

February 18

Contact





Welcome from Mr Wright,
Executive Headteacher:

Welcome once again to our Contact e-magazine!

As always, in this edition, we have a whole host of events and student achievement to celebrate. It is a real pleasure to start by highlighting a few recent successes and I send my thanks to those who made them happen:

- We are delighted about news that we have finally received approval for leasing the former primary school site next door, along with £3m from WBC to help us refurbish it and a successful grant from the Wolfson Foundation of £50k for the development of bespoke sixth form science labs;
- We are very proud that the school has achieved Artsmark Gold, which is a mark of how much importance we place on the arts in school, which is so vital at a time when school measures target English and maths so heavily at both primary and secondary phases;
- We are pleased to be re-awarded the Wise-Up Gold for the school's approach to student support, anti-bullying and hate crime.

We held a launch event for the Omega Multi Academy Trust in January celebrated in the local press. This involved students from all five schools, working together across school and age groups. We were humbled to hear the children sharing their views and presenting their passion for the collective values they want Omega to stand for. The event was led by our Y11 Student Leadership Team and the Y12 College Presidents, who were quite simply fantastic! We are all excited about moving into this new exciting phase and the opportunities it offers to all our children.

I wish you all a very enjoyable half term break – and all of our students and staff, a well-deserved rest!



Welcome from Mrs Crawley,
Headteacher:

I am delighted to welcome you to another edition of Contact magazine. As always, we have had a busy half term with much to celebrate.

Our Year 11 students received their Mock exam results in January. Students are now busy working on revision techniques, school will hold Booster sessions for Year 11 in order to support them in their preparation for the further exams. We wish them well!

Our college students have worked with Winstanley College as part of the HE+ programme and are eagerly awaiting their residential to Cambridge University

We are eagerly awaiting the Year 7 Race For The Line Competition in March. I am looking forward to seeing the many and varied designs.

I wish the staff and students who are participants in the Ski trip and the Battlefields trips an enjoyable and informative time.

I hope that you all have a restful holiday.



AUSTEN

This has been a great start to the year for Austen House and it was lovely to end the half term meeting with all the form reps and planning our next adventures together. They have some exciting ideas planned for next half term so watch this space.

A huge 'well done' goes out to Rosie Pike (8AS) for her sponsored walk and bake sale for the charity Dogs for Good. She raised a massive £321.50 which was a fantastic achievement.

We look forward to raising some funds for this brilliant cause next term with Rosie.

A big well done to Laura 7AD, Max 8AC, Thalia 9AB, Rosie 10AV and Greg 11AD for ending this half term with the most house points.

Wishing you all a relaxing half term.

Kind regards,
Mrs Masher

BANNISTER

We have just passed the half way point, the year seems to be flying by !! The year 11 had their mock exams in the first week back in January. Some excellent results for this stage in their GCSE preparation – well done.

Last week they were involved in some booster sessions in English, RS and Science and already have their timetables for the summer GCSE exams.

I'm hoping our year 9 team in the Bake Off can do as well as the year 10 team. A win at this stage would be fantastic.

We have three girls, Freya, Poppy and Megan taking part in a charity dance show at the Brindley Theatre. Their dance school have chosen them for their commitment and said they are 'incredibly gifted dancers'. Good luck girls and I hope you raise a great amount of money.

Have a great break everyone and be ready for another busy half term when we return.

Ms Clark x

THOMPSON



Well done to Holly, Jess, Rachel and Ellie who took part in the year 9 Bake Off. Their chocolate roulade looked fantastic and I'm sure tasted even better!

The Thompson House chosen charity, the Make A Wish Foundation also benefited from funds raised recently from the charity work of Thompson house students. Thank you for your support.

Finally I would like to thank the students of Thompson house for a very good half terms work. Have a great break!

Mr Cawthorn

NEWTON

It has been another exciting term for students in Newton house with a number of outstanding contributions and achievements. Well done to the Year 7 boys in Newton that represented the school 7 a side team that were crowned Warrington Champions. Ellis, Nathan and Troy then went on to represent Warrington schools in the North of England finals in Manchester. Finally I would like to congratulate the Year 11 students that achieved fantastic results on their recent mocks. I wish everyone a restful half term and look forward to seeing you all on review afternoon on the 1st March.

