

## Head Teacher's Report for Governors

April 2024

### Part 2 – Highlights from the Spring Term 2024

#### *Blacon High School – More Than a School*

The ethos of our school is one of ambition, excellence and high expectation



**WE BELIEVE  
EVERYONE CAN ACHIEVE**

**BLACON  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

<b>VALUES</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>MISSION</b>
 Respect Relationships Resilience	 To prepare every young person for success	 To inspire students to love and enjoy learning through a thinking curriculum

**MORE THAN A SCHOOL**

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## 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 35 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.
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### SEND County Final for Boccia and New Age Kurling

On January 12<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>, we helped at the Boccia and New Age Kurling county finals, which were held at Cardinal Newman High School in Warrington. Representing Chester we had The Arches Primary School and Boughton Heath Academy.

This was the first time that many of the children have represented their school in a county competition and you could just see the excitement on their faces. *This was a celebrate event.*



### Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, we held our Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics competitions at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. Over the course of the two days, 20 schools took part in the event and 400 children took part. *This was an inspire event.*



### **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Netball**

On 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February, we held our Year 3&4 and 5&6 Netball events at Blacon High School. The Year 3&4 event was a chance for the children to play friendly non-scoring games where they can learn the skills and rules of netball. We had 14 schools and 71 children who took part. *This was an aspire event.*

The Year 5&6 event is a pathway competition to the county final and is for the most competitive netballers. We had 16 schools and 93 children take part. *This was an inspire event.*

We had eight leaders from Blacon High School who did an excellent job in umpiring the matches.



### **Year 6 Gifted and Talented**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, we had our Gifted and Talented session for children in Year 6 at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. We invited Jansin Turgut who was an international rugby league player to run the session for us. Here the children took part in a fitness session on the athletics track-involving running around the track and a fitness circuit. They all did extremely well and persevered despite the cold weather. We had 23 children from 13 schools attend this event.





### **Biggest Ever Football Session**

On Wednesday 6th March, we teamed up with Chester FC Community Trust to give schools the chance to be part of the #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session!

Last year more than 90,000 girls from schools across England joined in with the Biggest Ever Football Session. The event forms part of the FA's #LetGirlsPlay campaign that aims to ensure girls have the same football opportunities as boys in schools and clubs.

Forty Year 3 & 4 girls from 8 Chester schools enjoyed a fun-packed morning of coaching sessions and games with Chester FC Community Trust at King George V Community Sports Hub in Blacon.



### **County Athletics Finals**

Most of March is taken up with the following county finals:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Primary and Secondary Schools Sportshall Athletics at Ellesmere Port Sports Village.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Year 5&6 Hockey at Alderley Edge.
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5&6 Basketball at Rudheath.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5&6 Netball at Macclesfield.
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – U12, U14, U16 girls Football at Moss Farm.

## Maths

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, a group of Year 9 pupils embarked on an educational trip to Chester Racecourse accompanied by Mr Pedder and Miss Thomas. The objective of the trip was to provide students with insights into the diverse career opportunities within the racing industry and to explore the mathematical concepts inherent in horseracing.

The day commenced with a visit to the weighing room, where students learned about the meticulous process of weighing jockeys before and after races. They gained an understanding of the importance of weight management in horseracing and its impact on performance.

Following the weighing room visit, students had the opportunity to examine the equipment and gear used by jockeys during races. They learned about the specialized nature of the attire and its role in ensuring the safety and comfort of both horse and rider.

Next, the group proceeded to the parade ring, where they observed the pre-race rituals and preparations of horses and jockeys. Students witnessed first-hand the excitement and anticipation leading up to a race, as well as the role of trainers and stable staff in preparing the horses for competition.

A comprehensive tour of the racecourse provided students with insights into the various facilities and infrastructure essential for hosting racing events. They learned about track maintenance, spectator facilities, and the logistics involved in organising race meetings.

One of the highlights of the trip was a presentation on career opportunities within the racing industry. Industry professionals shared their experiences and expertise, highlighting the diverse roles available, including trainers, jockeys, veterinarians, and event managers. Students were encouraged to explore their interests and consider future career paths within the industry.

The day concluded with an interactive session using a racehorse simulator, where students had the chance to experience the thrill of riding a virtual racehorse. This hands-on activity allowed them to apply their newfound knowledge of jockeying techniques and racing strategies in a simulated environment.

The school trip to Chester Racecourse proved to be both educational and inspiring for the Year 9 pupils. Through a combination of site visits, presentations, and interactive activities, students gained valuable insights into the inner workings of the racing industry and the mathematical principles underpinning horseracing. The experience broadened their horizons, fostering a greater appreciation for the diversity of career opportunities available and igniting a passion for further exploration in the field. Such immersive learning experiences are invaluable in helping students make informed decisions about their future career paths and nurturing their interest in mathematics and its real-world applications.





## Performing Arts

### Storeyhouse Women's Day:



World Book Day:



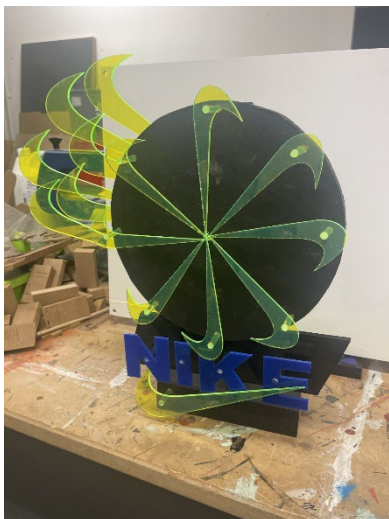
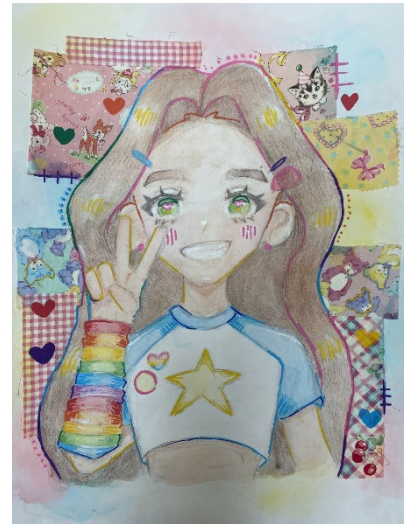
## Art and Design

### Practical Exams

In April, our year 11 students took part in their practical art and design exams for Fine Art, Graphic Communication and 3-Dimensional Design. They were given their exam papers in January and worked tirelessly on their preparatory work in preparation for their 10 hour supervised time, where they produced their outcomes. The students have explored themes such as 'Fragments, portraits, travel, places and spaces and borders, through a wide variety of creative processes. Across the two weeks, the Students conducted themselves extremely well and produced some outstanding creative and unique outcomes.

