

100
Editions+

Celebrating our school and community

FOCUSON...



Issue No.171 – 30 June 2023



...Inclusive School of the Year

Dubbed the 'Oscars of Education', the **Tes Schools Awards**, is now in its landmark **15th year** and celebrates the extraordinary commitment, quality and innovation shown by teachers and support staff across the UK. The awards ceremony took place on Friday 23 June at the Grosvenor House Hotel, on London's Park Lane. Formby

High School was over the moon to

be named winners of the national Inclusive School of the award which was received at the event by Mr Mackenzie, Mrs Blanchard, Mr Cook and Mrs Warwick. Formby High School is seen as a flagship school for SEND and is leading the way in the region. Staff and students at Formby High School are deeply proud of our reputation as a highly inclusive school where students' tolerance and respect for neurodiversity and

difference is embedded within our culture. During a post-award interview, Mr Mackenzie said, "I am honoured to lead a school that is proudly inclusive, providing a safe haven and environment in which children from all backgrounds thrive. The school's SEND provision is held up as a model of best practice locally with Reaching High, our SEND nurture curriculum, providing bespoke teaching and learning in core subjects as well as a Life, Living and Employability dimension which prepares young people for life beyond school and the world of work. Elsewhere, we provide a caring and supportive environment for children in care, enabling them to succeed despite the many challenges they have faced, and celebrate diversity and inclusion through Pride Club and planned events during LGBTQ History Month. Our doors are open to refugee children and we are proud to have welcomed six Ukrainian children into the school community this year." To everyone, yes everyone at FHS... students, staff, parents, governors and community partners – congratulations – this award is a team effort.



...Reaching High for the Stars

Our Reaching High cohort, GCSE Astronomers and visiting Year 6 students were reaching for the stars in the mobile planetarium when the Wonderdome visited Formby High School last week. Anette took us to the edge of the universe and back inspiring lots of fantastic questions from all the students.



...Camps International

Thank you to everyone for their generosity supporting our Camps International fundraising today – the elves are counting the money and will update us soon on the total raised... THANK YOU!

Eden

Last Monday morning the first of two Year 8 trips this half term to the Eden Project got underway bright and early, departing on the long journey to Boswinger in Cornwall. The next day they visited the Eden Project, and after learning about the importance of the tropical rainforests, the students had the opportunity to explore the biomes and see the thousands of amazing plants and their unique adaptations. The evenings were spent at the beach, playing games; the annual sand sculpture competition made a proud return and was as competitive as ever!

At the Bristol Wild Place on Wednesday, students learned about the biodiversity of Madagascar and the conservation efforts taking place there. After their session they were able to see bears, giraffes and ibex (to name a few!) as well as get up close with the resident ring-tailed lemurs and the infamous king rufous mongoose lemur. The students were impeccably behaved, asking fantastic questions and enthusiastically getting involved with every activity. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip.



...Farewell Year 13!



With the exam season finished, our Year 13 students celebrated with their Leavers' Lunch last Friday. Students arrived dressed to impress at the Sixth Form Centre to say a final goodbye to their teachers before heading off with the Sixth Form Team to Blundell Street Supper Club in Liverpool. We had a fabulous afternoon with them, and everyone enjoyed a well-earned opportunity to let their hair down! The Sixth Form Team are so proud of how well Year 13 dealt with their A Level and BTEC examinations, showing real determination and resilience during a tough period. What stood out most of all was their care and support for each other throughout their Sixth Form experience, but most significantly during the last couple of months. We wish them all the very best for the future; they will be missed! Meanwhile, back at school today we have welcomed some

of our prospective new students for our Year 12 induction morning. They had the opportunity to have breakfast with the Sixth Form Team, meet some of their subject teachers and hear the experiences of current Year 12 students Beth, Erin and Dan. It was a lovely morning, and we hope that it made our new students excited to join us in September.

...Year 11 Prom

Marking the end of their examinations and indeed their final year of high school, our Year 11 students donned their finery yesterday evening for their Prom. Students arrived looking like Hollywood stars for a red carpet photo session at school before boarding their limousines (aka coaches) to Aintree where they celebrated together in style. We are very proud of this year group who have worked incredibly hard over recent weeks and months to give their best to their GCSE exams. We look forward to celebrating the results of all their hard work on 24 August (GCSE results day at school). Until then, well done all of you; enjoy a fabulous summer and we look forward to seeing the majority of you back to continue to excel in Sixth Form!



