

Part 2 – Highlights from the Spring Term

Humanities

Holocaust Memorial Day January 2023

14 pupils in Year 8 participated in activities at Chester Cathedral to commemorate this year's event. These events at the Cathedral are a really engaging way to introduce Year 8 pupils to a topic they will be studying in Year 9 in significant depth. Last year pupils listened to the story of Holocaust survivor Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, but this year we were incredibly lucky to meet Lady Milena in person and ask her questions about her experience. Her father escaped Czechoslovakia the day before the occupation of the country by the Nazis because he was both Jewish, and a supporter of a prominent anti-Nazi author, however he left his wife and children behind. When she was nine years old, Lady Milena and her younger sister Eva were able to leave Prague on a special train, arranged by Nicholas Winton (who saved 669 children in this way). Lady Milena and her sister were cared for by a local family until their mother was able to arrive one year later, having escaped via Norway. The family were thus all reunited. The activities which followed the talk and Q&A session after lunch were designed to complement the knowledge they gained from the presentation, through an exploration of art and poetry. Staff at the Cathedral were, yet again, extremely complimentary about all our pupils and how well they listened, reflected and conducted themselves throughout the day.

Latin club

The group of 6 pupils from Year 7 and 8 continue to impress Mrs Owens and Mr Lacey with the increasing range of Latin vocabulary they are able to recall. We have been focusing on the daily life of Caecilius and, through his stories, we have been able to recognise just how much of our daily language is Latin in origin. It is really encouraging to see these pupils choosing to attend regular extra-curricular lessons after school on a Friday. They agree it will help them stand out when applying for college and university in the future and recognise it is a challenging subject, but absolutely fascinating.

Upcoming events

Two Geography field trips, to allow pupils to complete quantitative and qualitative surveys linked to the requirements of the fieldwork element of the GCSE exam in the summer, are provisionally booked for the week after we return from the Easter break. Pupils will benefit from seeing the practical application of data analysis in a real life situation.

Curriculum+

Curriculum+ students engaging in external provision provided by Roger and the Route Five Pursuits team. The students engage in practical activities working towards their John Muir Award. The group have visited Delamere Forrest, Loggerheads, Moel Famau, Snowdonia, Llandudno and indoor rock climbing.



PE department

PE department is proud of the extensive extra-curricular clubs, enrichment and fixtures delivered throughout the spring term. Since November, students in KS3 and KS4 have the opportunity to attend Volleyball, Climbing, Netball, Badminton, Football, Basketball and Dance clubs delivered by a range of staff from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Alongside our clubs, PE deliver a range of sporting opportunities against schools within the District, County and Nationally:

Football

Year 7 Boys reached the Chester & District Cup Final after an impressive 3-0 win against Upton High School in Quarter Final (Zak Jackson x 2 and Mason Ravenscroft) they beat Catholic High School 4-0 in the semi-final (Mason Ravenscroft, Myles McElmeel, Zak Jackson, Henley Garland) and now play Christleton High School the cup final late March. The team beat Bishops in an 11v11 friendly 1-0 with Henley Garland scoring the winner. Mr Forbes team narrowly missed out on the semi-final by goal difference in the recent 7 aside competition.

Year 8 Boys lost 3-0 to Upton High School in the Chester Cup Quarter Final and 3-2 (Jake Jones, Jake Rogers) against Bishops Heber in a friendly.

Year 9 Boys beat Wade Deacon 3-1 (Chao x 2, Cooney) round 2, Heath School 3-1 (Chaos, Ball and Rigby) in Cheshire Cup round 3 but lost 4-0 to Christleton High School in Cheshire Cup Quarter Final. Year 9 boys beat Upton 3-1 (Denis x 2 and Jake Cooney) in the Chester Cup Quarter Final and play Tarporley in the semi-final March 6th with the hope to join year 7 in the cup final.

Year 9 B Boys football team won the 9B tournament final 5-2 against Queens Park high School (Mo, Aidan, Ashton, Lennon and Shay) but also lost 2-0 against Bishops Heber in a friendly with Lucas Shell and Lucas Hughes impressing in defence.