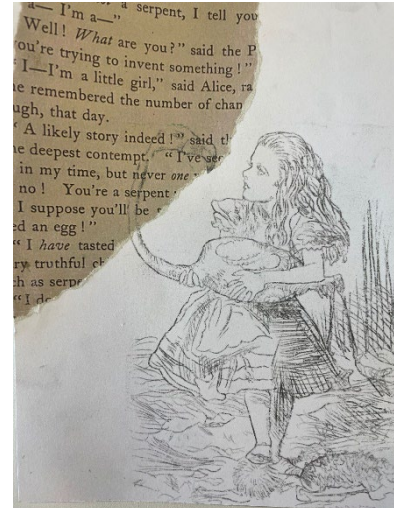






### World Book Day

To celebrate world book day in art our year 7 and 8 students explored John Tenniel's illustrations for Alice's adventures in Wonderland. Exploring the artist's method of mark making to create tone and texture in their drawings on top of collaged backgrounds. The students thoroughly enjoyed the theme and the idea of illustrating the weird and wonderful characters from the classic book. They produced some fantastic outcomes.



### Year 9 Street Art

Year 9 have been exploring the theme of Street Art in their art lessons – they have even been creating their own stencils inspired by Banksy and Shepard Fairey and spraying them to produce some really effective spray art.

### Chester University Immersion day

Once a year, as part of our partnership with Chester University we invited the DT and Art PGCE students in to school to spend the day in our creative faculty.

The associate teachers from Chester took part in a tour of the school, book looks, lesson observations and small group teaching within Art and Technology. The AT's were provided with our SOW so that they could deliver practical workshops to fit in with our curriculum and support their development in curriculum design.

As a faculty, we are always looking to develop the classroom experience for our students and the immersion day is a fantastic experience. The groups involved had a variety of SEND, PP students; we are ambitious for all students to achieve positive outcomes from their workshops. Throughout the day our students were respectful, resilient and willing to engage themselves in the workshops delivered to them, creating excellent outcomes.

This is a brilliant opportunity, every year, for our school, faculty, the university and the students involved.





## English

During the course of the second term, KS3 have studied varied drama texts, developing their foundational skills in investigation and close analysis of language, preparing them for their next academic steps in English and across the curriculum. Students enjoyed 'WHOOSHING' through their assigned plays, particularly Shakespeare, helping to bring the characters and plot to life and interviewing key characters to establish their motivations. Year 7 studied *The Tempest*, a Shakespearean comedy, exploring ideas about colonialism and the impact of forgiveness. Year 8 studied the history play, *Richard III*, considering power, the effects of tyranny and the consequences of unchecked ambition and were tasked with analysing Richard's manipulation of his closest



confidantes. Conversely, Year 9 students enjoyed studying JB Priestley's, *An Inspector Calls*. They explored social responsibility, gender and class, linking their knowledge and understanding closely to context. This study formed the basis for their final assessments. Students have now moved on to study their next topic, the modern novel, consisting of *A Monster Calls* (Year 7), *Animal Farm* (Year 8), *Of Mice, and Men* (Year 10).

During the autumn half term, we were very pleased to announce that Carnegie Book Club had returned and that students had already begun to read some of the Carnegie titles in advance of the final list being revealed. In addition to their studies, some KS3 students recently enjoyed a trip out to The Kings School with Mrs Gibson-Tipping and Mrs Williams, as part of the Carnegie Book Club, run by Miss S Perrett. This was a fantastic



opportunity for some of our students to work closely with others from The Kings School, Queens Park and Upton High School in mixed groups. They developed their speaking and listening skills, and it was wonderful for us to observe just how articulate and eloquent our students are as they discussed the books. We were fortunate enough to receive a full set of



texts during this trip, which will enable students to fully participate in helping to award the Carnegie prize, and we await the next event at Queens Park in mid-May. Carnegie book club continues to meet with Miss Perrett every Tuesday and is open to all students, regardless of their age.

Following the Christmas break, we introduced a separate 'Reading for Pleasure' lesson in which have the opportunity to read independently and to a member of staff, before completing an activity (based on their novel) and having a staff member comment



in their reading log. This is helping to build stamina in reading and students are becoming more resilient, fluent and developing their prosody. Recent student voice demonstrated that around three quarters thought they had made progress in reading and were enjoying their RpF sessions.



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated World Book Day. Students and staff were invited to dress up or bring a prop of their choice, as a nod to their

favourite book. It was fantastic to see so many getting involved and there was a real buzz around school. Students and staff alike enjoyed discussing their favourite plots, characters and settings, as well as their reasoning for choosing their character of choice. All students were given a World Book Day token during tutor time, which was redeemable at a number of different shops. A select number of students were also nominated by tutors to participate in scavenger hunt around school. They were required to locate a number of clues across school, linked to the R.J. Palacio novel, *Wonder*. Celebrations continued throughout the school day, with all year groups taking part in the masked reader, where students had great fun guessing the teacher behind the mask based on props and location around the school building. The English team celebrated with lessons focused on this year's theme, Read your Way, which centred on reading for pleasure, coinciding perfectly with the recent introduction of RpF lessons. Students also enjoyed working on themed activities in Art and produced some exceptional pieces of work with Miss Wright, linked to the Lewis Carroll novel, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Thank you to all who participated!



