

# FOCUSON...



Issue 211  
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## Celebrating our school and community



### ...2025 A Level Results

We were absolutely delighted on results day to be able to see (and share) the smiles and joy of our outgoing Year 13 students as they opened their long-awaited results envelopes. We could not be more proud of their achievements. The hard work and determination they displayed achieved exceptional results which smashed even last year's record-breaking outcomes for the school! The class of 2025 achieved the best ever average A Level grades for the school,

reaching an average of Grade B. Half of all A Level students secured AAB or above, with over three-quarters of all entries graded at B or better. Overall, nine in ten entries were graded at C or above, with an overall pass rate of 100%. Students studying applied and vocational courses gained the highest points per pupil on record, achieving an average grade of Distinction. An incredible 38% of entries achieved A\*/A or equivalent overall, with 13% achieving an A\* or Distinction\*.



These exceptional results helped 86% of students secure their first choice place at university, as well as an increasing number moving on to high quality degree level apprenticeships in a variety of fields such as engineering, accountancy and law at organisations such as Laing O'Rourke, Jaguar Land Rover and Sellafield. We offer our former Year 13s our heartfelt congratulations for results they thoroughly deserve, along with our

best wishes for continued success. We hope they will inspire our current students to believe that everything is possible with hard work, resilience and determination.

### ...GCSE Results 2025

A week later, we were able to join our former Year 11 students to celebrate their outstanding GCSE results, where they excelled themselves in achieving some of the highest results in the school's history, surpassing records set in 2024. The



teachers and support staff who were present as students opened their results with the expected anticipation and trepidation will all agree that being there to witness the smiles and elation of students seeing their hard work rewarded is one of their favourite parts of their profession. An incredible 86% of entries scored Grade 4 or above, with 73% reaching Grade 5 or more. A third of entries were Grade 7 or above, with 17 students attaining at least nine Grade 7s or more. In total,

105 Grade 9s were awarded to students, with a number of students achieving quite exceptional grades. We are equally delighted to welcome the majority of our former Year 11 students to Formby High School's Sixth Form this September, joined by over 30 students from other schools. These students can be confident that the outstanding teaching and pastoral support they received in achieving their GCSE outcomes will continue as they embark upon their sixth form studies.



## ... British Council International School Award

Formby High School has been awarded Foundation Level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education - fostering an international dimension in the curriculum so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.



On receiving the award from the British Council, feedback stated "Your Polyglots programme, ongoing since 2013, represents a commendable example of inclusive practice, celebrating the bilingual and multilingual skills of your student body. Your participation in national competitions such as Mother Tongue Other Tongue, The Stephen Spender Prize, and The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators highlights a long-standing commitment to high-quality language education. The school's support for Ukrainian refugee students, including provision of targeted English language support and cultural integration, reflects genuine care and responsiveness to global events. Your application demonstrates a clear and ongoing commitment to promoting language learning, cultural awareness, and global citizenship within your school community. The school's motivation to celebrate the diversity of languages spoken by pupils and to encourage curiosity about world languages and cultures is both timely and commendable."

Shannon West, Head of UK Schools for the British Council, said: 'Formby High School's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition with the British Council International School Award - Foundation Certificate. We are delighted and proud that Formby High School is committed to developing a whole school approach to embedding and celebrating international work. The dedication from everyone is enriching education and supporting globally aware young people and the development of key skills. We thank all involved in this important work.'

Congratulations to Ms Lonsdale, Curriculum Leader for Modern Languages, and her team for this fantastic award recognising your passion for Languages education and all the hard work you do to give students at FHS amazing opportunities to embrace all that languages can offer.

## ... Community Day

In July the school celebrated its first Community Day at FHS where, in just reward for all their amazing efforts throughout the year, the timetable was collapsed to give way to a day of fun activities involving all year groups. In a change to rewards trips day, this day was developed to ensure that the celebration of our rewards programme achievements was inclusive, accessible to all and encouraged more engagement and interaction with the whole school community.

