

# FOCUSON...



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## Celebrating our school and community

### ...Pride of Formby Award

We would like to offer our congratulations to Theo (Year 7) on recently receiving a Pride of Formby Award in recognition of his incredible fundraising activities to help others. Theo has been involved in fundraising from an extremely young age. Born 10 weeks prematurely himself, he has supported numerous fundraising events for Ormskirk Neonatal Unit and, along with a couple of other families, helped raise £40,000 for a transport incubator. His efforts have included a vast amount of activities from raffles and toy sales to charity balls (including one he helped to host at the tender age of just 6 years old). As he became older, Theo's care transferred to Alder Hey Children's Hospital and, yes you guessed it, he began fundraising for them from the age of 6! He has since been given the honour of becoming a Young Ambassador for the Children's Charity at Alder Hey, a role he takes extremely seriously. Each year he thinks of a different fundraising challenge. In May 2023 Theo completed a 24-hour Danceathon, using different music themes, costume changes and guests joining him every hour... this all completed when he was poorly with tonsillitis! The money raised was split between his Alder Hey Children's Charity and his primary school, Trinity St Peter's. Theo is constantly thinking of others and what he can do to help. At the time of his nomination for the Pride of Formby Award, he was an inpatient at Alder Hey. He had surgery in March to have his tonsils removed, but unfortunately 15 hours later was readmitted with chronic pancreatitis; selflessly, his attention turned to how to raise funds for additional recliner chairs and thermometers for the ward he was in, as well as raising awareness for pancreatitis in children as it is so rare. Despite battling his own health problems since a very young age, Theo has been determined to help others, and always with a smile. Theo, congratulations from all of us on your award, you are also the Pride of Formby High!



### ...Year 10 Teamwork



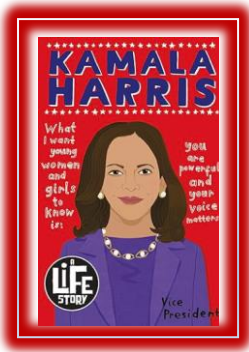
Year 10 student Erin, at just 14, is an extraordinary taekwondo talent who began her journey at the age of three. As a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree black belt, she has been an essential part of the GB Poomsae team for four years. Erin's exceptional skill has earned her the U17 national freestyle champion title and numerous medals in poomsae and sparring. She has previously represented GB in Portugal, Germany and at the London International earlier this year, bringing home a gold medal.

Her unwavering dedication and perseverance have led to her selection for the prestigious Poomsae World Championships in Hong Kong this November. Erin has trained all summer across the country and every weekend with her team in preparation for this. She even finds time to coach younger children in the evenings. Miss Palmer and fellow students in Year 10 are rallying around to develop activities to raise funds to support Erin's participation in this significant event, ensuring she can showcase her talent on the world stage. The monies raised will help towards Erin's travel, accommodation and competition fees.

### ...Parent Governor Nominations

Are you interested in using your skills to help shape the future of Formby High School by becoming a member of our Governing Body? Then be on the look out next week for a letter all parents will be receiving regarding vacancies for Parent Governors. The letter will signpost all the information you need to determine if this is a role you are able to commit to and how to go about nomination.

## ...Library Corner



With the US Presidential Elections set to be held on 5 November 2024, our library choice this week is from award-winning children's author, Leila Rasheed. Leila explores the life of the first female, black and Asian American Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. Kamala, now a Presidential Candidate, was born in California in 1964, the daughter of immigrants – her father from Jamaica and her mother from India. After studying Political Science, Economics and Law, Kamala first ventured into US Politics in 2016. Come to the Library to discover what matters to Kamala and what her vision is for the future of the USA.

## ... Sixth Form Matters

UCAS applications are now well under way, with the early applicant deadline fast approaching on Tuesday 15 October. This year, we have submitted applications for conservatoire, Oxford, Cambridge, medicine and dentistry. We would like to thank the early entrants for their hard work in completing their applications and wish them lots of luck for the weeks and months ahead, which are likely to be very busy with admissions tests and interviews. Many of our other Year 13 students now have their personal statements well underway and we look forward to completing the next round of applications in the coming months before the final UCAS deadline in January. This week we welcomed Sheffield University to talk to students about choosing a university course and provide guidance on applying to Russell group universities or for competitive courses. Students in A Level Spanish had two opportunities to taste university-style work this week with an online webinar from the University of Sheffield on Tuesday about the representations of Cuba in photographs, followed by a lecture in school on Friday delivered by Dr Abigail Loxham, Reader in Hispanic Film Studies from the University of Liverpool, about media and feminism in Spain. The students said it was great to have a taste of their future university-level work!



