



GCSE SUCCESS!



There were so many reasons to celebrate when former year 11 students received their GCSE results in August. Their amazing academic achievements placed Prenton High School as one of the BEST non-selective schools in Wirral for progress.

It was fantastic to find out that 72% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and Maths GCSE, which is well above the 2018 national figure of 64%. 85% achieved grades 9-4 in English and we saw an impressive 11% increase in the number of students achieving Grade 5 or above in Maths.

A staggering 100% of students achieved grades 9-4 in Biology and Physics and at least 85% achieved grades 9-4 in GCSE Art, Photography, Spanish and RE. On average, Prenton students achieved a whole grade higher than pupils in other schools with the same KS2 results for Art, Food & Nutrition, English Literature and RE.

Congratulations to all of our GCSE students, who worked really hard to achieve these impressive results. We are extremely proud and wish them lots of luck in their future endeavours!

TRUST | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | KINDNESS | ENDEAVOUR



PRENTON
High School for Girls
Making a Difference

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

Prenton People

Congratulations to:

Mrs Connelly, appointed as Student Services Support

Mrs Haynes, appointed as full-time Librarian

Mrs Rice, appointed as Finance Manager

Mrs Begum appointed as Finance Officer

Mrs Tang, appointed as Educational Visits and Cover Co-ordinator

Welcome to:

Mr Manktelow, Teacher of Maths

Miss Brazil, Teacher of Science

Mr Devling, Teacher of English

Miss Goode, Teacher of English

Miss Walmsley, Teacher of Science

Mrs Davies, School Business Manager

Mrs Gaughan, HR Manager

Mrs Cooper, PA to Headteacher and HR Admin Support

Mrs Gilbert, Student Counsellor

Miss Kelly, Data and Exams Assistant

Mrs Green, Communications Officer

Miss Birss, Admin Assistant

Mrs Vernon-McKay, Management Accountant

Mrs Marshall, Admin Assistant

Au Revoir and Good Luck to:

Mrs Wright, Teaching Assistant

Mrs Larsen, Behaviour and Rewards Manager

Mrs Owen, PA to the Headteacher

Thank you & Happy Retirement to:

Mrs Chatburn, Director of Finance and Operations

Ms McCreadie, Assistant Business Manager

Mrs Jones, Music and R.E. Teacher

GET SOCIAL WITH US



Our Twitter page is a great way of hearing all of our latest updates, announcements and news.

We post regular opportunities, achievements and revision advice on the page along with details of college open evenings, careers events and extra-curricular activities.

You can download the Twitter app onto Apple devices, such as iPads or iPhones,

through the Apple App Store or onto Android devices through the Google Play Store. You can also visit www.twitter.com.

To access our Twitter page, go to www.twitter.com/prentonhigh. If you already have a Twitter account, or if you choose to create one, 'follow' our page to make sure that you don't miss the advice, news and opportunities that we are sharing.

Headlines



As we approach the end of a very busy first term, it is important to reflect on some of the great achievements that have been made across our school in the past few months. The amazing GCSE results announced in the summer were a shining example of students' endeavour to be the best that they can be. Our current year 11 students are now on the same journey having just worked extremely hard on their PPE exams. We hope that the experience has helped with their GCSE preparation and will continue to support and encourage them to achieve their best over the coming months.

Our year 7 students have settled in well and quickly become an important part of our school community. It has been lovely to see them getting involved with different activities and taking advantage of the new, exciting experiences that high school has to offer.

I know that I speak on behalf of everyone who works at our school when I say it has been a privilege seeing our students progress this term. Ensuring that they achieve the very best academic outcomes is one of our top priorities, but equally as important is making sure that they are happy, confident, articulate young people with the other skills necessary to succeed in life.

In this edition of High Life, you will see that students have had a wide range of learning experiences this term. They have engaged in important topics, developed leadership skills, raised money for worthy causes and represented our school at events and competitions. They have stepped out of their comfort zone and we have seen some wonderful examples of young people supporting each other in different ways. It is always rewarding to see students embracing our school values of trust, respect, integrity, kindness and endeavour.

Our recent celebration evenings (please see back page) gave us a chance to recognise students' endeavours and it was a pleasure to welcome back some of our former year 11s to celebrate their personal successes. In addition to our subject awards, we presented special accolades for resilience, making a difference and academic achievement to students who had gone above and beyond in their efforts. We also recognised a number of students for 100% attendance; some of whom had never missed a day of school during their five years of high school education! This is an amazing achievement and was very much reflected in their academic results, which is why we place such importance on good attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, students and their families and our neighbours for your support this term and wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas.



Mrs Lisa Ayling
Headteacher

School Summer Makeover

Students and staff are delighted with the improvements to our school that took place during the summer holidays.

The main hall has been completely transformed with retractable theatre-style staging and seating, state-of-the-art audio-visual technology and professional lighting.

We have a brand new ICT suite meaning that students have even more access to the latest technology and our ICT, Maths and Science classrooms have had new CleverTouch interactive display screens that are helping to better engage students, enhance their learning and energise lessons.