Year 10, continue to study English Language and English Literature separately to ensure we are teaching both skillsets explicitly and exclusively away from the other. This term, students have been transported back to the Elizabethan era, focusing on love and violence through their studies of *Romeo and Juliet*. This is a tragic tale of young love, separation and familial rivalry. This study has allowed students to continue to question societal pressures put upon different social groups – something they began studying through *Blood Brothers* in the Autumn Term. We are hoping to invite the cast of the stage production into school very soon to perform in our very own hall. We have also planned a trip to Salford Quays later in the new academic year to watch *Blood Brothers* come to life. In English Language students have studied Component 1 in depth and have now moved on to study Reading Component 2 skills. They will sit their mock GCSE Language Component 1 and Literature Component 2 following the Yr. 11 GCSEs. Students have prepared for this through in class mocks, over the course of the year, and have secured some excellent grades in both components.



Year 11 students continue to prepare for their English Literature and Language GCSEs and have been demonstrating their skills in regular in class mocks. We have now covered all of the course content for both Literature and Language and we began tailored revision programmes ahead of the final summer exams, which begin with Literature on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Staff across the team have offered several revision sessions (including P0, P6, Action Tutoring and Sunday evening sessions) which have been well attended in some areas and patchy in others. We continue to contact home, working with parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for students. In March, the Yr. 11 cohort were fortunate enough to welcome the cast of Quantum Theatre into school.

They watched a fantastic production of Jekyll and Hyde and had the opportunity to speak to the cast in character at the end of the session. It was a wonderful way to solidify their knowledge and understanding of this key GCSE text.

Overall, Mrs Gibson-Tipping is extremely proud of the staff in the English Department, continually developing new resources and techniques to engage students, and our students for their continued hard work towards their English studies. We look forward to continually developing a progressive and robust curriculum for our students and offering every opportunity for them to be successful.

## **PE**

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, Netball, Fitness, Badminton, Football, Basketball and Dance clubs delivered by a range of staff from 1.30pm to 2pm and 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 football team finished the term with a 4-3 win against Bishops Bluecoat High School, losing 3-1 they came back second half with two goals to complete the comeback.

Year 8 Boys lost 4-2 on penalties in round 4 of the ESFA cup after 3-3 draw against Ludlow High School. Dry, two students forced the penalties with plenty of character throughout. In preparation for the big cup game, year 8 boys drew 2-2 with Upton High School (Bobby Rudd x 2)

Year 9 Boys football team lost 5-3 in the quarterfinal of the Chester & District cup against Kings High School, in a difficult defeat. The team played Bishops Heber High School in a friendly 2 weeks before the cup game and lost 3-1.

Year 10 Boys Football team reached the semi-final of the ESFA small schools cup – a fantastic and unbelievable achievement for the squad who have defined the odds getting to the last 4 of the country – Mr Sabri is so proud of you all. In the semi-final against Clifton High School, they lost 1-0 against a much-organised team from Bristol in a game that could have gone either way. In the Quarter Final, they beat an extremity talented Newcastle School for Boys team 3-2 with. In Round 4, they beat Moorland from Blackburn.

Year 10 Boys lost 4-2 in Round 3 of the Cheshire Cup against Whitby High School with two students getting the goals.

Year 10 Boys Football team lost 2-0 to Bishops Heber High School in the Chester and District Semi Final. The year 10 were outstanding in the Quarter Final against Christleton High School in the Quarter Final, one student was the hero of the match during the penalty shootout win. Year 10 Boys B football team lost 6-0 to Upton High School.



Year 11 Boys lost 3-2 to Tarporley High School in the quarterfinal of the Chester & District cup. Despite leading 2-0, the opposition had too much quality and we fell short. The Year 11 B team lost 7-2 to Queens Park High School. It was an improved performance by the B team who lost 4-0 to Bishops Bluecoat High School just before Christmas.

Year 9/10 Girls Football team lost 7-1 in the Chester and District cup quarterfinal with two students being superb with their attitude and work rate throughout against a good team.

Year 7/8 Girls Football team had no luck in the cups. They lost 4-1 to St Peters High School (Elisha Rogers) in the Cheshire Cup and 7-0 against Bishops Heber High School in the Quarter Final of the Chester and District cup.

### **Basketball**

Year 10/11 Boys Basketball team were runners up in the Chester and District cup final, losing 56-27 against a talented Upton High School. One student was quality throughout and has had a massive impact on his teammates. To reach the final, they had to beat Catholic High School and they did 21-13 in a very close competitive game.

Year 9/8 Boys Basketball team were runners up in the Chester and District cup final, losing 69-37 against a very good Bishops Bluecoat High School. On route to reaching the final, the squad had weekly fixtures. The team beat Upton High School 33-27. The group won 35-15 against Catholic High School. The first match was a win against Queens Park High School 33-15, one student must of assisted 28 points and another scored over 20 points.

Year 7 Boys Basketball team finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the Chester and District Basketball tournament, won 1 and lost 3 games. The year 7 are keen to learn, improve and have a lot of potential.

### **Volleyball**

Year 10 Boys won the Chester and District Volleyball competition beating Catholic High School in straight sets. Amazing performance by 4 students who play excellent three-touch volleyball and were very attacking at the net.

Year 10 Girls were runners up in the Chester and District Volleyball competition losing to Catholic High School. Two students served really well and played good 3 touch with the team mates but lost 2-1 overall.

## **Dance**

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

## **LFC in the Community Onside Programme**

The LFC Onside programme from autumn to spring term has impacted Blacon High School students attendance and achievement at Key Stage 3 PE with currently 40 students ( 20 boys & 20 girls) developing key life skills & achieving Level 1 leadership award & the Prince's Trust Award. This had a positive impact on Monday's attendance, behaviour and attainment.

