

# FOCUSON...



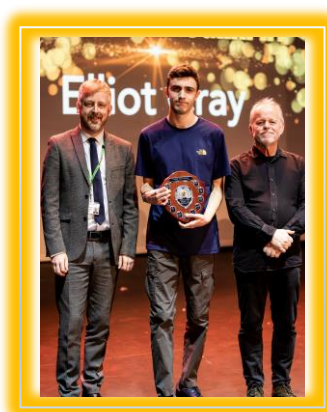
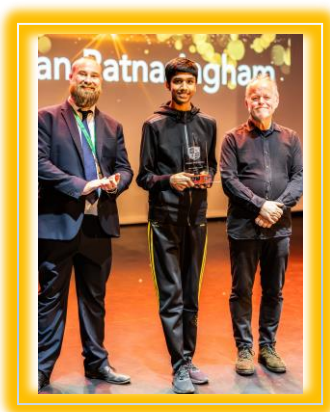
Issue 197  
29 November 2024

## Celebrating our school and community

### ...Presentation Evening 2024

On Tuesday 19 November we celebrated our annual Presentation Evening at The Atkinson Theatre in Southport. Our award and GCSE certificate recipients were joined by parents, staff representatives and VIPs to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the 2023/2024 cohort. The event was brilliantly compered by our very own Mr Cook and featured outstanding performances by Voiceworks Choir, Musical Theatre Company and our FHS dancers who delivered a moving remembrance themed piece. Our Guest Speaker for the evening was Joe Ainsworth, a BAFTA winning screen writer and former FHS parent who delighted the audience with his speech around failure! Joe's humour and humility left us all really uplifted by his story about his professional journey and how success may be important, but failures should be considered as 'experience' essential to achieving those successes. Students were inspired by his message of determination – if you are passionate about something, keep trying, keep pushing, keep believing and use the experience of failure to achieve your success.

The evening was an opportunity to say congratulations to our record-breaking GCSE class of 2024 who received their certificates for their hard-fought grades achieved in the summer. Some of our younger students also attended to receive their Key Stage 3 Subject Medals, awarded to them for their achievement by the Curriculum and Subject Leaders. The evening also celebrated our 27 special achievement award winners, who were recognised for a wide range of reasons, from academic, creative and sporting accomplishments to recognising citizenship, resilience and leadership. Congratulations to all the students we celebrated on the evening and thank you to the parents, VIPs and staff for sharing this wonderful evening with us.



## ...The Little Mermaid Jr



Our Musical Theatre Company has done it again! They absolutely delighted three sell-out audiences with their delightful production of The Little Mermaid Jr. The school hall was transformed into an underwater kingdom, filled with dance, music and laughter – a magical experience of we have now become accustomed to with this incredibly talented MTC.

The hard work that goes into such a high quality production must be applauded – thanks to all the students and to the staff who support and encourage their every move! We were so proud to be 'Part of Your World' last weekend. Well done!



## ... Duke of Edinburgh's Award

There has been a huge turnout for our Bronze Award this year, with approximately 80 students in Year 9 signed up to take part. Many have started recording their skills, physical and volunteering work already. Mr Duckworth commented "I have been incredibly impressed with the quality of applications we have had this year. In particular, our Year 9 students have been carefully considering how they can make a positive impact in the community through volunteering. This has included helping the elderly and vulnerable, working with local charities and food banks, litter picking with Formby Litter Angels and establishing a Formby High Garden." We look forward to hearing how they get on in future issues of the newsletter!



## ... Student Leadership

On Wednesday, our School Parliament sat for the first time during Personal Development lessons, with over 60 Members of School Parliament (MSPs) attending, representing every year group in the school and sixth form. A huge congratulations to those students who put themselves forward, with some outstanding letters of application, to become elected as MSPs for their form group. Well done to others who applied but didn't quite get elected for this year. There will be plenty of other opportunities to develop leadership skills across the school and we would welcome your application again for parliament next year. During the meeting, we split off into 'committees', chaired by our new Sixth Form 'Ministers', who did a fantastic job of gathering the opinions of students from each year group, in order to decide our areas of priority for 2024-25. Students were rewarded with 3 merits for attending and also given a 'Fast Pass' for the lunch queue, which we are sure you can imagine went down extremely well! We will continue to keep you posted about the activities that our MSPs carry out throughout the school year.



## ...LFC Onside+

The LFC Onside+ programme has continued to deliver an array of fantastic opportunities to the students involved this term. Mr Quayle and the LFC Foundation have been on several trips over the last few weeks, including visits to Anfield for a Q&A with Katarina Johnson-Thompson for some of our high-flying athletes, a mock trial for some of our Year 10 students that took an in-depth look into the criminal justice system and a Show Racism the Red Card Day. Additionally, our LFC STEM students had a visit to the LFC Academy where they displayed their leadership skills by guiding primary school students through how to use some high-tech innovations (Liverpool 1<sup>st</sup> team player Wataru Endo was on hand to help out too!).

FHS is committed to promoting anti-racism and we used the LFC trip as an opportunity to create the role of 'Anti-Racism Ambassadors', involving a group of students from across Years 7-10 and 12. It will be their job to collaborate and create new anti-racism initiatives for the school using knowledge from the 'Show Racism the Red Card' seminars they attended at Anfield on 15 November. It was a great day all round and our students were immensely engaged and participated in all the activities with great enthusiasm. Their reward was a free stadium tour and a Q&A session that included Liverpool legend John Barnes, Former Lioness Natasha Dowie and two Liverpool MPs, Ian Byrne and Kim Johnson!

