

# FOCUSON...



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## Celebrating our school and community

### ...Presentation Evening

On Tuesday 18 November Formby High School celebrated its annual Presentation Evening at The Atkinson Theatre in Southport and what a celebration it was! Over 50 students from across all year groups, including alumni of FHS, were applauded as they received special achievement awards, ranging from Key Stage Subject Awards through to special recognition awards in all areas of school life and beyond.



Members of the 2025 GCSE examination cohort also joined us to collect their certificates after their record-breaking achievements this summer! Our guest speaker for the evening was alumnus, Jack Greenyer, who attended FHS from Year 7 through to Sixth Form, leaving us in 2012. Throughout his time at FHS, Jack was a familiar figure in many productions, on stage as a highly gifted performer and backstage as a leader of the Tech Crew. Indeed, Jack continued his path in the creative arts on leaving FHS and has gone on to achieve great successes in his craft. He is currently Programme Leader for Production Arts at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Jack's speech hit a chord with students, staff and parents alike in the audience as he spoke of the values of belonging

to a community like FHS and how this remains with you way beyond your final exit through the school gates. We are incredibly grateful for his inspirational words and hope to be able to share them on screen with you all soon! The performances at the event were, as usual exceptional, including The Margaret Eva James Award for Music with recipient, Lilly, delivering a moving performance of 'Tomorrow'. Our thanks to all the parents, students, staff and VIPs who joined us for this special evening and congratulations to our GCSE certificate and awards recipients!



### ...Alumni Assemble!

It is not just Jack who has given up his time to come back to FHS to speak to current students; there have been lots of visitors (returning) to Sixth Form to talk with students about their career or higher education experiences as part of the Sixth Form's post 18 Next Steps / Careers sessions. Jess and Lucy, who work for Falconer Chester Hall Architects in Liverpool, came in to talk to sixth formers on Wednesday morning, followed later that afternoon by Holly and Sophie who came to talk about the solicitor degree level apprenticeship at Weightmans, where they are in their second year. Ava came back to speak about her career in fashion and Charlie, who is in the first year of the Primary Education course at Edge Hill, has also been in to talk about university life. We are so grateful to all of them for taking the time to come back and help those who are following in their footsteps at FHS.



## ...Growing Connections Across Generations

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, a fantastic group of Year 10 students have been volunteering at Formby Library, getting involved in a variety of hands-on tasks, from planting seedlings to sweeping up leaves. But it's not just about the work – it's also about the connections being made. Throughout their time at the library, the students have had the opportunity to socialise and interact with the older generation of the community. Whether it's sharing gardening tips or simply having a chat while sweeping the paths, students have enjoyed meaningful conversations with library visitors, building relationships and learning from the experiences of others. It has been a truly enriching experience for both the students and the elder members of the community, fostering a sense of togetherness and mutual respect.

As Christmas approaches, our Year 10 volunteers are excited to take on a festive challenge: making Christmas wreaths! In the run-up to the holiday season, the students will team up with library volunteers to create beautiful wreaths using natural materials. It's a perfect way to continue connecting with the older generation, as they share their crafting skills and traditions, while the students add their own creative touch.

We are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the Year 10 students have been in their volunteering role, and we look forward to seeing how their involvement continues to strengthen the bond between the library and the local community. Their dedication to giving back and building these intergenerational relationships is something truly special.



## ...It's Panto Time Again!



This year, our panto is 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and we would love you to meet the magical A-Team, Goldilocks and Mama Trott. Come with us as we visit the magical woods, where we'll meet the Vegan Bears (who love porridge) and the evil Squire (who wants to make their lovely cottage into a Bear B&B....get it?). Come along and see if the Squire can be defeated, if Goldi can get any sleep and if the Bears get to eat their delicious porridge! The play will be full of spills, thrills and chills as we help Goldilocks and the Bears on their way to victory. Tickets are priced at £6.50 each and are available from: <https://fhspanto2025.eventbrite.co.uk>.

- Monday 8 December (7pm) featuring a cast of Year 7 and 8 students
- Tuesday 9 December (7pm) featuring a cast of Year 7 and 8 students
- Wednesday 10 December (7pm) featuring a cast of students from Year 9 and above

## ...Sporting Matters

Our Sixth Form netballers took on Range High School in a close game earlier this week, with Range taking the win 26-19. Mrs Perry says "Well done to all the girls involved. The game had some excellent passages of play from both teams." The Level 3 Sports Leaders visited Redgate Primary School this week to run their inter-house football competition – including taking the teams and doing a warm-up, and then refereeing the games... all whilst looking very professional in their new sports leader hoodies!





## ...Film Studies Discover Hard Truths

On Tuesday this week our A Level Film Studies students travelled to Vue Cinema in Southport to attend a screening of the film 'Hard Truths' as part of their A Level Film Studies course.