The event at The AXA academy with the Scholars and 80 primary school students offered opportunity for our participants to develop their confidence and leadership skills in a coaching environment. The Scholars offered football sessions developing participant's skills through drills. Eight Blacon High School year 9 leaders who delivered warm ups and aided organisation, supporting the primary students, supported each session. Chris Kirkland is to come into school to deliver a year 7 assembly, watch 10 year 9 Boys leadership assessment project 5 a side football tournament and coach 4 year 10/9 Boys goal keeping.

The programme has given the students greater confidence, strengthening their communication and leadership skills and developing character. They enjoy the responsibility, like being challenged and the students are superbly supported and coached by the LFC mentors - Wendy is fantastic.

We have identified 8 female students in year 8 to take part in the change maker's course, focus on mental health and physical wellbeing - it was an enjoyable 3 days during February half term for the girls and they recently attended Anfield stadium to listen to role model Natasha Downie on leadership and female success in sport. It has been a very successful programme!

## **Celtic Football Club**

Mr Bradford, Mr Hughes and Mr Jones organised an enrichment trip for 9 year 7 students to travel to Glasgow to watch Celtic win 3-1 win against St Johnstone in an SPL match. Mr Bradford has made a link with the Kano foundation who fed our students burger and chips, tickets behind the goal to watch the game. It was an excellent experience for our young students.

## **Blacon Sports Village Sports**

Excellent Year 5 & 6 Handball tournament won by Highfield and St Theresa's were runners up. Year 3/4 Dodgeball tournament was enjoyed by all schools with JH Godwin year 4 winners and Dee Point year 3 winners. A massive thank you to our year 10 and 8 leaders who helped umpire and lead the events.

## **Sports Hall Athletics**

Year 8 Boys and Girls both came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 10 schools at the Chester and District sports hall athletics competition. Year 7 Girls finished 8<sup>th</sup> and the Year 7 Boys finished 9<sup>th</sup> in a very talented event with students competing well in running, throwing and jumping events

### Cricket

U13 Girls Cricket team had their first ever match against Bishops Bluecoat High School. Cheshire Cricket have helped.

### Handball

Year 8 Girls Handball team came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Chester and District Handball competition against quality opposition.



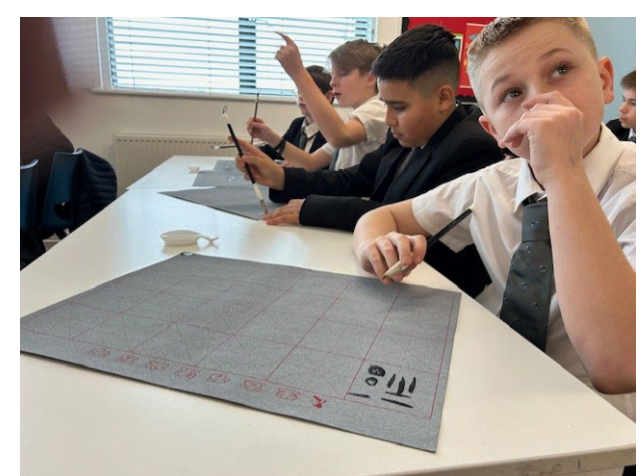
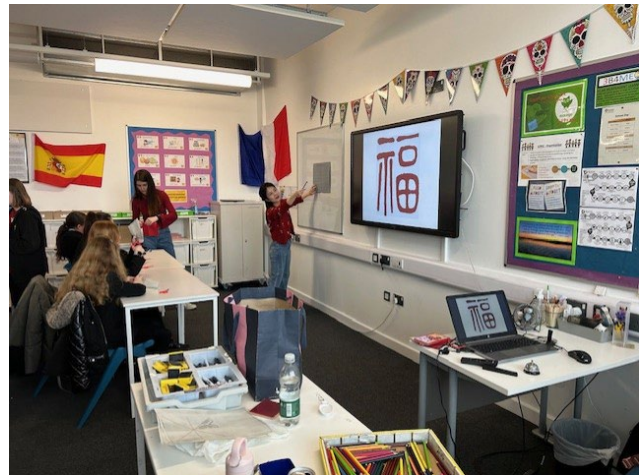






## MFL

In February, Year 8 enjoyed being taught by members of the Chinese Department at Chester University. They learned about some Chinese customs, learned some key vocabulary and practised Chinese calligraphy, which they painted with water on special paper. This was a great cultural capital experience for them.



This year, a group of year 8 and 9 students have been coming each week to MFL club, where they have been learning conversational Italian. The students are now able to greet each other and give basic personal details. They can understand a menu and order food in a restaurant, and they know the colours, days of the week and months of the year. They have tasted traditional 'antipasti', danced to Italian pop music and admired the elaborate costumes at the Venice festival! We have been very impressed to see how quickly they have grown in confidence in the language. In addition, Lily in year 11 has been coming each week to the MFL department to practice her Spanish. She has already taught herself an impressive amount of Spanish in her own time and her desire to absorb the culture and language is wonderful to see.

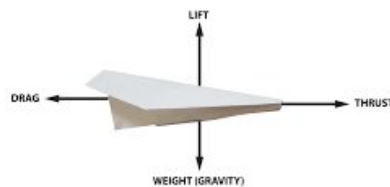
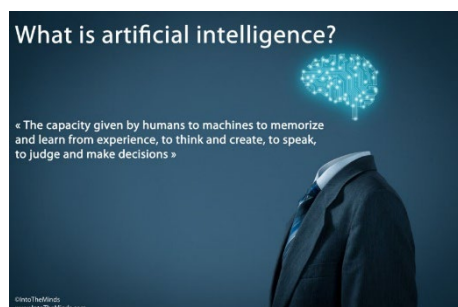
The MFL GCSE Speaking Exams have now all been completed and we have three languages this year. In the absence of a suitable Urdu examiner locally, Mrs Hassall took a Year 11 student (accompanied by mum), to St Paul's Catholic High School in Manchester, where he sat his higher tier Urdu speaking

exam. For Polish, we had one higher tier and four foundation tier candidates. Yolanda Mrozek (daughter of our School Exams Officer), very kindly offered her time and skills to support Mrs Hassall in conducting the Polish speaking exams and we are very grateful to both Yolanda and St Paul's. Most recently, the French speaking exams were also completed. Everything has gone very smoothly across all languages.