We have also received many compliments about our new eye-catching wall art, which displays our mission and values vibrantly

across the school as well as helpful information to support students' learning. The dining hall, our main entrance and our sports hall are just some of the areas that have been transformed with the new wall vinyls supplied by Inspired Visual.



GREAT TURNOUT FOR OPEN EVENTS

It was wonderful to meet so many families at our autumn open events.

The events were important opportunities for year 6 pupils, parents or carers to meet Prenton staff and students to find out more about how we are collectively making a difference. Our student ambassadors (pictured) did an excellent job of showing people around and highlighting some of the fantastic opportunities that we offer.

There was an abundance of activities taking place ranging from 3D design, creating healthy snacks and butterfly sculptures through to rocket car demos, French and Spanish lessons and animal anatomy. Our 'juicy' ratios smoothie stand in the Maths department was particularly popular along with talks from Headteacher Mrs Ayling, our Head Girl, Lucy and one of our year 7

students, Alex, who made a real impression on our visitors.

The event also featured the premiere of our new school video, which you can see on our website by selecting 'About Us' then choosing 'Watch our School Video' from the dropdown menu.

The Open Evening was followed by a popular Open Morning where parents, carers and prospective students were able to see us in action and get a real feel for what happens on a normal school day.



WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Our Winter Extravaganza was a fabulous evening of entertainment, showcasing some of the best talent in our school.

From engaging musical performances (including surprise appearances from some of our teachers!) through to Prenton Theatre Company's pantomime version of Beauty and the Beast, audiences were treated to a spectacular show, which was full of festive spirit. A winter market gave visitors the chance to buy unique, handmade gifts, many of which had been carefully crafted by our students to support school fundraising efforts. Thank you to all of the students and staff who worked hard extremely hard to make it happen and to everyone who came along to enjoy it.



WEAR IT PINK

Many of us have family, friends and loved ones whose lives have been affected by breast cancer so it was fantastic to support Wear It Pink Day in October.

Staff and students wore pink accessories and took part in a pink tombola, pink-themed games and enjoyed some tasty pink cakes. Over £560 was raised to support this important cause so we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who got involved, particularly our Charity Reps and the year 7 students who made and bought cakes for the stall.

It was also a lovely surprise to see everyone's efforts acknowledged by Breast Cancer Now, the national charity that runs Wear it Pink. They tweeted a personalised video to everyone at our school, which said: "Prenton High, thank you so much for taking part in #WearItPink. The money you raise will help us to fund life-changing breast cancer research and support. We can't thank you enough!"

Well done, everyone!



Student Senior Leadership Team



It has been a productive start to the academic year for our SSLT, who have had a busy term balancing their studies with their school leadership roles.

Head Girl, Lucy delivered two inspiring speeches to large audiences at our Autumn Open Evening and recent KS3 Celebration Evening. She has also been working on new reward postcards, which SSLT will give to students who are shining examples of our school core values of trust, respect, integrity, kindness and endeavour in action. These will be launched in January.

Deputy Head Girl, Amy, has been busy fundraising for numerous charities, some of which are featured in this edition of High Life. She has also raised money for our Learning Resource Base and has been working closely with our Pets as Therapy dog, Minnie (see page 21).

Jess (Deputy Head Girl) and Grace (Assistant Head Girl) have set up a wellbeing drop-in for some of our younger students and Eva (Assistant Head Girl), has been working hard with our school eco-team focusing on reducing single-use plastics within school. Assistant Head Girl, Kira, has supported our Community Champions to create Christmas care boxes for the homeless (see page 23).

Look out for our SSLT's new column starting in the next edition of High Life!

Celebrating Diversity

Our RE Ambassadors did a great job supporting activities for Interfaith Week 2019. The national event encourages people of different backgrounds to learn more about each other, celebrates diversity and helps to develop strong, neighbourly communities.

The week offered students a great opportunity for self-reflection including thinking about their hopes, dreams, ambitions, fears and what they value most. Year 7 enjoyed a range of activities with Wirral Youth for Christ, which included a lesson on Christian festivals including Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Everyone had great fun decorating their human 'Christmas trees' and we would like to say thank you to everyone involved.



A TASTE OF EUROPE!

This year's European Day of Languages saw students across the school getting involved in all sorts of activities.

Students took part in competitions, including building Eiffel Towers from recycled materials and a European quiz, with the aim of encouraging enthusiasm for learning other languages. One of the highlights was the 'Great European Bake Off', which led to some amazing and tasty creations. Congratulations to Ellie in year 7 who was the deserving winner with her "magnifique" French-themed plate.

Students also enjoyed a lunchtime screening of the movie, Coco, in Spanish and were invited to mark the origins of their family on a giant map in the Learning Resource Base. It was fascinating to see the many different countries that our students are connected to. The dining hall also joined in the fun by creating a delicious European-themed menu for the occasion.

The European Day of Languages takes place every year on 26 September and is a great opportunity for us to celebrate the many languages spoken around the world, promote the learning of languages and participate in multilingual events.



