

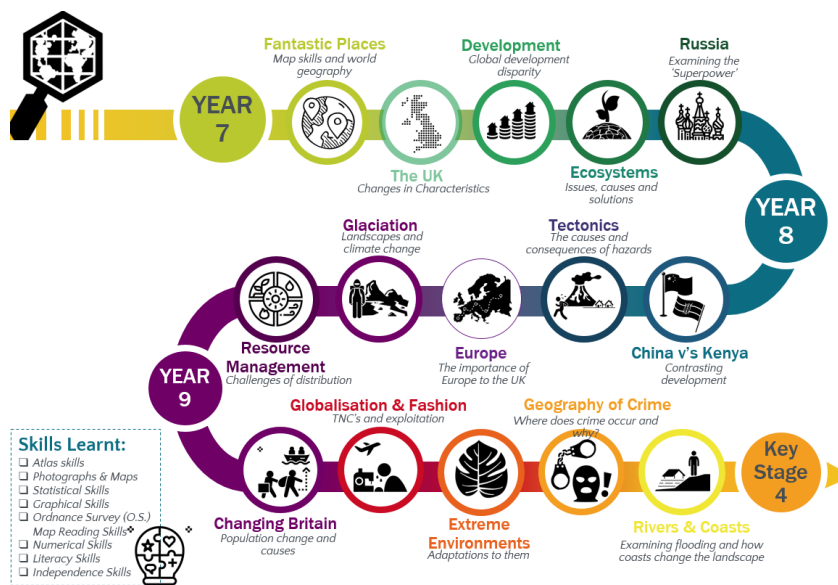
## Head teacher's Report for Governors – July 2023

### Part 2 – Highlights from the Spring Term

#### Humanities

Another busy term in the Humanities faculty, with lots of changes to come in September. Firstly, Sarah Liddell will be joining the History team as the new Head of Department. Laura Sandland-Jones and Matthew Green have also been appointed Heads of Department for Religious Studies and Geography respectively. It is really exciting to see all the planning and preparation for the next academic year already underway.

In Geography new learning maps have been created which will be shared with pupils who will be able to see the journey they will take as they complete their studies in KS3 and KS4. The template is colourful and visual, and has been shared with the other departments to complete similar route maps for these subjects also. This will provide students with a visual overview of the learning journey so they know what has been learnt, where they are now and what will be coming up in the next stage of their learning.



Pupils in all subject areas have been completing their end of year assessments and there is evidence of lots of great learning, and progress being made. Pupils have been responding well to the new assessment format, which incorporates multiple choice questions which have been shown to be an effective strategy for assessing recall of key knowledge.

SECTION ONE:

1 In which country is the Taj Mahal located?

- China
- Italy
- Japan
- India

2 What religion were the Mughal Emperors?

- Muslim
- Protestant
- Sikh
- Catholic

3 Why did Puritans from England settle in America?

- For adventure
- For the riches
- To escape religious persecution
- They got lost



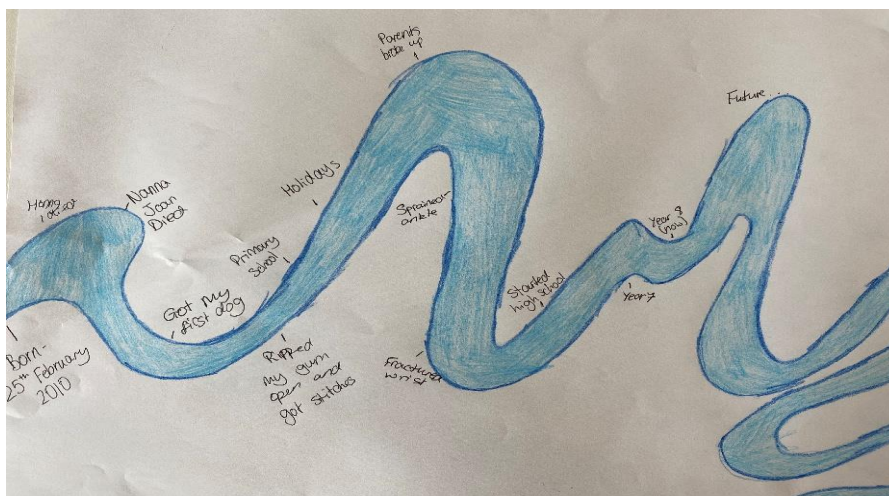
In KS4 History pupils are going to be learning about the Ancoats area of Manchester to learn about the impact of industrialisation on the health of citizens in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sarah Clark who is currently covering Feona Prime's classes

whilst she is on maternity, has visited the site and prepared resources to enable this to be taught effectively. It is hoped a trip can be planned before Christmas to allow pupils to visit some of the buildings and sights for themselves.

In Religious Studies Year 8 have begun to do some reflective work as part of the topic of Humanism which they are currently studying. The concept of life as being like a river enabled pupils to get creative and think about how they would like their own 'river of life' to flow. This is just one example of the social, emotional, cultural and spiritual aspects that Humanities subjects cover consistently within topics, which allow pupils to explore ideas and their own beliefs and values.

'An individual human existence should be like a river – small at first, narrowly contained within its banks, and rushing passionately past boulders and over waterfalls. Gradually the river grows wider, the banks recede, the waters flow more quietly, and – in the end – without any visible break, they become merged in the sea, and painlessly lose their individual being. The man or woman who, in old age, can see his or her life in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the things they care for will continue.'

Bertrand Russell, How to Grow Old



## 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**

### **Sports Week**

The department are carrying out SPORTS WEEK in our PE lessons and have made it into a inter school year group tutor competition.

**10<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July** In PE lessons, students will compete in a range of different sports, the PE department will award and collate points that students score for their tutor groups. Teams will be grouped by PE staff to ensure fair competition, everyone has an opportunity to score points for their form. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, students in Key stage 3 and 4 have the opportunity to score more points by taking part in traditional sports day events such as 100m, High Jump, Nerf, Javelin, Discus and Shot Putt.

**The winning tutor group with the most points from year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will win the sports day trophy and have a reward during Enrichment week**

Ways to score points for each tutor group:

- Positive attitude towards sport/team
- Good effort in PE lesson
- Being a part of a successful team in the lesson
- Leadership/Organisation points

### **Athletics**

Year 7 boys and girls teams performed extremely well at the Chester and District Athletics at Deeside. Students achieved:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Chester and District Shot Putt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> best Long Jump in Chester and 5<sup>th</sup> place representing Chester at the Cheshire county event
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m final and competed well representing Chester at the Cheshire county event

In the year 9/10 Chester athletics:

- 2 students came 5<sup>th</sup> in High Jump,
- 4<sup>th</sup> place in 200m final
- 6<sup>th</sup> place in the relay
- We have a new record holder of 1.54m in the high jump for year 9 at Blacon High School

The PE department hope to improve again next year with full boys and girls teams competing against Chester Schools in Athletics.