Mr Bate



Supporting



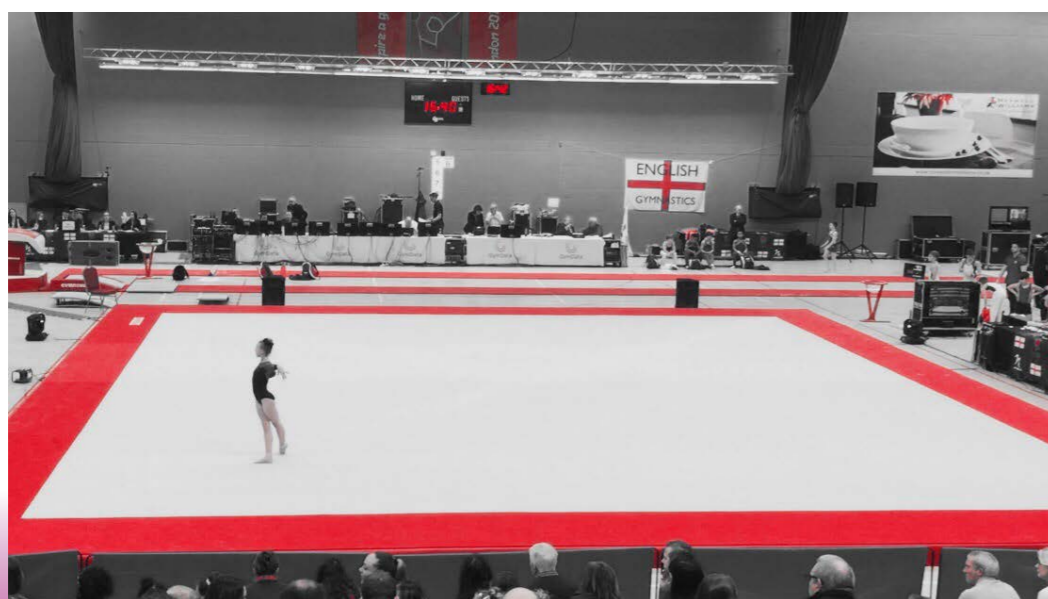
CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

STEPHENSON

PARKS

Congratulations to Katie in 8PH who represented Warrington Gymnastics Club at the 2018 English Championships in London. Katie had a great competition, went round clean and is now ranked 32nd in England in her age group. This was a fabulous experience for her being in the same arena as Olympic, World & Commonwealth medalists.

Mrs Lee



It's been a very busy half-term. Our very nervous year 11's got their mock exam results, we had some fantastic achievements from the students who had worked hard on their revision. For those who didn't get the results they wanted now have a full revision timetable to ensure they get the right results in August! There are also lots of Booster classes for them to attend to help them with their revision.

On the charity front I am pleased to announce that the fundraising for Cancer research continues with each form planning a fundraising activity between now and Easter, photos and full details will be in the next edition of Contact.

As the weather gets warmer we plan to hold our own "Race For Life" and we are working hard with Cancer Research UK and the PE team to get this organised, please help to support this by sponsoring your children so that we can raise lots of money for this excellent charity.

We have the Year 9 Bake-Off Interhouse Competition just before we break-up for half-term and I am hoping for a clean sweep as the Year 11 and Year 10 team have already won their respective competitions. I am very pleased to announce that a record number of our Stephenson Year 10 students have applied for a place on the HOBY course and I look forward to seeing who has been successful in their application, I am just glad that I don't have to choose!

Have a lovely half-term break.

Mrs Steele

Happiness Week

@Great Sankey High School

Ten students from year 8 attended a Happiness conference last half term at Culcheth High School. They found the experience very uplifting and engaging and wanted to share some of their experience with the rest of the school. Therefore, they came up with the idea of a 'Happiness Focus Week' from the 29th January to 2nd February. As part of the week the students developed a lesson to be delivered during PSHE. It included ideas about what makes us happy and how we can strive to be more positive in our day to day lives. It also focused on how to succeed and what we need to do to achieve our goals. This was delivered by all form tutors across key stage 3 and 4. The year 8 students involved also visited the year 7 forms to promote Happiness week and supported the form tutor in delivering the lesson.