Making Every Day Count

Whatever their aspirations, every day in school makes a difference to a student's future, which is why we are backing Wirral Council's #EveryDayCounts initiative.

#EveryDayCounts is about reaching out to parents and families who may be struggling with attendance issues and looking for helpful solutions. The campaign aims to emphasise how missing the odd day adds up and can have a genuine impact on a young person's chances. Evidence shows that good attendance results in good educational achievement in school, but we also know that school is so much more than a formal education; it's also about building friendships, life skills and confidence.

If you are struggling with school attendance, our Attendance Manager, Mrs Thompson is here to support students and their families. If you are

struggling with school attendance, our Attendance Manager, Mrs Thompson is here to support students and their families. If you would like an informal chat about any issues relating to school absences, she can be contacted on either 0151 644 8113 (extension 247), 07500 209 752 or thompsonl@prentonhighschool.co.uk.

Well done to all students in 10H1, 10R1, 11B1 and 11R1 who all achieved a week of 100% attendance at different points during this term. Pictured are year 8 students, Isabelle and Abi, who were recently recognised for their attendance record. Great examples of the #EveryDayCounts message in action!



REMEMBERING OUR ARMED FORCES

11th November marked 100 years since the first two-minute silence was observed on Armistice Day.

In the run up to this significant anniversary, students volunteered to spend part of their break and lunch times selling poppy merchandise to support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Throughout the week, our school assemblies focused on the theme of Remembrance. Mr Major gave an emotive insight into how war affects everyone involved and students took time to reflect on their quality of life and freedom.

At 11am on Armistice Day, Prenton staff and students joined others around the country in a two-minute silence to pay respect to our Armed Forces community, past and present.



Year 9's Polar Adventure



Year 9 students had a great trip to Cammell Laird's Ice World, which was an immersive festival of discovery to celebrate the official

naming of the RRS Sir David Attenborough; Britain's new polar research ship.

The trip included a presentation by the ship's Captain and one of the scientists who would be going on the polar voyage. They talked of the challenges of researching in extreme climates and the importance of this scientific research into climate change.

Following the presentation, students had time to walk round the festival and learn about the different methods and types of research currently taking place. Polar scientists, engineers from the British Antarctic Survey and Cammell Laird's ships crew were also available to answer students' questions. It was an incredibly informative trip, which gave students an exciting glimpse of future careers in science and engineering.

JESSICA'S KIND DONATION

A kind-hearted year 7 student recently had her long hair cut so that she could donate it to the Little Princess Trust.

Jessica, who is in year 7, was proud to support the charity, which provides real-hair wigs to children that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. What a lovely gesture!



@LPTrustUK

Artistic Talent Shines Through

Our students never fail to impress with their artistic talents! These are just a few of the observation and research pages from year 10's Natural Forms project. Students have been using different techniques and experimenting with colour to produce some truly beautiful work.



Kindertransport Project Inspires Students

Year 8 students have gone above and beyond in their efforts to learn about Kindertransport; the organised rescue effort that helped thousands of European children to escape Hitler's reign of terror ahead of World War II.

As part of their English lessons, students were asked to create something to reflect a key theme of Kindertransport. From authentic, historic artefacts of the time through to students' own personal creations, everyone rose to the challenge and shared a range of wonderful submissions with their peers.

Although it saved around 10,000 lives, kindertransport was also an extremely difficult experience for the children who had to leave their family and friends behind.

One of the student contributions that really stood out was Brooke's, which included information obtained from the Imperial War Museum about the items in her box.

With support from her mum, she was also able to make contact with some of the people who were saved by Kindertransport. They provided

moving, first-hand accounts of their experiences and Brooke documented these exchanges for everyone to learn from.

The students' work was of such a high quality that it even captured the attention of the national Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, who acknowledged their efforts on social media. We are so proud of the endeavour and respect that students have shown with this important topic.



Anti-Bullying Week

Respect, integrity and kindness are three of our school values so it was fantastic to see students getting so involved with national Anti-Bullying Week.



This year's theme was 'Change Starts with Us' and all week our assemblies were dedicated to discussing how words and behaviour can impact people. We focused on how together, we can all challenge bullying and make a difference and considered an extract from 'How to be a Champion' by comedienne, Sarah Millican, which illustrated how unkind words and actions leave a lasting impression.

Students and staff wore odd socks with pride to celebrate differences and lunchtime activities included planting seeds of kindness, anti-bullying artwork and a friendship game. A special mention goes to our Peer Mentors, Abby, Olivia and Kiera who gave up their free time during the week and carried out activities with year 7 forms.

Anti-Bullying Competition

Years 7, 8 and 9 IT students took part in a competition to design an anti-bullying poster or storyboard linked to our school core values. Years 7 and 8 submitted some fantastic poster designs and year 9 students showed real creativity with their story developments under the theme of Change Starts with Us, which was a feature of their lessons. Congratulations to our winners Tia in year 9 and Alisha in year 8, who were rewarded with a shopping voucher and well done to runners up Charlotte, Skye, Kaylea and Jenny who all received a chocolate bar.