Year 10 Boys beat Bishops Heber 5-1, Charlie Keay scored 3, Reeman Saith and Joe Jones amongst the goals in friendly win.

Year 11 Boys football team lost 2-1 (Tyler Burgess) against Kings Warrington Academy in last 32 of ESFA National Cup. They also lost 11-0 to Christleton High School in the Chester Cup Quarter Final.

Year 9/10 Girls beat Catholic High 2-1 (Kayla Breeze and Mollie O Hanlon) in Round 1 of the Chester & District Cup but lost 4-0 in the Quarter Final against a strong Tarporley High School.

Netball

Year 7 Girls came 4th in the u12 Chester & District Plate competition. Against Catholic High, Queens Park and Bishops, the year 8 team won 2 matches and the year 7 team won 1 match. Players of the match for year 8 were Ellie Green and Edie Byrne, year 7 were Lois Marshall and Sofia Dee-Mcquillan. Year 10 played Small School league games against the same schools, winning 1 game with Maya Johnson player of the match.

Sports Hall Athletics

Year 8 Boys and Girls both came 7th out of 10 schools at the Chester and District sports hall athletics competition. Year 7 Girls finished 5th but Year 7 Boys are our schools 1st ever Chester and District year 7 champions and represent Chester in the County games in March.

Basketball

Year 7 Boys are Chester & District Basketball Champions after winning all 4 games against Queens Park, Bishops Bluecoat, Upton High School and Bishops Bluecoat. Alfie Scott and Lucas Mackay star performers in excellent squad effort. The year 7 team also won 35-2 against Catholic High in a friendly thanks to a 20 point haul by Lucas Mackay.

Year 7/8 Boys Basketball team won 20-12 against Bishops Bluecoat, Jamal Lemaitre scoring 8 points and defensively played well.

Year 8/9 Boys came 3rd in the Chester and District Basketball League. We lost 13-24 to Kings (Tomi Oni scored 8 points) but beat Catholic High 36-16 with Richard Uwalaka scoring 10 points. The team also beat Queens Park High School 10-4 (Tomi Oni scored 8 points).

The year 10/11 Boys Basketball team finished 3rd overall after impressive win 44-16 against Catholic High, George Scott sunk 21 points. They also beat Bishops 35-24 with Jake Graves scoring 14 points. We lost 30-28 in an incredibly close game against Kings High School which was our best performance of the season.

Volleyball

Year 11 Boys are Chester and District champions beating Catholic High 6 times with excellent 3 touch volleyball.

Table Tennis

The u13 boys finished runners up in the Chester and district tournament. We won all of our games against Catholic High but narrowly lost out to winners Kings but the year 7's Stanley and Jake displayed excellent attitudes.

Badminton

U14 boys' team came 3rd at the Chester and District tournament in doubles matches with Theo Robinson and Lennon Smith impressing. We lost to an impressive Kings and Bishops but won our matches against Upton High School.

Dodgeball

Year 8/9 Boys came 2nd in the Chester and District tournament, losing out to a well-coordinated Abbey gate team. Roan Emnes and Mason Artell with amazing catches.

Climbing

Mr Carr runs a Key Stage 3 climbing club every Friday evening which is popular with our younger students.

Dance

Year 9 Girls performed there AQA GCSE Dance practical moderation worth 40% of overall grade.

Rage Fitness Company

Year 11 Girls continue to attend the Rage Fitness Wellbeing Youth Provision programme every Thursday period 5 from January to February during Year 11 y band core PE. We transport the students every Thursday to take part in practical mental well- being workshops led by the personal trainers.

Blacon Sports Village Sports

Excellent BEV year 3 and year 4 dodgeball competition refereed by year 10 and 11 leaders. Year 4 winners were JH Godwin and year 3 winners were Highfield Primary. The year 5 & 6 Sports Hall athletics umpired by our year 11 leaders carrying out running, jumping and throwing events. The winners were Highfield. Dee point won the Year 5/6 Aaron Aldom Trophy basketball tournament





Chester School Sport Partnership

School Games Organisers Claire Smedley and Elizabeth Newstead are based at Blacon High School which is the host site of Chester School Sport Partnership and they organise events and initiatives which are part of the Youth Sport Trust School Games Programme, funded through Sport England.

