

FOCUSON...



Celebrating our school and community

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...Presentation Evening

On 30 November our Sports Hall was once again transformed into the glittering awards theatre for our annual Presentation Evening, welcoming over 500 guests. The evening celebrated those students who achieved their GCSE certificates in summer as well as over 50 students receiving special achievement awards. We were delighted to welcome back alumnus Alice Laybourne as our Guest Speaker for the evening. Alice is now a celebrated actress, singer, songwriter and producer who has recently achieved a First-Class honours in Drama and English Literature and a Distinction in a Masters for Musical Theatre. Enjoying a successful career on stage, screen and in the studio, Alice embodies the values of this school and is a shining example of just how far hard work and high aspirations can take you. Alice spoke fondly of her time at FHS and how she was supported, as a very shy and quiet student, to believe in herself, have the confidence to step out of her comfort zone and follow her dreams. Alice performed a beautiful version of 'For Good' with members of our Musical Theatre Company. This was Mr Wood's first experience of Presentation Evening and he said he was very proud to be a part of such an event, celebrating a community, past and present, with such a bright future! Congratulations to all those who collected their examination certificates and to all the winners of the special achievement awards!



...Sister Act



At the end of November. Our Musical Theatre Company's incredible performance of *Sister Act Jr.* literally raised the roof at Holy Trinity Church. Transforming the beautiful church into both nightclub and convent for this familiar story, the calibre of musical and acting performances was incredible. Could this be



their best yet? Who knows, they just keep getting more and more incredible! Well done to all involved.

...Wizard of Oz

As we go to press our dynamic Year 7 and 8 panto cast and crew are gearing up for their season finale performance of the enchanting *Wizard of Oz*. They have already charmed three packed-out audiences so far



and tonight promises to see them ending on a high. They will all be exhausted but should be very proud of the quality and delivery of their performances. Behind the singing, acting, costumes and comedy, though, is one of the most important parts of the production: teamwork.

For our Year 7 students, being a part of this production within their first term of secondary school is a great accomplishment and will no doubt create friendships and memories that will stay with them way beyond their time at FHS. Good luck for the final performance tonight and rest well this weekend!

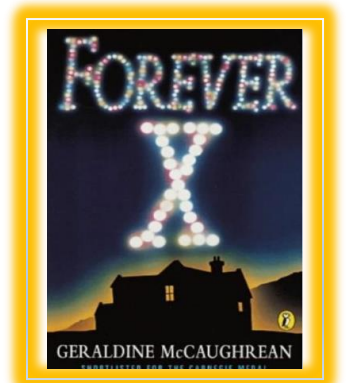


...Year 7 Poetry Club

The Year 7 Poetry Club have been writing and practising their own winter and Christmas poems. They will be visiting a local care home on Monday 18 December for an afternoon of poetry and mince pies, where they will perform *Twas the Night Before Christmas* as a group, for the elderly residents. We hope to hold more Poetry events throughout 2024 at school and in the village.

...Library Corner

The Librarian's last recommendation for 2023 is an imaginative novel, full of comic moments, tension and drama, by the award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean. 'Forever X' tells of the Shepherd family who, when their car breaks down, must stay in a hotel called Forever Xmas. Here they celebrate Christmas every day of the year, complete with Christmas dinner, Santa Claus and Christmas presents. They soon discover it gets even stranger - with the girl in the elf costume, the mysterious Mr Angel and the police seeking a fugitive. Stranded in this bizarre environment, unusual friendships develop and the relationships that have been so set in their ways are turned upside down.



...Careers in the Fast Lane



Former student Erin Williams visited the school recently to speak with students about her fantastic job, working as an Aerodynamicist for Formula 1 team McLaren no less! Erin very kindly spent the whole day in the Science Dept at FHS, speaking with students across five different lessons



about life at McLaren and how she got to where she is today. Dazzling students about the fascinating world of aerodynamics and how wind tunnels work, Erin was a real inspiration to the students. She also took the time to work with some groups of girls throughout the day dispelling misconceptions about engineering. We are really grateful to Erin for giving back to FHS so generously of her time – we are very proud of her life on the fast track!