Law Taster Day

Year 10 students had a great taster day at Liverpool University's School of Law and Social Justice. They had a tour of the campus, lectures in Law, Criminology and Sociology as well as discussions around medical law and age issues.



STUDENTS' WINTER WORKSHOPS

Enterprising Design and Technology students launched their own special workshops



this term and sold some lovely, handmade gifts at our recent Winter Extravaganza. From beautiful wooden Christmas trees to individually designed decorations, their products were extremely popular and will bring a special festive touch to the homes of everyone who bought one.



Students from our enterprise club and eco-team have also been getting creative with last year's Christmas cards. They have embraced the importance of protecting our environment and recycled the cards into new, festive products in time for the holidays. Pictured are Bethany and Olivia making tags.

STEM Bright Futures

A group of year 9 students were delighted to attend the Unilever Bright Futures Programme in Port Sunlight last month. They enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to visit the Unilever Research and Development site for a three-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event for regional schools.

Facilitated by All About STEM, the event invited students to take part in numerous hands-on activities that introduced them to the range of Unilever departments and some of the many processes involved in the making of their products. Unilever employees and STEM Ambassadors hosted various Bright Futures Workshops including digital technology sessions, consumer technical insight, formulation, social media, packaging and recycling, sustainable living and global packaging development.

Following the event, students have been given the opportunity to design their own environmentally friendly/sustainable product and will return for judging in March 2020 at the Unilever Bright Futures Celebration and Awards Day. Well done to everyone involved who showed real enthusiasm and endeavour.

BAY OF NAPLES 2020

Preparations for the bi-annual Humanities trip to the Bay of Naples are nearly complete. There are some amazing experiences planned for students including trekking up one of the world's most famous active volcanoes, Mount Vesuvius and visiting the ancient ruins of Pompeii. They will also travel to the beautiful tourist island of Capri and make pizza in the hills above Sorrento.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH ENDEAVOUR

Our Duke of Edinburgh celebration evening earlier this month saw almost 50 students receiving their Bronze Awards and a further 22 achieving Silver Awards.

This year, we are proud to have a further 50 students undertaking their Bronze Award and an additional 30 taking on their Silver Awards. As part of this, they supported our recent Winter Extravaganza by helping to set up and manage market stalls before the show and during the interval.



PHYSICS OF STAR WARS

Year 9 students had a brilliant day learning science fact or fiction at a physics event dedicated to Star Wars.

Students spent the day at the University of Liverpool where they explored the science behind speeder bikes, proton torpedoes, hologram messages and droids.

With the new Star Wars film hitting the big screens this month, professors at the university used the opportunity to show how discovery science can shape the future. The event introduced cutting-edge science to students using iconic scenes from the movies and real world physics helped to separate possibilities from fiction.

One example used was a scene from the first Star Wars movie where proton torpedoes made the Death Star explode. This helped to illustrate the real-life use of

'proton torpedoes' in cancer therapy. After some fascinating insights from one of the university's Professors, students were given the chance to understand the science behind Star Wars through numerous hands-on activities. This included laser gravity, augmented reality experiments and even a full-scale planetarium which immersed everyone into the world of Star Wars. Through the event, the university hopes to inspire the next wave of scientists and engineers.



GCSE STUDENTS: UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN EVENTS & TASTER DAYS

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Subject taster sessions on various dates in February and March 2020 from 4.30pm – 5.30pm. Find out more and book a place by visiting www.bsfc.ac.uk/tastersessions

Wirral Met College

Open event, 4.30pm – 7pm on Thursday 16 January. Register on the Wirral Met website: www.wmc.ac.uk

Cheshire College South & West

Open evening, 5.30pm – 8pm on Monday 27 January.

TTE Training Limited

Find out about engineering and laboratory operations apprenticeships. 4.30pm – 8.30pm on Thursday 16 January 2020. Booking essential by calling 0151 357 6100.

Reaseheath College

Various course open events and taster days from January. For details of events and to register, visit www.reaseheath.ac.uk/course-open-days

Hugh Baird College

Open events in February and May. Visit the college's website for details and to book a place: www.hughbaird.ac.uk/events

MASTERCLASSES

As we get closer to GCSEs, there are lots of different Masterclasses available for year 11 students.

Our Masterclasses cover a wide range of topics and are a great way of increasing knowledge, preparing for exams and accessing additional teaching on specific subjects.

From informal drop-in sessions to exam techniques and in-depth discussions on different topics, there are also different time slots available, giving students plenty of options about when to attend.

To see the full list of Masterclasses and available dates, please visit our website www.prentonhighschool.co.uk, select 'School Life' from the menu then choose 'Masterclass Booking'. You will then be able to select a class from the drop down menu titled 'Please choose a bookable item'.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR SUMMER 2020

We recently welcomed the team from NCS (National Citizen's Service) who came to tell Year 11 students about their exciting summer programme.