Membership

We have had 37 schools (primary and special) join the Chester School Sport Partnership this year where we deliver programmes which are not part of the national remit.

Competitions

County wide this year, competitions this year have been split into three categories. This is to help to provide opportunities for all children to take part and enjoy sporting events.

1. Celebrate for children who are new to the sport and / or the least active.
2. Aspire for children who are not very competitive but like taking part in sport.
3. Inspire for children who are sporty and competitive.

Year 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition (Inspire category event)

17th and 18th January at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. Involving 26 schools and 406 pupils from primary schools across Chester. Saughall Primary School were the overall winners and St Martin's Academy were the small schools winners both going on to represent Chester Schools at the County Finals in March.



Year 5 and 6 High 5 Netball Competition (Inspire category event)

8th February at Blacon High School, involving 16 schools and 140 pupils. We also had 8 BHS leaders who umpired the matches and were highly commended by teachers from other schools. They commented on their confidence and aptitude towards to primary school children whilst umpiring the matches. Belgrave primary school were overall winners who will go on to represent Chester Schools at the County Finals in March.



Years 3 and 4 Bee Netball Festival (Aspire category event)

This took place on the 9th February at Blacon High School, involving 11 schools and 46 pupils. This event is a festival where pupils rotate around a carousel of skills stations to improve their catching, throwing and movement skills. This event is aimed at children who are not very competitive and do not play for a netball club outside of school.



New Age Kurling and Boccia County Finals (Celebrate category event)

20th January and 10th February were the county finals for the above events, this competition is for pupils with additional needs. Chester Blue Coat, Tarvin and Dorin Park were our representative schools at this event. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and it is great to see pupils from all schools and all abilities have the opportunity to take part in a county final and represent their school.



Key Steps Gym 3/4 and 5/6 (Inspire and Aspire category events)

On Thursday 16th February Ellesmere Port Gymnastics Club hosted the Year 3&4 and 5&6 Key Steps Gymnastics competitions. Here the children take part as a team in the Aspire event for those who do not belong to a club. The club gymnastics take part as individuals with the top three going to the county finals. We had 7 school teams taking part involving 40 children. Representing Chester at the Cheshire and Warrington School Games County final we will have children from Mickle Trafford, Mill View and Oldfield Primary Schools.



Sports Ambassador Training

On Wednesday 25th January Chester City Football Club's King George v Sports Hub was the host site for the primary school Sports Ambassador training. Here the children learnt about the role of a Sports Ambassador and what they can do back in their schools.

They were tasked with setting up a School Sport Organising Crew, organising a level 1 intra school competition and also helping with the sports notice board.

We had 36 children from 18 primary schools in attendance.



Primary FA Course

On Tuesday 7th February, we organised the FA Primary Teacher CPD course at Northgate Arena in Chester. We had 22 primary school teachers in attendance from across Chester and Ellesmere Port.

The course provided an introduction to the skills, knowledge and understanding required to plan and deliver high quality KS1 / KS2 Physical Education lessons. The course also demonstrated how the vehicle of football can be utilised to deliver certain aspects of the National Curriculum.



County School Games Organisers – Successful Bid.

As a county group of School Games Organisers we were successful in a bid from Active Cheshire to run an activity day in Warrington for children from the Hong Kong Community. Here the children rotated around a series of sports stations (boxing, badminton, tennis, table tennis, football, golf, climbing) which were run by the local sports clubs. The aim of the session was to help the children to integrate into the community and provide a pathway to local sports clubs.

The session in Warrington was used as a pilot to see whether the model could be replicated across other communities across Cheshire (e.g. people from Ukraine, Afghanistan).

The pilot will be evaluated in April where they may be potential for further applications.



