

FOCUSON...



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Celebrating our school and community

...Children in Need 2025

As we do each year, the Formby High School community gets right behind the fabulous Children in Need charity to support them in raising valuable funds for young people and their families throughout the United Kingdom.

This year, BBC Children In Need are doing 'Challenge Yourself to 25' as their theme and students in PE lessons today have risen to mini sports challenges on this theme. Across the school, alongside the ever popular cake sale and Pudsey merchandise sales at break time, the giant Pudsey Bear raffle, students and staff have been energetically doing their bit. We are waiting for our counting elves to tell us the grand fundraising totaliser for 2025....watch this space for an update!



Children in Need supports so many amazing children and many of them, and their families, work so hard in return to support ongoing fundraising for Children in Need. One of these charities is [Caring Matters Now](#), supporting those affected by [Congenital Melanocytic Naevi](#) (CMN) – a genetic condition, consisting of a dark brown birthmark covering up to 80% of the body. The condition can also grow internally, which in the worst cases can be fatal. This charity is particularly precious to Mrs Melia and her family, with her youngest daughter, Sofia, living with CMN. For years, the Melia family have used their tireless energy and positivity to raise awareness and funds for this charity, which has also benefitted over the years from Children in Need funding. So this year, the Melia family got fully behind the 2025 Children in Need campaign. Mrs Melia and Sofia (age 8) have been active on local media to raise awareness for CMN, including Radio Merseyside and [Instagram](#). Mr Melia, also got fully involved by participating in BBC Radio Merseyside's 3-Leg marathon, featured on [North West Tonight](#), at the [Hill Dickinson stadium](#). Well done to all the Melia family on such great work!

...DfE School Performance Tables



We are incredibly proud to see Formby High School at the top of the [Department for Education performance tables](#) for Sefton (non-independent secondary schools) for GCSE outcomes in 2025. This is the second year running the school has secured the top spot! The 'Attainment 8' performance (a score based on how well students in a school have performed in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, Maths and 6 other approved qualifications) puts FHS way ahead of other borough secondary schools with an impressive **54.2**. The nearest score in Sefton was 51.9 and the national score for England's state schools was 43.7. We are particularly delighted with the percentage of students achieving grade 5 or above

in both English and Maths, **65.8%**, which again is way above the second place score of 57.4%. As our current Year 11s approach the final stages of their GCSE courses and their examination series next summer, they should take great confidence in these outcomes from their 2025 predecessors who, just one year ago, were in the same position. With hard work, positive routines and revision, and taking advantage of the vast array of additional support and intervention available to them by all subject areas over coming months, they too will be able to celebrate the rewards of this hard work next summer. So a huge well done to our 2025 cohort for seeing FHS sit comfortably at the top of the performance tables and for inspiring our current Year 11s to push forward to achieve these heights next year!

...Leadership Skills Foundation Centre of Excellence

Massive congratulations to Formby High School PE Department for being awarded **Centre of Excellence 2025/26** status by the [Leadership Skills Foundation](#) for our Sports Leaders programme. With only 37 of the over 2,500 centres nationally receiving this prestigious recognition, this is a fabulous reflection of the school's commitment to provide many leadership opportunities for our young people and how we have embedded this into our culture. Chief Executive of the Leadership Skills Foundation, Richard Norman, said: "We are delighted to award Formby High School with Centre of Excellence status for the coming academic year. We believe that every young person should have access to opportunities to develop the skills they need to positively influence their future and their communities. Across the 2,500 centres we work with, Formby High School offers an incredible experience for its students to develop essential leadership skills and it is a privilege to work with them. We can't wait to see how they continue to build on their Excellence status." FHS is very proud of the Sports Leaders and how they work hard, individually and as a team, to support many whole school and community activities and events. Well done to all of them and, of course, their fantastic PE teachers!



