

FOCUSON...



Issue 183
8 Mar 2024

Celebrating our school and community

...Sunday Times 'Best UK Secondary Schools'

Each year, the Sunday Times publishes its Parent Power Guide and [School League Table](#) identifying the best schools in the UK, ranked by academic performance, including state, selective and comprehensive schools. This year, just eight Merseyside schools made the national shortlist and Formby High School is delighted to be one of them! FHS sits in the Top 20 in the North West, one of only five non-selective schools to achieve this. Everyone at the school should be very proud of this achievement as it takes a real team effort. This is testament to the very strong 2023 examination results achieved by our GCSE and A Level students. We are really looking forward to another strong year with the 2024 cohort who are really working hard and preparing well. Well done and good luck to the class of 2024!



...Year 9 Meet the Profs!



On Thursday 29 February Year 9 attended a 'Meet the Professionals' event with local employers and Elevate EBP. The students had the opportunity to speak with professionals from local growth sectors including Engineering, Digital and Creative Industries and the Health Sector. The professionals shared important information on job availability, training routes and day to day duties. Our students were excellent ambassadors for FHS and the professionals were impressed by their engagement and the questions that they were asking. Well done, Year 9!

...D of E Focus on Skills

Our new Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze cohort are busy uploading their evidence and showcasing their skills as they work toward their award. Here are just two excellent



examples of our creative students doing Duke of Edinburgh! Ellie-Rose (Year 9) is developing her art skills; pictured right is her Surreal Swan. Meanwhile, Sophie H (Year 9) is developing her photography skills through beach and night photography, capturing this fantastic image of our glorious coastline. Mr Duckworth would like to remind the whole cohort to keep uploading your evidence and he would love to hear from you if you are particularly proud of something and would like it to



feature in the next Newsletter. Don't forget that drop-in sessions are available in C2 on Thursday and Friday lunchtime (12:45 - 13:10) for anyone who needs some help or advice with each section of their Duke of Edinburgh. As expedition season is fast approaching, please watch out for some key information and consent forms which will be sent out to students and their parents via Class Charts. Finally, a reminder of the compulsory training sessions (students only) is below.

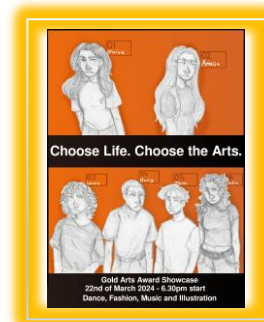
- ★ **Bronze:** Tuesday 16th April at Formby High School. 15:30 - 17:30.
- ★ **Silver:** Tuesday 4th June at Formby High School. 15:30 - 17:30.
- ★ **Gold:** Saturday 23rd March at YCP, Youth Centre, PR8 6JR. 10:00 - 14:00.

...Sixth Form Matters

It has been a very busy couple of weeks in Sixth Form with both Y12 and Y13 completing PPE examinations. The Sixth Form Team have been impressed by the hard work on display, with lots of students using the facilities in the Sixth Form Centre from early in the morning until late into the evening. We have had lots of positive news coming through for post-18 plans for Y13 too, this week has seen many more offers from a great range of universities and courses providing the students with decisions to make about their firm and insurance choices. There has also been success in obtaining places on competitive apprenticeship programmes, with this week seeing one of our Y13 students achieve an offer for a law apprenticeship next year. Next week, Y12 students will be taking part in Career Experience, again in a wide range of different jobs including medicine, law, quantity surveying, teaching, veterinary medicine, music and the arts, marketing and advertising. It promises to be an exciting and informative week for the students and we wish them the best of luck in their placements!

...Gold Arts Award

A message from our Year 13 cohort: "We are the Gold Arts Award, Year 13 enrichment cohort, we have each created a portfolio of work which we are showcasing Friday 22 March at 6.30pm in the Drama Studio. We are displaying work in many different arts genres including, music, dance choreography, illustration and fashion. Tickets are free. Please come and support us!"



...Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to remain a key priority for us at Formby High School; the benefits of good and consistent attendance include, but are not limited to, greater emotional connections and friendships, and an increased sense of belonging and positive student outcomes. We have noticed that our attendance across the Spring term has fluctuated more than during the Autumn term with an increase in illness related absence. Our overall attendance figures are 91.8% and whilst this remains above national, regional, and local averages, we have calculated that attendance so far this term has been 2% lower than Autumn. We would urge parents, and students, to review the [NHS guidance around mild illness](#) if they are feeling unwell and where necessary would encourage that students attend every day. The Department for Education has blogged about the importance of school attendance and the risks associated with high absence which parents may find of interest to [read](#).