Swimming Teacher Qualifications

We have worked with a local company to offer swimming teacher qualification courses to the schools in our area. We have offered a Support Teacher Course for those who are assisting in swimming lessons and also the Teacher course. The Teacher of School Swimming (Key Stages 1 and 2) is part of the Swim England National Curriculum Training Programme (NCTP). Once completed, the teachers will be equipped to plan and evaluate session plans in line with the national curriculum, and teach school swimming independently.

‘Unleash Your Drive’ - Mental health programme at Blacon High School

Chester SSP have been successful in applying for funding to run a programme at Blacon High School to improve pupil's mental health.

‘Unleash Your Drive’ is a golf-based life skills programme that provides the opportunity for pupils to develop golf skills and life skills through golf. The programme develops mental toughness which is closely linked to character, resilience, grit and perseverance. The unique factor about the Unleash Your Drive programme is that mental toughness levels can be measured at the start of the programme, improved on through a 6–10-week course of lessons, with a measuring / impact report produced at the end. We are looking forward to seeing how this works with a targeted group in the hope of rolling in out across the whole school.

Nominated for LTA award - 300 attendees at Chester Racecourse

Chester SSP have been nominated for an award from the Cheshire LTA (Cheshire Lawn Tennis Association). The awards ceremony is on Monday 6th March at Chester Racecourse and we will let you know how we get on!

MFL – Modern Foreign Languages

Last half term, we had our first of two visits this year from the highly sought-after, foreign language theatre company, Onatti Productions (Warwick).

The actors cleverly delivered a 50-minute play entirely in French to all Y8 pupils and Y10 GCSE French. The play, 'La Maison Hantée', told the story of two backpackers arriving at a deserted house, where all was not what it seemed! Our students (and non-language staff!), thoroughly enjoyed the comical production and everyone demonstrated great resilience and respect in remaining focused throughout the performance. It was a fantastic and unfamiliar experience for our students. Engagement was excellent and their feedback has been nothing but positive. We definitely plan to make this an annual LOTC experience!

For now, we are very much looking forward to our second visit from Onatti Productions in June, when they will deliver a production in Spanish to Y7, Y9 and Y11 students.



Science

This half term pupils in year 7 have been studying Cells, substances and mixtures and Forces. Whilst year 8 have been studying forces and pressure, plants and the periodic table. Both these years have been taking part in a sustainability workshop with Chester Zoo and year 7 will be having a final workshop on Fri 17th Feb with a LOTC opportunity on a free trip to Chester Zoo.

Year 9 have completing their final Bridging unit of Physics where they have completed practicals on speed of cars and forces acting on parachutes. They will this half term be transitioning onto the AQA Trilogy Combined Science course. 9x1 have also had a careers talk from a local pharmacist. ANF has also been preparing for offering a new course in Sept 23, BTEC in small animal management.

Year 10 have started studying unit 2s topics including Homeostasis, rates of reaction and forces in action and motion.

Year 11 have been preparing for unit 1 mocks after February half term and recapping required practicals with P6 starting week 2 Mon after school. Form interventions have also started during the 30min form time in the middle of the day. Pupils have been grouped by data and are receiving bespoke intervention sessions delivered by Heads of English, Maths and Science, so 3 sessions a week.

The whole science department have also been preparing for British Science week starting March 10th with a small trip to Chester Zoo with 15 year 9 pupils.

STEM club having been completing practicals and studying the science behind static electricity, making circuits with playdoh, Chromatography (see photos) and investigating resistance and basic engineering.

Chester Zoo Sustainability Workshop

All students in year 7 and 8 had the fantastic opportunity to take part in three workshops with Chester Zoo. These workshops were focused around the very relevant topics of climate change and sustainability. Educational staff from the zoo visited the school during some of their science lessons, providing the students with activities and games to help them think about the impact of humans on the environment, and how we can be sustainable every day. Year 7 have then had the amazing opportunity to visit the zoo fully funded and attended a fourth workshop. All students involved will also be receiving a free family ticket next term, to visit the zoo in their own time and spread the message about sustainability to their families. The students have really enjoyed this experience of learning outside the classroom, and we really look forward to working with Chester Zoo again in the future.



