

100
Editions+

Celebrating our school and community

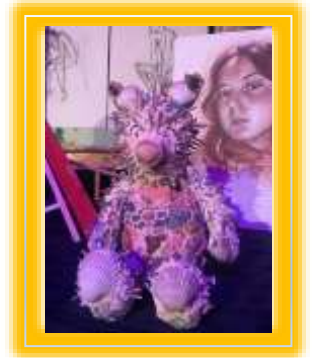
FOCUSON...



Issue No.165 – 17 March 2023

...Gold Arts Award

The Gold Arts Award Showcase took place on Friday 3 March in the Drama Studio. It was the culmination of 18 months of work on a project to make new art, study advanced arts practitioners, gain work experience in a chosen art form and discuss and debate arts issues. Students studied arts topics such as sculpture, photography, film making, direction, choreography, script writing, technical theatre and fashion. They showcased their creativity and presented their work to an audience of family, friends and staff; the production was entirely student led and is worth 16 UCAS points. The evening culminated in a lively Q & A with Gold Arts Award students explaining that their show title 'What's your Plan B?' was a comment against the necessity of arts students and employees to require a 'Plan B' in an alternative industry and in support of the 'Arts' being the 'Plan A' with jobs in the arts and design industries increasing. Students noted 93% of 16–18-year-olds believed that studying a creative subject impacts positively on their mental health and wellbeing. Government figures show the UK's creative industries contributed £111.7 billion to the UK in 2018 (published 2020), equivalent to £306 million every day. The showcase will be featured soon on our FHS YouTube channel.



... Legally Blonde, Jr



Following in the footsteps of the much loved 'Matilda Jr' production from 2022, Formby High School's award winning Musical Theatre Company are back again performing next week on the 24 and 25 March. This time they have produced the musical comedy 'Legally Blonde Jr', involving over 40 students who have been busy rehearsing since October. They have had lots of fun putting this hilarious show together and we think audiences will love it. If you haven't seen the show or the popular film 'Legally Blonde', here's a little taster... *'Elle Woods, a fashionable sorority queen, is dumped by her boyfriend Warner because he decides he needs a classier girlfriend after graduation. Determined to win him back, Elle follows him to law school, Harvard Law School. Elle's new life is a far cry from the comforts of her poolside and the mall. Elle wages the battle of her life to realise her own worth and to become a symbol of women's empowerment, with her message: you don't have to change who you are to be successful in this world'*. Tickets are available on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/legally-blonde-the-musical-jr-tickets-529115537817>

...Legally Minded

A group of Year 9 students had a great time last Monday visiting the Civil and Family Court in Liverpool. Students met both a criminal and family judge as well as a medical practitioner who helps judges in certain cases. Students were able to ask questions and the judges were great in sharing what day to day life was like working in a court, what made them want to become judges and what A Levels they took in order to enter a career in law. Students then did a role play of a trial with their very own judge, barristers, ushers, clerks, witnesses and jury. The case was fictional but was based on a real case of cyber bullying over social media. It was great to see lots of interest in this trip and hopefully more can happen in the future.



... Library Corner



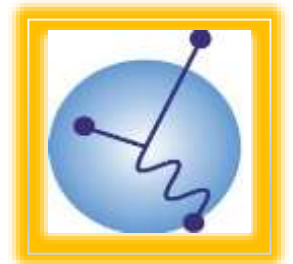
This week's Librarian's choice is another of the Sefton Super Reads, 'Fake'. Imagine a time when shopping was monitored, you couldn't meet your friends or go to school, and all lessons were completed virtually! Jess lives in a

world just like this, where big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure. Turning 14, Jess is finally allowed to attend school in person but with her younger sister ill at home and medicine becoming more expensive, super IT savvy Jess risks all to help her sister. What will happen to Jess, to the new friends she has made? Are they even who she thinks they are? Come up to the Library and find out (we have six copies of FAKE gifted from The Book Trust!). Our Year 7 Read for Good sponsored read will soon be coming to an end. Thank you to all those who have already sponsored a student. For anyone who is still collecting sponsor money this can be paid directly to Read for Good or via the school ParentPay system. Whilst these cashless options are preferred, cash can be paid to the Finance Office in school. Thank you again for all the kind donations to this worthwhile charity who provide new books and readers for all UK main Children's Hospitals.



