

...Year Spelling Bee

Over the past four weeks, students across Year 7 have been taking part in weekly Spelling Bee rounds. Round 1 involved students competing against classmates in small teams, Round 2 included the winning teams competing in an inter-class round, and Round 3 included the overall three winning teams competing against each other. This resulted in Oliver, Sylvie and Emma achieving bronze, Sylvie, Toby, Marc, Anna and Ruby achieving silver and Amber, Amelia and Gabriella achieving gold. The three gold winners then competed against each other in a 'grand finale', leaving Gabriella as the overall individual Year 7 Spelling Bee champion. Well done!



... Reading Group

Over the past few months, a group of Year 8 and 9 students have been involved in small group reading development workshops at the start of the school day. Students have been working with staff to build confidence, explore vocabulary and develop a love for reading in all forms. We are delighted that upon completion of the programme all students made significant progress and really enjoyed the process ... as well as the delicious breakfast which accompanied each session. Well done to all involved!

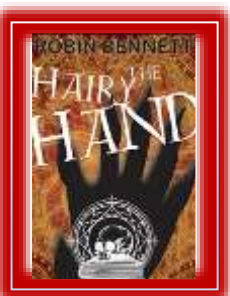


... Setting the Stage

Our Year 11 GCSE Drama students are working extremely hard in preparation for their Component 3 practical performance to an examiner after half term. Students have to learn two extracts from a play and perform them to a visiting examiner. Ms Donlevy is delighted with the commitment of the students to attend extra rehearsals which she says has been fantastic! Year 12 A Level Drama students are currently working towards their Component 2 devised examination that will take place in May, where they have to devise a piece from scratch based on a topic/issue that interests them. They have also begun to explore one of their Component 1 set texts, *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth, requiring them to demonstrate their performance and analytical skills when approaching the text. Well done, everyone, and good luck from us all!



... Library Corner



Mrs Ambrose's book recommendation for this issue is *The Hairy Hand* by Robin Bennett, a Gothic adventure brand new in the Library. With great power at the end of your fingers comes great trouble! This story introduces us to Septimus who feels out-of-place in his village, where everyone else his age is called Garp, Darg, Smarg or Blaarg. Then he inherits something strange and frightening from his uncle. A hairy Hhand. This hand has the magical ability to find buried treasure. But, instead of making his life better, things suddenly get a lot more dangerous. Come up to the library to find out what happens next for Septimus!

... Gold Arts Award Showcase

Year 13 Gold Arts Award students are gearing up for their big showcase event which takes place on **3 March (6-8pm)** in the **Drama Studio** and represents the culmination of all their hard work towards the award. Gold Arts Award is a qualification worth 16 UCAS points (a 'B' at AS Level). The course encourages creativity, independent learning and youth authored work. It challenges young people to develop their arts practice, lead an arts project, investigate topical arts issues, research advanced arts practitioners and get involved in the arts world. The showcase will exhibit the students' work in various art forms, including fashion design, film making, sculpture, photography, acting, choreography and directing. If you would like to show your support for these students, tickets to the showcase are available now (free of charge) [via Eventbrite – just click here to access](#). Discover more about the Arts Award [via this blog from Mrs Harrocks](#) which is a huge celebration of the alumni of the Arts Award at FHS! Our commitment and dedication to the Arts Award at the school sees us join the prestige list of [Arts Award Trinity Champion Centres 2022-23!](#)



... Parent Voice



Nobody can deny that schools have faced a period of unprecedented change and challenge over the past few years and we are extremely proud of the work 'Team Formby High' has undertaken to meet and adapt to circumstances since 2020. As part of on-going efforts to seek the viewpoints of parents on current and future developments here at Formby High School, we invite you to contribute to our Parent Voice Conference, an opportunity for us to engage in meaningful, active conversations with our parents, face to face, in a relaxed

and open environment. Our Parent Voice Conference will take place in the School Hall, on the morning of **Saturday 11 March, between 9:00am and midday** and will give us the opportunity to discuss a range of 'hot topics' with our parent partners to better inform us in steering the school forward over the coming years. Supporting the event, will be members of our Senior Leadership Team, Governing Body and the Friends of Formby High (PTA). Following a light, welcome breakfast and refreshments, we will share a series of short 'snapshot' presentations about key areas for development and facilitate discussion amongst parent delegates. Please bring a mobile device for some interactive info gathering activities! Topics will cover:

