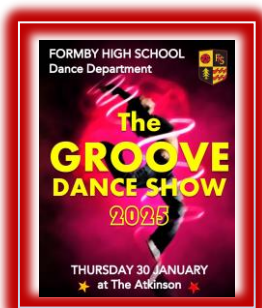


# FOCUSON...



Issue 201  
7 February 2025

## Celebrating our school and community



### ...Into The Groove

On 30 January, our Dance Department took to the stage at the Atkinson for our annual Dance Show, 'The Groove'. The evening was a great success, with nearly 10% of the school taking part, showcasing their hard work and dedication from Year 7 to our BTEC Dance group in the Sixth Form. What a joy it was to see students from all year groups support and cheer each other's performances and then wow the audience with their professionalism and talent. The evening was a real celebration of that talent, from street dance and commercial routines, to jazz, musical theatre and contemporary, the show had something for everyone in the packed auditorium. Congratulations to everyone involved in making the event such a success. The event was another example of how fantastic our Creative Arts provision is at Formby High – and a contributing part of our Artsmark Platinum Award! A big thank you to the students and families who came to support the event. This would not have been possible without the fabulous Dance department, Mrs Whitehead and Mrs Harrocks, and the visiting practitioners, Mrs Cardwell and Miss Belford.



### ...Band Night

The Music Department was delighted to host their second Band Night on Wednesday. The evening was filled with a variety of different songs from 'Come Together' by The Beatles to 'Mardy Bum' by the Arctic Monkeys performed by R&ck, Crash Bang Pau, lastminute.com, Stan Halen, The Staff Band and Music Appreciation 2.0. Charlie R also kicked off the night with a DJ set as the audience arrived! The Music Department are extremely proud of all the bands - the evening was a result and celebration of their incredible hard work and determination. It was fabulous to see such a range of ages coming together and displaying their talent. Miss Dilworth, Subject Leader for Music, said "Well done to all of the bands, we cannot wait to see what the set list looks like next year!"



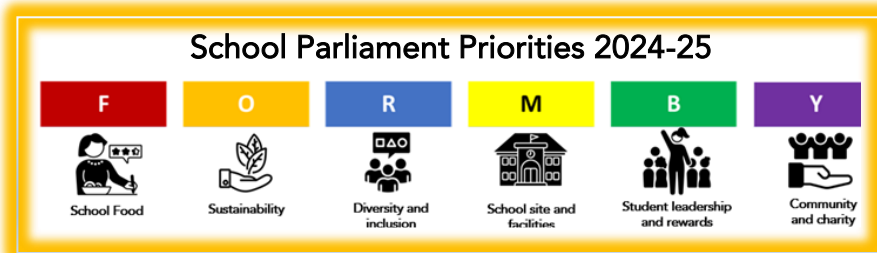
## ...Year 11 Practice Interviews



On 23/24 January, Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a Practice Interview with a local professional. The event gave students a valuable experience of what interviews entail and a chance to practise talking about their skills and experiences. The students were given constructive feedback on their interview skills and the feedback forms gave them key targets to focus on. The interviewers were very impressed with the standard of interviews, and many commented on how articulate and personable the students were. Mrs MacDunne, Curriculum Leader for Personal Development, said "The event was a huge success and well done to Year 11 for the effort they put into their interviews!". We would like to thank all the professionals who volunteered their time to support the students in this important part of their Careers education. We must also thank Mrs MacDunne and Mrs Haughey for their energy and efforts in putting this event together – they are already on to the next big thing...our Careers Fair (for all year groups) taking place in late March. As always, we extend a warm welcome to our professional parents / community members to get in touch if they are able to offer their support for this, and other, important careers events: [careers@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:careers@formbyhighschool.com).

## ...MSPs Leading the Way

Our Members of School Parliament (MSPs) have had a busy week engaging with external educators. On Monday, our Year 8 MSPs continued their training with Bully Busters, an anti-bullying initiative providing training and awareness sessions for young people, whilst our Year 9 and Year 10 MSPs received some Peer Mentoring training from Local Solutions. We had some excellent feedback from the providers about how well our MSPs represented the school, and they look forward to returning to do some further work with them in the future. Meanwhile, MSPs have been tasked with continuing conversations in their registration time about the priority topics for School Parliament this year.



