quizzes about the school, giving their top ten tips on organisation, providing recommendations on where to do their home learning and gaining feedback on their first half term at the school.

Year 7s have responded very positively to this initiative, saying they have loved the fact that Year 10s have cared for them and for taking the trouble to spend time with them. Year 10s say that next term they will be challenging Year 7s to origami, amongst other things!

GIVING YOUTH A VOICE

Along with students from schools across Wirral, three Student Leadership team members, Jaymi-Lea, Ellie and Sophie, attended the Youth Voice Conference at Wallasey Town Hall in November.

The Conference theme was 'Young People and Mental Health' with workshops exploring issues around loss and change, myths and stigma, and changing attitudes. These were followed by a lively debate in the Mayor's chamber with our students contributing impressively to the debate. The key themes that emerged were: that young people want respect for privacy regarding mental health, they want to address the perceived stigma of mental health in their schools, that physical illness and mental health difficulties should be viewed in the same way, and that teachers have training regarding young people and mental health.

We will continue to support our students in all aspects of their health and well-being.



PRENTON PARLIAMENT - ORDER, ORDER!

The first sessions of Prenton Parliament (formerly the School Council) were held this term, presided over by Student Senior Leadership team member Lauren who took the Chair, and supported by Megan (Deputy Chair) and Melissa (Secretary) – all pictured here. Delegates representing forms from across the school raise and discuss many matters and issues in each monthly meeting, including inviting guests to appear before them in a Parliamentary Committee-style quizzing! First before them was Mr Ian Butler from caterers Chartwells, to talk about prices in the Dining Hall.

Other matters that arose in meetings this term included re-introducing Film Club, raising money for charities including 'Save the Children', toilets, clocks, and ParentMail.



STRICTLY IRISH DANCING

For those with a love to dance, the Drama Studio is strictly the place to be! Students can join Assistant Headteacher Miss Eastwood each Wednesday lunchtime for thirty minutes of dancing with an Irish flavour. All welcome, it's a great "Craic"!



TAKING A MEXICAN PERSPECTIVE ON HALLOWEEN

Whilst we tend to 'Trick and Treat' at Halloween, other countries such as Spain and Mexico have a different way of celebrating around this time of year.

Dia de Muertos - which translates as 'Day of the Dead' - may sound macabre but is actually a time when many cultures take a short holiday to gather as families and friends and remember those close to them who have died. At this time, favourite beverages, food and even possessions of the departed are placed on their graves as gifts.



As part of their MFL work learning about other cultures and languages, Year 7 students have been making their own tributes to mark Dia de Muertos.

Well done to Ella, Jessica and Evie (pictured here) and to Alex, Zoe and Shannon who all had award winning designs.



Play Day gives great grounding

The Netball Play Day in October was an excellent opportunity for two of our Year 7 teams to familiarise themselves with the rules, tactics, footwork and core skills of the game.

Well done to the red team of: Beth, Lauren, Evie, Amy Eloise, Tia and Shamara, and to the blue team of: Lily, Lauren, Savannah, Lily, Mia, Lily and Mya - they enjoyed the day, playing up to 8 games against schools from across Wirral.

PLAYING WELL IN LADIES' LEAGUE

Prenton High School students Madison and Leigha are playing in the Ladies' League every Tuesday evening 'are playing brilliantly and winning most of their games' reports Miss Robertson, Subject Leader, PE.

INTER-FORM NETBALL

The end of term will see some serious inter-form rivalry on the netball courts! Year 8s and year 9s will play in knock-out competitions and Year 7s will play in a round-robin tournament. Watch out on the website (www.prentonhighschool.co.uk) for the results!

FOOTBALL FOCUS

Our teams have been in action over the past two months and here is a round-up of their achievements:

In the English Schools' FA Under 13 PlayStation 9-a-side Schools' Cup knockout competition, our team lost their Round 1 match against Wade Deacon High School, Halton. Year 7 student Amy, who was our star player, was joined in our squad by fellow Year 7 players Lauren, Kiera, Lucy, Lillie, Alex, Alisha and Amber, along with Year 8s Lily, Abbie, Freya and Jessica.

Our Under 15 team were beaten in the Second Round of the English Schools' FA Under 15 PlayStation 11-a-side knockout competition, losing to Bishop Heber High School, Chester. Our team comprised Year 7 Amy - who was again our star player – Year 8s Abbie and Lily, Year 9s Caitlin, Amy, Daisy and Madeleine, and Year 10s Georgia, Beth, Tamir and Leigha.