- School vision and ethos
- Parents and our curriculum
- Information sharing and communication with parents
- Our role and impact in the wider community

If you would be willing to attend our Parent Voice Conference, please confirm your attendance using this Eventbrite link: <https://fhsparentvoiceconference2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

... Attendance Matters

As reported in our recent newsletters, we have held an attendance initiative each week this half term with the aim of fuelling good attendance habits. Mrs Harrison-Forsyth is very pleased to announce the winners of the 100% attendance draws for the last two weeks...

Last week's **£50** voucher winners:

- Harry (9M)
- Ben (10Y)

This week's **£100** grand draw winner:

- Nina (9M)

... Apprenticeship Week



There has been lots going on in school this week to mark National Apprenticeship Week 2023, including assemblies delivered by Mr Cook to Years 7-10 on apprenticeship opportunities in the local area. On Tuesday, a group of students from Years 9 to 11 took part in the national 'Big Assembly' live broadcast providing students across the country with an insight into what it is like to be an apprentice and the benefits of following this career path. On the same day a group of Year 11 students attended an Apprenticeship Fair at Southport College and got the chance to speak to organisations such as the NHS and the RAF about the apprenticeships that they offer. Years 7 and 8 have also taken part in a tutor time logo competition to identify some of the companies and organisations that offer apprenticeships across the UK – winners of this will be announced after half term!

...Quiz Night

Last call for tickets for our flagship Great Big Quiz Night taking place on Saturday 25 February. This entertaining event is always one of the highlights of our year and the biggest fundraiser for our Friends of Formby High School PTA. The quiz will take place in the School Hall starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are available priced at £10.00 and will include a light supper halfway through the evening. Guests are welcome to bring their own drinks and nibbles. Seating will be at tables in teams of up to 10. Smaller groups will be accommodated. Tickets are on sale via our Eventbrite system using this web link: <https://FHSQUIZ NIGHT2023.eventbrite.co.uk>.



... Peer Action Collective

Our Schools Safety Officer, PC Ritchie, has asked us to share this survey from the Young Person's Advisory Service Peer Action Collective. The PAC are gathering some evidence for the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership on how young people in Merseyside feel about weapons amnesty bins. They want to hear from young people aged 10-25 and want you to know that your voice is really important. To complete the survey, please go to this Survey Monkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P7NJMNZ>.



...Autism / Complex Needs Parent Workshops

Sefton Council's Autism and Complex Needs Team are currently offering a series of Parent Workshops in February and March (available to all parents) to both share information and guidance and develop a support network for parents. These free sessions take place at the PDC in Formby and can be booked by emailing ASD.ParentTraining@sefton.gov.uk :

23 February 2023	10am – 12:30pm	Autism and Anxiety
28 February 2023	10am – 12:30pm	Home to School / School to Home (Going out) Transitions
9 March 2023	10am – 12:30pm	Sleep
16 March 2023	10am – 12:30pm	Parental Stress, Coping Strategies and available support

On the Horizon...

- ★ Half term holiday – 13 to 17 Feb
- ★ INSET Day (staff only) – 20 Feb
- ★ Y13 PPEs – w/c 21 Feb
- ★ Y11 GCSE Drama Exams – 23/24 Feb
- ★ Y12/13 Othello FACT Liverpool trip – 23 Feb
- ★ Y8 HPV vaccinations – 24 Feb
- ★ FoFHS Quiz Night – 25 Feb (7pm)