

FOCUSON...



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Celebrating our school and community

...Year 13 Gold Arts Award



Formby High School is extremely proud of its commitment to the Arts and fostering a love and pursuit of creative expression. In Year 13, students have the opportunity to work towards the prestigious Gold Arts Award – an accreditation Bruno, Oliver, Abigail, Elsie, Gabriel and Hannah are currently working very hard to achieve. This has included creating a portfolio of work in film, game design, fashion, fashion illustration and theatre directing. As in previous years, a major part of this award is to showcase their work to the school and community. The Gold Arts Award Showcase is taking place in the School Hall on Thursday 20 March at 6pm. The students would love your support – tickets are available now via the eventbrite system: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arise-a-gold-arts-award-showcase-tickets-1237243180659>

...Shout out (again) for Theo!

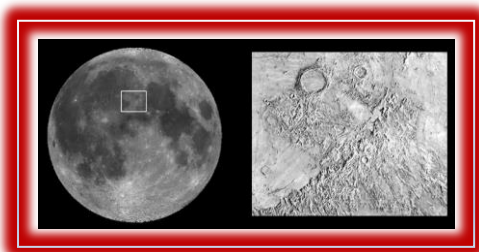
Our regular readers may be aware of previous stories about Theo (Year 7) who dedicates countless hours to fundraising, in particular for Alder Hey Children's Hospital. From a very young age, Theo has received medical support from Alder Hey and with his innate generosity of spirit, he has sought to give back to the Alder Hey Children's Charity through fundraising. His latest venture with the support of his mum, a Comedy Bingo Night fundraiser on 7 March, generated a whopping £3,800 for the charity. Theo was unable to attend the event due to being in hospital himself but sent a heartfelt video message which was broadcast to those attending on the night. Thanks to his hard work and the generosity of everyone at the fundraiser, this money will now go directly to supporting 'MediCinema', something Theo has recently experienced firsthand. Theo, we simply couldn't be more proud of you... well done!



...Astronomical Aspirations

Every Friday before school, over 30 Year 9 and Year 10 students attend Astronomy class with Mr Williams (Subject Leader for Physics) and work towards securing a GCSE qualification in the subject at the end of Year 10 or 11. This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity FHS is able to offer our students who are not only able to gain valuable insight into our universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere, but to add another valuable qualification to their academic portfolio in doing so. Many of the students studying Astronomy use this as their skill element for their Bronze or Silver Awards whilst completing their Duke of Edinburgh's (DoE) Award. Sophie, who is studying GCSE Astronomy alongside her DoE Award and other studies said "Astronomy so far

has been very interesting and has taught me many new fascinating facts about the Earth and the universe. It has the advantage of being an extra GCSE and also of use for our DoE - which is great that it is offered during the school day. I am looking forward to continuing the course and having another GCSE!" Good luck to all our astronomers. *This photo of the Apennine Mountain range was taken by a FHS GCSE Astronomer.*



...Library Corner

The Library has been a real hive of activity in recent weeks, not least due to World Book Day (Thursday 6 March) and associated events. Celebrating World Book Day encourages more students to find the fun and enjoyment in reading as well as take part in competitions and activities. Mrs Ambrose still has some remaining World Book Day tokens in the Library if any students would like one.



Our Read for Good fundraising continues – a huge thank you to those Year 7 students taking part in our sponsored read. If you haven't already, please sponsor a Year 7 student to read - they can read anything! Books, comics, maps, instructions! Sponsor money can be paid online using Parent Pay or cash can be taken to the school Finance Office. This charity does amazing work in supplying both books and readers to all the UK's children's hospitals.

Fancy something a little different to read? First News is a weekly newspaper specifically for children, focusing on age-appropriate news happening in the world today. Filled with news and activities it can be found weekly in the Library. Also, the Phoenix is a gut busting comedy magazine aimed at tearing children away from their screens. Both publications are perfect for curious minds – come to the Library to find out more.