...Determination to Achieve

This is not just our school motto but a way of life here at FHS. We are aware, too, that for many of our students this hard work and positive work ethic goes far beyond the classroom and the school gates. Take Year 7 student, Clark, who as soon as the school day finishes every day (and every weekend), travels straight to training sessions in Liverpool. Clark has been training in Brazilian Jui Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) since he was just 8 years old at the MMA Academy under head coach Jason Tan (an ex UFC fighter himself). Through his sheer determination and hard work, Clark's talent has taken

him to compete not only across the UK but in Ireland, Germany and Belgium in numerous competitions. Just this past month alone, Clark has trained in gyms in both New York and Iceland and fought in competitions in Belgium, London and York – returning with three gold medals no less! These most recent medals join his growing 'haul' which includes two gold medals achieved in the Elite Europeans in 2022. Clark is currently a solid grey belt and looking to move to a grey/black belt later this year. It is Clark's ambition to fight professionally when he is older and judging by his performance and determination so far, he will do just that! Well done, Clark!



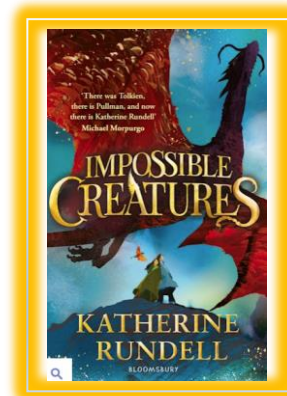
...British Sign Language Awareness Week

Year 8 Life, Living and Employability group students have been learning sign language in Mrs Hall's lessons. Earlier today, they went into Formby Village to celebrate BSL awareness week. This year's theme is coming together as a community. Students taught passers by how to sign names and simple greetings and even managed to teach a traffic warden how to sign "sorry"!



...Library Corner

To change things up a bit - this issue's Library recommendation is from Mr Symes: "*I bought 'Impossible Creatures' for my daughter for Christmas after seeing it had won Waterstones Children's Book of the Year. I sampled the first few pages and ended up reading it myself! It is the first in a planned trilogy by Katherine Rundell. She has created an incredible hidden world called the Archipelago, where creatures of myth still live alongside humans. The story centres around Mal, a young girl in the Archipelago, who can fly, and Christopher, from our world, her grandfather is the gatekeeper to the Archipelago. The magic of the Archipelago is slowly dying and Mal and Christopher find themselves unwillingly thrust into an adventure to save the Archipelago, encountering dragons, griffins, krakens and sphinxes along the way. The story moves at pace with danger lurking around every corner, the chapters are snappy, and it is incredibly well written, perfect for teenagers and above. A must read!*" A copy is due in the library any day now, come up and reserve it!



Year 7: there is still time to take part in our annual Sponsored Read and all money raised goes towards providing books and storytellers in all our major children's hospitals. You can read whatever you want, from comics to classics and money is raised by asking friends and family to sponsor you as you read. Every pound collected is gratefully received and can be paid direct to school via ParentPay or by bringing cash into the Finance Office. Thank you to everyone involved for all your support!

As part of our World Book Day 2024 celebrations, Jake, The Story Keeper from Kingsley and Co, presented a Year 7 assembly and two Snow Queen sessions. Students created, and then presented, the tale of the Snow Queen using shadow puppetry. With some improvising along the way and extra characters, students retold the classic tale. We look forward to seeing more of Jake soon!



Finally, there is still time to take part in the 'Design a National Book Token' competition, which invites children all over the UK to get creative and share their love for books and reading by designing their own fabulous gift cards! Templates can be collected from the Library and then returned completed to for entering. Good Luck!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Y12 Career Experience Week – w/b 11 Mar
- ★ Sixth Form Taster Day – 13 Mar
- ★ Y7 FOR Subject Consultation Eve – 14 Mar
- ★ Non-Uniform Day (Red Nose Day) – 15 Mar
- ★ Y7 MBY Subject Consultation Eve – 21 Mar
- ★ Gold Arts Award Showcase – 22 Mar
- ★ Spring Concert – 25 Mar
- ★ All Years Careers Fair – 27 Mar