## Science

British Science week was held during the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March. Both students and staff enjoyed the range of activities on offer. The focus was on science knowledge and variables. Students had engaged in tasks such as:

- Making fossils
- Periodic table games and songs
- Rocket making
- Paper planes and aerodynamics
- Evolution of the atmosphere
- How AI will affect our lives in the future



	1	2											13	14	15	16	17	18
1	<div>Hhydrogen</div> <div>Hehelium</div>																	
2	<div>3Li lithium</div>	<div>4Be beryllium</div>											<div>5B boron</div>	<div>6C carbon</div>	<div>7N nitrogen</div>	<div>8O oxygen</div>	<div>9F fluorine</div>	<div>10Ne neon</div>
3	<div>11Na sodium</div>	<div>12Mg magnesium</div>											<div>13Al aluminum</div>	<div>14Si silicon</div>	<div>15P phosphorus</div>	<div>16S sulfur</div>	<div>17Cl chlorine</div>	<div>18Ar argon</div>
4	<div>19K potassium</div>	<div>20Ca calcium</div>	<div>21Sc scandium</div>	<div>22Ti titanium</div>	<div>23V vanadium</div>	<div>24Cr chromium</div>	<div>25Mn manganese</div>	<div>26Fe iron</div>	<div>27Co cobalt</div>	<div>28Ni nickel</div>	<div>29Cu copper</div>	<div>30Zn zinc</div>	<div>31Ga gallium</div>	<div>32Ge germanium</div>	<div>33As arsenic</div>	<div>34Se selenium</div>	<div>35Br bromine</div>	<div>36Kr krypton</div>
5	<div>37Rb rubidium</div>	<div>38Sr strontium</div>	<div>39Y yttrium</div>	<div>40Zr zirconium</div>	<div>41Nb niobium</div>	<div>42Mo molybdenum</div>	<div>43Tc technetium</div>	<div>44Ru ruthenium</div>	<div>45Rh rhodium</div>	<div>46Pd palladium</div>	<div>47Ag silver</div>	<div>48Cd cadmium</div>	<div>49In indium</div>	<div>50Sn tin</div>	<div>51Sb antimony</div>	<div>52Te tellurium</div>	<div>53I iodine</div>	<div>54Xe xenon</div>
6	<div>55Cs cesium</div>	<div>56Ba barium</div>	<div>57-71</div>	<div>72Hf hafnium</div>	<div>73Ta tantalum</div>	<div>74W tungsten</div>	<div>75Re rhenium</div>	<div>76Os osmium</div>	<div>77Ir iridium</div>	<div>78Pt platinum</div>	<div>79Au gold</div>	<div>80Hg mercury</div>	<div>81Tl thallium</div>	<div>82Pb lead</div>	<div>83Bi bismuth</div>	<div>84Po polonium</div>	<div>85At astatine</div>	<div>86Rn radon</div>
7	<div>87Fr francium</div>	<div>88Ra radium</div>	<div>89-103</div>	<div>104Rf rutherfordium</div>	<div>105Db dubnium</div>	<div>106Sg seaborgium</div>	<div>107Bh bohrium</div>	<div>108Hs hassium</div>	<div>109Mt meitnerium</div>	<div>110Ds darmstadtium</div>	<div>111Rg rogersium</div>	<div>112Cn copernicium</div>	<div>113Nh nihonium</div>	<div>114Fl flerovium</div>	<div>115Mc moscovium</div>	<div>116Lv livermorium</div>	<div>117Ts tennessine</div>	<div>118Og oganesson</div>
Lanthanide Series			<div>57La lanthanum</div>	<div>58Ce cerium</div>	<div>59Pr praseodymium</div>	<div>60Nd neodymium</div>	<div>61Pm promethium</div>	<div>62Sm samarium</div>	<div>63Eu europium</div>	<div>64Gd gadolinium</div>	<div>65Tb terbium</div>	<div>66Dy dysprosium</div>	<div>67Ho holmium</div>	<div>68Er erbium</div>	<div>69Tm thulium</div>	<div>70Yb ytterbium</div>	<div>71Lu lutetium</div>	
Actinide Series			<div>89Ac actinium</div>	<div>90Th thorium</div>	<div>91Pa protactinium</div>	<div>92U uranium</div>	<div>93Np neptunium</div>	<div>94Pu plutonium</div>	<div>95Am americium</div>	<div>96Cm curium</div>	<div>97Bk berkelium</div>	<div>98Cf californium</div>	<div>99Es einsteinium</div>	<div>100Fm fermium</div>	<div>101Md mendelevium</div>	<div>102No nobelium</div>	<div>103Lr lawrencium</div>	
Mass Number			<div>Symbol (Element Name) (Atomic Number)</div>	alkali metal	alkaline earth metal	transition metal	post transition metal	metalloid	non-metal	halogen	noble gas	lanthanide	actinide					



## **Chester Schools Together**

### **Overview**

Chester Schools Together is a partnership between Blacon High School, The King's School, Bishops' Blue Coat CofE High School, Catholic High School and recently included Upton High School, led by Miss Gemma McHale (Head of Music). Working in equal partnership, we bring together students from all five schools for a variety of exciting learning and cultural opportunities. Since January 2024, we have organised the following events:

### **NCO Masterclass**

On Friday 12th January, 5 students from the Blacon High School Band took part in a Masterclass with the Northern Chamber Orchestra at the Storyhouse. Working with professional musicians from the NCO and performing with students from the Chester Schools Together.



### **Storyhouse Podcast Masterclass**

10 students from year 10 took part in a two-day Podcast Masterclass at the end of February; the students produced a podcast with the history and culture of the City of Chester at its heart. Students researched well-known locations, such as the Cathedral, City Walls and Roman Amphitheatre, and then recorded the story of their city. After an initial focus group session held here at Blacon High School, students from our partnership schools spent two days together recording at Storyhouse and locations around the city. The students from all 5 schools took on the roles of a Presenter or a Historian, interviewing members of the public and reporting interesting facts about their specific location around the city.