### **Cricket**

The Crash 'N' Bash Cricket season started for our under 13 and under 15 cricket teams. The U13 team beat Catholic by 1 run (81/3) with two students scoring 20 with the bat. U15 lost by 37 runs but our bowler bowled 3 excellent wickets. In our return fixture, U13 lost by 6 runs after a batting

collapse. U15 boys' team saw a major improvement and lost by 1 run in the last over, one student retired on 20 with the bat. Against a very talented Queens Park High School team, U13 lost by 1 run 65/6 in an excellent game, with one student with 2 wickets and 16 on the bat. U15 lost by 14 runs but it could have been a different story if we never dropped 4 catches in the field.

### **Rounders**

Year 7, 8 and 10 have had friendlies against Catholic High, Queens, Abbey Gate, Queens Park and Bishops. We entered 3 tournaments and came top 5 in Chester (10 schools) in all 3 tournaments. Year 10 came 5<sup>th</sup> against superb opposition, year 8 finished 6<sup>th</sup> and couldn't get the final win to get out of the group stages, year 7 were semifinalists losing to a strong Bishops High School team.

### **BEV PE**

The PE department hosted the Year 5 and Year 6 Rounders competition which was a huge success with the aim of students playing proper Rounders to showcase their fielding, batting and bowling skills. We have a year 5/6 Rounder's tournament and year 3 and 4 mini red tennis tournament to finish the summer term which will involve KS3 and KS4 leaders to officiate.

16 Year 10 leaders will carry out carousel sports day activities for Chester Bluecoat primary school on 6<sup>th</sup> July with year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students showing sporting talent on a number of challenges with support off our excellent students.

### **Football**

Mr Bradford took the year 7+8 Boys to a Cheshire Schools SEN Football festival at Moss Farm using outstanding facilities. They played 6 matches and won 5 games, losing 1 with all the team contributing and enjoying the day. Year 8 student Leon Spencer was player of the whole tournament and scored a 4 minute hat ick in one of the games.

Year 7 Boys football team played at the Everton FC academy schools tournament and enjoyed the day winning 2, drawing 3 and losing 1 in excellent round robin tournament.

U14 Chester schoolboys won the Cheshire Cup with year 9 students beating Knowsley 2-0. U15 Chester Schoolboys also won the Cheshire Cup with a student apart of the team that beat National Champions Wirral 2-1.

### **Golf Foundation**

Mr Cairns has signed Blacon High School up to Golf Foundation, unleash your drive programme, staff had CPD and online training, £1000 equipment to use golf equipment with our students during the summer curriculum. Everyone is enjoying the new sport on the curriculum and we will be adding it to our extra-curricular provision from September.

### **Hungerball**

We have been gifted the use of a stadium called Hungerball for the next 6 months to be used here and across the 5 Primary schools within the BEV through a contact with Bryn Healey, former Head of



**BLACON**  
HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Whitby High School who is doing some voluntary work with Hungerball, a New Zealand based organisation that have developed a concept to support student (and adult) well-being both physically and mentally through the use of the Hungerball Stadium. Andu Lordache is the designer and founder of the concept that is well established in New Zealand and is moving into Australia.

We have the opportunity to use this in a similar model to that adopted in New Zealand where schools work together as a hub and share the stadium across the year developing skills in an enjoying way whilst supporting positive health and well-being. Andu in New Zealand has offered the stadium free to our Blacon hub of schools to use so that students benefit from the use and in return he can promote the concept to schools in the UK through UK schools social media network platforms.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14pNz3oIUqMjfh2S8IkFDZHqLc3lvt95/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14pNz3oIUqMjfh2S8IkFDZHqLc3lvt95/view?usp=sharing>

Please see links below for further illustrating the use and benefits for high school and intermediate students

<https://youtu.be/2eC8O1EVQh8>

[www.linkedin.com/posts/andu-iordache-6458a1117\\_education-hungerball-sportsindustry-activity-6683129904676134912-PzeX](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andu-iordache-6458a1117_education-hungerball-sportsindustry-activity-6683129904676134912-PzeX)



## 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 3&4 Mini Red Competition and Primary Skills Tennis Festival.

On Wednesday 17th May Hoole LTC hosted the Year 3 and 4 Mini Red and Primary Skills Festival events. It was a glorious day where we had 19 school teams and 98 children involved in learning tennis skills and playing tennis matches.

Celebrate and Inspire category event.



### Year 5&6 Tri-Golf and Inclusive Tri-Golf.



On the 26th and 27th May we held our Year 3&4, 5&6 and inclusive Tri Golf Festivals at Vicars Cross Golf Club. In total 29 school teams took part in the events involving 293 children.

Tri-golf is a fun official alternative version of golf, designed specifically for primary school children. As a more energetic version of golf, tri-golf enables children to take their first golf shots safely under adult supervision, and build a good golf foundation.

The festivals involved various skills stations which the children rotated round in groups of either putting or chipping the ball.

Celebrate and Aspire category event.

### Cricket

On 24th May we held our Year 3&4 Diamond Cricket event at Boughton Hall Cricket Club. Over the course of the day we had 12 school and 128 children play Diamond Cricket.

Diamond cricket is a game that keeps players moving. The game develops fielding, batting, bowling and teamwork skills, and encourages thoughtful placement of the ball by the batter.

The following day we had our Year 5&6 Mixed B cricket and girls cricket competitions at Boughton Hall Cricket Club. Then the A cricket was on 8th June.

In total we had 25 school teams and 298 children play Dynamos Cricket. Dynamos cricket provides children with a more social offer focused on developing fundamental movement skills and applying them in an exciting game of countdown cricket.



Aspire and Inspire category events.

### Small Sided Football

On Wednesday 21st June we had our year 3&4 small sided football competition at Blacon High School. We had 9 school teams take part involving 76 children. We had a round robin tournament with the winners being Upton Heath Primary school.

Thank you to Stan, Myles, Zak, Amarri and Jake from Blacon High School for refereeing the matches and to Blacon High School for hosting the competition.

Inspire category event.



### **Quad Kids Athletics**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June we had our Year 5&6 Quad Kids Athletics competition at Upton High School. In total 7 schools took part involving 56 pupils.

Inspire category event.

### **Top Up Swimming**

In June we organised the Year 6 Top up Swimming. 158 year 6 pupils from 16 primary schools took part in the intensive swimming programme at Northgate Arena. This is for children who are in year 6 and who do not meet the KS2 curriculum target of being able to swim 25m. The programme once again was a huge success with all the children showing a massive improvement throughout the week. The children involved will now be offered discounted swimming lessons through Brio in the hope they continue to swim.