NCS offers young people over 15 a chance to achieve things they never thought possible, while meeting new people and taking on fresh challenges. After getting to know each other through a range of fun and exhilarating activities, students get chance to stay at a university campus where they will get a taste of 'adulthood' learning important life skills such as budgeting and building confidence to make sure that they stand out from the crowd when it comes to applying for jobs and further education.

Armed with new skills, they will then get the chance to use them for good in a local project within their own community. A great opportunity to make a positive difference.

At the end of the programme, students receive a certificate recognising their achievements and get to celebrate all of their wins in style at a party with the rest of their team.

A place on the scheme is worth £1500, however as government funding is available, students will pay no more than £50, which covers accommodation, transport and meals

(during residential weeks) activities and equipment.

This is a fantastic opportunity to spend part of the summer enjoying a fun and rewarding adventure, which will develop great life skills for the future. The experience gained is also a great addition to your CV. If you haven't been able to register, the team will be back early next year to give students another opportunity to get involved. There are lots of dates to choose from, however they are on a first come first served basis and do fill up fast.

You can also call 0800 197 8010 to book a start date or visit www.wearethencs.com to sign up. Students can also join up with their friends and request to be placed on the same teams.

As an added bonus, if at least half of year 11 students sign up by 31 March, NCS have kindly agreed to donate £1000 towards our end of year prom!



What Next?

At the start of term, year 11 students took part in activities to support them in making decisions about their future.

Mock interviews, managing finances, post16 courses & applications, apprenticeships and how to stand out

from the crowd were just some of the topics covered. We will continue to provide opportunities to support students with decisions about what to do after their GCSEs. Follow [@PrentonHigh](https://twitter.com/PrentonHigh) on Twitter for all of the latest news and opportunities.

SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Over the summer, our Art Department invited students to take part in a photography competition.

There were some fantastic entries and we are pleased to share that the winners were as follows:

1st Prize

Menai Bridge by Maddie
(Year 10)

2nd Prize

Greek Cove by Ellie
(Year 10)

3rd Prize

Fairground by Sofia
(Year 10)



Well done to everyone who took part! We look forward to announcing the winner of our Autumn Photography Competition soon.

STUDENTS' LIFE-SAVING SKILLS



Students have been learning essential life-saving skills this term with the British Heart Foundation and St. John's Ambulance. Upon completion they received training certificates for CPR and the recovery position.

Years 7,8 and 9 also covered minor bleeds and bone, muscle and joint injuries. The efforts of our students also got national attention when the British Heart Foundation shared a special tweet recognising those who took part.

A FLAIR FOR DESIGN

Design and Technology students have been working on some great projects this term.

Year 7 have designed wooden 'block bot' characters, inspired by different careers. The project was linked to the CEIAG programme (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) and students were encouraged to think about future pathways by researching the qualifications needed to pursue their chosen career. Pictured is Emily, who was inspired by chef, Gordon Ramsay.

Year 8 created impressive Memphis-style clocks. Founded by an Italian designer in the 1980s, the Memphis Group is famous for its series of bright, colourful and geometric pieces. Pictured are Keeley, Emily, Millie and Yasmin with their clocks.

We have also been impressed by Year 9 students, who have made some stunning mobiles. Their brief was to create a mobile for a baby's nursery or child's bedroom using a variety of colours and textures. Students

used different materials including felt, fabric, plywood, acrylic and MDF and experimented with a range of techniques including hand stitching with laser cut, hand cut and hegner cut shapes.



Future Chefs Cook Up a Storm

Prenton students have been cooking up a storm for the Springboard Future Chef competition.

The Future Chef programme directly supports the food curriculum and offers great opportunities to access industry professionals, develop new skills and learn more about nutrition.

The first round of the competition to win a place in the local school finals resulted in some delicious dishes, but it was Freya and Lucy's chorizo & mozzarella pasta bake and oriental beef noodles that most impressed the judges.

They went on to compete in the next round of the competition and did brilliantly against some tough competition. Although they didn't get through to the regional stage of the competition on this occasion, they received some excellent feedback and really showcased their culinary talents. We are very proud of their achievement!



A WHOLE LOT OF HISTORY

Students studying RE and History enjoyed an educational day in York at the beginning of term. Students immersed themselves in the city's impressive Roman, Viking and Medieval heritage visiting places such as York Minster, the dungeons and the Jorvik Viking Centre. The visit was a valuable experience for everyone involved who learnt a lot about the city's religious and historic significance.



AWARD-WINNING WRITER MEETS PRENTON STUDENTS

Students have enjoyed a series of masterclasses from an award-winning author and screenwriter.

Simon James Green recently visited our school to deliver a series of creative writing workshops, which gave students a humorous insight into his writing career, directing experience and the inspirations behind his work. He also provided some valuable advice to students hoping to pursue careers in writing or performing arts.



Simon, who writes for young adults, also had lunch with a number of lucky students who won a school competition to write a short comedy story or poem. In addition to learning more about Simon and his creative process, they were presented with a signed, limited edition tote bag and bookmark from the author. They also took the opportunity to get a signed copy of his latest novel, 'Alex in Wonderland'.

