

...Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Celebration



On Wednesday 1 November, the school held its annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Celebration Evening for our latest Bronze and Silver Award recipients and their families. In all, thirteen groups successfully completed their Bronze Award and five groups completed Silver. As well as receiving their Award badges and certificates, the evening was an opportunity for students to share their amazing DofE experience with parents, staff, governors and VIPs through creative and entertaining video and photo presentations. Megan, Holly and Lucy (Year 10) and Ellen (Year 11) delivered excellent speeches to the



audience about the values of the two awards. Award badges were presented to the students by Mrs Grieveson, Chair of Governors, and the VIP Guest Speakers for the evening, Stephen and Callum Smith, two of the four world famous Smith brothers – arguably the most decorated boxing family on record. All four siblings have been



crowned British Champions and boast an awe-inspiring collection of WBO world, intercontinental and Commonwealth titles. Stephen and Callum delivered an inspirational address to the students, highlighting the importance of having goals and aspirations, and the determination and self-discipline to achieve them. Indeed, this cohort of Award recipients has faced their fair share of trials and tribulations in achieving their badges but have all come through with renewed resilience, determination and amazing life skills which will serve them well in their future endeavours. A big thank you to Mr Rigby for whom this has been the first year in charge of the programme at FHS – he should be very proud of the students, their achievements and how the DofE continues to thrive at FHS under his able leadership. Thank you again to Callum and Stephen for supporting us; all four Smith brothers passionately give of their time to support Autism Awareness worldwide (in honour of their sister Hollie) and the school made a donation to the charity on the evening. If you would like to offer your support, please visit [Autism Awareness](#) to find out more.

... Visiting a Destination of a Lifetime!

Over the half term break, 19 geographers and scientists embarked on a five day visit to the land of ice and fire, Iceland! The itinerary included visiting a range of stunning and unique natural attractions. Students visited Thingvellir National Park to walk along a tectonic plate boundary; a volcanic sandy beach, four dramatic waterfalls; Solheimajokull glacier; Reykjavik harbour and a geothermal power station. The sunny, clear weather made the tour all the more memorable and the final day was completed with a relaxing bathe in the world famous Blue Lagoon! They were even lucky to see the Aurora Borealis (The Northern Lights) on two night-time viewing walks! The trip included a visit to the infamous Eyjafjallajokull volcano, well-known for closing European airspace in 2010 due to its ash eruption. Mrs MacDunne, the tour leader, commented that "the students have had an enriching trip and made many life-long memories. They have been a pleasure to take away and have been mature ambassadors for Formby High School". Well done to Team Iceland 2017! A day-by-day record of the sites visited by the students can be found on the @FHSGeographers Twitter account.



...Pearl of Africa Children's Choir



FHS were very honoured to have hosted our friends from the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir from Uganda on 17 October 2017. The group entertained Year 7 and 8 in an informative assembly as well as three of our local primary schools in the afternoon. The day finished with a joint concert with G:Force Community Gospel Choir, Mundo Afrika and (a debut for) the new FHS

Singers. We would like to thank everyone involved for their support and incredible generosity in fundraising; the whole day raised over £1,000 to help the expanding Molly and Paul Foundation of Schools: <http://www.pearlofafrica.org.uk/>

...You've got to be in to win!

Everyone close to the FHS community understands the importance we place on good attendance because of its direct impact on academic progress. We are very proud of our sustained record of topping the table across the local authority for our attendance figures. The start to the 2017/18 academic year has been outstanding with Year 7-11 attendance for the first half term at 97.6%. In particular, our new Year 7 students have started their FHS journey in real style with **amazing** attendance achievements - especially 7R (99.6%), 7O (99.5%) and 7M (99.5%).

...Primary Maths Maze



FHS recently welcomed Year 6 students from Redgate, Freshfield and Trinity St Peter's primary schools for the annual Primary Maths Maze. With the help of 15 of our Year 9 students, it was a very successful morning of maths puzzles and challenges which all the students thoroughly enjoyed. Trinity St Peter's once again emerged victorious, but by just two points from Redgate who were hot on their heels. Well done to all involved.

...We will remember them

As we all come together to honour and remember the fallen, the school will observe two minutes of silence on Friday 10 November and staff and students will attend the Remembrance Service at Holy Trinity Church in Formby to lay a wreath on behalf of the school community. Poppies are currently on sale throughout the school; please encourage your child to bring a small donation and wear a poppy with pride. We would also like to let you know that Byng House Royal British Legion Poppy Break Centre in Southport are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December to raise funds for their facility which provides much needed breaks for serving and ex-service members of the armed forces community.



In our newsletters we always celebrate the many successes of our school teams. It is equally important that we celebrate the many achievements beyond the school gates. You may recall earlier this term we reported that Francesca (Year 10) was on her way to represent Great Britain in the 'World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Competition' in London; well she returned with the Silver medal – congratulations Francesca! A huge well done also to Tabatha (Year 7) who became the North West Under 12 Girls Trampoline Synchro Champion along with her partner Georgia Smith last Saturday! Finally, a special mention for our very own Miss O'Neill who is now a proud All Britain Gaelic Football Champ!

...Sporting Matters

On the Horizon...

- ★ Year 13 PPEs – 6 to 9 Nov
- ★ UKMT Senior Maths Challenge – 7 Nov
- ★ UK Parliament week – wc 13 Nov
- ★ Team Portrait Photography – 14 Nov
- ★ Y12 Drama Trip to Lowry Theatre – 16 Nov
- ★ Non-Uniform Day – 17 November