### **Eco Leaders Training**

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June we held our Eco Leaders training at Hoole LTC. This was for children in KS2 who are eco leaders at their school to learn about how the power of sport can be used to influence people to think and take action to protect the environment and think about sustainability and climate change. 24 children from 11 primary schools attended the event. We talked about what they already knew about sustainability and helping to protect the environment, moving on to what changes we could make as schools and individuals. Looking at large sporting events i.e. Birmingham Commonwealth Games where it was classed as the first sustainability games and what changes they made to help the environment, leading on to what sports events they could run at school and how they could make it sustainable and eco-friendly. They all enjoyed the session and left with an eco-friendly bamboo pin badge.



### **Girls Football Activators**

Following on from the success of the girl's football leadership programme last year, we have continued to work with a selection of year 8 girls this year. The new programme has recruited 12 new Year 7 girls to engage in the programme this year, with last year's leaders working with them as their mentors. The leadership programme looks at two leadership pathways; marketing and delivery. The girls were tasked with raising the profile of girl's football, through a series of workshops with interactive tasks to complete and key outcomes. At the end of the programme the girls will receive the Youth Sport Award and will plan and support the delivery of girl's football festivals next academic year.

### **Golf Project**

Through our partnership with The Golf Foundation, we were able to access a programme free of charge for Blacon High School. 'Unleash Your Drive' is a golf-based life skills programme that develops golf skills and mental toughness. Mental Toughness is closely linked to character, resilience, grit and perseverance. The exciting thing with Unleash Your Drive is that you are able to measure the impact on individuals and the group as a whole. Pupils didn't need any prior golf experience so it's a great way to introduce a new, individual sport.

The programme included a bag of equipment, CPD for PE staff, 10 lessons plans to deliver to pupils and impact report based on the self-assessments (pre and post) being completed by each pupil.

### **Gifted and Talented Training**

This will be held in the last few weeks of the term and is for year 5/6 children who are on the gifted and talented register in their schools for sport. Working with Chester City FC we will deliver workshops on nutrition, fitness and Pilates.

### **Sports Awards**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Blacon High School. 10 awards given to school teams and individuals in the Chester area, including a guest speaker Cheryl Foster (Former football player for Liverpool FC and Welsh International and now international referee).

### **CPD- LTA Primary Teachers Course.**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April we had 7 Primary School teachers attend the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Primary Schools Teacher Training Course, held at JH Godwin Primary School.

### **School Games Mark**

The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress.

The following schools have been awarded the School Games Mark award so far this year (the closing date is not until 26<sup>th</sup> July).

Blacon High School  
Bishop Heber High School  
The Queens School  
Dorin Park School  
Bunbury Aldersey Primary School  
Guilden Sutton CofE Primary School  
JH Godwin Primary School  
Mickle Trafford Village School  
St Clare's Catholic Primary School

Boughton Heath Academy  
St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

Schools who have retained the Platinum Award for 2023:

Saughall All Saints Primary School  
Highfield Community Primary School  
Waverton Community Primary School  
The Firs School  
Belgrave Primary School  
Delamere CofE Primary Academy

## **Dance**

### **GCSE Dance**

Eight year 9 and 10 students have successfully completed GCSE Dance some two years early. Each student has choreographed their own solo, performed in a duet/trio and accurately displayed two set phrases. The students have also studied for their written exam sat in June 2023 which consisted of six anthology works and dance knowledge. We are very much looking forward to the certificated results in August 2023.



### **Dance Club**

Dance club is an extremely popular club running on a Thursday evening, currently we are rehearsing for our Aspire, Believe, and Achieve Dance showcase on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Ballet, Jazz, contemporary and street disciplines will be presented including solo and group work.

A special congratulations to Phoebe Stoke a year 7 pupil who in June has been awarded Fast Champ World champion title in freestyle dance. An incredible achievement.

### **National Youth dance company**

This term we have been incredibly lucky to have a workshop delivered to 30 of our dance students by National Youth Dance. During the workshop students were taught by Amy and Dan and learnt

**Contemporary repertoire from the new work “ball”.**



### **MFL – Modern Foreign Languages**

In February, the MFL Department was the subject of a successful Focused Subject Review and we are particularly proud to have received exceptional feedback from students. Their many positive comments demonstrate that they not only enjoy and feel successful in their language learning, but that they understand and appreciate the high expectations we have, both of them and for them.

The GCSE Spanish, Polish and Italian Speaking examinations took place at the end of April and all ran smoothly. We look forward to adding some new languages to our MFL results this year and Gill Hassall has now begun work on the roll out of the EAL GCSE initiative with the current Y10.

In May, we appointed a new, experienced member of staff, Ms Tamara Davidson, to the MFL Department. Ms Davidson is currently a part-time tutor of the MFL PGCE course at Chester University. We have previously worked with her in this capacity and she has already completed some supply work for us, so is familiar with the school. We look forward to welcoming her to the team in September.

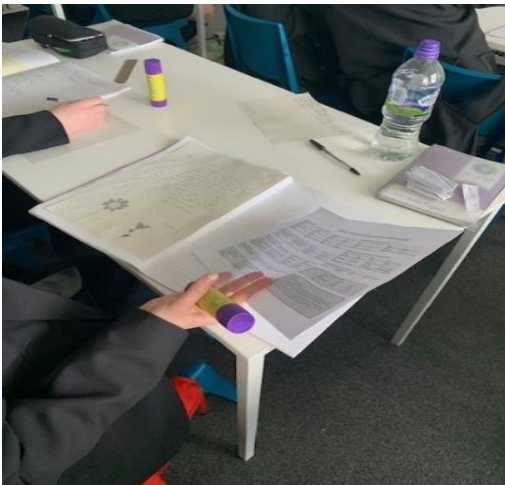
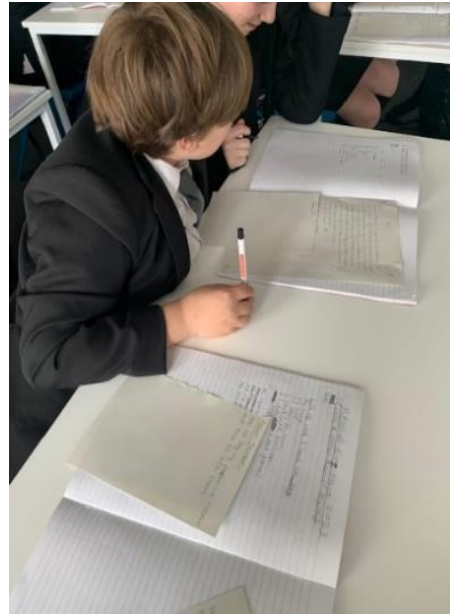
Over the past months, Gill Hassall has been working with teachers in a Spanish secondary school, L'Institut de l'Alt Foix, Vilafranca del Penedès, Catalunya, to establish E-Pal (email), links between our students. This is an amazing opportunity for 7XES1 students to use their Spanish for a very real purpose and they have really been enjoying doing so. They have had to show resilience too. The Spanish students have been learning English since the age of six and some asked questions for which we had not yet learned the answers in class. Our students were not given the language to reply but

were guided and supported in independently working out their individual responses. School has now finished for the summer in Spain, but our students will be receiving their next batch of letters next term.