Commenting on his visit, Simon said: "It was an absolute pleasure to return to this wonderful school, meet such lovely and enthusiastic students and support their love of reading."

Simon read Law at Cambridge, before working on a range of West End shows and UK tours, including the Rocky Horror Show, West Side Story and Rent. Simon's debut novel, 'Noah Can't Even', was published in May 2017, with the sequel, 'Noah Could Never', in June 2018. His latest novel, 'Alex in Wonderland' was published in June.

PRENTON'S PERUVIAN ADVENTURE

A group of Prenton students are laying the foundations for an exciting 4-week expedition to Peru.



We have been working with Camps International (global leaders in ethical and sustainable school expeditions) to give students the chance to spend 4 weeks in Peru during the summer of 2021. Students will work on a variety of meaningful projects as well as undertaking a trek along the Salkantay route to Machu Picchu.

The expedition will be a real and authentic cultural experience for everyone who takes part, which will help to challenge their view of the world through genuine projects that will transform communities.

Camp Peru will help to develop important life skills, cultural understanding and strengthen future university and job applications. The trip will also help to boost students' confidence and increase their appreciation of how they can make a positive difference on the world.

Students are now starting to fundraise to cover the costs of their expedition with the support of school staff and the Camps International team, who are providing encouragement, guidance and ideas to help them achieve their targets. Any donations in support of this fantastic opportunity would be very welcome so if you are able to support students, please email Ms Gore, Subject Leader: PE, at goren@prentonhighschool.co.uk.

CYBER DISCOVERY PROGRAMME

Prenton Cyber Code Breakers enrolled on the government's exciting Cyber Discovery Programme at the beginning of term and have already caught the attention of the initiative's national Twitter account [@CyberDiscUK](https://twitter.com/CyberDiscUK).

The initiative is open to 13 to 19 year olds with the aim of developing skills in Cyber Security.

It is broken into four stages and when students successfully completed the majority of 13 tasks, they progress onto the game. Our code breakers got off to a flying start and by working together have moved onto the second phase. They are aiming to qualify for the 'Elite' fourth phase, which will enable them to take part in cyber camps at various locations around the country.

It is hoped that the programme will encourage a generation of Cyber Security Experts for the future.

The sessions run every Wednesday at 3.30pm in U43 with Mr Simon.



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

This term's E-Safety theme has focused on staying safe on the internet.

Internet Safety has been a key theme in ICT lessons and helpful advice has been displayed in the Learning Resource Base and on our dedicated E-Safety board.

Every month, we publish a monthly Online Safety Newsletter on our website containing lots of advice about gaming, Netflix, social media and more. You can see these by clicking on 'Parents' in the top menu then selecting 'E-Safety'.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Congratulations to Libby and Lilian from year 8 and Chloe from year 7 who have received certificates for completing the Bronze level of the iDEA programme.

The programme helps to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Through a series of online challenges and events, students can win badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry recognised awards that help them to stand out from the crowd.

Students can start working on their badges in year 7 and are required to complete a set number every half term with the aim of qualifying for the Bronze Award by the end of year 9.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

World Mental Health Day was on 10 October and we used the opportunity to promote the importance of being kind to ourselves and each other.

Under the theme of 'Time 2 Talk, Time 2 Listen' students were asked to spend two minutes talking to someone they don't often chat to. They were encouraged to take two minutes to ask two questions and get to know someone a little better.

Throughout the week, students in PE and dance lessons enjoyed mindfulness activities including yoga, pilates and relaxation.

As well as offering our regular lunchtime clubs and activities, we also reminded people about drop-in sessions available to ALL students who need advice, support or just simply some time out (see page 21).

We are also proud to have a number of Student Mental Health Ambassadors, who can be identified by their green ribbon. Isobel and Isabella are two of the people who have volunteered for the role. They said: "We became Mental Health Ambassadors because we think it's important to support people."



Thank you Minnie!

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome a new furry friend into our school community this term.

Minnie is a Pets as Therapy dog who has been visiting us every Friday morning. Her main role is to support literacy by developing students' confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading through the charity's Read2Dogs scheme. However, she also raises lots of smiles, having a positive impact on the wellbeing of everyone she meets.

It can be very daunting to speak in public and research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a PAT Dog enters the group, evidence shows that they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as dogs are non-judgmental.

Many people are naturally comfortable in the presence of dogs and this special relationship is helping to encourage reading in a relaxed environment where a selection of students can sit together with Minnie.

Students have been excited about their reading experiences with Minnie, who was specially assessed to undertake her role. We are so impressed with Minnie's calm and gentle nature and would like to say a big thank you to her owner, Kate, who volunteers time to visit us. Pictured are Minnie, Kate and one of our students, Mimi.

