

FOCUSON...



Issue 218
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Celebrating our school and community

...Happy New Year!



With our first newsletter of 2026, we would like to start by wishing everyone in our FHS community a very Happy New Year, and that the new year brings much happiness and fulfilment. As a school, we have a very busy year ahead and look forward to working with our students and parents to ensure our students can achieve their very best. As this new year begins, it is all too easy to feel the weight of a turbulent world but it has never been more important that we, especially our younger generations, focus on positivity, kindness, resilience and determination to achieve.

...Making a Difference through Volunteering

Students across the school are making a positive impact in their communities through volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

At **Bronze** level and **Silver** level, students have supported others in a variety of ways, including acting as *Paired Readers* for Year 7 students, volunteering with *Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Guides*, serving as *Sports Leaders*, helping at *Formby Library* and taking part in *litter picking* projects. A standout example is Matthew in Year 9, who supports people with differing needs through boxing, helping them to build confidence, social skills and physical wellbeing. (See photo.)



At **Gold** level, students are demonstrating impressive commitment through volunteering with *The Soup Kitchen*, helping to prepare meals for those in need, and support a range of charitable organisations. A bold initiative, is a team of Year 12 students who have signed up to help protect and support the welfare of turtles in Sri Lanka, highlighting the global reach of their volunteering. This will also count as their Residential element when completing their Gold Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to inspire students to develop confidence, leadership and a strong sense of social responsibility. Staff at Formby High School are extremely proud of all involved. Well done!

...Sefton U13 Girls



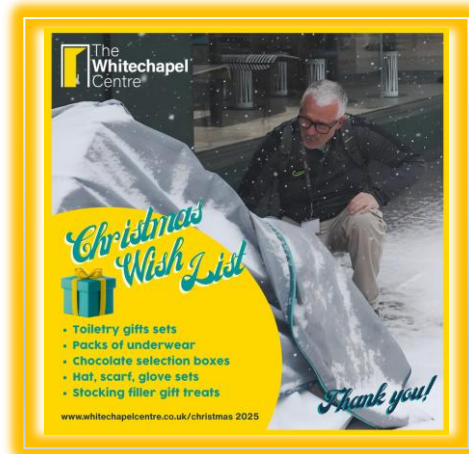
Well done to the Sefton U13 Girls' Football team who travelled to York at the end of last term to play Harrogate in their National Cup fixture and secured a fantastic 9-1 win! This result sees the team progress to the last 16 of the competition in the new year. Well done to FHS members of the team who made excellent contributions to the team performance: Grace (3 goals), Molly (1 goal), Orla (1 goal) and Bella who delivered another strong defensive performance. Congratulations to the whole team and good luck for the next round!

...Charity Update

It is always with such pride that the newsroom reports on the many charitable activities which take place at the school each year, touching many lives with the support generated. The generosity and kindness of our students and their families is incredible. Towards the end of the autumn term, a number of charitable activities were underway, with the following totals reaching valuable causes:

- Children in Need **£291**
- Kind Liverpool **£170**
- Sands Charity Raffle (Staff) **£950**
- Save the Children **£10**
- Sports Relief **£270**
- SWACA (Staff) **£364**

As we start 2026, we are kicking off with the **LFC Foundation's 'Premier League Inspires'** programme, involving a group of students across Years 9 and 10. As part of the Premier League Inspires, the group has to undertake a 'Social Action Plan' and they selected homelessness as a social issue they would like to have a positive impact upon. The Whitechapel Centre, who do incredible work to support the homeless on Merseyside, were identified as the chosen charity for their plan. Students have created posters to publicise their campaign and raise awareness - donation bins are now installed in school and filling fast. If you are able to provide support to this social action plan and the Whitechapel Centre by making a donation of items such as any spare toiletry sets, hats, gloves, scarves, stocking fillers (sweets/treats) or even packs of new underwear, we would all be really grateful. In February the students will deliver a short presentation at Anfield about their Social Action Plan and how successful it was, with a chance of being awarded a trip to Wembley to represent LFC Foundation if they win! Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who are all supporting this fantastic plan with their donations.



