

FOCUSON...



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Celebrating our school and community

...Artsmark Platinum Award

We are absolutely delighted to announce that FHS has achieved the prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award by Arts Council England. This significant achievement recognises the substantial commitment to embedding arts culture and creativity across the whole school. Feedback received from the assessors acknowledged the fantastic work undertaken by staff and students across the Creative Arts:

“ We know the work and effort that this takes and would like to use this opportunity to thank you as the Artsmark lead for completing an Artsmark journey. We hope you have seen the real impact that you have had. Can we come to your school, please? It sounds brilliant! We were impressed by your strong, long-term commitment to the transformative power of the arts, which is making a difference to arts-based practice within school, to other professionals within the local area with some national working, and to the wider public. ”

For more information about this award, please visit our [website](#). To see examples of our amazing Creative Arts work, please visit [our YouTube channel](#).



...Music Mark School



Formby High School has been invited by our local Music Service (SKYHub) to become a Music Mark School in recognition of the value that we place on music in our school and community. We are delighted to have been asked us to join to the growing network of Music Mark Schools across the UK as a Music Subject Association. In extending this invitation, the Music Mark team thanked FHS for all the hard work undertaken by students and staff to ensure that everyone at school can access a high-quality music

education, adding “ *Your dedication to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.*” In her letter to FHS, Chief Executive Bridget Whyte wrote “ *Our vision is for there to be accessible and excellent musical learning and engagement in and out of school, for all children and young people, which inspires and enriches their lives. We are working to achieve this with our members and partners by supporting you, connecting you with your peers, and influencing policymakers on your behalf. Like you, we truly believe that every child and young person deserves a high-quality, diverse and inclusive music education.*”

... ‘Lights of Love’ Charity Single

‘Lights of Love’ – our brand new, original Christmas charity single composed by FHS Music Department was released at Christmas to support the amazing work of Queenscourt Hospice. The song is available on all **major streaming platforms** and we have also uploaded this festive ‘lyric video’ on our **YouTube channel**: [Formby High School G:Force Gospel Choir ‘Lights of Love’ – YouTube](#). If you love it as much as we do, please donate to this charity page. www.justgiving.com/page/fhsmusiclightsoflove2024. Queenscourt Hospice provides a valuable service to our local community, and we are proud to be a partner in their work.



...NODA Nominations Galore!



In November, the FHS Musical Theatre Company took to the stage for their production of 'The Little Mermaid Jr', featuring a cast of talented students from Years 8-11. We are thrilled that this production has been recognised with **five nominations** in the NODA Awards. NODA (National Opera and Dramatic Association) 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). This success is on the back of last year's

fantastic 'Sister Act Jr' production which wowed audiences and saw MTC winning a Music Trophy at the MTI Europe Junior Theatre Festival at the ICC in Birmingham. This is a truly wonderful achievement, and we are really proud of the individual and collective recognition for this production. The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday 22 February at the DW Stadium in Wigan and FHS will be attending with a group of company representatives ...watch this space and good luck to everyone nominated:

- The Little Mermaid Jr - Best Youth Musical
- The Little Mermaid Jr - Best Staging Technical of a Youth Production
- Miss Dilworth - Best Musical Director of a Youth Production
- Milly - Best Male Character Comedy Performance in a Youth Production
- Naomi - Best Female Character Comedy Performance in a Youth Production



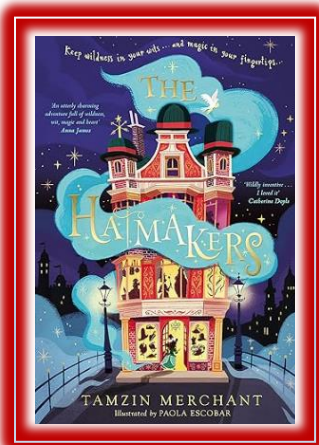
In addition, Mrs Harrocks is nominated for Best Choreographer in an adult production of Sister Act and Alexandra (Year 13) is nominated for a play at the Southport Dramatic Club for Best Supporting Female Character in a Youth Drama for her part as Eve in DNA. We look forward to hearing the outcome!