...Languagenut

Well done to James P (Year 8) who successfully stayed in the top 10 of the UK national Languagenut competition. Finishing in 8th place nationwide is a huge achievement and just reward for the many hours James dedicated on tasks throughout this month-long competition. In fact, such was James' linguistic prowess that he ran out of Spanish exercises to do and moved on to complete exercises in French, Italian and German to maintain his score! A true Polyglot and a credit to his year group! James will receive £25 of Amazon vouchers from Languagenut plus a prize from FHS Modern Languages... well done, James!



...Artistic Accomplishments



Special shout-outs for artistic achievements in recent weeks. Firstly, congratulations to Ellie Rose (Year 9) for winning the Formby Hall Golf Resort & Spa 'Design a Christmas Card' competition. Ellie Rose's winning design has since been on sale at Formby Hall (£1) with all proceeds going to their charity partner, Cash for Kids Liverpool. Her festive scenes include a little girl wearing a hand-knitted jumper from her grandma and laughing snowmen missing a birdie at the golf course! Ellie Rose is delighted to win but more proud that her card will now raise funds for this special charity. Along with the winning design being used, Ellie-Rose

has also won a TopTracer Driving Range party for her class which includes drinks, pizzas and games. Secondly, a big shout-out to Coco (Year 12) whose GCSE Art examination portfolio has been selected for teaching standardisation and is touring the country being exhibited as an example of outstanding practice! Well done Ellie Rose and Coco – fantastic achievements.

...Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Mr Duckworth is delighted to confirm that letters have all gone out to Year 9 (Bronze), Year 10 (Silver) and Year 12 (Gold) regarding the DofE Award and he expects another high take up this year. This will be Mr Duckworth's first year leading on this award at FHS and is really looking forward to seeing our students engage in a challenging programme of voluntary activities which lead to a nationally recognised qualification. For ore information, please visit [Formby High School Duke of Edinburgh's Award web page](#).





The LFC Foundation have been in the school since early September working with many of our students for the Onside and Onside+ projects. Starting with Onside; our two Year 8 groups have been working immensely hard to complete their Sports Leaders Level 1 and Enterprise awards. The project helps them refine their self-belief, self-esteem, organisation and teamwork skills and all succeeded with flying

colours! For their enterprise project, the groups worked together to advertise, bake and sell for a cake sale in which they raised £124.40 for their selected charity 'Caring Matters Now', a charity that works with young people with Congenital Melanocytic Naevi. They should all be very proud of what they have achieved. Also, a big thanks to Mrs Melia, the PE Department and Mrs Lloyd in Food Technology for helping to make this happen!



Following last year's successful 'whacky football' fundraising project for Samaritans, this year's Onside+ Year 9 students opted to try and help those less fortunate by organising an appeal in school to donate warm winter clothes (both new and used) to the Whitechapel Centre to help the homeless of Liverpool. Two large boxes were placed in the school hall and it was wonderful to see the Formby community come together to fill both boxes...what a success! In addition to organising their appeal, the students went to Anfield on 12 December to present their project and its success to groups from nine other schools across the city. Mr Quayle said "They really impressed me with their maturity and positive attitude. Well done, team!"



The work with LFC didn't stop there, as we also welcomed The Princes Trust to FHS who worked with six groups of Year 9 on an 'Enterprise Challenge' as part of a national competition. We will find out in March if any of our groups make the Northwest final in Manchester in April. This was another success and it was great to see how engaged the students were in managing their own businesses. Thanks to Mr. Nixon for helping out as a Business expert! Lastly, we had an awards ceremony in school for those who took part in the Onside programme last year. This involved over 50 students who were all awarded with some LFC merchandise (some of our Evertonians opted out on this

'reward') and certificates of achievement. Three students were given an extra gift for their exemplary attitude and commitment to the programme.

Mr Quayle would like to thank everyone involved, obviously the LFC Foundation and all the students who have taken part. He said "All in all, another fantastic term in which I have seen so much progress for the students involved in all programmes and projects." Thank you to Mr Quayle too for helping this programme take place at FHS.