...House Standings

Our house system ended 2025 on a high, although it was certainly higher for some houses than for others! In



our Christmas assembly, we provided an update on the standings in each of our three house trophies: Academic & Creative, Rewards & Wellbeing and Sports. This follows a busy term of competitions in each trophy, from Illustrative Storytelling to Futsal, and Poetry by Heart to Digital Detox, there really has been something for everyone to participate in.

Students also have the opportunity to earn house points towards the Rewards & Wellbeing trophy every day, through their positive attendance and behaviour. You can see the standings in each competition in the graphic opposite. There was certainly joy for Firs and Barkfield houses! Of course, no trophies are handed out in December, with all still to play for. A plethora of competitions and initiatives are yet to come this year in each of the trophies. Look out for further updates!

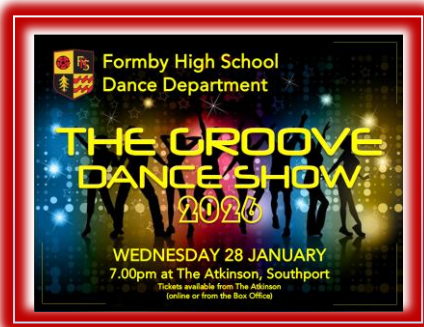
...Library Corner

Greetings from Mrs Dearden in the FHS Library! I hope this finds you all well after a restful Christmas and New Year break. I believe that in January, when there's so much pressure to 'self-improve' and highlight all your achievements over the last 12 months, it's important to be realistic. I had a really busy Christmas break and didn't read half as much as I would have liked to, but that's ok. Reading is a pleasure and a safe place that should fit in with our busy lives and not something we feel is a chore that we have to find time for. It shouldn't be about bettering our reading tally of the previous year, but about making space for the enjoyment that reading can bring. This could mean dipping into a book of calming poems in the evening before settling to sleep; it could be grabbing 10 minutes to read a magazine; it could be looking up the lyrics of a song you heard and loved earlier in the day, to help you 'get' the song a bit more. Reading should work for us and not the other way around, so before you make crazy New Year resolutions that you might struggle to keep, just take a moment to think about how you can incorporate a little bit more reading calm into your life that brings you pleasure without the big pressure of achieving another tick off your list!



Speaking of making reading work for us, it's all hands on deck in the Library for the 2026 National Year of Reading! This month will see us launch our campaign to bring reading to our community, and over the next two weeks I will be introducing the national theme of 'Go All In' to all Year 7 and 8 classes in the Library. It's all about making reading work for us and bringing reading to what we already love as individuals – if you're into it, read into it! Stay tuned for upcoming plans for exciting reading events, schemes and competitions that we will be running over the course of 2026!

...Dance Show 2026

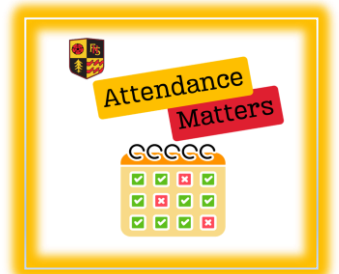


On Wednesday 28 January, Formby High can 'get into the groove' for our annual Dance Show at The Atkinson in Southport. This spectacular event features a wealth of talent from all years across the school, from our newest Year 7s to our GCSE and BTEC performers too. With a wide range of dance styles, there will be something for everyone.

Tickets are still available using this link [The Groove Dance Show 2026 - The Atkinson.](#)

...Attendance Matters

Happy New Year! A new term presents a perfect opportunity to reset and refocus. We are asking students to aim for **100% attendance this half term** and to be punctual to school, arriving by 8:45 and to all lessons. This is particularly important for those preparing for public exams especially in Years 10 (Religious Studies), 12, 13 and of course 11, who have their next round of PPEs week commencing 9 February. We'll be monitoring attendance closely and rewarding progress throughout the Spring Term.



On the Horizon...

- ★ VEQ and BTEC Exams (7-16 Jan)
- ★ Y11 F&N Controlled Assessments (13-16 Jan)
- ★ Y12/13 Language Day, Uni of Liverpool (19 Jan)
- ★ Y11 Practice Interviews (22/23 Jan)
- ★ The Groove Dance Show (28 Jan)
- ★ Y11 Subject Consultation Eve (29 Jan)
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