

FOCUSON...



Issue 177
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Celebrating our school and community

...Children in Need

Today marked another fantastic 'Spotacular' at FHS, with the whole school getting energetically behind the amazing BBC Children in Need 2023 campaign. All this week Sixth Form Student Ambassadors have toured the school selling tickets for 'Guess the

Number of Sweets in a Jar' and 'Guess the Name of the Bear'. Congratulations to Toby (70) who correctly guessed (and takes home a haul of) 247 sweets and to Jackie (canteen staff member) who correctly guessed the bear's name was Dexter. In morning registration sessions

all week, students have been listening to stories of children across the country who have benefited from the funds provided by this incredible charity. Our activities culminated today with students fundraising through non-uniform day donations, tucking in to goodies from cake sales and purchasing Pudsey bear merchandise. At lunchtime, a special Staff Karaoke took place, for a small entry fee, to round off our 'Spotacular' on a high note! Donations are still being welcomed via the

special [Children in Need ParentPay link](#). The pennies are still being counted but we could be heading for a FHS Children in Need record with the total currently standing at **£1,700** – a MASSIVE well done Team Formby High!



... Sixth Form Open Evening

Last night we hosted our Sixth Form Open Evening and we were delighted to welcome a such a huge turn-out from our Year 11 families as well as lots of students from other schools in the area. The campus was buzzing with activity and conversations about courses, careers, choices and classes. Our Sixth Form Ambassadors supported the event in their numbers, sporting their snazzy ambassador t-shirts and adding a hugely important dimension to the information families receive on the night. They represented Sixth Form admirably, speaking honestly and enthusiastically about their studies and what it is to be a part of Sixth Form @ FHS. Thank you to all the staff and students for such a fantastic team effort. Most importantly, thank you to our Year 11s who came along and we hope this event has given you a flavour of what is on offer. Last night is just the beginning of a series of activities offered at Sixth Form to support your decision-making around future study beyond next summer.



...Generation Juice

Formby High School is continually exploring ways to play our part in supporting environmentally-friendly initiatives and activities that help protect our planet. If we tell you that, despite recycling efforts around school, over 120,000 plastic bottles are currently thrown away at our school each year, you will understand why reducing plastic waste is a **big** priority. In terms of harmful CO₂ generated, that's the volume of one Olympic sized swimming pool each school day. Many bottles still do not get recycled, and even those that do get recycled can create more harmful CO₂ into our environment at each recycling process. This week, with our catering provider CH&Co, we launched some exciting flavoured water drinks from our new touch-screen machines, encouraging students to fill their own reusable bottles or a reusable cup provided.



... Acts of Compassion



Year 10 have looked at the work of foodbanks during their GCSE Religious Studies lessons this term. Following a three week food drive, staff and students from across the school brought in items that Mrs Weaver delivered this week. Everyone was so generous and the food donated will be shared directly with the local foodbanks in Formby. Thank you to everyone who brought something in, as you have made a real difference and Compassion Acts are very grateful indeed. Compassion Acts are a charity based in Southport who accept food donations and also uniform donations. If you'd like more details you can contact them at uniformhub@compassionacts.co.uk.

...Lego Lunch

Lego Lunch has got off to a great start since opening its doors in October. This week our master builders moved on from building to creating stop motion movies. The first short movie looked great; watch out Nick Park, Wallace and Gromit may have some competition!



...Computing your Future

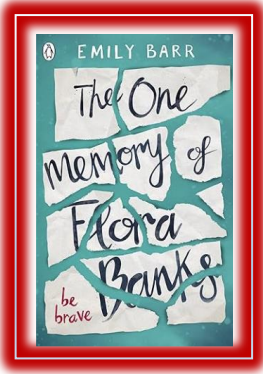


We always love welcoming former students back to the school to help inspire and motivate current students to pursue their ambitions and understand just how important their studies are to their future success. Last Friday, Ben Shelbourne came in to school to talk to the Year 12 and 13 Computer Science students. He gave a very motivational talk where he discussed his pathway through university and into his career as a senior developer at ARM. Students asked questions about the future of programming, CPU architectures and AI. Ben remarked about how impressed he was with their current level of knowledge and mentioned that he looks forward to them contacting him in future if they continue to work in the Computing field.

...Sister Act

Tickets are still available for our Musical Theatre Company's performances of Sister Act JR., a feel-good musical comedy that will have audiences jumping to their feet and dancing in the aisles! Join us as we transform the magnificent Holy Trinity Church Formby into both convent and night club for three glittering performances on Friday 24 November (7pm) and Saturday 25 November (2pm and 7pm - [Book your tickets via Eventbrite here](#)).