...Sixth Form Matters

On Wednesday afternoon, we were joined by a host of former students who came in to speak to both Year 12 and Year 13 about their choices and experiences post Sixth Form. Emma, Lucy, Martha, Emily and Jess all left us to take up courses at universities across the country and came to speak to students about how they have coped with the change, their life at university and managing away from home. George (Laing O'Rourke) Lewis (CISCO) and Ben (Barclays) shared their experiences of gaining apprenticeships and shared the opportunities that this post-18 route has provided to them. We were also joined by Vicky from Project Trust who spoke about gap year opportunities both at home and abroad. The afternoon was a great successful and it was fantastic to catch up with our Sixth Form Alumni! The Sixth Form is getting into the festive spirit in the final days of term with a visit to a local care home to deliver some festive cheer (15 December), donning their Christmas jumpers to raise funds for Save the Children charity (18 December) and continuing their collections for local food banks (final donations by 19 December please). A massive Sixth Form community effort – great stuff!



...Attendance Matters



Our attendance figure at the time of writing is 93% whilst the last national figure captured was 91.5%. Improving and maintaining our attendance and punctuality continues to be a school priority this year; we appreciate parents and students supporting this drive. Our recent '12 Days of Christmas' attendance initiative has seen a prize draw take place each day in the run up to the end of term and in next week's final assembly, we look forward to rewarding students who have had 100% during this time period with a draw taking place for each year group. We look forward to continuing our drive on attendance and punctuality when students return in January.

...Female Athlete of the Year

Our congratulations to Olivia (Year 12), a regular feature in our newsletters with her ongoing accomplishments in Taekwondo, who has been named Under 18 Elite Female Poomsae Athlete of the Year at the British Taekwondo 2023 awards. Olivia was thrilled to be presented with this after a busy year of competition and a very successful European championship, proudly pictured her with her award and her GB coach, Master Chan Sau.



...Sporting Matters



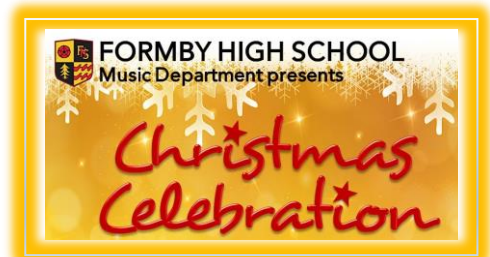
Well done again to Naomi, Jess & Chloe who have qualified for the Northern schools trampolining competition to be held in Wakefield on 2nd February. At the end of a very busy half term, Mrs Melia and the PE Department extend a big 'well done' to all our 'extra-curricular reigning champions' for their efforts – special shout outs to those students receiving a nomination from the PE team for 'stand out' practices this term. Finally, a shout-out to those students in Years 7 and



8 who did a special 'Santa Dash' in PE lessons earlier this month – you have raised a whopping £195 which will go to one of our chosen charities, the Whitechapel Centre for the homeless in Liverpool.

...Festive Fun

There is still plenty of festive fun still to come at FHS, not least with our special Christmas Celebration Concert taking place at Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday evening – always a delightful evening of music and mince pies to get everyone in the spirit!



Last remaining tickets still available [via EventBrite](#). Our Friends of FHS

Festive Fundraising is well under way with the offer of delicious puddings for sale to raise funds for the school. As well as the traditional Christmas Plum Pud (£8.50) alternatives are on offer with Sticky Toffee (£6.50) and Luscious Lemon (£6.50). These can be purchased via the [FHS ParentPay Shop here](#). Our festive fundraising drive for nominated charities continues next week with the return of 'Wool

Never Walk Alone' – asking families to donate a scarf to tie to a tree in school on Monday 18 December, which will all be subsequently donated to the homeless across the Liverpool region via the Whitechapel Centre. We will also be doing a loose change collection after our Christmas assembly for this charity – so any pennies your child wishes to bring in on this day.



...and Finally



As we 'wrap up' for the holidays and finish a busy first term, the newsroom and everyone here at FHS wishes all our community members past, present and future a very Happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024 for another successful year with lots to celebrate in newsletters to come!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Staff & Sixth Form Xmas Jumper Day – 18 Dec
- ★ Wool Never Walk Alone collection – 18 Dec
- ★ Christmas Celebration Concert – 19 Dec
- ★ Celebration Assembly –20 Dec
- ★ End of Term – 20 Dec (approx. midday)
- ★ Start of Spring Term (all years) – 4 January