## ...Solar for Schools



On Wednesday, we welcomed a visit from Solar for Schools, who led an assembly with our Year 10 students about sustainability. Following the assembly, they delivered a workshop to over 100 GCSE Geographers, exploring the links between the solar industry and their GCSE specification, practising some exam skills, and exposing students to the types of careers Geography can take them on to. Solar for Schools also invited Sefton Councillor, Peter Harvey, to join their visit and delivered a session with our newly formed Sustainability Committee, consisting of MSPs in each year group.

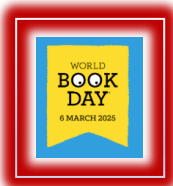
They discussed how politics interacts with sustainability issues locally and what they as young people can do about it. Councillor Harvey invited the committee to draft a letter about issues important to them and promised to take this to Sefton Council and provide a formal response. Great to see our MSPs getting involved in local politics!

## ...Belonging

On Friday 31 January, six Year 7 students attended an exciting storytelling workshop at Anfield stadium with the theme of 'Belonging'. In addition to creating some fantastic stories, (Sophie's was shared with everyone) they got to meet some homegrown Liverpool stars. These included Emily Tootles (a published poet), Jade Burns (a DJ) and Jamie Webster (journalist and local legend). Mrs Broomfield added "The students had an inspiring afternoon and were, of course, outstanding role models and ambassadors for Formby High School!"



## ...Library Corner



Shortly after half term we will be starting to celebrate World Book Day 2025 (6 March) in a variety of ways in our School Library. Year 7 will be encouraged to take part in our annual sponsored read, motivating students to read whilst also raising much needed funds for the Read for Good (a charity raising money to provide books and e-readers to children in UK children's hospitals). World Book Day works with publishers to create a list of £1 books to appeal to a wide range of children at all ages, interests, and stages of reading - particularly those who need encouragement to read for pleasure. World Book Day £1 tokens will be available to students to pick up a free book from participating stores to celebrate World Book Day 2025. It will also soon be time for students to get creative and design a book token for the NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN annual competition. National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to share their creativity – and their love for books and reading – by designing their own fabulous gift cards. Six winning entrants will bag HUNDREDS of pounds worth of National Book Tokens for their schools and themselves – pick up an entry form in our Library.



Finally, the Sefton Super Read shortlist has been announced! Sefton Super Reads is an annual book award voted on by Year 7 & 8 students from high schools across the borough of Sefton. The award encourages young people to read and review six selected books and vote for their favourite. The selected six books are chosen by librarians from Sefton secondary schools, and it is planned to have an awards ceremony in the Summer term. Any Formby High School Year 7 & 8 students who would like to take part should pop up to the Library and speak to Mrs Ambrose.



Well done to the 16 athletes who competed in the Merseyside Schools Cross Championships. A very well done to three of our athletes, Eddie (Year 10), Sydney (Year 11) and Ava (Year 12), who have made the Merseyside Schools Cross Country team and are off to

Kent in March to compete at the English Schools Final. A huge well done also to our U19 Netball squad who had joint top points at the Liverpool Schools tournament this week, narrowly missing out on 1<sup>st</sup> place on goal difference. They played some absolutely fantastic netball and gave every game 100%, well done girls!

## ...Sporting Matters



## ... Governance Matters

Governors work closely with the school's leadership on a strategic programme of development and improvement of the school campus and facilities, working hard to ensure robust financial planning can support our aims as much as possible. There is never enough money to do everything we want to, especially with school budgets as constrained as they are, not to mention the increased demands of a school campus as mature as ours. We are delighted, however, to see many of the projects, which have been hard fought and long in the pipeline, come into fruition. The sitewide IT network infrastructure, to rise to the demands of the increasingly digital classroom, including site-wide Wi-Fi access for Sixth Form students. Roofing and heating infrastructure has been overhauled, solar panels installed, all supporting our energy efficiency goals. The newly built Reaching High Centre will soon be opening its doors and there are other exciting plans around the corner including new communications and information systems to further improve efficiency and engagement with our stakeholders. The 'to do list' is long, but our resolve is firm. We would like to thank everyone involved in supporting these works and to everyone for their patience as they are being implemented.

## On the Horizon...

- ★ Future Chef Competition – 10 Feb
- ★ UKMT Maths Challenge - 11 Feb
- ★ British Music Experience Trip – 12 Feb
- ★ Bronte Parsonage Museum Trip – 14 Feb