*Hola!* Me llamo Elizabeth y tengo doce años. Vivo en Blacon, England. Mi cumpleaños es el veintinueve de abril. Tengo los ojos verdes-marrones y tengo el pelo castaño.

Mi pasión es la música. Mi música favorita es EDM. No juego al fútbol pero me gusta messi. Me gusta ciencias y tecnología.

*! Adios!*



*Hi!* my name is Emilio I am 12 years old I live in Guardiola. My birthday is 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010. I am short + my hair is straight. I don't like School and Real Madrid.

I like playing videogames like FIFA 23. I play handball. like Benzema, the football player.

What do you like? do you sports?

Do you like football?

Do you play FIFA 23?

What is your favorite football player

See you  
bye.

*hello!!!*

My name is Abnè, I'm 13 years old. I live in Guardiola de Font-Rouge, a little town near Barcelona. My birthday is on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

My hair is long, brown and straight. I have got blue eyes.

I'm medium-height and I'm thin.

I'm a happy person but sometimes I get angry. I'm intelligent. I like playing volleyball and dancing. my favorite animals are dogs and dolphins.

My favorite colour is green. My favorite team is Barça. I love Gavi, Pedri and Lewandowski.

I dislike maths, I hate maths. I like English and watching football.

I have a question for you: Do you like Barça?

What is your favorite team?

What is your favorite colour?

"Good bye!"

Hola, me llamo Jack. y soy un chico. Mi cumpleaños es el veintitres de octubre dos mil diez. tengo doce años y vivo en Chester, England. tengo los ojos azules-verdes y tengo el pelo rubio. Mi futbolista favorita es Liverpool FC y mi música favorita es 'Despacito'. Mi videojuego favorito es Call Of Duty Warzone.

Con cariño

*!Adios Eloi!*

Earlier in June, we had our second of two visits from the foreign language theatre company, Onatti Productions (Warwick). This time, the Spanish actors delivered a 50-minute play entirely in Spanish to Y7 and Y9 students. It was a little more complicated than the earlier French play but the students persevered and many managed to understand most of the plot. It was a great LOTC / culture capital opportunity for them and another great lesson in resilience.



The 4-day MFL residential visit to Spain takes place at the start of July. Carly Thelwell (LOTC lead), has organised the trip through NST and the accompanying staff are Gill Hassall, Adrian Carr and Ed Colwell. Flying from Manchester Airport to Barcelona and staying for three nights at the Hotel Villamarina Club, Salou. Among the many planned activities, students will spend a day sightseeing and shopping in Barcelona and there will be a visit to the local theme park. For a number of the 38 students on the visit, this will be their first time travelling abroad and they are incredibly excited.



## Science

### KS3 Science Poster Competition

As a fun end of term activity following on their workshops with Chester Zoo, the Science Team have decided to run a KS3 poster competition. The two theme options are topics they would have learned about as part of the curriculum and the Chester Zoo workshops, and our wonderful Science Ambassadors have designed their own poster to help advertise it! Rules are as follows:

The poster can be A4 or A3 and completed by hand or on the computer. There are two sets of criteria based on the two different themes of the poster competition:

#### OPTION 1 - SCHOOL BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Students must design a project within school to increase biodiversity within the school site. If the project is well-planned and realistic enough, it may be considered to become an actual BIODIVERSITY PROJECT in school! The poster could include information like:

- where the project could be located within school grounds
- what materials will be required (any possible costs)
- what staff may be needed to complete the project (could it be made into a school-wide project)
- timeframe for completion of the project
- local/national species that could be benefitted by the project
- catchy name for the project

#### OPTION 2 - CLIMATE CHANGE

Students must design a poster to highlight the impacts of climate change on the planet. Potentially coming up with a new innovative idea to combat Climate Change. The poster could include information like:

- causes of climate change
- species currently impacted by climate change
- how to reduce humans' impact on the environment
- could the school help?
- idea to help reduce climate change/ the impact of climate change
- catchy name for the idea

The deadline for posters to be submitted is the **7th July 2023**.

They will then be judged by staff in the science department as well as the science ambassadors and prizes given out to the best ones.

We look forward to seeing how creative the students can be when it comes to Climate Change/Biodiversity.

### Ice Cream Making in Science

To quote the students this is “real food Science!”

Pupils across the year groups were able to make links to their learning on changes of state and real life experiences such as the use of salt for gritting the roads in cold weather.



## English

Year 9 students have recently finished their studies of *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley, and were treated to a performance at Liverpool Empire of the eerie drama which makes us question our role within society, and responsibility in the ways in which we treat others.

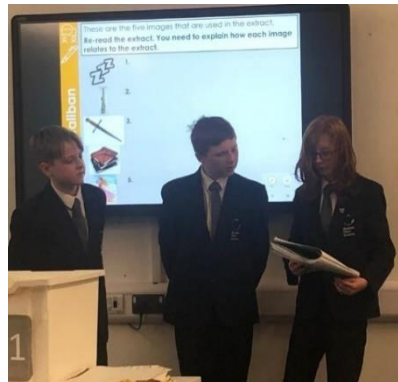
On our way to the theatre, we questioned how the production would be staged, seeing as the whole story takes place around a dinner table. When we arrived, however, we were blown away by the dolls' house-style staging which opened up to reveal the Birlings' dining room, and the clever use of perspective and stage effects to represent the metaphorical break-down of the family as Inspector Goole questioned their roles in a grisly suicide.



Stewards at the theatre commented on the exemplary behaviour of the students and Miss McFetridge, Miss Illingworth, Mr Colwell and Mr Stockdale were so proud to take such a fantastic group of students on this exciting trip.

It's been a drama-filled term for the English Department; as well as Year 9 studying *An Inspector Calls*, Year 8 have been studying William Shakespeare's famous play, *Richard III*. As part of their studies, students were assessed on their ability to debate a key topic: How is the concept of power presented in *Richard III*?

Students were assigned to groups and had to decide on how they would structure their argument. We are trying to develop oracy skills across the year groups in the English Department, and this has been a fantastic start! In the images, you can see some of Miss Illingworth's students giving their presentations – congratulations, Year 8!



Whilst we are developing our oracy and drama skills, our desire to 'keep on reading' never stops. Miss Perrett and Mrs Williams have been leading on an exciting new project in collaboration with The King's School: the Carnegie Book Award. Miss Perrett said: *Following the success of our inaugural Carnegie Awards Shadowing group, which saw selected Year 10 students shadow the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, the English department are in the process of planning the creation of the 'Carnegie Club'. Carnegie Club will take place during lunches on certain days (TBC) and will give students across all year groups the opportunity to come together and shadow next year's awards from start to finish. This will include reading books on the long-list, before the shortlist is announced, and getting together with other schools within the Chester Schools Together partnership for a range of activities fit for book worms!* We can't wait to hear all about the books you are reading!