The Podcast is currently in the final production stages and we will post a link on our school website and social media pages when it is available to the public. It will also be promoted in the Storyhouse for visitors to enjoy.

### **Carnegie Book Awards**

We are currently offering students the opportunity to 'shadow' the 2024 Yoto Carnegies, the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards. 10 pupils from across KS3 and KS4 attend the weekly lunchtime 'Carnegie Book Club' with the English Department and last month attended the 'unboxing' event The King's School Chester, where they found out about the books on the shortlist. Before the Easter holidays the students took a selection of books from the shortlist home to read and they have been invited to attend Queen's Park High School, on Wednesday 8th May to discuss the books they have read so far.

### **Storyhouse Experience Careers**

On Tuesday 16th April, 10 pupils from year 9 and 10 visited the Storyhouse and were tasked with proposing a launch event centered around an upcoming production at Storyhouse. Pupils met members of staff from various departments of Storyhouse, with a view to tapping into their expertise before arranging all the logistics surrounding the event, including elements such as: health and safety, budgeting, commissioning artists/freelance staff, marketing the event and catering the event. After drafting their plan, the pupils pitched their ideas to a panel of experts, who offered feedback and shared ideas for potential improvement. We have received feedback from Storyhouse staff that ideas pitched and shared by Blacon pupils are going to be used for an upcoming production at the venue.



### **Rowing Club**

10 year 8 students attend the Chester Schools Together Rowing Programme fortnightly and have been on a continuous journey of developing a new skill set. Students have attended rowing sessions on the water every 2 weeks at King's School Rowing Club. On 24th January, the students attended and competed in the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Warrington, with 1 Blacon High School student coming 9th out of 180 competitors. Another student placed 14th and 2 other students placed in the top 20. Fantastic results due to their hard work and dedication to the indoor training sessions that they attend every week in the Blacon High School Gym, led by Technology Teacher Mr Harrison Kendall. These weekly sessions after school support the fantastic fortnightly coaching sessions with the King's School Rowing Club Coaches on the water. Mr Kendall represented Blacon High School at the Chester Schools Together 'Boat Naming Ceremony' in February. Rowing students

are currently preparing for their capsized drill, training and working towards the Chester Regatta on the River Dee on the 9th of June.



#### **Future CST Events for your Diary:**

##### **Thursday 23rd May - Drama Showcase 6pm-7pm - Garret Theatre, Storyhouse**

Drama departments from each school will come together in the Garret Theatre to showcase some of the work they have been doing with drama practitioners in an evening performance for parents. Prior to the performance, during the afternoon, students will come together for a workshop to do a joint performance ready for the evening.

##### **Wednesday 26th June - CST Celebration Evening 6pm-9pm - Garret Theatre, Storyhouse**

An evening of celebrating all we have achieved over the year and we plan to include snippets of the drama showcase and podcast, Choir performance and students talking about other events they have taken part in throughout the year, including our rowing programme and F1 masterclasses. Rehearsal from 3:30pm with the official event taking place 6pm-7:30pm, followed by refreshments until approximately 9pm. We would be looking to invite and thank everyone who has been involved in the projects this year.



### Learning outside the Classroom visits

#### Year 7

Date	Visit	Subject	Staff Initials
12.10.23	Delamere Forest	Outdoor Education	Miss Ankers
16.10.23	KS3 Halloween Disco	Extra-Curricular	Miss McHale
28.10,11.11,12.11	Poppy selling – Remembrance	Cadets	Mr Jones
02.11.23	Delamere Forest	Outdoor Education	Miss Ankers
11.12.23	Choir and Band Holy Trinity Church	Extra-Curricular	Miss McHale
10.01.24	KS3 Reward trip Cinema and Nandos	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
12.01.24	NCO Masterclass at Storeyhouse	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
01.03.24	Chester Schools Together	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
07.03.24	Outdoor Ed. Delamere Forest	Outdoor Education	Roger Rayner
15.03.24	LFC Inspiring Women and Girls in Football	PE	Mrs Carr
16.03.24	Celtic FC Trip	PE	Mr Bradford
18-20.03.24	Conway Residential	Funded Trip	Mr Lacey
21.03.24	Delamere Forest	Outdoor Education	Miss Ankers
27.03.24	KS3 Nandos & Cineworld Reward Trip	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
18.04.24	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Roger Rayner

#### Year 8

Date	Visit	Subject	Staff Initials
6.09.23-24.07.24	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Roger Raynor
22.09.23	Canal Boat Trip	Outdoor Education	Miss Ankers
10.10.23	Knutsford National Cup	PE	Mr Forbes
16.10.23	Halloween Disco	Extra-Curricular	Miss Mchale
28.10,04.11,11.11,12.11	Poppy selling – Remembrance	Cadets	Mr Jones
11.11.23	Choir and Band, Holy Trinity Church	Extra-Curricular	Miss Mchale
10.01.24	KS3 Reward Trip	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
12.01.24	NCO Master Class at Storeyhouse	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
15.1,29.1,31.1,5.2,7.2,26.2, 28.2,11.3,13.3,25.3,27.3, 22.4, 24.4	Chester Schools Together	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
19.01.24	National Cup	Football Extra-Curricular	Mr Sabri
24.01.24	Indoor Rowing Championships	Extra-Curricular	Mr Kendell



01.03.24	Chester Schools Together	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
08.03.24	International Women's Week	Drama	Mrs Salisbury
15.03.24	LFC Inspiring Women and Girls in Football event	PE	Mrs Carr
18-20.03.24	Conway Residential	Funded Trip	Mr Lacey
25.04.24	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Roger Raynor