Time to Talk - 1st February

On Monday 29th January, the Youth Health Champions along with the School Health Advisor held a stall at break time to promote Time to Talk day. They highlighted the importance of talking to someone and sharing your worries/day to day concerns. These are just some of the tips they shared:

- Show you're willing—Just being there means a lot.
- Listen, don't judge—talking is important, so is a friendly ear.
- Be yourself—Talking about everyday things helps. You don't have to fix this.
- Step up - Make a brew, text, take a walk. Small things go a long way.



Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Artsmark Gold Award from the Arts Council Of England. As well as recognising schools that are making the arts come alive, the Artsmark award is a practical and valuable tool for enriching a school's arts provision whatever the starting point. It provides schools with access to enviable networks of leading cultural organisations that will enable them to use the arts to engage and develop happy, self-expressed and confident young people and inspire teachers.

Student Investors

Well done to Barrow Hall College's Lazer4 team. They have reached the semi-final stage of the Student Investor Competition run by the London Institute of Banking and Finance.

The Lazer4 team finished 83rd out of 5000 teams. If you like percentages, they came in the top 2% of all teams in the country. So if you see Billy, Ishan or Niall about it might be a good move to get some financial advice from them!

BAGS OF HELP

Barrow Hall College are taking part in the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme to gain funding for our year 11 into 12 transition and induction programme. Our bid is guaranteed £1000 but can get up to £4000 if we get enough votes.



The voting will take place from Thursday 1st March to Monday 30th April. To vote, parents and students will need to make a purchase within store of any value. They will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

The stores where voting is taking place are as follows:

GRAPPENHALL EXPRESS
LONGFORD EXPRESS
ORFORD GREEN EXPRESS
PENKETH EXPRESS
WARRINGTON EXTRA
MANCHESTER RD EXPRESS

Wanted: Exam Invigilators

With the exam period fast approaching we will be looking to take on several Exam Invigilators to cover the full Exam Timetable from May 2018. If you are interested then please look out for our advert on our recruitment web page after February half term.

Special visit from KOOOTH



Jude from the charity Kooth came in to promote their services and talk to our students regarding free, safe and anonymous online support for young people. It was a great success as Jude was able to chat to lots of our students during break time. She will be visiting again on Tuesday 6th February so look out for her.

Ryan Diamond



The Great Sankey High School community was deeply shocked and saddened to hear the tragic news of the death of our former student, Ryan Diamond, over this past weekend and our condolences, and support, go out to his family at this heart-breaking time.

The loss of Ryan has been felt hard by his friends, and our staff, and support systems

have been put in place for those who have been affected.

As a student from 2011-2016, Ryan was a talented artist with a keen eye for Graphic Design and he regularly received recognition from his Art and ICT teachers for his attention to detail and limitless creativity. Following the completion of his GCSEs with us in 2016, we were extremely proud of Ryan when he pursued his ambition to progress onto an Art & Design course at College.

During his time with us at Great Sankey High School, Ryan was a passionate individual, with a wicked sense of humour and a love of music, who always wore his heart on his sleeve. He had a heart of gold and was such a generous person, regularly giving his support to his form's fundraising, whilst also remaining extremely loyal and committed to his friends.

Ryan will be remembered fondly by everyone here at Great Sankey High School and, in the words of one of his favourite bands and as quoted by himself in his Year 11 yearbook, his memory will 'Live Forever'.

Mrs Paula Crawley (Headteacher).

music notes

Our GCSE and A Level Music students joined hundreds of fellow music students today from across the country at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. This wonderful opportunity allowed music students to listen to the Halle orchestra performing a number of set work symphonies in a live context with a presenter. Titled "Music through the Ages", we enjoyed a concert of Gabrielli, Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Wagner, Copland and John Williams. A wonderful afternoon of culture!

Mrs Mullin is organising an A Level Music Recital Concert which will take place on Friday 6th April from 10.30am in St Helens Parish Church.

A Level Music students from all over Warrington and surrounding areas will be performing their 10 minute recital programme on various different instruments. This event is open to the public; come and support. For more information, contact Mrs Mullin.

Come and support the S Factor on Thursday 8th March. Soloists and groups performing for a panel of guest judges. Tickets available at £4/ £2 from front reception.