Science Club

December 2022. Key Stage 3 Science club used chromatography to separate the components used in different ink mixtures. They used their "Snowflake Chromatography" to make Christmas cards, lots of which they sent to their teachers.



English

Over the last half-term, KS3 English students have been studying our favourite: William Shakespeare. Following on from studying his life, works and society at the time, Yr7 commenced their studies of *The Tempest*, and Yr8 commenced their studies of *Richard III*. Our aim for all students is to have studied a History, Tragedy, and Comedy from The Bard during their time at Blacon High School. Students have enjoyed acting out the key scenes from the plays via a 'Whoosh' and have then gone on to study Shakespeare's language in more depth, analysing the key themes and characters in the plays.

In addition to their studies, KS3 students recently enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. Miss Illingworth planned lessons which focused on Equality and Diversity, and students took a break from their



Shakespeare studies to be immersed into *Wonder* and *Noughts and Crosses*. They also had the opportunity to create their own bookmark – see the images attached.

Year 9 students have been studying *An Inspector Calls*. We are really looking forward to our upcoming trip to Liverpool (thanks to Mrs Gibson-Tipping for arranging this!) to see the sold-out stage adaptation of this eerie drama which makes us question our role within society, and responsibility in the ways in which we treat others.



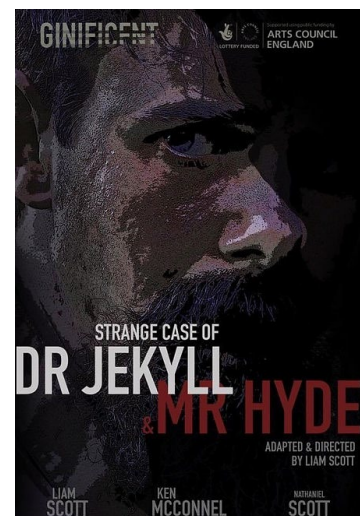
As well as studying *An Inspector Calls*, Year 9 students have been treated to a two week mini Scheme of Work focusing on Media Studies. Students will be selecting their options for GCSE very soon, and in order to ensure that they can make an informed decision, Mr Colwell planned a short unit focusing on Media Representation and superhero films. Students were encouraged to question the different types of characters represented in typical superhero films, and

consider why we don't see many superheroes who are disabled, LGBTQIA+ or from different countries or backgrounds. From this, Year 9 have been able to decide whether Media Studies is the right GCSE option for them.

We were thrilled to see the fantastic turn-out for the recent Year 9 Options Evening where students and their families attended to find out more information about English Literature and Language GCSE, and Media Studies. We are continuing to actively discuss students' options with them, and we look forward to considering how options can impact on future pathways even further in the week commencing 6th March. We will be identifying the careers represented by different characters in our texts, as well as finding out which careers English can lead to.

Year 10 students have immersed themselves into Victorian England with their studies of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. This Gothic thriller has kept us guessing until the very end, and allowed students to question the morals and ethics behind science experiments. We have recently purchased a package from a theatre company who have created a film adaptation of Stevenson's shilling shocker, and we are hoping to invite the stars of the film into school very soon to perform in our own very own hall.

Year 11 students continue to prepare for their English Literature and Language GCSEs and have been demonstrating their skills in regular 'Monday Mocks'. As well as this, they have been recording their Speaking and Listening presentations. Miss McFetridge is proud to say that the students have chosen to present on some of the most unique and engaging topics ever selected for speaking and listening in the history of Blacon High School. Examples include: links



between Alzheimer's and sport, the impact of upbringing on the actions of serial killers and the role of the Queen in the Aberfan disaster.

Finally, we have once again had students' work published in the Young Writers competition. The competition focus was 'Integer' – students had to combine their knowledge of numbers and English and write a 100 word story which revolved around a number. Miss Perrett was delighted to say that her class had the most published pieces – congratulations!

Overall, the English Department are extremely proud of all students for their continued work towards English Language and Literature; we look forward to developing our students' curriculum and opportunities outside of the classroom even further next half-term.