A special congratulations goes to Lucas Jones, Year 10, who won the quiz and, as a result, was awarded this lovely tote bag!

Mrs Williams has been strengthening our link with the local Blacon library with a group of keen readers in Year 7. They have been reading a book together and discussed this at the library, and then had the opportunity to take out a book of their own – they all jumped at the chance and chose some fantastic titles! We are looking forward to returning to the library in the near future to return our finished books, review them and borrow some new ones. Thanks again to Mrs Williams for taking Year 7 on this visit.



Finally, we are extremely proud (and sad!) to say that our current Year 11 cohort have completed both their English Literature and Language GCSEs. After five years of developing their skills and knowledge, everything they have been taught was put to the test in four examinations. Whilst many students would see this as a daunting task, our resilient Year 11s did us all proud by attending lunchtime, online, after school and before school revision sessions; our attendance to the offer of extra revision was higher than ever before. Not only this, but the conduct in exams was the best we have ever seen and we were so proud to watch them all work to their very best ability to achieve the grades they so deserve.

In addition to the pressure of written examinations, Year 11 students also put their Speaking and Listening skills to the test by presenting on a topic of their choice. Some memorable examples included: Trinity Uwalaka's presentation on age ratings of video games, Bailey Wilson's presentation on apprenticeships and Christian Evan's presentation on the importance of shoes!

Team English had a fantastic time celebrating the completion of Year 11 English GCSEs, as well as commemorating the end of their careers at Blacon High School at the Year 11 Prom, a final congratulations and goodbye at the ROA Evening held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



## Maths

Mr Pedder took a group of year 9 students to the Bank of America to attend an insight to careers in finance day. Pupils attended with other schools and took part in a number of activities including microbit programming, office tours and learning about cyber security. The pupils were tasked to research about phishing emails and create a presentation selling their brand to tech companies. This was presented to a group of bank staff who also gave feedback on the presentations.

This marks the first steps in our push to develop students outside of the classroom, we aim to make learning outside the classroom activities and trips a standard part of our teaching practice going forward.

During the summer term year 7 have focussed on topics such as constructions, geometric reasoning, developing number sense and proofs. They have had a mix of practical real life applications of mathematics as well as abstract problem solving aspects of Mathematics in an attempt to enthuse the students as well as develop their reasoning skills.

Year 8 students have been working on shape topics such as area of trapezia and circles, symmetry and reflection as well as the data handling cycle.

As well as the trip year 9 students have been working on Ratio & proportion and Rates. Rates is a topic primarily focussed on rates of change and compound measures such as speed distance time and density, mass and volume. These topics again have real world applications as well being ever present in GCSE examinations. Hopefully they will be able to build on these skills going into KS4!

Year 10 have seen many topics including sequences, indices and roots, manipulating expressions and collecting, representing and interpreting data. As they reach the halfway point of KS4 they have sat end of year mock examinations which will inform setting for their crucial final year. We can use these mock examinations to inform us as staff and also the students of their areas for development.

After 5 years our year 11 students left us, during the build up to the examinations it was amazing to see so many of them working so hard, many of them attended after school revision sessions, tutor time intervention sessions, they attended Maths during lessons where they had finished the course and we hope it all pays off for them. The Prom was a lovely send off for the students and Team Maths enjoyed congratulating them on ROA evening and then later on results day.

## Performing Arts

### Year 7



Year 7 have been exploring Mime as we bring the summer term to a close. They are drawing on the knowledge, skills and understanding that they have developed through the Year 7 Drama curriculum. This lesson focused on demonstrating Mime skills in a comedy sketch entitled 'The Car', performed to the Madness track 'Driving in My Car'. Students excelled in their performances, demonstrating a secure understanding of non-verbal communication skills. They have made excellent progress in their study of Drama this year and are excited to explore Commedia dell'arte in Year 8 which builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in Year 7.



## **Year 8**

Year 8 have been studying Physical Theatre this term, developing knowledge, skills and understanding of this contemporary theatre style which requires focus, trust and respect to enable performers to lift, balance and fly. They have explored the performance disciplines of two of the most prolific physical theatre companies: Gecko and Frantic Assembly, developing movement and performance skills through the devising of chair duets and stage combat. The chair duets present storytelling which focuses on non-verbal communication, in contrast to the Macbeth scheme of work which focused on language and verbal communication. The stage combat was developed through choreography for Shakespeare's Richard III, which was being studied in English, focusing on Medieval battle drill. Cross-curricular links are embedded throughout the creative critical pedagogy employed through the open space learning methods applied in the Drama Curriculum, where students of all abilities are making progress through the practical exploration of theatre styles, social issues and creative exploration. They are developing resilience, respect and relationships.



## Year 9

This year, year 9 have focused on a contemporary play called *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, in preparation for KS4 study of the Performing Arts. Through this focus they are expanding their cultural capital and identifying career paths in the performing arts industry. The focus explores the roles of performers, directors, stage crew, technicians and designers. In the first term the students explored acting and directing, using the purpose build Studio facilities and applying lighting and sound. In term 2 they designed their own stage sets as the focus turned to set and prop design. This term, Year 9 have been exploring Special Effects Make-up (SFX) and creating their own SFX make up designs for one of the characters in the play *DNA*.



## Year 10

Following their in-depth study of a range of theatre styles for performance, the Year 10 Performing Arts group have completed the first of their Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs), performing at Storyhouse. They returned in June to participate in the Storyhouse Women's Day where they engaged in workshops and posed questions to inspirational women speakers. They are now preparing for their next PSA work, Shakespeare's Othello, which will be presented at Storyhouse as part of the Literature Festival in November.



## Drama Club

Drama Club have been rehearsing for our upcoming production of Annie, which will be performed at Storyhouse on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Salisbury has created a production team which is necessary for the smooth running of the rehearsal process and performance. The team comprises of: The Producer and Director (Mrs Salisbury), Assistant Director (Mrs Thompson), Musical Director (Miss McHale), Choreographer (Miss Pollard), Stage Manager (Miss Beyer), costumes (Miss Ankers), production crew (Miss Jones, Miss Sandland-Jones, Miss Saunders, Miss Wright). Students attend Drama Club rehearsals every Monday and Tuesday after school, and Choir every Wednesday afternoon.



## Student Leadership

It has been a very busy year for the Student Leadership Team (Year 11) and the Student Parliament (Years 7-10). The Student Leadership Team is chosen following completion of expression of interest via application, and an interview process. There are several roles including Head Student, Deputy Head Student, and Leader of the Student Parliament, Senior Prefect and Prefect. Students are invited to apply for any or all of the roles and may be invited to lead particular groups such as Diversity and Inclusion or, new for 2023/24, Wellbeing Champions.