...Poetry Club

The Poetry Club have been meeting weekly since September. They create their own original work and perform classic poetry, most of which they study in English. On the evening of 16 December, friends and family gathered to enjoy a festive selection of verse. 'A Not So Silent Night'. The ages ranged from Year 7 to Year 10. This event was planned and delivered through a combination of leaders from the upper school in Year 12 and students in KS4 acting as role models and mentors for the younger ages. The group will be competing in 'Poetry by Heart', a national event next year. There are many trailblazers who we hope to see perhaps in the finals at The Globe theatre in London. Mrs Broomfield proudly commented "*It was delightful to enjoy such a range of talent, showcasing their verbal skills and developing great spoken communication.*"



... Library Corner



Our Librarian's choice for this first issue of 2025 is a new book to the FHS Library called 'Hatmakers' by Tamzin Merchant. This first book in a series of three, transports readers into a fantastical world where stakes are high, and magic is all around. *The book's main character, Cordelia, lives in a world where artisans are called 'Makers' and they bring magic to everything they make. Cordelia's family are magical hatmakers, who travel the world to collect hat ingredients. But on a trip her father goes missing, and when she sets to find him, she unravels a world of rival Makers that needs uniting... and saving. Life as a magical milliner isn't without its difficulties especially when someone seems to be using Maker magic to start up a war and it's up to Cordelia to find out who and why!* Come to the Library to reserve your copy and find out more about Cordelia's adventures!

...Alumnus News

A massive thank you to former A Level Languages student, Beth, who came back to school this week to speak to sixth form students about her year living and volunteering in Chile and the benefits of language-learning. Beth gave great advice about how volunteering enhances lives and was an inspiration for our A Level Language students! The support of our FHS alumni community in encouraging, inspiring and guiding our current students is invaluable and we are incredibly grateful for all those who come back through the gates to offer their support. If you, or someone you know, is an FHS alumnus and would like to get involved, please contact us – we would love to hear from you.



...Attendance Matters

As the new year and new year's resolutions get underway, we want to remind all our students and parents about ensuring positive habits are established right from the start of this very busy term in terms of **routines** and **resilience**. Students **must be in school by 8:45am** ready to arrive at their form rooms for the 8:50am start of their registration period. Making a positive and 'fresh start' to routines helps to improve organisation, well-being and will inevitably help students to achieve more at school. Simple things, such as organising school bags/equipment the night before, setting an alarm early enough and allowing enough time for the journey to school will help to remove many of the stresses caused by rushing in the morning. Resilience is equally important, especially in the darker and colder months, and it is often a tough call for parents to determine whether their child is too ill to attend school; this NHS guidance (<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>) is really helpful. The Spring term is incredibly busy for all years, not least those in the final months of preparation for exams. Getting off to a flying start for 2025 will be an important springboard to success!

...Sporting Matters

A massive shout out to Poppy (Year 8) who competed at the London International Horse Show on 21 December at the Excel Arena in London on her pony Meni Endeavour. Poppy rides out of Warren Farm Equestrian Centre in Formby which is owned by her family and is trained by her mum, Rebecca, herself a former GB dressage rider. Poppy was competing in the BSPS (British Show Pony Society) Junior Pony Performance Class Age 12 and Under at the International Horse Show and she did amazingly well, finishing 8th overall out of 23, with the top 10 being placed.

Congratulations Poppy!



Fifteen Year 9 students are currently completing their Level 2 Community Sports Leaders Award. So far this year, as part of the award, the students have helped out at Open Evening, assisted teachers/coaches at a PE club of their choice, helped to run primary dodgeball and futsal events, and have also delivered a sports session to Year 7 students. In addition to building their leadership qualities, many are completing this as part of their volunteering for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. We also have 15 Level 3 Sports Leaders in Sixth Form, news of their achievements to follow!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Y13 STEM Future Innovators trip – 15 Jan
- ★ Y12 Uni of Liverpool Visit – 21 Jan
- ★ Sixth Form Subject Consultation Eve – 16 Jan
- ★ Y11 Practice Interviews – 23/24 Jan
- ★ Y8 HPV Vaccinations – 17 Jan
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