 @ PetsAsTherapyUK



Student Support Sessions

Lunchtime Student Support & Advice		
Mon	1.15pm	Student Support Drop-In (Student Services)
Tues	1.15pm	Counsellor's Office Drop-In & Gardening Club
Weds	12.45pm	Counsellor's Office Drop-In & Health Services Drop-In Room L14
Thurs	12.45pm	Brook Clinic, Counsellor's Office
	1.15pm	Student Support Drop-In & Gardening Club
Fri	1.15pm	Student Support Drop-In (Student Services)

National Award for Prenton High

A national charity has formally recognised Prenton High School for Girls as an 'ADHD Friendly school'.

Presented by the ADHD Foundation, the award highlights the school's commitment to being a safe, nurturing and welcoming place that supports students with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder to reach their academic potential.

Prenton High School received special recognition for its assessment system and the overall quality of special educational needs (SEND) support it provides to students. As well as supporting pupils with self-calming strategies and offering regular opportunities for physical activity during the day, the school also provides regular training for teachers and parents and is continuously developing new learning experiences for students with ADHD.

Head of Learning Support, Helen McGarry said: "We are so proud that our approach has been recognised and will continue to work with the ADHD Foundation to increase awareness and understanding within our school community."



Pictured: Comedian and Patron of the ADHD Foundation, Rory Bremner, with Head of Learning and Support, Mrs McGarry.

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

Jess and Amy from our Student Senior Leadership Team recently hosted a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer



Support. A variety of tasty treats were on offer and they raised over £100 for the charity, which supports people with cancer physically, financially and emotionally.

Supporting Emotional Wellbeing

Students have been benefitting from a range of courses designed to support their emotional wellbeing.

A group of year 8 students have recently completed a six-week course with national charity, Barnado's, which equipped them helpful techniques to better understand their feelings, manage emotions and deal with conflict.

Some of our year 10 students are currently benefitting from The Blues Programme; an internationally-acclaimed blues-busting course for teenagers. Run by Action for Children, the course aims to reduce negative thoughts, promoting self-confidence and self-esteem. They have come up with lots of ideas of how to lift their mood by having more fun and it has been great to see everyone so engaged.

PRENTON PARLIAMENT

Prenton Parliament has had a great start to the year, addressing some of the issues that are most important to our students.

The Learning Resource Base was packed with students attending the meetings to represent their forms and it was inspiring to see so many young people involved with productive discussions about issues including uniform, break time areas, the dining hall and school corridors.

Prenton Parliament is just one of the many leadership and development opportunities that we offer to help our students to foster important life skills that will benefit them once they leave school. It is our main forum for 'student voice' where representatives from all year groups discuss and propose solutions

to items that are raised by students in their form time. Each meeting provides a vital opportunity for providing students with a voice and is attended by a member of SLT to give feedback on any items raised.

Pictured are this year's Co-Chairs, Abbie and Emily, who are doing an outstanding job of managing the meetings.



Supporting others at Christmas

Our year 10 Community Champions, supported by Kira from our Student Senior Leadership Team, have worked on a Christmas in a Box initiative to support homeless people within our community. Each form was asked to donate a box of items for either a man or woman including items such as toiletries, gloves, hats, chocolates and stationery. The boxes are going to various homeless charities for people who are in need. Thank you to Eve, Olivia, Grace, Kira, Abidah and Lois for coordinating the collections and to everyone who kindly contributed.

A big well done also to form 11H2, whose reverse advent calendar meant that they were able to deliver a lovely food hamper to Wirral Foodbank to support people in need over Christmas.

Pictured are Charity Rep, Kira and Form Captain, Emily delivering their kind donation.



Sports Round-Up

PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL GOES GOLD!

We are very proud after achieving the coveted Gold School Games Mark.

Facilitated by the Youth Sports Trust, the award is government-led initiative and recognises our commitment to the development of competition during 2018/19 academic year. To achieve the Gold accolade, we had to meet the highest standards for criteria including participation, competition, workforce and clubs.

Ms Gore, Subject Leader for PE and Dance at Prenton High School said: "We are over the moon that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded with the Gold School Games Mark.

"We are really proud to offer our students over 16 different sports alongside opportunities to develop important life skills through our Find my Tribe,

Sports Leaders and Dance Leaders UK schemes.

"During the last academic year, 393 of our students took part in extra-curricular PE each week and we entered 73 teams into over 230 matches against other schools in nine different sports. It is fantastic to see so many young people getting involved in all aspects of school sport and this achievement is testament to their dedication."

The awards panel praised our strong links with external sports clubs, including Wirral volleyball club and Liverpool Football Club Foundation and how we engage parents and the local community in school games. Assessors also highlighted the wide range of sports available at our school and the impressive number of students involved with extra-curricular sports activities.



SPORTS LEADERS

Last year, 21 students completed their Level 1&2 Sports Leaders Awards and many more are now working towards the qualification.



The Sports Leaders Programme uses sport and physical activity to help young people develop and hone their leadership skills, while also helping themselves and others stay physically active. Students get the chance to plan, lead and evaluate sports activity sessions over a number of tutored hours and then demonstrate their leadership skills as part of an assessment.

