

# FOCUSON...



Issue 200  
24 January 2025

## Celebrating our school and community

### ...Celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> Edition

Exactly 11 years to the day since our first edition of 'FocusOn...' was published, we are celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> issue! Unquestionably, the world has changed in the last 11 years but our newsletter has served as a constant positive celebration of the fantastic achievements, endeavours and activities that enrich the Formby High School community and beyond. Countless student achievements, fundraising accounts, school events and trip reports have been celebrated over these 200 editions and the newsroom would like to thank everyone for their contributions and readership! Our back catalogue of newsletters is available on our website.



### ...Careers in Innovation

On Wednesday 15 January Mr Duckworth took thirteen Year 12 A Level Mathematics students to the Knowledge Quarter in Liverpool where they were given an introduction to innovative technologies and careers. Such is the changing pace of the workplace many of these jobs didn't exist ten years ago. Clixels (Artificial Intelligence), Sciontec (Science, Innovation and Technology) and Lyva Labs (Investing in Innovation) were three of the companies they met with. Each company presented to the group and provided some interesting challenges. Sciontec tasked them with designing their own commercial building; our winner being a building in the shape of a conical flask with a mixture of office and lab space, with the added luxury of a swimming pool and bar on the rooftop. Lyva Labs challenged them to tackle a problem they see in society at the moment. They split into three teams and attempted to tackle the issues of frozen rail lines in winter (Team Hot Rails), reducing insurance for young drivers (Team Brake Check) and sleeping difficulties (Team Dream Drops). Oscar from Brake Check summarised the day for his team, "We have learnt new and increasingly popular areas of work that will become more impactful in the coming years. Today was extremely interesting and useful to see how we can use maths in these careers. This has helped me and others guide our futures a little more."



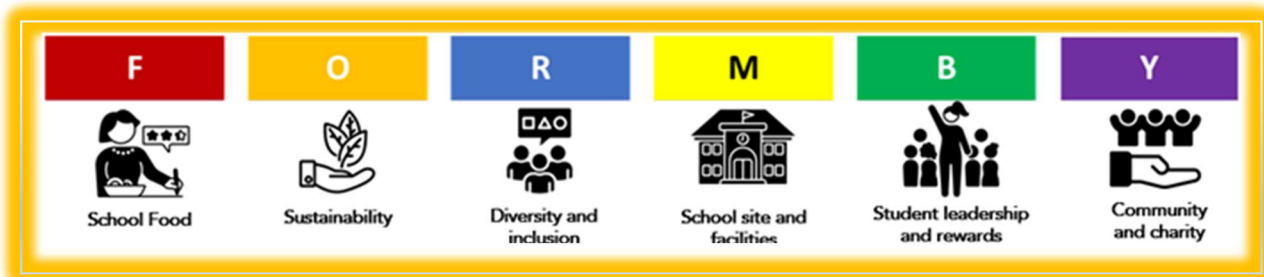
### ...DofE Growing FHS Green Space

As part of their volunteering work towards achieving their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students are redeveloping our very own Formby High School garden. They have started by clearing some foliage and will be preparing the ground with weed control before laying bark chipping on approximately 50 square metres of space behind our new Reaching High Centre. Our aim is to provide real-world space for the environment (growing fruit and vegetables) and engage students in outdoor space.



## ... Leading the Way

It was absolutely fantastic to see so many Members of School Parliament (MSPs) convene on Wednesday morning this week to firm up their key priorities for the rest of the year (summarised in the graphic below). Each of the priorities will be headed up by a parliamentary committee, made up of MSPs (Members of School Parliament) from across Years 7-13. Our Sixth Form MSPs received some ministerial training before doing a fantastic job in formally chairing their respective committees and beginning to draw up their action plans for the rest of the year. There was such a buzz in the hall, with fantastic ideas flowing into the action plans from all year groups. The MSPs also received their School Parliament badges, and it is great to see them wearing them with pride around the school.