Thanks to Miss MacDougall and Mrs Wilkins who put countless hours of planning into the event, there was a huge variety of activities on offer, including bringing in external partners to offer fun things such as silent disco, a gaming van, Fun Fest (Inflatables and space hoppers), an interactive wall, Lush Skin introduction and tennis coaching to name but a few. Thanks to all FHS staff who also made sure there were some fantastic activities and competitions on offer, namely:

- Craft Corner
- Form quizzes
- Bonkers Bingo
- Futsal
- Swifite Viewing Party
- Brush and Canvas
- Gaming
- Year 9 Community Shield Cup
- The Great Pancake Competition
- Mr Kaye's Big Beach Walk



## ... The Heights of Kindness



Congratulations to Mr Strong, Assistant Head of Year 8, and Miss Carragher (Teaching Assistant) who during the summer holidays bravely took part in the Queenscourt Hospice annual sky dive fundraiser. Descending from 11,000ft, Mr Strong and Miss Carragher showed fantastic commitment to support this local charity who do so much for those with life limiting illnesses and their families.

Their efforts [raised over £6,100](#) and they both wanted to thank everyone who helped raise this fantastic total through their kind donations. Well done Mr Strong and Miss Carragher!



## ...Summer School

Our Transition Summer School took place between 18-22 August and provided valuable opportunities for our newest recruits to engage in a wide range of practical and creative activity days with staff from across the school. We averaged between 80-90 students each day and were delighted at how well they interacted with one another, made new friends, took on new challenges and contributed so enthusiastically to the activities on offer:

- **Active Day** sporting activities from our PE dept, the LFC Foundation from IP Presents, who brought their Lu Interactive Wall – an ingenious projector that turn a blank wall into interactive games and quizzes.
- **STEM Day** brought computing/coding, CAD tasks, ice-cream making, Maths challenges and a 'coastal' workshop from National Trust.
- **Escape Room Day** set the students challenges including 'Race Across the World', and 'Murder Mystery at the Manor', numerical conundrums and a travel-writing escape room in the Library.
- **Creative Day** provided workshops with the staff from Liverpool Biennial, musical theatre mayhem with 'The Jungle Book' and a sensational junk percussion workshop with Carl Smith, one of the founders of the world-renowned STOMP!
- **Friday** took us into Liverpool for an open top tour of the city and the Beatles haunts, followed by an exploration of the Museum of Liverpool.



## ... International Golfer

Over the holidays, James (Y8) travelled to Ireland to represent Great Britain in a golf competition on behalf of the Tommy Fleetwood Academy. James told us "The 'Champion of Champions World Golf Competition' was a great experience. I met a lot of people from all over the world." What a fabulous opportunity and experience for you, James, well done!



## ...FHS does Question Time

In July, we were delighted to welcome Bill Esterson MP and representatives from Solar for Schools (who installed Formby High School's solar panels a few years ago) to Formby High School. Mr Esterson delivered an engaging assembly to our Year 8 students about democracy, what it means to represent constituents and about his role as Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee. Following this, Mr Esterson and Solar for Schools formed a panel which sat with our members of School Parliament, including members of our Sustainable Committee, for our very own version of Question Time. Our student representatives asked thoughtful, challenging questions and appreciated Bill's openness and insight in responding. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore key issues around sustainability, politics, and the future of green energy. Our visitors were really impressed with how the students valued the importance of sustainable energy and the maturity of their engagement with the panel.

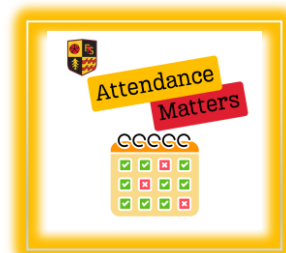


## ...Sixth Form Matters

Sixth Form is buzzing with activity at the start of a busy new school year, with over 150 new recruits in Year 12 joining a vibrant Year 13! Students are settling in very well and, on Wednesday this week, parents attended an informative Sixth Form Matters evening to help get them up to speed on what to expect in both Year 12 and Year 13 over the coming few months. Fantastic to see things off to a flying start.

## ...Attendance Matters

Welcome back! It has been a pleasure to welcome students to the start of the new academic year. Attendance and punctuality remain key priorities at Formby High School. Good habits start early, so we encourage all students to aim for **100% attendance this term**. Please ensure you are familiar with our [Attendance and Punctuality Policy](#) (available on the school website). Students should arrive at school by 8:45am ready for tutor time to begin promptly at 8:50am. Students arriving after 8:45am, without good reason, will be recorded as late and have a demerit issued. Please be aware that if you need to discuss your child's attendance you can contact Mrs Harrison-Forsyth, our Assistant Headteacher ([a.harrison@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:a.harrison@formbyhighschool.com)), or the Attendance Team.