...Year 6 Induction Day



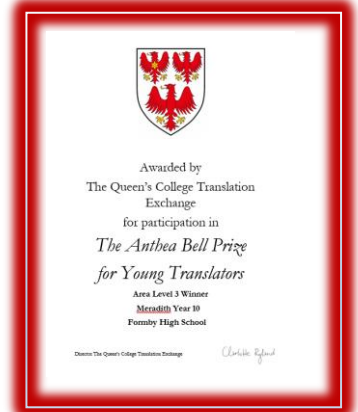
As our older students prepared to leave, our youngest prepared to arrive by attending their Induction Day at FHS on Thursday 29 June. For the first time in a number of years, we welcomed the whole 2023/24 cohort of 172 students for a fun-filled taster day. Blessed with lovely summer weather and supported by our fabulous Student Ambassadors for the day, the students enjoyed a welcome assembly, a tour and welcome session with their Form tutor, some taster lessons and, of course, sampling lunch offer. The students were impeccably behaved and seemed to thoroughly enjoy their first experience of high school. We look forward to

welcoming many of them back for Summer School in August before their big day in September. Over the past fortnight we have also welcomed over 50 Year 6 students as part of our Enhanced Transition programme. They've taken part in activities to support them to feel settled when they start in September, including finding rooms on the campus, learning how to use a timetable and a cooking lesson with Miss Lloyd where they were able to show off their baking skills! We look forward to meeting all out of new students, proudly wearing their Formby High School uniform in September!



...Definitely Not Lost in Translation

Oxford University run the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators and 14 Formby High School students from Year 7 to Year 12 were selected to take part. The competition had over 1,500 entries and we are delighted to announce that one of our Year 10 students, Meradith, is a winner in the area stage of the competition and will be put through to the UK-wide competition. She is the sole GCSE level winner of the North-West area and will now go on to be judged as one of the finalists from each area nationally. This is a fantastic achievement given the number and standard of entries received this year. Congratulations! A team of undergraduates and professional translators have judged entries to the competition and all commented on the excellent standard of entries this year. Winners of the UK competition will be announced soon. Well done to everyone else who took part and good luck to those who have also entered the Stephen Spender Trust poetry translation competition.

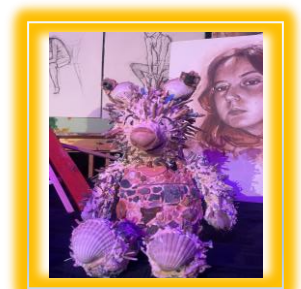


...King Lear

A group of Year 12 and 13 A Level English students enjoyed a visit to see an interesting all female production of King Lear at the Shakespeare North Playhouse on 22 June. LEAR is an all-female and non-binary production from Manchester-based feminist theatre collective Unseemly Women. Students and staff attending the production thoroughly enjoyed the unique interpretation of this Shakespeare play.

...Gold Arts Award

Congratulations to our Gold Arts Award students who all passed, gaining 16 UCAS points. Students created a portfolio which included new and authentic arts work, practitioner research, arts issue debate and event reviews. The course culminated in a showcase of their work which included film making, photography, choreography, directing, acting, sculpture technical theatre and fashion in an event with a live audience. Many congratulations also to Chloe in Year 10 who achieved her Bronze Arts Award in Dance. As a school, we hold Champion Centre Status for the teaching of the Trinity Arts Awards and this title has recently been renewed for 2023-24!



...Old Style PE Kit and Uniform



As we approach the end of the school year, you may well be replacing school uniform and PE kits. Rather than leaving them lurking in the wardrobe, we have decided to encourage families to donate any pre-loved kit and uniform to a special charity project – supporting the Olmalaika Trust and other recipient organisations in the Masai Mara community in Kenya. The Olmalaika Trust engage with challenging and rewarding work managing a home which takes in girls who have been subjected to early life trauma, and then supports them through recovery, building social connections, education and skill-building, through to the age of 16. You can check out their work here <https://www.theolmalaikatrust.org/>.

In addition, we will be supporting other local Kenyan primary and secondary schools (with a combined intake of 1500 children) for boys and girls in the local area. We will initially be receiving donations at our Main Reception on Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 July. Please do donate any old PE kit and uniform and make sure that all items are washed!

...Pride Month

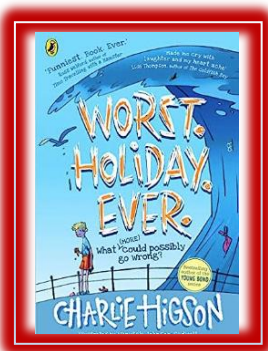
June was Pride Month and students have been taking part in a number of events to celebrate. Firstly, students have been making their way through the Pride Month reading list which was circulated through Class Charts. This has been aided by a new stock of LGBT+ books in the library with a display of information about the books available. Furthermore, students who attend Pride Club have taken part in a competition with the theme of "I am/ we are proud of..." The winner will be announced shortly! Within school time, students have taken part in assemblies about Pride Month and the Stonewall Riots, and have learnt about Pride Month, music icons and Eurovision during RESPECT time. Students have enjoyed celebrating such an important occasion and have learnt lots about the origin of Pride and LGBT+ icons.