Their first responsibility in each new academic year is the organisation of the Student Parliament elections, which they manage and administer. Following the Student Parliament elections, meetings are held each half term and focus on a variety of issues.

During 2022/23 the Student Parliament has worked on 'Roses and Thorns' (what is going well in the school and what are the areas they feel need developing), potential amendments to the school uniform including the design of a new school tie, the structure of the school day, lunchtime arrangements, and the food offer in the Diner amongst a host of other things.

Furthermore, when the school is recruiting, student representatives from all year groups contribute to a student panel, which regularly forms part of the selection process for new appointees. Also, our Leader of the Student Parliament, along with student representatives from years 7 and 8, leads the BEV Democracy Programme, which has been running for several years with school council representatives from all of our partner primary schools.



This year, we became involved with the Children's Advisory Board and the Children's Commissioner. This enabled our representatives to liaise regularly on a national scale with representatives of student councils from schools across the country. This work culminated in May when three members of our Student Leadership Team presented remotely at a United Nations Conference on the Rights of the Child, which only happens once every five years; this was a phenomenal opportunity for them and a real coup both for the

students involved and for the school. Work with the Children's Advisory Board will continue into 2023/24.

Finally, our two Head Students, Jess McQuillan and Isobel Giles accompanied Mrs Hudson and Mr Stockdale to the investiture of the new Lord Mayor Chester at the Town Hall. It was a great opportunity for them to experience the pomp and ceremony of the occasion in what was quite a prestigious, formal celebration.



### International links



Mr Stockdale leads on international links and continues to investigate every opportunity to develop our international profile. He is currently aiming to complete the International Schools Award in recognition of the international dimension to our curriculum.

The year started when Blacon High School played host to three groups of visiting students, one from Italy and two from Spain. Following some initial focused attention, students soon accepted them into the school community and a team of volunteers acted as buddies for the duration of their stay. These experiences are hugely valuable in terms of exposing our students directly to other cultures, customs and languages and, additionally, develop resilience, leadership and maturity.

We have agreed dates for September 2023 to host further groups from Spain in liaison with UKLC; this is the second year that we will have worked with this company and, as well as offering a great opportunity to develop international relations, it also offers a not insignificant funding stream.

During 2022/23, the MFL team hosted a company on two occasions who shared dramatic performances in both Spanish and French, which enabled all KS3 students, and KS4 language students to experience a play delivered completely in a foreign language. Both performances offered an element of audience participation and, despite the language barrier, all students were able to understand the plot. It is hoped that we will be able to offer a similar experience for our students in 2023/24.

It is fantastic to share that, in June and July 2023, there are three international trips underway. Students who went on the Bulgaria Exchange trip returned on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Additionally, there is a sports trip to Italy and a trip to Spain.

David Stockdale leads the Bulgaria exchange trip and, this year, along with Rhiannon Price from the Maths team, they took eight students to the Vasil Levsky High School, our twinned school in Karlovo, Bulgaria.

This is a relationship that began in 2016 and continues to go from strength to strength. Students spend time in school, and they are also exposed to a range of cultural activities and sightseeing. This year, they were also able to enjoy a four and a half hour hike in the Balkan Mountains. Students stay with host families and it is our hope that they develop long-term friendships.

As always, we experienced the warmest of welcomes and the most wonderful, generous hospitality for the duration of our stay. The UK leg of the exchange is due to happen during the autumn term when we will, of course, do our utmost to ensure that our guests have a fulfilling and enjoyable experience when they visit us.

It is important that something concrete and positive comes from the exchange trip and the focus of the project this year is 'Overcoming Adversity', particularly how we live with, and begin to address, the effects of global warming. The work on this project began in Bulgaria and will conclude with a digital presentation, alongside a printed resource, that will be completed during the UK leg of the exchange trip.

### **Whole School Events**

We have been able to welcome parents and carers in to school on numerous occasions this year; there have been so many events when we have been able to celebrate the great work that underpins why Blacon High School is the first choice secondary school for so many students, and why, for the fifth year in succession, we are oversubscribed. These include the return to face to face Progress Evenings for most year groups, Rewards Assemblies, Coffee Mornings, performances from the Music and the Performing Arts departments, the Whole School Celebration evening and the Record of Achievement evening. Of course, our Year 11s have also recently enjoyed their leavers' prom at Chester Racecourse.

Our most recent event was on 29<sup>th</sup> June and it was lovely to see so many students, parents and carers, staff and governors at the Record of Achievement event when, once again, the hall was at capacity. The ROA evening is really one of the nicest events in the school calendar. There is a mood that falls somewhere between post-GCSE relief and euphoria that is almost tangible.

The evening began with a fantastic musical performance from two of our outgoing Year 11 students, followed by a mix of speeches, thanks, the giving and receiving of awards, and the distribution of ROA folders. All those in attendance were shining examples of what it means to be a student at Blacon High School, and the evening really showcases the fantastic relationships between students and staff that are vital in helping to secure success for the young people of this community.

No ROA evening would be complete without the 'then and now' section, which always gets a lot of laughs (and groans) as students are reminded of what they looked like when they joined us in Year 7, and tracks their journey over the last five years with us. The evening ends with the staff video, an opportunity for students to see that 'yes' we are human and 'yes' we have a sense of humour.

Good luck to all of our Year 11 students as they begin the next leg of your academic journey. We look forward to seeing them all on results day in August and they leave us with our very best wishes.

## **Music**

We have received a fantastic report from the year 11 BTEC Standards Verifier and all coursework has been signed off ready for certification in August. Following complications nationally with Component 1 of the new BTEC Tech Award (year 10) we finally received the moderator's report which commended the accurate marking, assessment and administration of the component. No marks to be altered and very high results from the outstanding year 10 cohort for their first component on a new challenging course.

KS3 classes are enjoying improvisation, metre/rhythm and 'what makes a good song' projects this term; Year 7 are currently exploring music from around the world and have improvised using the Chinese pentatonic scale and Indian ragas. Year 8 are exploring dance music and developing their rhythm and metre skills, they have just completed a Waltz composition and are moving on to American Line Dance. Year 9 are working on a pop music project, following a lead sheet and developing skills on keyboard, guitar, bass and drums.

## **Extra-Curricular**

It has been a busy term in the music department. We have several successful extra-curricular weekly activities and clubs; school band, school choir, flute choir and the variety of peripatetic lessons on offer are supporting over 100 pupils who currently have lessons on an instrument additional to their main classroom lessons. The School band are preparing to perform at the rewards assemblies and the choir are performing at the end of term assemblies. The choir have been preparing for the whole school Annie musical. We also had a performance from year 11 pupils at the ROA and MCE DJ-d at Prom. The choir and band pupils will be rewarded for their commitment to the department with a trip to Llangollen Eisteddfod on Friday 7th July.

