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Editions+

Celebrating our school and community

FOCUSON...



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...Tes Schools Awards 2023

We are absolutely delighted to announce that FHS has been [shortlisted in the 2023 Annual Tes \(Times Educational Supplement\) Awards](#) for **Inclusive School of the Year!** This is an incredible honour to be selected from nominees across the country but moreover to be recognised for something of which we are so proud. In our most recent Ofsted inspection in November 2022, inspectors were highly complimentary about the inclusive nature of FHS and how students are proud to celebrate their differences. Their report found that 'students enjoy being in this inclusive community' and that they are 'proud to be part of a school family that welcomes people of all cultures and faiths...'. Well done to the whole FHS family on this fantastic nomination.



...Bring on the sunshine

With our beautiful cherry blossoms in full bloom, we know this is a sign that the sun is on the way. Despite unseasonal frosty mornings this week we are all looking forward to some warmth and bright sunshine as the days become longer and brighter. This is perfect timing as we have just completed the first phase of installation of our solar panels across school and we are now using them to generate as much electricity as possible to lessen our reliance on the expensive grid source. More importantly, these panels help us to reduce our carbon footprint and play a part in protecting our precious planet. Mr Mackenzie also sends a big 'shout out' to all those who have heeded his call for energy efficiency by switching of lights and unused devices – our electricity usage has dropped by nearly 25% in the first part of this year!



...Surprise Visit!

Mundo Afrika had a surprise visit from the team from the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir this week. 'Aunty Annette' and two of the local charity reps met the staff and students to prepare for the choir's next UK tour in the Autumn. Our Music Dept will be involved in some exciting fundraising activities over the coming months and our school will be hosting the choir in October.



...High Science

On 18 April, a group of Year 12 Students visited Liverpool John Moores University for a taster session in pharmaceutical and cosmetic science. Students were involved in the formulation and manufacture of a skin cream and aspirin tablets. After the trip they were all very excited about attending university! There is no better inspiration for where a passion for the sciences can take you than FHS alumnus, [Lucy Kissick](#), who went to Oxford University after leaving FHS where she achieved a doctorate as a planetary geochemist! Lucy came back on our radar having been in Southport recently to support an event. Now working as a nuclear scientist at a research lab, Lucy is also a published author and active YouTuber with her *The PhDiaries* blog.



...Careers Breakfast

Thank you to James Bower who delivered our Careers Breakfast this week to a group of students interested in Architecture. James is currently studying a Masters in Architecture at the University of Liverpool. He gave students a thorough overview of the skills required to be an Architect and what the career entails. The students were able to see some of the amazing designs that James has worked on during his time at university, from regeneration blueprints on famous Liverpool landmarks to large scale design projects in European cities such as Budapest. Younger students left with a renewed interest in the career and Sixth Form students were given invaluable tips on studying Architecture at university.



... Library Corner



The next in line in the Sefton Super Reads is *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, a debut novel by Helen Rutter. The idea for this story came from the author's son, who has a stammer. She wanted to write a book that he would love to read and starred a child just like him. Billy is extremely likeable; but with a stammer he inevitably comes up against the school bully and will he or won't he take part in the school talent show? This book has a feel-good story with plenty of humour but it also touches the sensitive issues such as bereavement and bullying. *Billy Plimpton is an eleven-year-old boy with a big dream. He wants to be a stand-up comedian when he grows up: delivering punch-lines and having audiences hang on his every word. A tough career for anyone, but surely impossible for Billy, who has a stammer. How will he find his voice if his voice won't let him speak?* Want to find out? Head up to the Library!

... Mindfulness and Wellbeing

Thank you to Kate from Formby's Kate's Krystals for running a mindfulness and wellbeing session in school to support some Year 10 students on the run up to their GCSE RE exam. Kate introduced the session with a self-esteem activity then moved on to the

basics of crystals and meditation as an alternative therapy to aid mental well-being and physical feelings. The students learnt about the different crystals and the benefits of each. Lots of example crystals made for a very tactile session. Kate followed this with a relaxing meditation session which included a singing bowl and cleansing spray. By the end of the session everyone was very relaxed and ready to take on the challenges of the school day.



...UK University and Apprenticeship Fair

Over 85 of our Year 12 students visited the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair at Aintree Racecourse on Friday. This is a flagship event for our students as they start to make preparations for post-18 pathways. Students spoke to a number of providers from all over the country to get an understanding of the opportunities available to them and to begin receiving support on applications, work experience and student finance. We will launch our 'Next Steps' programme for Year 12 students and parents over the next few weeks so please keep an eye on events happening in school.



... Attendance Matters

Our attendance figure is continuing to track above local and national average, currently at 91.3%. However, this remains significantly below our pre-pandemic levels. We hope that over the course of the Summer term students aim to attend school every day, finishing this year with as strong attendance as possible. In keeping with this, it is timely to remind parents that legislation prevents the Headteacher from authorising holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The school will request Sefton Council to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice where holidays are taken for five days or more. In all cases of planned absence, we would ask that parents complete the necessary Leave of Absence Request form available from the Main Office. This will allow us to process the request properly. We thank parents for their support and co-operation with ensuring attendance at Formby High School is continuously improving.



...Kevin Williams Memorial



Saturday 15 April marked the 34th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, when 97 Liverpool Football Club supporters lost their lives attending an FA Cup semi-final match. Every year, Formby High School marks the anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster by coming together to remember Kevin Williams, a Year 11 Formby High School student who sadly lost his life at the tragedy. Kevin loved football and was a proud and distinguished member of the Year 11 football team. He was also the son of Anne Williams, one of the leading campaigners in the fight for justice for the

victims of the disaster. It has been an annual Formby High School tradition to honour his memory through the sport he loved in the form a penalty shoot-out between the Year 11 football team and staff, with students across all years supporting the event. This shoot-out is always a poignant yet enjoyable occasion, allowing the school community to pay its respects to Kevin. Several of Kevin's relatives attended this year's penalty shoot-out at lunchtime today, with students clinching the win (8-7) and taking the trophy! The trophy was presented to the winners by Finn (Year 9), Kevin's nephew. Kevin will forever be missed at FHS and within the wider community, and we are delighted to hold this annual event in remembrance of him.



... Sporting Matters

Congratulations to Niamh (Year 8) who competed in a Taekwondo Poomsae competition during the weekend and won a silver medal in the individual category and gold medal in the mixed pair category. Well done to Ryan (Year 8) who has been selected to the LDCC U13 Inter League Squad in cricket and to Lewis (Y8) who has been selected for the Lancashire U14 golf squad and has qualified for the world championships! Finally, a reminder for all students – don't forget the summer extra-curricular sports timetable is now in full swing; we hope you will all get involved!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Musical Theatre Company Trip (ICC) – 29 Apr
- ★ Y10 Subject Consultation Eve – 4 May
- ★ Y12 Drama Devised Performance Exam – 5 May
- ★ DoE Bronze Practice Expedition – 6/7 May
- ★ Bank Holiday – 8 May
- ★ Y9 Progressive Masculinity Workshops – 9/10 May



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