Our Year 11 Music student and aspiring West End star, Yasmin Devlin- Dean will be performing a solo at the Brindley Theatre, Runcorn and also the Blackpool Opera House in March 2018. For more details, contact Mrs Meredith.

Mrs Meredith is busy coordinating three choirs to perform in the town centre on Tuesday 20th March for the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Warrington bomb in which tragically, Tim Parry our former student, along with another little boy Johnathon Ball, died. This is a very special event for our entire community and we are honoured to be performing. The ceremony will take place at the top of Bridge Street and begins at 12 noon; the public are welcome to come and watch. The Sankey Singers will be performing collaboratively with Barrow Hall Primary School Choir and Warrington Male Voice Choir. Mrs Stazicker and her team have been busy making art work to be displayed at the Peace Centre.



Drama Performances

Well done to the Year 11 GCSE Drama students, who have completed their first practical performances this term. A huge amount of work goes into these exams, writing, producing and rehearsing the pieces before then performing them in front of an audience.

The students have to create their own piece based on given stimulus in the style of theatre in education. The standard of work was excellent and we would like to give the students a big congratulations.

Food Preparation Practicals

Well done to all Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students who completed their NEA2 practical exam last week. I was so impressed with the skill and determination shown. Keep up the hard work!

Miss Knight



WISE UP! GOLD AWARD FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING!

We are delighted to announce we have been presented a gold level award for the Wise Up! School's Award for the third year running. The Wise Up! School Awards scheme is aimed at celebrating the excellent work Great Sankey High School is doing to raise awareness of anti-bullying and hate crime. All schools in Warrington were invited to complete and submit a questionnaire detailing their work. These were assessed by the Hate Crime and Incidents Partnership to decide if they qualify for Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. So we're so pleased that we have a hat-trick of Gold!

Millie-Anne and Lois from 7SE were two out of the many students who helped make this happen. Last term as part of their music lessons, they re-wrote the lyrics to a well-known song to share a message about Hate Crime and then performed it to a very high quality. Their performance was submitted and contributed to our school being awarded with the Gold Wise Up! award.

Millie and Lois attended an award's night on Wednesday 7th February at The Gateway Centre and had a fantastic evening! The award was presented by Warrington Wolves player, Pat Moran. Other special guest's included, Cllr Jean Carter, Dave Thompson MBE and Inspector Hannah Friend. Can I take this opportunity to say a big well done to all music students who took part in the Hate Crime scheme of work and completed to a superb standard of work!



WISE UP!
School Awards

Careers News



The major achievement in careers so far this year was being awarded the National Quality Standard in careers. This recognises the work of the school in providing advice and Guidance to our students. It is valid for 3 years until October 2020.

Last term saw the launch of Career Ready with 7 of our Year 12 students. Career Ready is a mentoring scheme with a business focus, which in our case is logistics. The companies we are linked with are Asda, DHL, Brakes, XPO Logistics, the Hut group, DHL and Manpower. Employees from these companies act as mentors to Year 12 students, and will also provide an internship during the summer holiday. This is a really exciting development and it is fantastic to be working with local employers. The 7 Year 12 students recently went on a visit to the XPO Logistics depot in Woolston where they had a tour and a Masterclass in Effective Communication.

In October, a group of students attended the National Apprenticeship show in Manchester where they had opportunity to meet and get information about local apprenticeship opportunities. There have been talks about apprenticeships in school, and also careers in medicine which was given by a parent, Andrea Airey, which was well attended.

In December, a group of Year 11 students attended Warrington and Vale Royal College for some taster sessions in areas such as Brickwork, Plumbing, Travel, and Childcare. They were able to sample 3 lessons and experience what College life would be like.

As part of the Logistics theme, a team from Manpower delivered an Understanding Logistics workshop to a group of 20 Year 12 students in January. This involved a presentation from Mik Skerrit, and then a problem solving task involving making a boat to transport bars of chocolate which had to stay afloat for 15 seconds-not as easy as it sounds given the limited equipment.

Year 11 have been receiving careers interviews with Jackie Connor, the independent careers adviser, and these will continue next term. Please contact school if you think your son/daughter would benefit from an interview.

In July, I will be running a careers carousel for Year 10 students. If any parents or friends would be prepared to contribute by giving a short presentation about their career path, please contact me at school.