## ...Sefton Young Artist Competition

We are delighted to announce the success of two of our students in the Sefton Young Artist of the Year Competition 2025. Camilla (Year 12) was commended in her category for her painting entitled 'Brunch' (pictured). Magdalena in (Year 13) was the overall winner in her category with a painting of Formby woods. The competition, organised by The Atkinson in Southport, celebrating the artistic talents of students within the Sefton borough, culminated in a showcase of the winning entries in July. Congratulations to Magdalena and Camilla – great to see your work on display in the gallery and well done

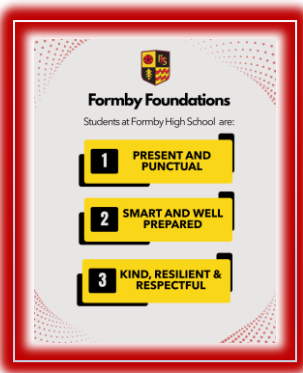
to all involved.

## ...Dramatic News

A massive well done to our LAMDA students who completed their exams in July! Two of our Year 11 students completed their Grade 6 Bronze medal and now have received UCAS points based on their amazing grades. Miss Donlevy says "Well done to everyone, and a special mention to Pip and Trixie!" Sticking with drama news, can you believe it's panto time?! Auditions for this year's pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' will be taking place during week commencing Monday 22 September. We would love to see as many of you there as possible (plot twist – open to all years!) Please see Miss Donlevy for more info.



## ...Formby Foundations



All this week, at the start of another busy and productive year, Mr Wood has been delivering assemblies to each year group to talk about the key priorities for the school. An integral part of this is ensuring that all our students understand the characteristics and responsibilities we expect them to uphold to ensure that they thrive and get the very best out of the opportunities at school and beyond. These values are integral to the FHS community and the essential foundations for future success.

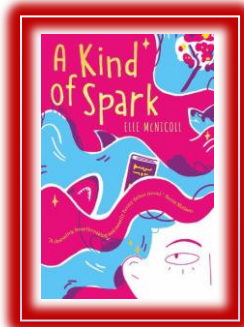
## ...Library Corner

I am absolutely delighted to introduce myself as the new Librarian at FHS, Mrs Dearden. I have been a school librarian for a while now and in various different places (from Coventry to China!) but my family and I moved back to the north west this summer and I am made up to have started work here last week. In the last two weeks I have been settling into new routines here, meeting new faces and starting to get to know some of our wonderful students. I am beginning to familiarise myself with the library stock and have been coming up with exciting new ideas for developments to come – watch this space!



Each fortnight I will highlight my current young adult read, and at the moment I am reading *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicholl, which some of you will also be reading with Mr Strong in the coming weeks! It tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to

hers, and so sets out to challenge how the people in her town see her, and her autism, and make her voice heard. So far, I am loving how Elle McNicholl uses her authentic neurodivergent voice to challenge myths and stereotypes in her desire for equality and truth.



I can't wait to meet more of you up here in the Library in the next few weeks, in either your AR lessons in English, or coming up during break or lunchtime to have a browse, choose a book, do some studying or getting some peaceful downtime – we are always open! Make sure you come and find me up in A6 so you can pick my brains about what book would be your perfect next read!

## ...Open Evening 2025

Next Thursday (18 September) is our annual Open Evening where we invite prospective students from Years 5 and 6 and their families to have a look around FHS and meet our staff and students. Just a reminder that as the evening starts at 5:30pm, students will be dismissed from 12:30pm to enable us to set up the event. Many students will be

returning to support the evening which is always a huge part of the appeal to our visitors each year. Thank you to everyone for their involvement and we look forward to meeting our future students next week!



## On the Horizon...

- ★ Open Evening – 18 Sep
- ★ All Years School Photos – 24 Sep
- ★ Reaching High DofE Expedition – 23/24 Sep
- ★ Y13 Geography Fieldwork – 29 Sep