CRICKETERS IN EXCITING FINAL

We are very proud of our Under 15 Cricket team of Jess, Jodie, Georgia, Alisha, Sam, Chloe, Megan, Madison and Madaleine.

On their way to the Under 15 Wirral Indoor Cricket Finals, they beat Wirral Grammar School for Girls in their first match by 7 wickets, bowling them all out for 23. They went on to beat Ridgeway High School by 101 runs – deciding to bat first and making 127, then bowling them out for 26.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students played two 6-a-side friendly matches against Liverpool College in November with our 5-man 'A' team of Lily, Abbie (who was our star player), Abbie, Lillie and Amy playing against a 6-a-side team and we still won 20-1. Our 'B' team of Lauren, Kiera, Freya, Amber, Cerys and Lucy lost a close-fought match 6-4.

In the Tranmere Rovers' Under 13 6-a-side Tournament qualifiers, our 'B' team of Cerys, Freya, Lauren, Kiera, Bonnie-May and Lucy lost their games – however Manager Mr Richardson says they all played hard!

Our 'A' team of Lily, Lillie, Amber (whose performance earned the description of 'a little terrier!'), Abbie (our star player), and Amy won every game in the Tournament going through to the finals held at the end of November. The team won three of their five matches, coming third behind Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, on a goal difference of just two, and winners Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

In an exciting final against Upton Hall, they again batted first and making 87 for 3. Unfortunately, they fell just short of the target, making 82 all out, losing our last wicket in the final over!

Congratulations to each player, and especially to top run scorer, Jess, and top wicket-taker, Sam.

We now look forward to the Under 13s Wirral final on 6th February!



COMPETING IN THE VOLLEYBALL 'GRAND PRIX'

Our Year 8 players Grace, Grace, Jess and Jess have represented the school over two rounds at a Volleyball 'Grand Prix'. They travelled to St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Wigan and then to Tameside on two separate Saturdays in November and December.

Learning new skills and getting match experience, as well as having fun, they won three out of five matches in their first round and won both games in the second round. Well played, ladies!

Good luck to our Year 10 and Year 11 players who are competing in a 6-a-side Volleyball tournament at Woodchurch at the end of term: Amelia, Georgia, Lucy, Chloe, Leigha and Madison.

LILLIE'S MEDAL HAUL

Year 7 student Lillie is certainly making a name for herself in the world of gymnastics.

She has already gained eight medals so far this year and last weekend she added a further three to her tally! Lillie represents Wirral Gymnastics Club based in Birkenhead, and she is pictured here with her medals: Silver, for Floor, Bronze for Vault, and a third recognising that she has represented her Club at the competition.

It was a real bonus that Lillie was presented with her medals by Beth Tweddle, the first female gymnast from Great Britain to win a medal at the European Championships, World Championships, and Olympic Games. Well done, Lillie!



GYMNASTS RISE TO THE MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE

It is most unusual to see absolute stillness in a PE lesson, but that was what Teacher of PE Miss Doyle 'inactively' encouraged with her Year 9 class recently.

There is an explanation of course – and readers who keep up with the latest internet trends will have heard of the Mannequin Challenge where, to a

musical accompaniment, a group is filmed frozen in a position while a camera records them.

Here we see a 'still' from our video and remember, you will only see this phenomenon in PE just this once!



TEAMS SERVE UP VOLLEYBALL TREAT

Volleyball is proving to be a popular sport at Prenton and in a three-cornered tournament with Wirral Grammar School for Girls and South Wirral High School, we fielded four Volleyball teams – two Year 8 teams and two from Year 7.

Well done to our Year 8 team of Grace, Abbie, Grace and Jess, who reached the final and gained silver medals. Our Year 7 teams gained some valuable tournament and match experience, with the team of Lauren, Lillie, Amy and Eloise reaching the quarter finals.

Well played everyone!

Volleyballers reach Quarter-Finals

In early December we had one Year 9 team and two Year 8 teams representing our school at a volleyball tournament hosted by Wirral Grammar School for Girls. There were fourteen teams from four schools competing, including Prenton High School, Wirral Grammar, Weatherhead and South Wirral. Congratulations one of our Year 8 teams who reached the Quarter Final, losing to Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

2017 Diary

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 | Twitter: @prentonhigh

Christmas Concert

Read about the Prenton Theatre Company on Page 24.