Our Sports Leaders recently hosted visiting schools for the Development Sports Hall Athletics Competition and received outstanding feedback for how they ran the event. Well done to everyone involved for leaving such a lasting impression on our visitors! Pictured are some of our Year 11 Sports Leaders who also received their Boccia Skills Awards this term. Boccia is a target ball sport which tests both muscle control and accuracy.

Success at Wirral Sports Awards



It was a successful evening for Prenton at the annual Wirral Sports Awards, which celebrated exceptional sporting talent across the borough.

We were extremely proud of Cora (pictured), who fought off strong competition to win the Young Sports Volunteer of the Year award. The awards also brought some well-deserved recognition to our U15 Volleyball team, who were announced as runners-up in the Girls Team of the Year category.

STUDENTS GET RAVIN' FIT

PE and Dance students had a brilliant time taking part in a Ravin' Fit session with Radio City DJ, Lee Butler.

The exercise session included a full stage show with the biggest club anthems, a pumping sound system, lights and effects for a fun fitness experience. Students pushed themselves through a tough 60-minute workout and really enjoyed themselves.



IN BRIEF

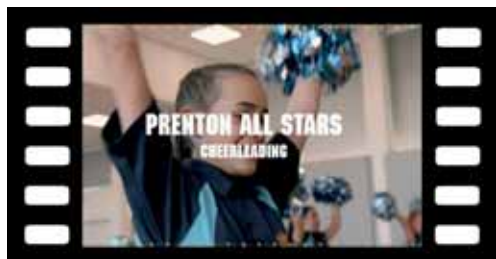
We are proud to offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs for our students. Between them, these year 9 students have recently attended over 100! Well done!



Our Year 10 and 11 netball team have had a brilliant start to the season and at the time of going to press, were second in their division of the Birkenhead Women's League. This is a great achievement and a direct result of their hard work, dedication and strong team spirit.

Performing Arts and Dance students went to see the Nutcracker at the Liverpool Empire recently. They had a wonderful time and were delighted to receive a personal message from the English National Ballet wishing them a wonderful show.

Well done to our Prenton All Stars Cheerleaders who were featured in a fabulous film after winning the Liverpool One Summer of Champions Competition. They have been awarded £1k funding for new kits and we can't wait to see them perform in them!



The LFC Foundation kindly rewarded our students with 100 tickets to watch Liverpool Women play Everton Women earlier this month. It was a great surprise to receive a personal message from Manager, Vicky Jepson, who also tweeted "Well done for all of your hard work!"



Our partnership with Caldy Rugby Club continues to bring lots of opportunities to Prenton students. Years 7 and 8 have recently undertaken some great training sessions with the club, which were great fun for everyone involved.



Our GCSE climbing group are making brilliant progress. They have been mastering some difficult skills such as belaying, which means controlling the safety rope whilst another climber climbs and navigating overhangs.



Well done to our under 16 Volleyball team who recently travelled to Leeds to compete in the Volleyball England U16 National Championships. They were the only school team taking part against other volleyball clubs and despite losing their match by 2 points, they did themselves proud.

SCHOOL DIARY 2020

Spring Term 2020

School opens
School closes

Monday 6 January
Friday 14 February

Half term holiday

Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

School opens
School closes

Monday 24 February
Friday 3 April

Spring holiday

Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April

Summer Term 2020

School opens

Monday 20 April

Bank Holiday

Friday 8 May

School closes

Friday 22 May

Half term

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

School opens
School closes

Monday 1 June
Friday 17 July at 1pm



Some dates may be subject to change – please keep in touch via our website: www.prentonhighschool.co.uk and twitter: [@prentonhigh](https://twitter.com/prentonhigh)

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

We recently hosted two special awards evenings to recognise all of the students who went above and beyond during the last academic year.

First was our year 7, 8 and 9 Celebration Evening. After a warm welcome from Headteacher, Mrs Ayling, students and their families listened to a wonderful speech from Head Girl, Lucy who shared her thoughts on making the most of the opportunities that school offers.

The event recognised students for every subject area who teachers felt had demonstrated a consistently positive attitude to learning in 2018/19.

This was followed by our GCSE Awards Evening where our current year 11 were joined by former students who returned to celebrate their success with their families. Mrs Davies shared her inspiring journey of being a Prenton student and how ten years after leaving, a passion for teaching led her

back to our school as an English Teacher and Assistant Progress Leader. The following special awards were presented at both events:

- The Prenton Theatre Company Awards
- The LRB Recognition Awards
- The Governor's Awards for Making a Difference
- The Bethany Bush and Lyndsey Batey Awards for Resilience
- The Headteacher's Awards for Academic Excellence

In addition, 14 students across both events were rewarded for achieving 100% attendance. A special mention goes to former students Charlotte, Esme, Jady, Hannah, Laura, Ellen and Madaleine who never had a day off during their five years at Prenton.

Well done to all of the deserving winners! If you would like a copy of any photographs taken on the evening, please email Mrs Green greenk@prentonhighschool.co.uk.

