

FOCUSON...



Issue 179
5 January 2024

Celebrating our school and community

...Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024. We would like to wish everyone in our school community all the very best for a happy, healthy and successful new year. Turning the page on the calendar to a brand new year allows us to refresh and reset with renewed optimism for the year ahead. Regardless of your experiences or challenges in 2023, we hope that you are able to embrace 2024 with positivity and determination to achieve and we look forward to celebrating your successes and accomplishments in newsletters throughout the year.



...Christmas Celebration Concert

Too late to feature in our final newsletter last year, our Christmas Celebration deserves a special mention this week as the concert was the perfect way to kick start festivities as we approached the end of term. Featuring a wide range of festive performances as well as some of our amazing work from across the past term, the evening was a fantastic celebration, well attended and enjoyed by all. On the bill were our school and community choirs (Voiceworks, Mundo Afrika and G:Force Gospel Choir), our Orchestra 'The Works', Woodwind Ensemble, Rock Band, plus some very special solo performances and our friends from Freshfield Primary School Choir.



... Singing for the Soul!

Our award-winning, community-based gospel choir 'G:Force' is back in action this month. Comprised of enthusiastic amateur singers from across our local community, we welcome over 50 parents, colleagues, friends and family each Tuesday evening for fun times and joyous singing! If you're looking for something to help you 'recharge and rejuvenate' and want to take up a new activity in 2024, G:Force might just be for you. Central to the plans for the term ahead are a new studio recording

of a special charity single supporting the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. For info, please see this weblink: <https://gforcespring2024.eventbrite.co.uk>.



...Feeling Groovy?

It's almost time to get into 'The Groove', Formby High School's annual Dance Showcase, taking place at The Atkinson in Southport on Wednesday 24 January (7pm). Tickets are on sale now and can be booked directly from The Atkinson at <https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/events/fhs-groove-dance-show/> or by telephone on 01704 533333.

... 9 Nominations for MTC!



Readers will be accustomed to hearing about the dazzling performances delivered by our Musical Theatre Company over recent years – with 2023 being a bumper year! In November, MTC took to the stage for their production of *Sister Act Jr*, featuring a cast of talented students from Years 8-11. These students have already wowed audiences and critics alike back in the Spring with *Legally Blonde Jr*, which they also took to the MTI Europe Junior Theatre Festival at the ICC in Birmingham.

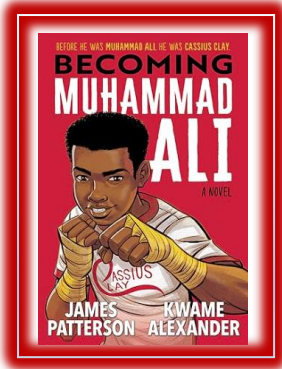
We are delighted that their new '*Sister Act Jr*' production and '*Legally Blonde Jr*' have been recognised with not one or two but **NINE** nominations in the NODA Awards. This is a truly incredible achievement and we are really proud of the individual and collective recognition for this fantastically creative and polished production. NODA is the national body that represents amateur theatre. Formby is part of the District 6 regional group which includes theatre companies across the North West (Chorley, Ormskirk, Southport, St. Helens and Wigan). The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday 17 February at the DW Stadium in Wigan. We will be attending with a group of company representatives ...watch this space and good luck to everyone nominated!

Elliott as 'Emmett Forest' in <i>Legally Blonde Jr</i>	Best Leading Male Character in a Youth Musical & Best Leading Male Character in a Youth Drama
India as 'Deloris van Cartier' in <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Leading Female Character in a Youth Musical & Best Leading Female Character in a Youth Drama
Elliott as 'Eddie' in <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Supporting Male Character in a Youth Musical
Lana as 'Mother Superior' in <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Supporting Female Character in a Youth Musical
Mrs Harrocks and Miss Llewellyn	Best Choreographer of a Youth Production
Mrs Harrocks and Miss Llewellyn	Best Director of a Youth Musical & Best Director of a Youth Drama
The Nuns in <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Youth Ensemble
FHSMTC <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Staging Technical - Youth Production
FHSMTC <i>Sister Act Jr</i>	Best Youth Musical & Best Youth Drama

We were delighted that Jim Briscoe, NODA North West District 6 Rep, joined us for the Saturday production and has written a rave review, reflecting his views on the 'fabulous' production. Thanks very much to Jim for his kind words... this is just an extract (full version available on the website).

“ *OMG was there a better platform to 'stage' this musical than at Holy Trinity Church? I don't think so! It was 'big', it was 'holy', it was 'majestic' and these young people made every inch of this platform work for them! They 'prayed' at the altar, they 'danced' in the aisles, they 'sang', their 'vocals and the harmonies' filling every 'nook and cranny'... every available inch of the church was used to its full potential producing some amazing results... to everyone involved... be very proud of what you helped achieve ... 'twas' inspiring/awesome!!* ”





This book, always popular in our library, is a critically acclaimed #1 *New York Times* bestseller! Two heavy-hitters in children's literature deliver an electrifying biographical novel of cultural icon Muhammad Ali. Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Authors Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, the racism he faced, his struggles in school, and his discovery of boxing. Learn about his family and neighbours in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivalled Muhammad Ali. Written in cooperation with the

Muhammad Ali estate, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* captures the budding charisma and youthful personality of one of the greatest sports heroes of all time.

...Attendance Matters

It has been great to welcome students back following the break, and to begin to look ahead to the new Spring term. This fresh start provides an opportunity for students to have a renewed focus on improving and sustaining their attendance from last term. We would ask that students to aim for 100% attendance for this coming term. We will shortly be sending out letters and issuing merits to recognise attendance over the course of the last term and would welcome parents support in continuing to ensure their child / children attend school every day they are able to.



...Thanks to our Kit Sponsors

A big shout out to our sponsors for the Year 10 netball and football team kits. We really appreciate your support and the students are really happy with their new kit. They can't wait to wear it for their upcoming fixtures and we hope it brings them continued success! Thank you again to Year 10 Netball sponsor: SEP Geospatial (parent of Ava) and Year 10 Football sponsor: Unique Home Improvements (parent of Max).

...Keep in Touch!

School life is fast paced with lots of information being shared with students and their parents and we want to ensure that parents are not missing out on key information. Please remember that FHS uses [ParentMail](#) to share important information letters, updates and send text messages in the event of emergency; it is vital, therefore, that you are registered with the system and receiving communications – please contact the school or ParentMail directly if you are experiencing any connectivity issues with either the ParentMail App or browser version. Copies of key letters to parents are also uploaded to our website in the [Key Information section here](#). Class Charts continues to be used for student/class specific communications. Finally, if you have news you would wish us to feature in future issues of the newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch by email at admin@formbyhighschool.com – please use 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

On the Horizon...

- ★ All Years HPV catch-up session – 8 Jan
- ★ Y9-10 Netball Tournament – 10 Jan
- ★ Sixth Form Subject Consultation Eve – 11 Jan
- ★ Y11 PPEs – w/b 15 Jan
- ★ Dance Show – 24 Jan
- ★ Y11 Practice Interviews – 25/26 Jan