...Sixth Form Matters

A big thank you to our Year 11 parents who came along with their son/daughter last night for our Sixth Form Open Evening. It was a lovely evening and a great opportunity for students, parents and teachers to discuss the wealth of academic and enrichment opportunities on offer at Sixth Form @ FHS. We encourage stu-

dents to submit their application forms as soon as possible using the [online Application Form](#). If you missed the evening or want to find out more about Sixth Form for September 2026, please review the [Sixth Form Prospectus](#) and the [Sixth Form section of our website](#).

In other Sixth Form news, Jose Puello from the University of Manchester came in on Wednesday to deliver a talk on Alternatives to Medicine, looking at degrees that can lead to health-related careers. Whilst primarily delivered to Year 12 students, a number of Year 10/11 students interested in a medical career also had the opportunity to attend. Sixth Form students have also been attending other events in the last few days to support their future decision making around careers/higher education, including the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair at Anfield Stadium on Friday and also a talk and tour of the offices of Weightmans Liverpool, where they found out about pathways to the legal profession, including the Weightmans paralegal and solicitor degree level apprenticeship.

...Poetic Perfection!

We were delighted to hear that Molly (Year 8) was chosen as a winner from amongst over 400 entries in the Bootle Children's Literary Festival 2025 Poetry Competition! Judges were so impressed by her creativity and imagination and Molly was invited to the 'Here Be Treasure' Book Launch earlier this month. Well done Molly!

More congratulations to Amber (Year 10), Archie (Year 11) and Meradith (Year 13) who have all been awarded 'commended' entries in the Stephen Spender Trust national poetry translation competition for their translations of poems from Spanish to English. This is Meradith's third national award for translation.



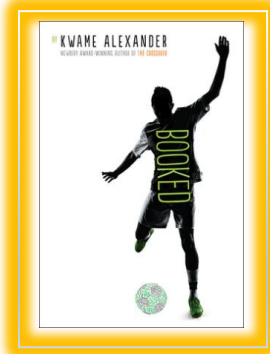
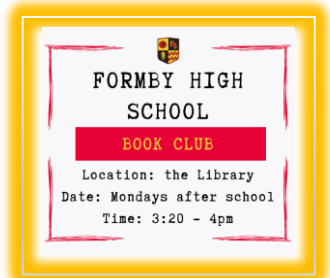
...Attendance Matters – Back to Routines

Welcome back after the half-term break. This half term is typically longer, darker, and often harder as we make our way to the Christmas break. Students who attend consistently during these weeks are more likely to feel prepared and confident as assessments approach. This is especially true for our Year 11 students who have Pre-Public Examinations coming up. Let's keep momentum high with strong attendance and punctuality every day.



...Library Corner

An update from our Librarian, Mrs Dearden: The last two weeks have been exciting here in the Library. We've kicked off our Formby High School Book Club with a focus on verse novels, a type of story which I love reading. The students have selected *Booked* by Kwame Alexander as our first read, which we will start together this coming Monday.



Twelve-year-old Nick is a football-mad boy who absolutely hates books. Football, family, love, and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams whilst capturing all the thrills and setbacks, the action and emotion of a World Cup match.

Booked is an incredible novel. Written in verse, it's instantly readable, will grip even a reluctant reader from page one and will improve every reader's vocabulary without them even realising it. The story has something for everyone, from school and family drama to fast-paced, rhythmic football matches. It's a joy to read and a great book to start our book club with. Come and join us on Monday afternoon when we will start to read *Booked* together, along with biscuits and chat!

In other news, I have started the exciting but also daunting task of organising the fiction in our Library by genre! However, to complete this task I will need to close the Library for a few days from Monday 24 November in order to rearrange everything effectively. Whilst big, it is a task I am very excited to complete as it will make it so much easier for you all to find the books you want to read, with areas ranging from Graphic Novels to Horror, Sci-Fi to Fantasy, Murder Mystery to Sport – there will be something for everyone.

If you are a parent who has some spare time that week and would like to volunteer an hour or so of your time to help me sort through the books and get everything back on the shelves as quickly as possible, please do get in touch with the main office who can pass your details on to me. Watch this space for further exciting updates!