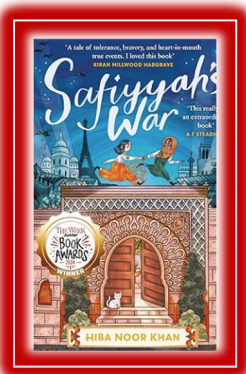
## ...Languages and Culture

Modern Languages is a subject area which allows students to explore and enjoy a world of culture as part of their studies. This week Spanish A Level students visited the University of Liverpool and had input from Spain 'north and south' via a lecture about the Andalusian poet and playwright Federico García Lorca as well as a taster session in Catalan!

A Level Spanish and Film Studies students also have an upcoming webinar opportunity with the University of Bristol on the film *Pan's Labyrinth* and recently had the opportunity to take part in a webinar live from the Terracotta Army Mausoleum site in China!

## ...Unit Award Scheme

Earlier this week a group of Year 11 students were presented with their certificates from the AQA Unit Award Scheme. This scheme runs alongside the GCSE course and allows students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised, building up a portfolio of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience. UAS Co-ordinator, Mrs Weaver, said "This was the first cohort to trial the course and I am incredibly proud of the commitment of all students." Congratulations to Charlie, Myles, Tilly, Alex, Jack, Paige and Isabella!



## ... Library Corner

*Safiyyah's War* is a riveting, deeply poignant period novel set in occupied Paris which finds Safiyyah engaged in dangerous resistance work after her father is arrested by the Nazis. *War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?*

This story shines a spotlight on a pocket of resistance from World War II when hundreds of Jews were led to safety via underground passages from the Grand Mosque. A fascinating and moving story of courage, resilience and humanity. Come up to the Library to find out more.

## ...Media Suite

This term saw the opening of the Computing and ICT department's new Media Suite. The suite has been designed to allow students to work on the more complex technical and creative projects. Featuring an array of new technology, such as condenser microphones and high-



end graphics cards students can program, record sound and video and edit projects for Computer Science and Digital Media. The Sixth Form students have already made full use of the room, developing their coursework and knowledge.



## ...Attendance Matters

It has been great to see our students seeking to improve and maintain good attendance and punctuality throughout the Spring term so far. Our current year to date attendance is 92% which, whilst above local averages and broadly in line with the national figure, is something that we would want to improve further. We recently received information about the new Pharmacy First service which is available to support children and adults suffering with a minor illness. The service deals with seven common illnesses and is an alternative pathway to the GP. You can find more information [here](#). 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 ensuring their child/children attend school every day they are able to.



## ...Sporting Matters

We have 15 Sixth Form students currently completing the Sports Leaders UK Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership, gaining essential skills in communication, teamwork, self-belief, self-management and problem-solving. This is a nationally recognised qualification that is great for students' personal statements and also for their UCAS applications, giving them an extra 16 UCAS points. So far this year, as part of the award, the students have assisted teachers/coaches at a PE club of their choice for 12 weeks, planned and delivered two primary school sessions at Redgate Primary School, and this week they have planned and delivered a SEND Festival for over 70 Year 7/8 students from six different secondary schools. They will also be going into Trinity St Peters and Freshfield primary schools to lead sessions there next half term. Mrs Melia commented "The students are an absolute credit to the school and can be relied upon to work collaboratively and positively at all times!"



## ...Getting into The Groove?

Just a reminder that our annual dance showcase, "The Groove", is taking place next week, on Thursday 30 January (7pm) at the Atkinson Theatre in Southport. A limited number of tickets are still available via The Atkinson website if you're feeling groovy!

## On the Horizon...

- ★ Y9/10 UKMT Maths Challenge – 29 Jan
- ★ Y8-10 Band Night – 5 Feb
- ★ The Groove Dance Show – 30 Jan
- ★ Year 11 Subject Consultation Eve – 6 Feb
- ★ Y12 Visit University of Manchester – 5 Feb
- ★ Year 10 RS Subject Consultation – 6 Feb