Maths

Year 7

This half term Year 7 have been looking to build on skills learnt at primary school but with a strong focus on problem solving. They have taken skills on the four operations and applied them to geometry, shape and data questions. Focussing on these number based topics applied to a variety of different areas will give these students strong foundations to build on over the next five years of learning.

Year 8

So far this term Year 8 have been covering Algebra in the form of Brackets, equations and inequalities, sequences and indices. This work builds on the algebra topics covered in the autumn term of year 7. The spiralling curriculum allows students to revisit and build on topics ensuring they are committed to their long term memory.

Year 9

Year 9 have been working on Maths and Money topics, investigating real life maths considerations such as VAT and types of Interest banks offer. This is one of the easiest topics to discuss in real life terms and this year group have been learning lessons on savings, wages and expenses which will support them in their life after Blacon High School.

Year 10

Year 10 have been covering geometry topics including angles and bearings, circles and vectors. Geometry topics make up 12-18% of the GCSE specification so they are crucial topics. During the rest of the Spring term students will look at ratio and fractions, percentage and interest and probability. These topics will be revisited next year before the examinations, the aim now is to provide a solid understanding to build on.

Year 11

Year 11 have been covering a wide range of topics this half term which varies from class to class. At this stage of the year staff are using the scheme of work more loosely as we have completed many

mock exam papers giving staff the data to inform bespoke learning for their groups. We have created intervention groups for our higher tier students aiming to secure grade 5's and our foundation students aiming for grade 5's and 4's during PSHE lessons. Period 6 sessions have been running as they have been all year for students who wish to gain an extra advantage. Year 11 students have also been completing regular "Monday Mocks" which have been invaluable in terms of exam preparation and informing lesson planning moving forward.

We will look to build on the work happening in classrooms with more learning outside the classroom/trips over the rest of the year.

Performing Arts

School Performance - Annie

Mrs Salisbury is proud to announce that this year's whole school musical will be a production of Annie Jr. Drama Club have been exploring musical theatre skills through weekly workshops, developing characterisation, vocal and movement techniques and rehearsal discipline. Auditions were held in the Studio on Monday 6th March and the ensemble will rehearse in Drama Club every Monday and in Choir every Wednesday. The performance will take place at Storyhouse in the Garrett Theatre on Wednesday 19th July. We are very excited to showcase the talents of our young people.

Year 9 homework project

Students were set the task of taking on the role of a theatre set designer and creating a set for the play DNA, by Dennis Kelly. The play is set in the woods outside a town. Students were invited to use recyclable materials and natural products in their work. They had explored the role of a set designer, and had looked at a range of designers' work. They designed sets which could be used for different stage configurations, for example end-on, theatre in the round and traverse. Some of the designs were displayed in the Studio at Year 9 Options Evening.



Student Parliament



Mr Stockdale has been liaising with the Children's Commission since the Autumn term, initially, as it offered the opportunity for members of our Student Parliament to join regional and national meetings remotely in order to discuss common issues that affect many teenagers in education.

As a result of this work, we were selected to contribute to a United Nations Conference for the Rights of the Child. This particular conference only happens once every five years and, as mentioned previously in my presentation at the last governors' meeting, three students from the Student Leadership Team were working directly with the Children's Commission and preparing to present at this conference.

Students generated a well-researched presentation on 'Gender Inequality in the Workplace' and considered what practical steps we could employ in educational settings to improve this situation in the future. The three students involved delivered the presentation, remotely, to the UN conference in Geneva, which was attended by representatives of School Councils from the international community; this was something of a coup for our students and for the school. After the presentations from all the international student representatives had been delivered, there was a Q and A session.

Following this experience, the Children's' Commissioner has asked that we feed back the experience to other representatives at the next national meeting.

International links



Following receipt of an invitation from the Vasil Levsky High School, our twinned school in Karlovo, Bulgaria, STO communicated details of the proposed exchange trip and invited those who may be interested along to an information evening.