**Year 9**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Visit</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Staff Initials</b>
06.09 – 24.07.24	Route 5 Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Roger Raynor
19.9,3.10,17.10,7.11,21.11,5.12.23	Animal Care – Adventure Playground	Animal Care	Miss Ankers
20.9,4.10,18.10,8.11,22.11,6.12.23	Animal Care – Adventure Playground	Animal Care	Miss Ankers
16.10.23	Halloween Disco	Extra-Curricular	Miss Mchale
28.10,4.11,11.11,12.11	Poppy selling – Remembrance	Cadets	Mr Jones
11.11.23	Choir and Band Holy Trinity Church	Extra-Curricular	Miss Mchale
10.01,25.01,1.2,9.2,26.2,12.3,17.4	Airbus Industrial Cadets/Sir Richard Gwyn	Careers	Miss Thomas and Mr Hughes
11.01.24	KS4 Reward Trip – Cinema and Nandos	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
12.01.24	NCO Masterclass at Storeyhouse	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
19-21.01.24	Fox Barracks	Cadets	Mr Jones
07.03.24	Onside Programme Liverpool FC Foundation	PE	Mr Cairns
08.03.24	Storeyhouse International Women's week	Drama	Mrs Salisbury
16.03.24	Carnegie Book Awards at Kings School	English	Mrs Gibson-Tipping
18-20.03.24	Conway Residential	Funded Trip	Mr Lacey
27.03.24	Reward Trip – Nandos and Cineworld	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
16.04.24	Chester Schools Together	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
19.04.24	Maths – Chester Racecourse	Maths	Mr Pedder

**Year 10**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Visit</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Staff Initials</b>
27.9.23-17.7.24.24	Storeyhouse Young Leaders	Young Leaders	Mrs Kenyon-Owen
3.10.23	Animal Care – Adventure Playground	Animal Care	Miss Ankers
04.10.23	Animal Care – Adventure Playground	Animal Care	Miss Ankers
06.10.23	Chesterfield High School – Football	Extra-Curricular	Mr Sabri
5&6.10.12	Duke of Edinburgh	Cadets	Mr Jones
17&18.10.23	Animal Care – Adventure Playground	Animal Care	Miss Ankers
19.10.23	Handbridge Campus	Careers	Miss Thomas
19.10.23	Liverpool Empire	Drama	Mrs Salisbury
28.10-24.4.24	Weekly – Rage Fitness	PE	Mr Cairns
28.10,4.11,11.11.12.11.23	Poppy selling – Remembrance	Cadets	Mr Jones
11.11.23	Choir and Band – Holy Trinity Church	Extra-Curricular	Miss Mchale
11.01.24	KS4 Reward Trip – Cinema and Nandos	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
12.01.24	Masterclass at Storeyhouse	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
01.03.24	Chester Schools Together	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
01.03.24	National Cup	Football extra-curricular	Mr Sabri
19-21.03.24	Fox Barracks	Cadets	Mr Jones
08.03.24	Storeyhouse International Women's Week	Drama	Mrs Salisbury
14.03.24	Countess of Chester Hospital Placements	Careers	Miss Thomas
16.03.24	Carnegie Book Awards Lunch at Kings School	English	Mrs Gibson-Tipping
16.04.24	Chester Schools Together at Storehouse	Chester Schools Together	Miss Mchale
27.03.24	KS4 Reward Trip – Nandos and Cineworld	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
29.4-3.05.24	Work Experience Week	Careers	Miss Thomas and Mr Hughes



## Year 11

Date	Visit	Subject	Staff Initials
16.10.23-29.7.24	Educate Group		Mrs Kenyon-Owen
2-7.11.23	Bulgarian Return Visit	International	Mr Stockdale
13.11.23	Storeyhouse Othello Controlled Assessment	Drama	Mrs Salisbury
13.12.23-24.04.24	Empowerment Programme Rage Fitness	Pastoral	Miss Garner
10.01,25.1,1.02,9.02,26.2,12.3,17.4	Airbus Industrial Cadets/Sir Richard Gwyn High School	Careers	Miss Thomas and Mr Hughes
11.01.24	Reward Trip Cinema and Nandos	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri
24.01.24	Rage Fitness	Pastoral	Miss Garner
15.02-16.02.24	Geography Field Trip Rhyd-y-Crevau	Geography	Mr Green
01.03.24	Sick to Death Museum Visit	History	Mrs Liddell
22-24.03.24	PGL Revision Weekend	Pastoral	Miss Garner
27.03.24	Reward Trip – Nandos and Cineworld	Whole School Rewards	Mr Sabri

## History

The History Department has been busy and has enjoyed a successful start to the year. We have set up our 'History Hot Scholars' that takes place on a Wednesday lunch time and it is aimed to encourage pupils at KS3 to gain an extra flavour of our brilliant subject. We took a group of year 9 pupils to a debate at Chester University with the Rotary club and they were brilliant and did us proud. Next week we are visiting the Grosvenor Park archaeological dig in Chester to have a look at the amazing finds and look at archaeology at the University, this will lead us to another trip a few weeks later to visit the archaeological labs at Chester University and talk to students. Next week we have a Bake Sale planned to raise money for St John's Hospice because one of our Hot Scholars is currently visiting their Aunty who is using these amazing services.

At Key Stage Four, we are giving pupils every opportunity to revise by offering Breakfast, Lunch and after school revision. We have also had the pleasure of taking almost all Year 11 historians to the 'Sick to Death' medicine museum in Chester to help them to revise their Medicine topic.

We have a Battlefields tour to France and Belgium running in November 2024 and Auschwitz in May 2025, so lots for pupils and staff to look forward to. We also are hoping to run KS3 trips to the Imperial War Museum, York and Quarry Bank Mill in the late summer term.

## **Sanctuary Hub report**

The new BHS Sanctuary Hub is now half way through the first academic year since it was established and moved from the Curriculum+ area in the new building.

It operates as a 'pressure relief' valve for students who are either having a bad day and need a quiet space to work away from a mainstream classroom, or who just need a space to calm down and self-regulate for a while. It is also a room where some SEND students, who need regular 'timeout', can find just that.