### **Crossing Borders**

On June 15th, Miss Mchale was invited to speak at a Chester University event held at The Storyhouse called 'Crossing Borders', organised by the Music, Media and Performance departments of the University, to bring together local groups and individuals from the Arts. MCE was invited to talk on the 'Theatre and Music in the Community' panel alongside other professionals from the industry. Deeppoint Primary school choir joined MCE and performed 2 songs for the attendees and we have been invited to use the recording studio at the University. Links were made with key staff from the university and several organisations in the community.

### **Primary School Provision**

Miss Mchale continues to deliver successful Music Curriculum lessons for KS1 and KS2, at 2 of our feeder Primary schools Highfield and Deeppoint. Delivering Music curriculum lessons for whole classes using Charanga, weekly whole school singing assemblies in Highfield and leading the school choir at Deeppoint Primary.

Throughout the Summer term at Highfield with Miss Mchale, the year 2 pupils are working on their treble clef notation and glockenspiel skills; every child playing as an ensemble. During singing assemblies we are preparing for the end of term leavers assemblies.

Deeppoint Primary School Choir have performed at the Cheshire Show and attended the Crossing Borders Storyhouse conference mentioned above (see attached photos).



### **Chester Schools Together**

Miss Mchale continues as School Lead for the Chester Schools Together project. Chester Schools Together is a partnership between The King's School, Bishops' Blue Coat High School, Catholic High School, Chester, and Blacon High School, and aims to provide a range of educational and cultural opportunities for students across the Chester community.

### **Composition Workshop**



Pupils from KS4 attended a workshop at The Storyhouse with local Composer and Musical Director; Matt Baker. Our pupils worked together with pupils from the partnership schools to compose a song together. The composition was then completed at a workshop held in our school hall and will be performed together at many future CST events.



### Chester Zoo Climate Change Symposium

Pupils from year 8 attended the Chester Schools Together Climate Change Symposium, more information can be found on this fantastic YouTube video where you will see some of our outstanding pupils in action, follow the link or scan the QR code.

[Chester Schools Together - Climate Change Symposium at Chester Zoo](#)



### **Year 7 Stretch and Challenge Conference**

Pupils from year 7 were invited to attend a Stretch and Challenge day at Chester University, aimed at curious students to improve their thinking skills. Throughout the day, students took part in three sessions on debatable topics such as modern day vegetarian philosophy and quantum mechanics, ending the day with a live debate 'Is Freewill an illusion?'



### **ADHD Conference**

Staff and parents were invited to attend a daylong conference held at Chester University on Saturday 10th June, involving speakers from the local Cheshire West and Chester Neurodevelopmental team, the ADHD Foundation and Dr Ravi Jayaram who co-presented Channel 4's series Born Naughty?

The guest speakers provided evidence-based information on a range of issues which impact the lives of learners with ADHD – both positive and negative; as well as practical tips for supporting children with ADHD at school and home. Several of our Sanctuary support staff team attended and found the day engaging and informative.

### Scalextric Schools Competition

Throughout March, pupils attended several Saturday Masterclasses at Bishop's Bluecoat school. Taking part in a Scalextric school project that aims to raise awareness of STEM and wider engineering roles. 5 of our year 8 pupils worked with pupils from the other three schools to design and manufacture miniature Scalextric cars using CAD/CAM design principles. On Friday 30th June, the pupils attended the final competition day, racing their cars against schools from across the country. One school travelled from Newcastle and there was even a school's entry from Australia (they joined us via Teams). Our team successfully impressed the judges and each pupil was awarded with a collectors' edition scalextric car for their teamwork and resilience throughout the day.



### Art and Technology

This has been an extremely busy term in Art and Technology, with some amazing achievements across all areas of the faculty. We have focussed on really refining the skills of our pupils and tried to offer a range of extracurricular opportunities to enhance the personal development of our pupils. We hope you enjoy hearing about some of our highlights this term.

## Food Department

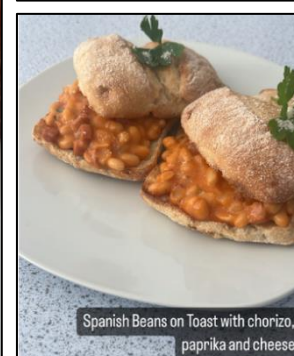
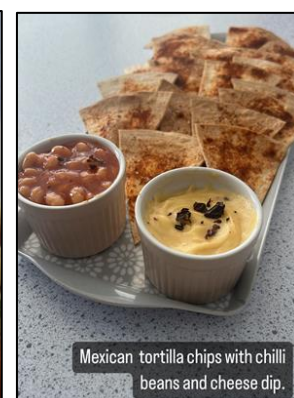
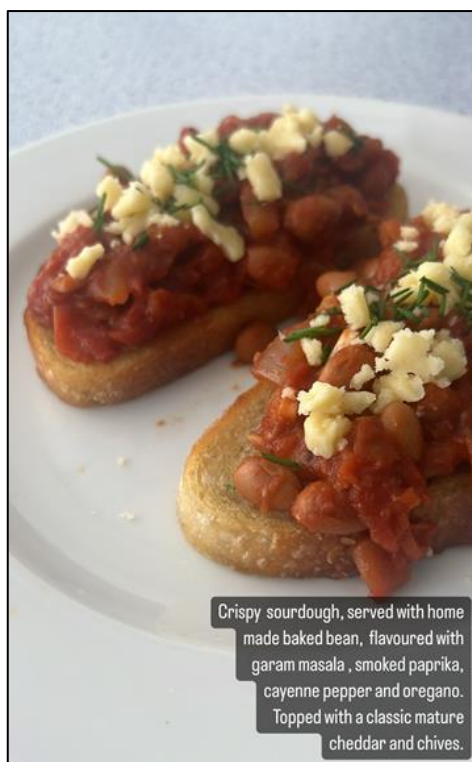


### Food Science – The Functions of Ingredients

In KS3, we have been focussing on the functions of ingredients and the role the ingredients play in making products successful. Y7 made bread and looked at yeast as a living organism and the conditions needed for it to activate and make bread rise. They also focussed on shaping dough accurately, making sure they achieve consistent, high quality outcomes. It has been a pleasure to see the skills of Y7 develop this year and many have significantly increased levels of independence and resilience.

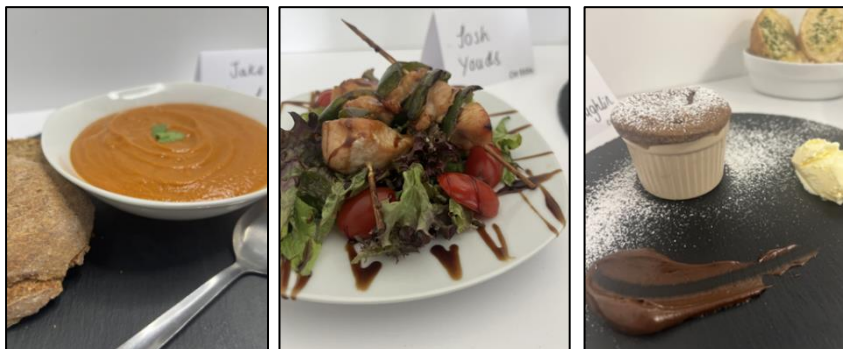
### Beans on Toast Challenge!