The programme was necessarily paused in response to the impact of Covid, and this is the first time that the trip will have gone ahead since June 2019. However, Mr Stockdale has been in continuous contact and has maintained effective links with his colleagues in the Vasil Levsky High School in the interim period. This will be the fourth time that we have engaged in this student exchange.

This initial process has now been completed and seven students are confirmed for the exchange, with a possible eighth waiting to hear; this will depend on whether the school in Karlovo can accommodate an extra student. STO is about to book flights for the trip, which is scheduled to depart on Thursday 22nd June and return on Tuesday 27th.

Yet again, the kind offer to host students from Blacon High School represents a fantastic opportunity and we look forward to enhancing the cultural capital of our students while developing new and, hopefully, long lasting friendships. I look forward to sharing the learning from this year's exchange trip in due course. Our twinned logo has been updated to reflect Blacon High school's new branding.

Music

We are currently running a new KS4 course, BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice for the first time in Year 10, due to the legacy BTEC First Award removed from league tables, year 11 are the final year to complete the BTEC First Award in music. Year 10 pupils are currently completing Component 1 of the new BTEC Tech Award, where they have to research musical styles and create music products.

They are currently composing outstanding film music scores for a Haunted House extract, using Minimalist music features.

KS3 classes are also enjoying composition projects; Year 8 are currently working on a film music topic, composing scores for moving images. Year 9 are composing conjunct and disjunct leitmotif melodies for a Video/Computer game character.

Extra-Curricular

We have several successful extra-curricular activities and clubs in the music department (new year 7 pupils have joined the existing School Band and Choir) with the addition of new clubs (Flute Choir and Guitar Club - see photos) and the addition of Flute, Piano and Singing peripatetic lessons (joining the Woodwind, Brass, Guitar and Drum lessons already available). The School Choir are working with Drama Club to prepare for the whole school musical Annie, which is due to be performed at The Storyhouse in July, they are sounding fantastic!

Primary School Provision

Miss Mchale and Miss Jones are delivering successful Music Curriculum lessons for KS1 and KS2, at 3 of our 5 feeder Primary schools (Highfield, Deepoint and JH Godwin). Delivering Music curriculum lessons for whole classes using Charanga, and either whole school singing assemblies or leading the school choir.

Throughout Spring 1 at Highfield with Miss Mchale, the year 5 pupils continued with their instrumental tuition; every child playing either a woodwind or brass instrument as an ensemble. Several pupils have asked to continue during their break time for the remainder of the year to continue developing their skills.

Deepoint Choir are performing in the musical, Peter Pan, at The Storyhouse on Friday 24th March. MCE has prepared them for this performance working with MAPA Performing Arts School.

Miss Jones is delivering successful whole school singing assemblies at JH Godwin and curriculum lessons every Friday morning.

Several staff in the primary schools have asked to observe our teaching, to support their own CPD when delivering KS1 and KS2 music lessons.

Chester Schools Together

Miss Mchale is now School Lead for the Chester Schools Together project, a partnership between our school, Bishop's Bluecoat, Chester Catholic High and King's School. MCE has worked with the lead from the other schools to plan a programme of events for the remainder of the year.

In February, Miss Mchale attended an Oxbridge session at Kings with pupils from Year 11. This session was arranged by Kings School, to support year 12 pupils who were planning to apply to Oxford or Cambridge. Year 11 pupils were invited to attend to explore potential opportunities for their future. It was a great session delivered by the head of 6th form at Kings and a member of staff

from Cambridge University. Explaining the application process etc. Our pupils found it inspirational and helpful for their future.

Year 8 Technology Masterclasses are starting on Saturday 4th March, with 5 pupils from year 8 attending workshops at Bishop's Bluecoat school. Pupils will participate in a Scalextric school project that aims to raise awareness of STEM and wider engineering roles. 5 of our year 8 pupils will work with pupils from the other three schools to design and manufacture miniature Scalextric cars using CAD/CAM design principles. Pupils will also engage in graphic design through the customisation of their car and will work with advanced technologies such as 3D printers. During the final workshop, pupils will race their cars.