## ...Community Matters

Our Sixth Form is running their annual foodbank collection again this year to support the Sefton Community Pantry. They will be collecting items over the next two weeks in the Sixth Form foyer area, before delivering them to the foodbank. If you would like to donate items or cash to allow us to do a 'big shop' with the money, please pop by to the Sixth Form office. Items such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sweets, crackers, soup, soap powder, would all be very welcome. Thank you all for your support!



## ...Attendance Matters

As we enter the colder months, we want to remind families of our approach to minor illness. Unless a child is too unwell to attend, we encourage them to come into school – we can support them through the day and contact home if needed. Whole school attendance is currently at 92.9%, but we'd like to finish our term higher than this. To recognise and encourage attendance, we will be launching the 9 Days of Christmas on Monday 1 December, finishing on Friday 12 December. On each day students attending will be randomly rewarded for being in school - this will include extended break time, fast passes at lunch, selection box draws, voucher prizes and hot chocolates! Students across all year groups will be included and we look forward to issuing prizes! You have to be in to win!



## ...DofE: Let the Adventure Begin!

We are thrilled to announce this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme is underway, with a remarkable 60 students in Year 9 signed up for Bronze, 50 in Years 10 and 11 are taking on the Silver challenge, and an impressive 14 Year 12 students are pursuing the prestigious Gold award. This is an incredible commitment and a reflection of the adventurous, driven, and compassionate spirit within our school community. Over the coming months, participants will dive into a fantastic array of personal development activities, including volunteering projects, skill-building pursuits, physical challenges and residentials (gold only). Whether they're learning new instruments, coaching younger pupils, participating in sports, helping in the community, or mastering personal goals, every student will be expanding their abilities and character in meaningful ways.

To support our new Bronze participants, Mr Duckworth will be holding informative workshops during form time throughout next week. These sessions will help students to set up their award structure, choose activities, and log their plans on the official DofE App, ensuring everyone gets off to a confident and organised start. We are immensely proud of everyone getting involved and can't wait to see what they achieve. Here's to a year of challenge, growth, teamwork—and new experiences ahead!



## ...British Empire Medal



Last Friday Mrs Hannaway received her British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Sefton for her services to Sport and the Community in Sefton. Mrs Hannaway has played a fundamental role in encouraging participation in sports at grass roots level, in particular for those with disabilities in her community. She established a ladies netball team which allowed women of all abilities to participate. During the pandemic she trained children and adults, keeping them fit until lockdown was over. In her own time she coaches Formby High School's Cross Country team which has had national success over the years. Congratulations, Mrs Hannaway, and thank you for all you do!



## ...Library Corner

Greetings from Mrs Dearden FHS Library! This week has been a really busy one in the library: I spent Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday organising all the fiction books by genre. I had some fabulous helpers, both students and parents, to ensure that we managed to complete the job and get all the books back on the shelves by the end of play on Wednesday! This is a real achievement and I am confident it will make choosing your next book from the library so much more enjoyable and a much more fun task in terms of browsing and seeing what we've got that might pique your interest! Photos will follow - I've still got to put all the genre stickers on and put proper signage on the shelves, so hopefully in the next newsletter I will be able to share how it all looks. I must send a big shout out to all my helpers - I really couldn't have completed it without your assistance, so a huge thank you to you! The next big task will be the non-fiction and I will be looking for volunteers to help then too, so do get in touch if you would like to help out. I will keep you posted as to when that will be happening,



Yesterday I attended the Peters Love Literacy: Reading for Generations conference in Birmingham. It was a hugely inspiring, content-packed day with fabulous authors such as Tola Okugwu, author of the fabulous Onyeka series, Matt Goodfellow who wrote the verse novels 'Final Year' and 'First Year' and Rashmi Sirdeshpande, whose book 'This Is Who I Am' brought me to tears yesterday. The day really hit the school librarian 'sweet spot' and has given me

so many ideas to bring to FHS library, such as activities to bring us together as a community of readers, lots of exciting non-fiction content and loads of fabulous graphic novels to encourage our less-confident readers. I left the day truly inspired and motivated to bring so many ideas to life in our community, so watch this space for exciting things to come!



## ...Newsroom

We would love to hear from you if you have news items to feature in future issues of 'FocusOn...'. The aim of this newsletter is to celebrate the life and work of our school community – if you have news you wish to share, please contact us by email at [admin@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:admin@formbyhighschool.com). Thank you!

### On the Horizon...

- ★ INSET (Staff Only) – Fri 5 Dec
- ★ Christmas Celebration Concert – 17 Dec
- ★ Panto Performances – 8, 9, 10 Dec
- ★ End of Autumn Term 19 Dec