Mrs Anders

Young Engineers 2018

The Young Engineers club continues on a Monday after school, in T3. The Year 7 pupils are now working on their next short practical project involving bench work, machine work and working in the heat treatment room. This will help them develop problem solving skills and team work.



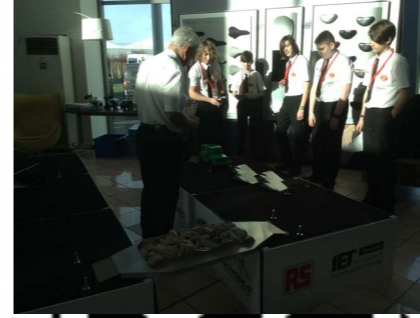
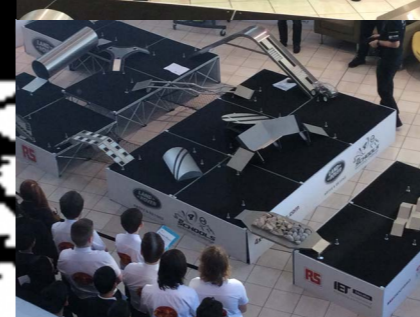
The Year 8 pupils are continuing to work on the rebuild of the electric powered race car. Initial modifications have been discussed and initial ideas have been started.

Following on from their success in the 4x4 in schools technology challenge in January, two of the team are now staying with the club and are developing a plastic recycling project to be used in the D&T department.



RACE FOR THE LINE COMPETITION

This STEM competition for the whole of Year 7 is progressing well. All teams have been involved in designing their car with some teams having completed their cars ready for testing. Other STEM subjects have joined in and are using the project to help deliver topics in their subjects. With race day on 21st March fast approaching every one is working hard, sanding the body to a fine shape and drawing wheels ready for cutting on the laser cutter, to complete their cars ready for race day.



4X4



IN SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 30th January at the Jaguar Landrover Experience centre, Halewood a team of six Year 9 pupils represented Great Sankey High School in the Regional Finals for the 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge.

This is a national competition where teams of pupils have to design, build and drive a scale 4x4 vehicle. Great Sankey put a team together, in the Entry Class level of the competition, in November 2017 and the pupils have been working hard after school in preparation for the race day event.

On arrival at the event the team put up their pit display, showing how the car was designed and built. In the first round of judging, two judges arrive and quiz the team about the work that they have been doing.

After this the team move over, with their car and controller, to the Scrutineering Station. Here the car is checked to make sure that it can take part in the competition and the pupils are quizzed again about the regulations for the competition. Then it is on to the obstacle course, where all of the team have the opportunity to drive the car over a range of "off road" obstacles, against the clock.

Once the car has been driven then the team has to go to the Engineering judges, to explain the engineering side of the design and building of the car. The final task for the team was to give a short presentation to a team of judges and answer a series of questions about their work.

This was a very busy day for the team who worked hard, enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school. The work put in by the team over the preceding months was rewarded when they were crowned winners of these awards:

Best Pit Display

Best Portfolio

Overall Regional Winners of the Entry Class

This is a great achievement and we are really proud of all of the students involved.