This issue recommendation is one for our older students. *The One Memory of Flora Banks* is a debut young adult novel by Emily Barr which will have you gripped from the beginning, it's a real page turner. *Flora has amnesia. She can't remember anything day-to-day: the joke her friend made, the instructions her parents gave her, how old she is. Then she kisses someone she shouldn't, and the next day she remembers it. It's the first time she's remembered anything since she was ten. But the boy is gone. She thinks he's moved to the Arctic. Will following him be the key to unlocking her memory? Who can she trust?* Extraordinary and moving, a story of secrets and lies. This book is currently being read with National Online Teen Book Club in the library on Wednesdays.

...Attendance Matters

Attendance remains a key priority at Formby High School. Our current attendance figure is 92.1%, and whilst this remains above national, local and regional averages as well as being higher than last year, we still feel there is room for improvement, especially as we seek to return to pre-pandemic levels. It seemed timely then, 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 knowledge gaps occurring without students realising. If your child is feeling unwell first thing in the morning, please encourage them to attend school in the first instance. Parents can inform us if their child is not feeling 100% by contacting the attendance team and we can keep our eye on them when they arrive to school. By working together, in partnership, we can ensure every student has sustained or improved attendance this term.



...Supporting our School Family



With a little less than six weeks to go until Christmas, our thoughts are turning to those families within our school community who are currently experiencing financial difficulties. Given the current economic climate, more families than ever could do with a little extra help and support, so we are setting up a Food & Gift Bank at Formby High School. For those of you who would like to get involved, donations of food and gifts can be sent into school until Monday 11 December. All donations will then be made into hampers and distributed to those who need them most. All donations, no matter how big or small, are welcome; all we ask is that gifts are new and food donations have a shelf life beyond 25 December 2023. We are confident these hampers will be gratefully received and help spread festive cheer to a number of children within our school and their families. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Brooks at school.

...Remembrance

The school community came together last week to remember the fallen with a number of moving activities and ceremonies.

On Friday, we observed two minutes of silence across the school, with a moving bugle performance of *The Last Post* by Miss Dilworth, surrounded by some of our cadets. At the weekend, Claudia and Harry represented FHS at the Formby Royal British Legion ceremony and church service, laying a wreath on behalf of all of us at the school. This ended a week of moving remembrance which included the History department's Pop-up Poppies; poppies made and designed by students with messages of remembrance upon them.



...To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.

Chinese Proverb

We are delighted to tell you that the Stephen Spender Trust's Schools' Laureate Prize for poetry translation results are now in, and it's good news for Formby High School! The judge was very impressed with Year 13 Daniel M's translation of "Stopwatch" by the poet Nicanor Parra, a Chilean poet and physicist considered one of the most influential Chilean poets of the Spanish language in the 20th century. Daniel's translation of "Stopwatch" has been chosen as one of just three winning entries nationally in the KS5 category. Daniel will have the chance to attend an online awards ceremony and will receive a certificate and £100 plus there will be a video reading of his poem featured on the Stephen Spender Trust's YouTube channel and the poem will be published in the Prize booklet. Congratulations to Dan and well done to all the other FHS students who took part in KS3,4 and 5! Meradith Noonan in Year 11 won a commendation for her translation and this is her second national translation prize.

Cronos – Nicanor Parra (Chile)

En Santiago de Chile
Los
días
son
interminablemente
largos:
Varias eternidades en un día.
Nos desplazamos a lomo de luma
Como los vendedores de cochayuyo:
Se bosteza. Se vuelve a bostezar.
Sin embargo las semanas son cortas
Los meses pasan a toda carrera
Y los años parece que volaran.

Stopwatch – Nicanor Parra (Chile)

In Santiago, Chile
The
days
are
interminably
long:
Several eternities in a day.
We move on the back of the luma
Like the cochayuyo sellers:
One yawns. One yawns again.
However the weeks are short
The months pass at full speed
And the years seem to fly by.

Our Languages team would like to say well done to everyone who took part in the Language Nut Competition – with a special mention to James P (Year 8) who is in the top 10 nationally of the competition! Final results will be given after the end of the competition on 3 December – good luck James!

...and Finally

Tonight is the glitzy EDUCATE AWARDS ceremony at Liverpool Cathedral which celebrates the very best of the best in education across the North West. Formby High School has been shortlisted for the Careers & Enterprise Award and we are all crossing our fingers for the team. Follow us on X @FormbyHigh for the live updates from the sparkling ceremony.



On the Horizon...

- ★ Y13 PPEs – w/c 20 Nov
- ★ All Years Flu Vaccinations – 22 Nov
- ★ Sister Act Jr – 24 and 25 Nov
- ★ Y13 PPEs – w/c 20 Nov
- ★ Presentation Evening – 30 Nov
- ★ INSET Day (staff only) – 1 Dec