The Sanctuary Hub is located in one of the Learning Lodges, alongside the SLT Isolation classroom. The small room between the two classrooms is used by Teaching Assistants as a working/break area, so students associate the double room as an area which operates alongside Mainstream classrooms but contributes to the work achieved there.

The room is also used at Morning and Lunchtime Breaks for students who need to have a space away from the rigours of the outside playground.

On an average day, approximately 20 students, staying from a few minutes to the whole day, depending on their needs, attend the room. A system of Sanctuary Hub passes has been established so access to the room can be carefully monitored and documented. Pastoral staff, senior SEND staff and Family Support workers can give passes. A short and carefully worded description of need is included on the pass.

Sanctuary Hub has become a fundamental part of the academic and pastoral life of the school, providing a refuge and, as its name describes, a sanctuary from the pressures of mainstream education for those students who need time and space to reflect or work quietly on their own. Teaching Assistants also use the room to work with their students on occasion for individual interventions.

While a student is in the room, the two Hub Managers (David Alexander and Charlotte McMillan - the job is shared between them) make sure each is given individual attention, sometimes just to check that they have the resources they need to work quietly, or to find out what may have caused their need to take time out. This quiet, confidential chat can reveal other issues, which may need to be passed on to other pastoral or academic staff.

Sanctuary Hub staff would welcome any visiting governor to come and see for themselves the success of the room at work.

## **Religious Studies**

### **KS3**

Throughout the spring, term students have continued to work hard in Religious Studies exploring different religions, worldviews and ethical issues.

### **Year 7**

In Year 7, the students have spent the spring term looking at the life of Jesus. They have explored the idea of Jesus being the Son of God, some of the parables that Jesus taught and how the idea that Jesus is, the Son of God has an influence on believers. We then moved on to look at sin and salvation exploring the crucifixion and the teachings on judgement.

### **Year 8**

In Year 8 students have been exploring the religions of Buddhism and Islam. They explored the concept of suffering in Buddhism and Justice in Islam. They have done this by looking at the faith and how members of that religion respond to these issues.

### **Year 9**

In Year 9, students have been focusing on the ethical issues of Euthanasia and crime and punishment. They have grappled with these topics drawing on lots of evidence to decide on their opinion.

### **KS4**

Key Stage 4 continues to grow. Students in Year 10 and 11 have embraced the core religious studies programme and have had some great discussions on the environment and the laws on abortion. At GCSE the year 11 cohort have finished the course and are now revising for their upcoming exams on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May. Year 10, have now completed the Christianity element of the course and are moving on to Islam.

Overall another successful term in Religious Studies.

### **Revision Support for Year 10 and 11**

#### **Made Revision Session**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we invited Danny from MADE to share their Rapid Revision sessions with Year 10 students. Year 10 were organised into three collaborative groups and each spent an hour in the hall at the Rapid Revision workshop. In this workshop, Year 10 explored a number of revision strategies and practiced these in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere including games and discussion.

At 6pm, a session for parents and carers followed. Although attendance was lower than hoped, the parents who attended were engaged and enthusiastic, with Karen Appleby and Mrs Roberts having the opportunity to join the lively discussion with parents. The session was enjoyable and insightful.

Feedback from both the student and parent sessions, were very positive. The trainer said:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed my day at Blacon. The students were well behaved and friendly and it is clear from the feedback that they found the workshop to useful and enjoyable with techniques that they can apply straightaway to their impending mock exams... It would be terrific to return to the school for further training next year. Marginal Gains for example, to give them a final boost before their GCSEs."*



Here is the MADE link to their 'Glossary of techniques', which summarises the revision techniques shared to our students, and many more: <https://www.made-training.com/glossary/>

We will be referencing these techniques in the upcoming Year 10 Information Evening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May where all students and parents/carers can access exam and revision information. Year 11 have experienced a similar workshop for students and parents to support them in preparation for their summer examinations.

## **Geography**

### **Year 7**

Building upon their foundational understanding of geography, Year 7 students delved into more comprehensive topics this spring. They explored the dynamics of changing world population and delved into how varying levels of economic and social development influence regions susceptible to tectonic hazards. The focus on thematic learning provided students with a deeper insight into global phenomena.

### **Year 8**

Throughout the term, Year 8 students concentrated on water-related subjects, including the physical geography of rivers, flooding, and water supply and management. Currently, they are immersed in studying the geography of Africa, actively challenging stereotypes about the continent while unravelling its rich physical and human history.

### **Year 9**

As Year 9 students finalized their options choices, they approached the culmination of their geographical education. They engaged in comprehensive studies on the physical processes shaping coastal and glaciated regions, alongside delving into the critical issue of climate change. Meaningful discussions on the moral implications of our evolving world, particularly the impacts of climate change, resonated with students, emphasizing the significance of responsible citizenship in shaping a sustainable future.

### **Year 10**

With a focus on deepening their understanding of the world's diverse ecosystems, Year 10 students explored some of the most unique environments on the planet. Their studies underscored the intricate interplay between the physical and human realms, highlighting the fragility of these precious natural habitats.

### **Year 11**

As Year 11 students approached their exam season, they engaged in rigorous preparation, culminating in geographical fieldwork activities in Snowdonia during February. Despite encountering challenging weather conditions, the students demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience, gathering valuable river data to enhance their understanding of key processes, landforms, and

management strategies in river environments. Their exemplary conduct during the fieldwork reflected positively on the school community.

Throughout the spring term, the Geography Department at Blacon High School facilitated a diverse range of engaging and thought-provoking activities, fostering a deep appreciation for the complexities of our world among students across all year groups. The commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by both students and staff underscored the department's dedication to nurturing informed global citizens equipped to address the challenges of the 21st century



A Year 7 student won the Blacon High school Antarctica flag competition.

"Your flag has travelled to Antarctica with Nick Withey, a Traverse Vehicles Engineer with British Antarctic Survey. Your photograph was taken at Rothera, the largest UK station on Antarctica. The photograph was taken by one of the many vistas near Rothera."



**Rachel Hudson**  
**Headteacher**