Omega Multi-Academy Trust

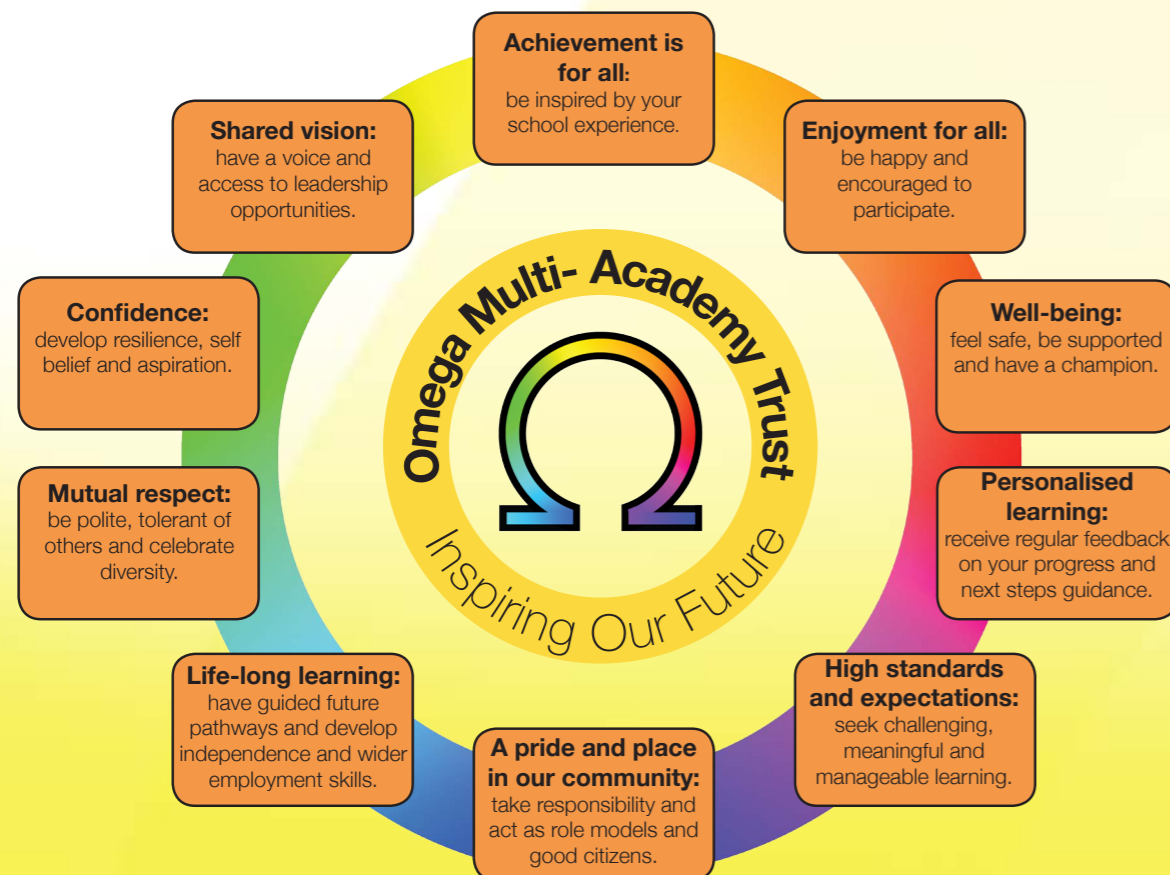
Launch Event

Staff and Student Leaders from Great Sankey High School & Barrow Hall College joined together with staff and Student Leaders from Burtonwood Community Primary, Chapelford Village Primary, Park Road Community Primary and Westbrook Old Hall Primary for the official launch of the Omega Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) at Chapelford Village Primary School on Tuesday 30th January 2018.

It was the first time the students had come together as part of the Omega MAT family of schools and with 77 pupils present, representing all schools and a range of year groups, the Omega MAT values were explored. The students worked in mixed groups and there was such a positive atmosphere as they were discussing ideas and sharing how each of our ten core values are upheld in their individual schools.

Mr Wright, Omega MAT CEO, was impressed by the contributions from all involved and stated that, "The outcome was very powerful, students of all ages agreeing what they wanted the trust to stand for and concluding that the ten chosen values were valued by all."

Executive Student Leaders from each school will be meeting after half term for the first 'Omega MAT Executive Student Council' meeting... Watch this space!



WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

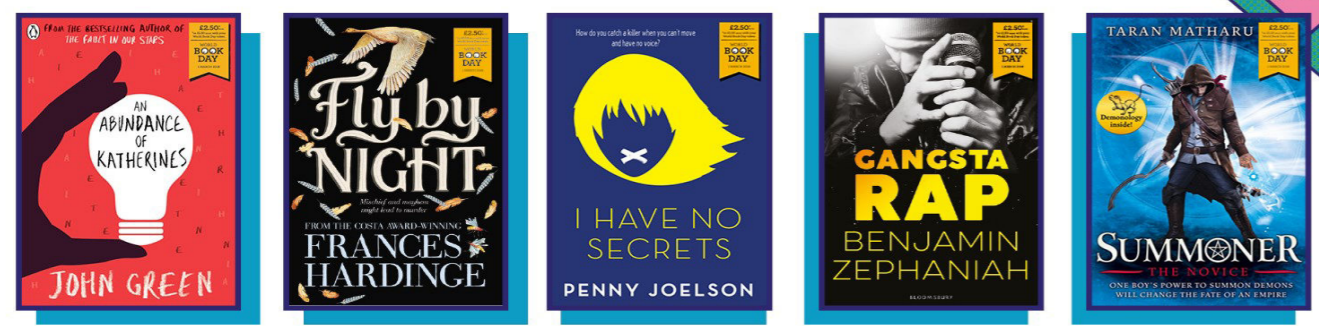
World Book Day

March 1st!