...Cooking Up Success



Formby High School's Food & Nutrition department is participating once again in the national 'Futurechef Competition'. This year, Peter and Seb (Year 10) represented the school very well, cooking two fantastic dishes and competing well against local schools. Despite an incredibly high standard of cooking in this round, both boys received excellent feedback and were chosen to compete in the next round - the North West regional final. Peter and Seb were mentored by a professional chef who also came into school to run cookery workshops with our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students. Chef Leon

taught students to make Sui Mai, Pork Wantons (deep fried and poached), which all students thoroughly enjoyed. We have also been lucky enough to welcome chefs from the Royal Navy into school who challenged the H&C students to make a burger and sticky toffee pudding in a team competition. All students produced fantastic dishes and really enjoyed the challenge. The chefs were very impressed with the cookery skills and enthusiasm the students showed throughout the session. Finally, a lucky group of Year 8 students in our Life, Living and Employability (LLE) group enjoyed a delicious chocolate workshop hosted by Sonia Tucci from 'Chocolatinos', Formby. The students worked on their piping skills and produced an array of chocolate animals. Sonia commented how fantastic the children were, a real credit to the school, and that they made her day!



...MTC Celebrates World Book Day

On World Book Day our Musical Theatre Company and Redgate Year 4 and 5 performed songs, dances and drama scenes from a variety of books and films. The collaboration between our schools culminated in three performances for parents, staff and students of Redgate school. It was wonderful to see a variety of performances and hopefully our Musical Theatre Company have inspired a future generation of performers.



...Gambling Awareness

Earlier this month, students in Years 7-10 attended a Gambling Awareness assembly delivered by a specialist from the Beacon Counselling Trust. During the assembly, students were given crucial information on the potential harms associated with gambling and how gaming is often closely associated with it. Importantly, they were informed of the support services available to them and how to access them if necessary. All year groups engaged well in the assemblies and the specialist commented on their impeccable behaviour.



Earlier this week, Year 7 and Year 8 students did their bit to develop our school's sustainability pledge by planting saplings along the eastern boundary of the school campus. The saplings were provided by the 'Free Trees for Schools' initiative by the Woodland Trust and will help to bolster our efforts to increase biodiversity, capture carbon dioxide, reduce flooding and filter air. This is the second sapling planting event we have done in recent years, and we hope to continue this into the future. Keep an eye out for more tree planting soon!

...Tree Planting

...Arbor

As we have reported in earlier newsletters, we will soon be changing some of our school information systems. At the end of this half term, we will be moving to 'Arbor' as our core management information system which will bring some exciting new developments to how we share information with our parents and students. Inevitably, with any change, there will be a period of adjustment as we get everyone safely 'onboard', and we would like to thank you in advance for your patience and support. We will write to parents just before half term with an update and to ask you to download the Arbor Parent App over the Easter holidays, to ensure you are ready for account activation in the first couple of weeks of the summer term. We will also be creating an easily accessible page on our school website where we will signpost where you can expect to receive key information from during the transition to new systems.



...Sixth Form Taster Day

Wednesday 19 March will see the Sixth Form open its doors to applicants for Year 12 in September 2025 in our annual Sixth Form Taster afternoon. Year 11 students from FHS and other schools across our area will spend the afternoon in Sixth Form, having the opportunity to experience the facilities, meet with key staff and attend taster lessons in the subjects they are hoping to study in Sixth Form next year. There will also be a subject marketplace where the students can have valuable 1:1 conversations about A Level or vocational study in more detail. The afternoon is just one part of a programme of activities aimed at supporting Year 11s in this important phase of their education as they choose their next steps.

...Attendance Matters

Over the course of this term so far, we are glad to say our attendance figure has been sustained. However, as pleasing as this is, we would like to see our figures begin to increase over the remaining few weeks of the term. Our latest attendance initiative, *'The Chicken or the Egg?'*, open to students in Years 7-11 who have over 95% attendance for the next three weeks and must be in school for the next three Fridays (except Year 9 which must be Thursdays), will offer a prize draw at the end of term for Easter Eggs and Nando's vouchers. Mrs Harrison-Forsyth delivered assemblies this week discussing the positive impacts of good attendance and looking at how the year group statistics stack up... we hope to see all students rise to the challenge!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Y9 Options Interviews – 19/20 Mar
- ★ Sixth Form Taster Afternoon – 19 Mar
- ★ Y13 Geography Fieldwork – 20 Mar
- ★ Gold Arts Award Showcase – 20 Mar
- ★ All Years Careers Fair – 26 Mar
- ★ All Years Spring Music Concert – 27 Mar