...Spanish Spelling Bee



Well done to the Year 7 representatives who were nominated for the first Formby High School Spanish Spelling Bee! A special well done to the top three winners: Amelia in Orrell (first), Joanna in Barkfield (second) and Olivia in York (third). Mr Dowling was very impressed with the dedication and preparation shown over the last six weeks and the spelling ability (using Spanish alphabet!) of everyone who took part in the competition. Well done!

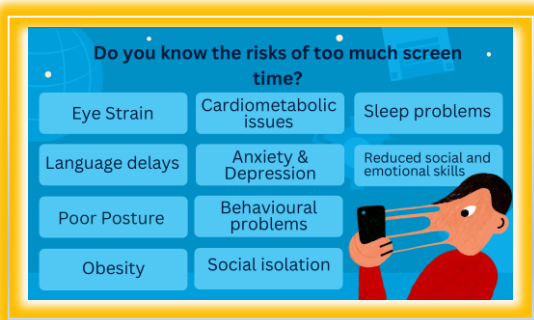
...Digital Detox

This month, our Rewards and Wellbeing House Coordinator has launched the Digital Detox Challenge as the first wellbeing initiative. In registration time and assemblies, students have talked about the impact of screen time on their health and wellbeing. By showing their form tutors their weekly screen time score at the outset of the challenge, they will be rewarded (with



a sweet treat and a house point) if they reduce this by at

least one hour! Any students wishing to continue this challenge for a further three weeks are encouraged to do so for the chance to win an additional prize. This challenge is not only encouraging students to reduce their screen time but also to simply be more aware of the amount of time they spend on screen and the impact this can have on their wellbeing.



...Inter-House Sports



Our Sports House Coordinator confirms it has been an exciting start to our interhouse competitions this month, with Barkfield taking the 60 house points in first place. All students have been involved in numerous competitions including netball, futsal and our 'Aiming High' competition where students scored as many points as they could for their house. From right across Year 7 to Year 11, the PE team would like to thank all students, sports leaders, scorers and timekeepers for helping the events run smoothly and energetically embracing the competi-

tive nature that the house system has brought. Keep your eyes peeled for our next event where 'Team Spirit' will be the focus!

...Supportive Shopping!

As Christmas is fast approaching and online purchasing is likely to be higher, we would really appreciate your support with fundraising towards upgrades to our Drama Studio by using Easy Fundraising when you shop online... it doesn't cost you anything! Easy Fundraising is a completely free platform that turns your everyday online shopping into donations for the school. Please share the link with your friends and family too! [Formby High School Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#). The funds raised will go directly towards improving equipment in the Drama Studio — upgrades that will benefit all students who use the space, whether they're performers, Tech Crew, or simply enjoying their curriculum lessons.



...We Will Remember Them



Formby High School fell silent with the rest of the nation at 11am on Tuesday 11 November to remember the fallen on Armistice Day. Miss Dilworth played the last post which echoed throughout the campus whilst students took two minutes of quiet reflection. The school was also represented at the Remembrance Service on Sunday at Holy Trinity Church, and at the Formby War Memorial. Nicholas and Aadhil (100) represented both GCSE History and Orrell House at both services, laying a school wreath and memorial cross. Mr Fitzgibbon commended both students who were excellent ambassadors



and a credit to the school.

This autumn term A Level Historians, Meredith and Chloe, undertook places on the Lessons from Auschwitz programme led by the Holocaust Educational Trust, including an emotional visit to Auschwitz and listening to testimony from holocaust survivors. Both students attended seminars delivered by HET in Manchester, developing their understanding of events and then, just before half term, flew to Poland for the visit to Auschwitz. It was an extremely impactful visit with both students expressing their gratitude for the experience. Chloe and Meredith are now planning how they will share their experiences and knowledge across the wider school later in the year.

On the Horizon...

★ Y13 PPEs – 17 to 21 Nov

★ Y11 PPEs – 24 Nov to 1 Dec

★ Presentation Evening – 18 Nov

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