More trips to Anfield are on the horizon as our Onside+ students head to Anfield on 3 December to present their 'positive community initiative' project to students from 10 other school across Merseyside! The best project wins an award and prizes for the students involved. Wish them luck!



## ...Christmas Hampers

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn 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 thought it would be nice to set 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 13 December, which will then be made into hampers and distributed to those who need them most. Any donations can be handed in at Main Reception for the attention of Mrs Brooks. 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 post 25 December. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to get involved, but for those of you who can we guarantee the hampers will be gratefully received and help spread a little festive cheer to a number of children within our school and their families.



## ...Riding High!

A big shout out to former student Joe, who has been riding high since leaving FHS to start a professional cycling contract in summer. We are delighted to learn that Joe has just been signed up by Team Lotto Kern-Haus PSD Bank – Ineos – for a two year deal for with their U23 team. Check out this fantastic article about his progress: <https://tinyurl.com/3fstwhec>. Joe, we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved through true grit, determination and hard work and we look forward to following your successes!

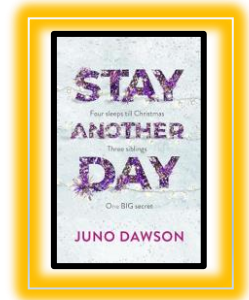


## ...Sparkle Award

Congrats to Theo (Year 7) who has added to his trophy cabinet with a well-deserved Charitable Award presented to him at The Sparkle Awards Liverpool last weekend. This event celebrates inspirational young people, like Theo, who help make their communities a better place by working hard to make their lives better.

## ...Library Corner

Our Librarian's pick for this issue is a chaotic Christmas romcom for our older students called Stay Another Day by Juno Dawson. *When three siblings, Fern, Rowan and Willow, go home to Edinburgh for Christmas, it's not long before some VERY BIG SECRETS threaten their cosy holiday. This year, Fern is bringing her boyfriend home, and she wants everything to be perfect. But her twin brother Rowan would rather go out than pull crackers with the family, and their younger sister Willow is terrified of Christmas Day. With FOUR sleeps till Christmas, THREE secretive siblings, TWO houseguests, and ONE juicy secret...this Christmas, there will be some BIG surprises under the tree! Sometimes at Christmas, you don't get what you want, you get what you need... family secrets, chance encounters and festive traditions collide in this juicy Christmas treat from Juno Dawson.* Come up to the library to find out more!



## ...Attendance Matters

We are now two weeks into our **Attendance Challenge**, and we are pleased to say that this week 677 students had over 97% attendance; last week it was 675. All of these students have been entered into prize draws with vouchers to be won in each year group. We have also been recognising tutor groups with the highest attendance in each year. Well done to 7F who received early lunch passes today, whilst 8Y, 9Y and 10Y will all once again receive tutor group prizes, and 11H will be able to use tokens in the school canteen for a free 'treat' this week. Look out for postcards which will be sent to students who have managed to achieve 97% over the last two weeks! Remember, each week marks a fresh start and we look forward to welcoming our students back at 8:45am on Monday.

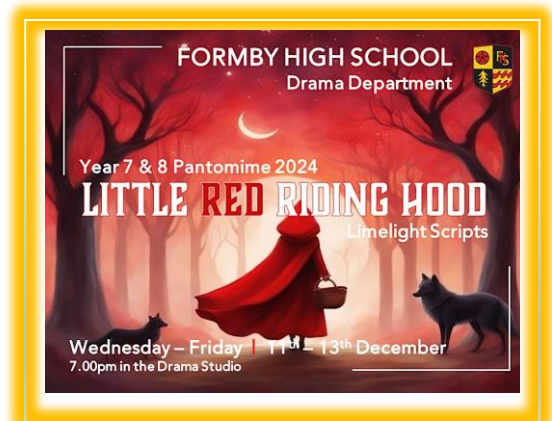


During the winter months, there are often lots of colds and ailments and for parents it is often difficult striking the balance and knowing when your child should be sent to school. This helpful NHS.uk guidance should offer some clarity: [Is my child too ill for school?](#) Please remember that if your child needs paracetamol or ibuprofen for any symptoms, this should be brought in from home.

## ...It's Panto Season!

This year, our Year 7 and 8 Panto is 'Little Red Riding Hood' and we would love you to meet Red and the other characters who live in Barking! Come along into the woods if you're brave enough and join Red on her daring adventure. Show dates are Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December in the Drama Studio. There will be an interval where mince pies, sweets and treats etc are available to purchase.

Tickets (selling fast) are available via Eventbrite by clicking this link: <https://fhslittleredridinghood.eventbrite.co.uk>



## On the Horizon...

- ★ Y11 PPEs continue – w/b 2 Dec
- ★ Y12/13 LAMDA Trip – 5 Dec
- ★ LFC Onside+ Event – 5 Dec
- ★ INSET (school closed to students) – 6 Dec
- ★ Year 7 Panto – 11, 12, 13 Dec
- ★ All Years Flu Vaccinations – 13 Dec