We are looking to develop the CST partnership further and I will be asking Blacon Staff to complete a google form with proposals for each department, of activities, trips or clubs that they could link with one of our partnership schools. Funding is available from the Westminster Foundation to support these projects.



Technology Faculty

We have had some really exciting things happening within the Technology Faculty this term! In Graphics our talented Y10 pupils have completed their first controlled assessment project – “Innocent Smoothie inspired fridge magnets”. For this, they have had to explore existing products, experiment with a range of different media and techniques and then edit their work digitally using Photoshop. Their final outcome was a high quality fridge magnet and the results have been incredible. Their work is so professional, and has certainly showcased their skills and creativity.



In Y11 Product Design, pupils have also completed their first project which was focussed around designing and making a Lamp, using inspiration from existing products and designers. They have had the opportunity to research, evaluate, design, model, make and evaluate their final outcomes. We think the outcomes are outstanding, and some of the work could certainly pass for the work of established designers! The pictures show just a few of some brilliant pieces of work.

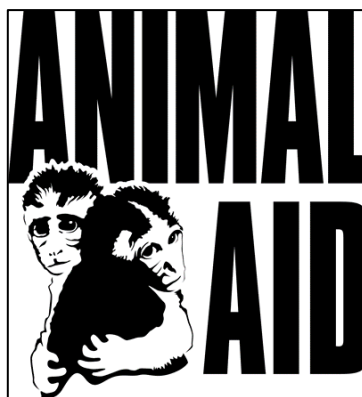


In Art, Y11 have made exceptional progress with their coursework task. This project focussed upon portraiture and the work of Mark Powell and Ant Carver. They have explored different materials, paint, collage, printing techniques and digital processes to produce personal responses. We are delighted with the work they have produced and are really proud to share some examples of their work.

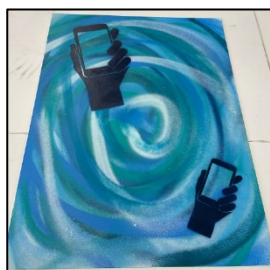
It's amazing to hear the pupils articulate their ideas and the inspiration behind their personal responses.



In KS4 Food, we have explored the factors that influence people's food choices and how this might look in a modern society. We have had some excellent discussion and debate surrounding environmental issues and ethical issues such as animal welfare. We also arranged to have a guest speaker from 'Animal Aid' come in and share their personal reasons for following a Vegan diet, and how adaptations can be made to meet the nutritional requirements of different groups in society. It was really interesting to hear opinions from the guest speaker, and was a really good opportunity for lots of pupils to challenge these opinions in a mature and respectful manner, demonstrating a really broad knowledge of nutrition and environmental considerations. We were really proud of our pupils and found the experience to be really purposeful.



Extra-Curricular Activities in Technology



This year we have been running an extracurricular project with 'Blacon Beacon' to raise awareness of Loan sharks. They have been working to create resources for a promotional campaign that will be used in the local community to make people aware of the risk of loan sharks and how they can have such a devastating impact on people's lives. Pupils have been given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills, experimenting with spray paints to produce a background. They also worked with a professional graffiti artist, made stencils and learned how to transfer them effectively on to the backgrounds. The work they have produced is exceptional, and we can't wait to see them featured in the community.



In Food we have been working with The Countess of Chester hospital to raise money for the intensive care unit. Y7 pupils made a range of Valentine's Day themed cakes and conducted a cake sale. They raised £127 which is a superb effort. The pupils were thrilled to be helping out such an important cause and really enjoyed creating high quality cakes to be sold to pupils at break time. We very much look forward to working with the hospital again to help raise much needed funds.

On behalf of the pupils in Technology, I would like to thank the amazing teachers and support staff who have gone over and above to support all of the above achievements. It takes a lot of organisation and time to offer such a broad range of opportunities for our pupils and we are very lucky to have staff that consistently go over and above expectations.



I am incredibly proud of the resilience demonstrated by students and staff each and every day along with a commitment and determination to prepare every young person for success.

Rachel Hudson - Headteacher