...Science Olympiads

Last Friday, several Year 12 physicists battled the snow and transport disruption to sit the Senior Physics Challenge, run by the British Physics Olympiad. The Challenge is designed to test their knowledge with stimulating questions whilst seeing the real-world problem-solving potential of physics. Our physicists acquitted themselves well on some exceptionally challenging problems – well done all! Three of our Year 13 students also took the RSC Chemistry Olympiad this term. Daniel Woodruff achieved a Bronze Award, whilst Grace Holt and Finnarr Mulrooney both achieved a Silver Award – congratulations to all three; we're very proud of you!



... Sixth Form Matters

Our Sixth Form Taster Afternoon is scheduled for next Wednesday (22 March 2023) when our Year 11 students and a number of external applicants will spend the afternoon with the Sixth Form team and Subject Leaders to get a flavour of what to expect in September. This kicks off a season of Sixth Form activities over coming months leading up to enrolment in September. Current Year 12 and 13 students will also be busy with upcoming university information sessions. On Tuesday, there will be a visit from the University of Glasgow to talk about the differences between Scottish and English degrees and some of the Scottish universities (with a focus on Glasgow). The following Monday (27 March) there will be a live virtual event for Y12 medics and dentists hosted by the University of Sheffield where students will get an overview of the application process and course structure, as well as an opportunity to talk to current undergraduates.

... Attendance Matters

Attendance remains a key priority at Formby High School, with a focus on returning to our pre-pandemic levels. We are pleased to say our attendance figure has continued to increase and is currently 91.2%, remaining above national and local averages. We felt, though, it was important to raise awareness of the impact around the 'odd day off' and ways to combat this. Sometimes students may consider that being off for a single day here or there is not significant; however, these do add up over time and often contribute towards gaps occurring without students realising. If your child is feeling unwell first thing in the morning, please encourage them to attend school if possible. Parents can inform us if their child is not feeling 100% by contacting the attendance team and we can keep our eye on them at school. We do have a first aid facility here and students may go home if they continue to feel unwell across the day. If you would like to discuss your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact [Mrs Harrison-Forsyth](#) directly.

... Sporting Matters

Further to the school's recent success nationally, Mr Hunt is delighted to announce that Joe Cunliffe, Robert Kearley and Charlie Old have been appointed as match officials for the ESFA Regional U11 finals today at Liverpool FC Academy. Congratulations on this great achievement, where our students will not only be representing FHS and Liverpool but also the north west in these finals.

... Parent Voice

Last weekend, we held our first post-pandemic Parent Voice Conference and welcomed a group of parents to explore a range of topics pertinent to the future development of life across Team Formby High. We explored how successfully we are communicating our school vision and values, since relaunching last year. We discussed the features of a strong and relevant curriculum, especially the role of reading and literacy in preparing students for life. Home school communication was also on the agenda, and we



explored the user-friendliness and effectiveness of the various platforms used to send information to and from school. To finish, we spent time considering how students can have an impact on their local community and sought views on opportunities we should explore further. As a result of the event, we will be creating a dedicated Parent Voice feedback page on our website, sharing their views gathered and how we are responding as a school and community. Thanks go to everyone who gave up their time to support the event. Another will follow soon.



... Raising Awareness and Funds

Today is Comic Relief's big Red Nose Day and we would like to thank all the parents and students who supported the bake sale at break for this great cause. Next Tuesday is World Down Syndrome Day – the 21st day of March was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. Our staff and students have been encouraged to don their brightest odd socks to support the 'Lots of Socks' campaign to participate in awareness raising and to encourage a global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome.



Finally, don't forget that week beginning 27 March is our big Fundraising Week, being developed by our fabulous School Parliament and Charity Committee... watch out for more details on your ParentMail and the school website!

... An Inspector Calls

Year 11 students had an exciting trip to the Liverpool Empire to see the National Theatre's production of 'An Inspector Calls'. This version of the play was first staged in 1992 and the clever use of lighting, staging and sound really brings the themes and ideas of the play to life for the audience. The students really enjoyed the play and it will not doubt be beneficial for their GCSE revision!



On the Horizon...

- ★ Odd Sock Day – 21 Mar
- ★ Legally Blond, Jr Production – 24 and 25 Mar
- ★ Sixth Form Taster Afternoon – 22 Mar
- ★ FHS Fundraising Week – 27 to 31 Mar



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