FIVE FANTASTIC FULL-LENGTH BOOKS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ONLY £1.50 WITH YOUR WORLD BOOK DAY TOKEN*



*Special World Book Day editions at participating retailers only

These are some of the £1 books you can use your **WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS** on at book shops before the end of **MARCH!**

Enter a Competition in the LRC!



WICKED YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD

WICKED ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD SPEARHEADED BY MICHAEL MORPURGO

'How to Train Your Dragon' author-illustrator and Head Judge Cressida Cowell said, *I am thrilled to be asked to be Head Judge. It is wonderful to be involved in an award which fires up the imaginations and confidence of these young writers. As an ambassador for the National Literacy Trust, I'm a real advocate of anything that gets young people reading and writing.*

Writing styles can vary from poetry to prose.
No more than 750 words
Young people will be judged according to five age categories:
5-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-17 and 18-25.

A **shortlist of 100 entrants** will be invited to a very special prize event at the Apollo Victoria Theatre in Summer 2018. **All 100 shortlisted entrants** will see their poem or story published in the Wicked Young Writers' Award Anthology.

Winners from each of the four age-categories will be announced and will receive a certificate signed by Michael Morpurgo and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, the Wicked Young Writers' Award Anthology and £50 books/eBooks tokens to spend, as well as £100 worth of books for their school library donated by Hachette Children's Books.

Pick up an entry form at the LRC.
Entries to be given to your English Teacher or Librarian by **March 7th, 2018**



For more information and competition rules visit WickedYoungWriters.com
Official **WICKED** UK website: WickedTheMusical.co.uk

DO SOMETHING BOOKY

Design a Book Token

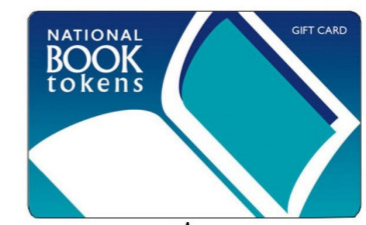
PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE £250 National Book Tokens for the school
£100 in National Book Tokens for the winner the school.

All entries must be on A4 paper, portrait format.

Templates available in the LRC.

Entries must be signed by the Librarian.



Closing Date
Friday 6th April

inspiring choice

WICKED YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD

Huge Congratulations to Andrew Jobling and Ben Mullally in year 10 for making it to the final of the Wicked Young Writer Awards with their stories 'Gaunt' and 'The Journey.'

They have each been invited to the awards ceremony which is taking place on Friday 24th June at the Apollo Theatre in London. Prizes will be presented by the Wicked cast and best-selling author of the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series, Cressida Cowell.

Well done!

For more information visit WickedYoungWriters.com
Official **WICKED** UK website: WickedTheMusical.co.uk

SPORTS news

Cross Country

Great Sankey students were selected to represent Warrington in the Cheshire Schools Cross Country Championships, which were held at Delamere forest. Despite the difficult conditions Great Sankey students achieved several top 20 places. Joe Buckley was 2nd in the Inter boys race and qualifies to run for Cheshire at the English Schools race in March. Molly Wermold came 10th in the minor girls and has been invited to run for Cheshire in an inter counties match v Merseyside. Well done to all those who took part and thank you to the parents and staff who turned out to support the team.



D of E

We are looking forward to beginning expedition training after half term. As a reminder all students should be on track to complete their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections. Looking forward to evidence and assessor reports being uploaded onto **E:DofE**.

Students can access their user names on the **classwork / PE / D of E** folder.



SILVER		Plus an extra 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections if you haven't got Bronze.
Volunteering	6 months	
Physical	one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months	
Skills		
Expedition		3 days 2 nights
		

BRONZE		PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.
Volunteering	3 months	
Physical	3 months	
Skills	3 months	
Expedition		2 days 1 night
		