...Sporting Stars

Mrs O'Sullivan recently took some of the 'sporting stars' cohort to Formby beach as a bit of treat to recognise their hard work and commitment to their sport, as well as their sporting success, although the wonderful British weather did not cooperate and provide beach weather. Despite getting drenched, the students had fun and were a credit to the school. Well done to Will, Connor, Lewis, George, Ava, Isaac, Dan, Robert, William, Max, Ryan and Maddison.



... Library Corner



Worst. Holiday. Ever. by Charlie Higson - this book was read, recommended by, and then donated by one of our FHS exam Invigilators. It is a story about about facing fears, dealing with worries, and how it's OK to be anxious, scared, and sometimes a little bit brave. Voted the Funniest. Book. Ever by author Ross Welford. *Stan is going on holiday to Italy with his (fifth) best friend Felix and a load of strangers. Stan is absolutely terrified. Luckily, his mum's given him an emergency list that includes how to survive a shark attack, and what to do if he gets kidnapped. Stan thinks that a better list would include how to cope with odd food, and what to do if he accidentally calls Felix's mum 'mum' in front of everybody. And it soon turns out Italy is full of dangers and things that can go wrong...*

On Wednesday June 28th, our Library was a hive of activity – even more so than usual! 'Jake', resident storyteller at Kingsley's Bookshop in Bootle, enthralled our Year 7 and 8 readers with his stories, jokes and improvisations. Students even had to do some learning around word classes and everyone was kept on their toes recalling nouns, verbs and adjectives. We hope that Jake will visit next year to allow the students to participate in another of his brilliant workshops.

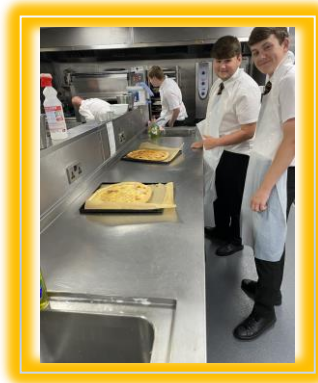


...Southport College Taster

On Tuesday 20 June 13 Hospitality and Catering students went to visit the Catering Department of Southport College as part of one of the college's taster days. Students attending really appreciated the opportunity to discover all about catering and hospitality courses on offer and experience the fantastic professional



college kitchen setting which will help them in their studies at school. All students made two different recipes: pizza and chocolate chip cookies, which Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Middleton can confirm were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In a separate visit on 16 June, Mrs Middleton and Mrs Redmond from our SEND



team took a small group of Year 10 students for a visit to Southport College to take an interesting tour around the various subject areas which are available to the students once they leave school. They were particularly interested in electrical, childcare and hairdressing and beauty courses. The students completed a dominoes challenge during their visit... the first successful school to do so this year!

...Year 7 Martial Arts Champs

We wanted to give a couple of special shout-outs to two of our younger students who are achieving simply amazing things in martial arts! Aleena (7Y) has been participating in Brazilian Ju Jitsu since 2021. At the World Championships in Wolverhampton last year she won the silver medal in the 'Junior 2' sub 40kg category. In 2022/23, Aleena was ranked number 1 in the world in her age, weight and belt category. She has won over 32 medals to date. Aleena attends the '5 Elements Gracie Jiu Jitsu' martial arts school in Ormskirk and recently met her hero, Royce Gracie, who won the first ever UFC



competition in 1993 and whose family helped develop this style of martial art. Jordan (7O) participates in different styles of martial arts, including Thai boxing, MMA, boxing and North American Grappling. He recently participated in the North American Grappling Association World



Championships in Kaufungen, Germany, where he won silver medal in the 12/13 years 31.5kg category. Jordan has won over 30 gold medals (so far!). These include gold at the World Brazilian Jui Jitsu World Championships in Wolverhampton last year. This year he has won double Gold at a British All Stars event in Blackpool and double Gold in an A.D.C.C. event in Manchester. Well done both of you – OUTSTANDING stuff!

...The Long Legs of the Law

Thank you to Merseyside Police Mounted Section for bringing Daisy and Arnie to visit our SEND students this week. These gentle giants taught us how they help the public to stay safe and what it takes to be a police horse and mounted officer. The students' questions were incredible, and everyone was in awe of the work they do.



On the Horizon...

- ★ Y6 Music Transition Day – 4 Jul
- ★ Y7 CPR Training – 6 Jul
- ★ Y12 Visit to Cambridge University – 6/7 Jul
- ★ Y8 Eden Visit (2) – 10-13 Jul
- ★ Summer Showcase – 12 Jul
- ★ Y10 Geography Fieldwork – 13 Jul
- ★ Y8 Wimbledon Trip – 14/15 Jul
- ★ Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition – 14-16 Jul



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