Yesterday, four Year 13 History students took part in a one-day trip to the former Nazi concentration and death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. The trip is part of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, led by the Holocaust Educational Trust, which the students are taking part in. Alongside the trip, they also complete seminars in which they discuss the impact of the Holocaust and have the opportunity to hear testimony from a survivor. The students found the trip emotionally challenging but extremely rewarding and they look forward to sharing what they have learnt when they deliver a 'Next Steps' project about the Holocaust in school. This is the final part of their course and will allow them to become Ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust.



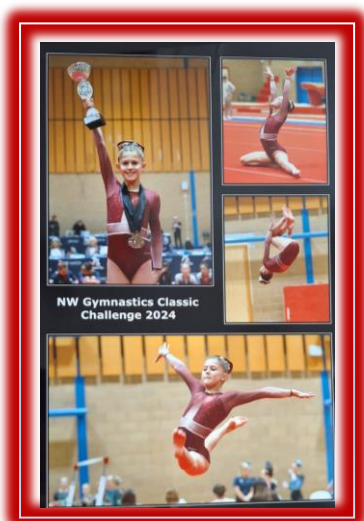
## ...Attendance Matters

Our focus on good attendance and punctuality remains as we move through this Autumn term. We are pleased to share that our attendance, upon returning to school, has been above the national average but we still feel there is further work to be done. We would like to remind parents that students taking 'odd days off' can have a significant impact on them even this early into the academic year. If your child is feeling unwell first thing in the morning, please encourage them to attend school, notify us of this and we can keep an eye on them. This [NHS update](#) around mild illness provides reassurance that this approach is the right one to take to develop resilience in our young people. The school day begins at 8:50 and we encourage our students to be at their tutor room by 8:45. We will continue to use Class Charts to notify you if your child is late to school, and we ask that you also use the system to notify us if your child is ill before school starts.

## ...The Little Mermaid Jr.

This year, our award-winning Musical Theatre Company will take audiences on a magical journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in *Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.*, adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the motion picture (featuring the enormously popular Academy Award-winning music and delightfully charming book and lyrics). Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories, *Disney's*

*The Little Mermaid JR.* is an enchanting look at the sacrifices we all make for love and acceptance. In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home – and her fins – behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking. Our talented company will perform two evening shows on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November at 7.00pm, in the School Hall. Tickets are now available via Eventbrite: <https://fhslittlemermaidjr2024.eventbrite.co.uk>. Please book early to avoid disappointment!



A few sporting shout outs for this issue! Congratulations to Sadie (Year 7) who became North West Gymnastics Classic Challenge 2024 Bronze Overall 10-11 Champion. She also came 2nd Bronze Overall (all ages) out of more than 90 girls, qualifying for the North West team who will compete at a national final in Surrey in November. Well done too to India (Y11) and Isabella, Molly and Orla (Year 7) who have been selected to represent Sefton this season in the English Schools Football Association NW League and Champions (National) Cup. A shout out to brothers Alfred (Year 7) and Robert (Year 9) for outstanding tennis achievements; Alfred is currently No.1 in Lancashire and has been selected for the U12 County Cup (having already won the Lancs U11) and older brother Robert is ranked No.6 in the U13 age group – we look forward to celebrating future successes with you both!

## ...Sporting Matters

## ...Reaching Out with Reaching High

Following on from Formby High School being awarded TES Inclusive School of the Year 2023, there has been a great deal of interest in our provision, not least our Reaching High curriculum, on a local, regional and national level. Mrs Warwick is immensely proud to be presenting our Reaching High curriculum at the TES SEND Show today at the Business Design Centre in London. She was invited to the conference to showcase our ground-breaking curriculum to teachers, families and leaders from across the country.



## On the Horizon...

- ★ UK University & Apprenticeship Fair – 15 Oct
- ★ Year 10-13 Music Trip Halle Orchestra – 18 Oct
- ★ Year 12 Meet the Professionals – 16 Oct
- ★ FHS Sports Awards – 24 Oct
- ★ Year 13 Geography Fieldwork – 17 Oct
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