In Year 10, we have been focussing on recipe development and independently drawing upon knowledge and skills to develop flavour, texture and the appearance of dishes. Most recently, they took part in a 'Beans on Toast Challenge'. They had to creatively adapt the dish to make a unique and appealing version to go on a menu of a high end restaurant. Some of the skills shows were superb! We had homemade breads being made including naan, focaccia and sourdough. We also had students making a roux to create a cheese sauce, and many examples of unique and interesting flavour combinations. This was all done with total independence and the outcomes were fantastic. This work will support students in preparation for their controlled assessment in Y11 when they have to adapt recipes to meet a brief.



### Y11 Practical Exam

Y11 completed their practical examination and the results were absolutely superb. They worked so hard to showcase higher level skills and worked with a great deal of independence and resilience. The work they produced is of restaurant standard and they should be very proud of their achievements.



### Graphics Department

KS3 Graphics have been practicing their digital design skills using Google Drawing. Year 8 have been completing a project for the fictitious music company 'Amplify'. To link with this, they have looked at the Glastonbury festival and designed hoodies that could be sold at the event. Students identified key themes and icons that represent the festival to include in their designs. They have been learning digital skills that they can then apply at KS4.



Year 9 have also been using Google Drawing to create digital collages based on sweet packaging. Students started with an image of a sweet packet which they edited and refined to create a collage. They adjusted colour, size, added typography and split images. Students then printed and mounted their work to display in class.

### Design Technology Department



In Design Technology, we recently hosted the WOW days with Y5 pupils from the BEV primary schools. The pupils took part in practical workshops led by Mr. Haycock, Mr. Kendall & Mr. Blain and created a door hanger, inspired by 'Mr Doodle'. They selected a coloured tile made from acrylic and chose an acrylic character. They looked at contrasting colours and implemented their own design on to the tile and character using permanent markers and posker pens. Pupils then used the pillar drill to create holes in the corners and used ribbon to create a hanger. Finally, they used glue guns to attach the characters to their chosen tile.

## **Pastoral Hub**

### **Youth Fed**

Youth Fed is a new external agency working alongside the pastoral team. This term they have delivered a group workshop looking at anger management strategies. They have also offered one to one counselling sessions for eight of our students.

### **Mentoring**

This term 20 Year 7 and 8 students are taking part in a weekly mentoring sessions. During the session on a Monday year 8 students each mentor a year 7 and complete creative and developing skills tasks. This intervention has proven to be a great support for our year 7 students navigating their first year.

### **Social Club**

This term Social Club is a session that runs each break time accessible for 15 students. This session offers a safe and quite space were students can seek support during the day. A range of social activates, games and creative tasks are encouraged during the session.



### **Welcome club**

This term welcome Club is a session held in the Bistro each Monday morning from 8.20am this allows students who may find the start of a new week challenging, a nurturing environment to seek support and be welcomed back into school after the weekend break. During this session students are encouraged to build new relationships with peers, and complete creative tasks.

### **Mental Health Champions**

This June to trainers from “One goal” delivered a workshop to 18 year 7 students. This program aims for the students to become mental health champions to our New Year 7 students. This was a fantastic day and the students developed confidence and strategies to help to look after their own mental health and how to support other.



### **Librarians**

In April 6 KS3 students have been selected to become librarians, they help Mrs Williams and will be visiting our local library to enjoy some well-deserved reading time.



### **Equality club**

This term students from KS3 a KS4 have been involved in a variety of activities to promote LGBT+ in our school. We had a visit from Bank of America where the staff helped us to organise our own pride event and they have invited us for a trip to the bank to deliver our presentations to their colleagues.

### **Golden Tickets**

Each week teachers are able to nominate any of their students for a Golden ticket. This awarded to any student who have been exceptional in their lesson. A golden ticket then gives the student access to a very fun session of actives, snacks and juice during P1 on a Friday.



### **ELSA and Next Step**

This term learning support coordinators are all now trained in the NHS Next Step program this has now been delivered to over 40 of our students. This allows the mentor and students to work on goal based outcomes to support their individual needs. ELSA is also a tool used within the pastoral hub which allows students to complete a six week program of support delivered through weekly one to one sessions. These NEXT step and ELSA sessions can target anxiety, attendance, regulating emotion and many more needs.

### **Running Club**

At 8.20am on Tuesday's and Thursday's running club takes place on the mugger, this term is has proven to support students in starting the day with a positive attitude and enter the building calmly. This is supporting some of our students with ADHD channelling their energy in a positive way.

### **SEND**

#### **Outdoor classroom/wellbeing garden**

Our after school gardening club mainly consists of students with vulnerabilities. The group has completed the Wildlife Corridors conservation project run by Chester Zoo, we were one of only 6 schools taking part in this exciting venture. As a result of this collaboration we have been presented with an award and certificates from Chester Zoo, and were given funding to purchase our own shipping container which will house our gardening equipment and serve as a small classroom base for our outdoor activities.



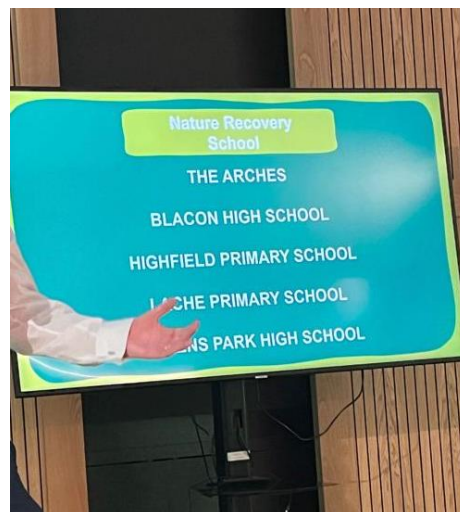
### Key Stage 4

Three students are coming towards the end of their highly successful Young Leaders Programme at Storyhouse. They have been attending every Wednesday afternoon, with 11 other students from the locality. This course is designed to build social and personal skills through working on a real life project such as a film screening. The students work towards the Trinity College Arts Award as part of their training. Our students are showing increased motivation and confidence since starting the course. Students who complete the course will have access to the Storyhouse outreach support programme in future, which may involve sourcing work experience placements. Our students have just completed their assessment project of creating set and prop objects for The Library of Lost Souls show which was performed by performing arts groups on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of June.



### Chester Zoo Conservation School Awards

We were nominated for outstanding contribution to conservation in a secondary school and won Nature Recovery Corridor School at Chester Zoo this evening.



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. We are proud of all that has been achieved over the last year and look forward to celebrating with students in the summer when Year 11 return to receive their results. I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

***Rachel Hudson - Headteacher***