

FOCUSON...



Issue 219
6 February 2026

Celebrating our school and community

...Dance Show 2026



Just when we thought the quality of our dance performances could not get any higher, the dancers in this year's showcase 'The Groove' proved us wrong! The calibre of performance was nothing short of outstanding, with our highly skilled sixth formers performing what will be one of their last shows for FHS whilst simultaneously inspiring our younger dancers to achieve the levels and successes they have. Judging by the quality and enthusiasm of our youngest dancers performing at this level for the first time, we have many exceptional dance shows ahead of us. Congratulations to all the performers, to the inspirational Dance Department for pulling this fabulous event together and to the wider staff supporting the evening. A massive thank you to all the par-

ents who attended this full house extravaganza at The Atkinson – your support is really appreciated.



...Maths Masterclass

We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic achievement by a group of our Year 7 students who have successfully reached the **Tutorial or Masterclass programme of the Parallel Academy** — an inspiring initiative designed to stretch the mathematical minds of curious young learners aged 10 to 16. Created by **Simon Singh**, bestselling mathematics author, the Parallel Academy challenges pupils to think deeply, creatively and strategically about mathematics. Our students have risen brilliantly to that challenge, taking part in sessions exploring *winning number game strategies involving primes, factors and multiples*, and most recently tackling the rich and fascinating world of *combinatorics*.

Reaching this level of the programme is a real accomplishment and reflects not only strong mathematical ability, but also resilience, curiosity and a genuine love of problem-solving. Well done to Albert, Barney, Lucas, Abbie, Eric, Jack, Kiera, Luke, Molly and Zach — we are incredibly proud of your hard work and enthusiasm.

If your child loves maths and enjoys being challenged, the academy invites parents to discover puzzles and webinars at <https://parallel.org.uk/info/parents>



...Sporting Matters



Our **Level 2 Sports Leaders** did a fantastic job refereeing the recent primary futsal competition we hosted. The Level 3 Sports Leaders also organised and led a multi-sports festival for 6 secondary schools, ably supported by the Level 2 leaders. Teachers from the visiting schools commented "It was such a positive, inspiring experience for our kids." And "...seeing these children smiling and laughing was magical!"

northseftonschoolgames A huge thank you to the talented @sixthform_fhs Sports Leaders who organised today's Year 7 & 8 multi skills festival. The 6th form students demonstrated brilliant leadership, organisation and empathy, making it a really successful morning. Thank you to the Year 9 Sports Leaders for their support too! 🙌🍌



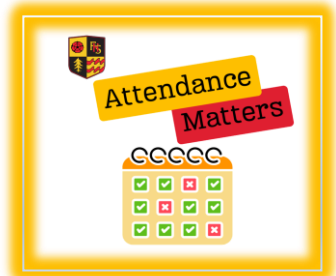
Congratulations to our **Year 8 Netball** team who won the Liverpool Schools round of the Merseyside competition! They now go through to the Merseyside Finals on 28 February. Mrs Melia said "They played some fantastic netball, beating St Mary's, Merchant Taylors, Greenbank and Chesterfield."

A big shout out too to Sydney (Year 12) and Eddie (Year 11) who excelled at the Merseyside Schools Cross Country Championships at the end of last month and qualified to represent Merseyside at the English Schools Championships in March, being held at Sefton Park this year.



...Attendance Matters

With just over a week to go before half term, we're encouraging all students to finish strong. Excellent attendance in the final week of a half term can make a huge difference overall. We have noticed a dip in attendance throughout the first half of the spring term compared to the autumn. Currently our whole school attendance is 91.5%, and this is just short of the national average. We are keen that our students, and parents, continue to take pride in good attendance and seek to attend school every day to maximise learning, support social development and feel a sense of connection.



...Sixth Form Matters



A Level Spanish students recently visited the University of Liverpool for lectures in Spanish on the famous poet and playwright, Lorca, and on the use of Spanish in the world. They also enjoyed a tour and were impressed by the size of the campus and its facilities, although the free doughnuts were still the highlight!

Spanish and Psychology A Level students had a dedicated lecture on how children learn language from Dr. Amy Bidgood, senior lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University. They found out about

some of the experimental studies into language acquisition and the analytical skills needed for this line of work. Well done to those students who are aiming to follow in Amy's footsteps, combining language and psychology skills in careers such as speech and language therapy. Sixth Form also hosted a talk about applying for Oxbridge this morning, given by Tess Bottomley, School Liaison officer at Magdalene College Cambridge. The Year 12 learned a lot from Tess about the application process, interviews and resources to help them make a successful application to a competitive university. Next stop for Year 12 will be the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair on Tuesday 24 March at Lancaster University!



 LIVERPOOL
JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY

...Government Languages Outreach

Students across the school took part in an online event to learn about careers with languages through the Civil Service and were inspired by the possibilities that languages bring for working abroad and for travel. Next stop Spain, Brazil, China... who knows!



...House Sports Update



Students will be taking part in numerous sporting house competitions this half term including pickleball and inclusive sports next week. Students will be looking to gain house points by taking on challenges including seated volleyball, darts and curling in their final lesson of PE next week. The pickleball championships will take place on Tuesday lunchtime where students will take on other students from different houses in their year group to gain valuable points for their house. Points and prizes will be handed out to students who manage to win their competition. Good luck to all involved!

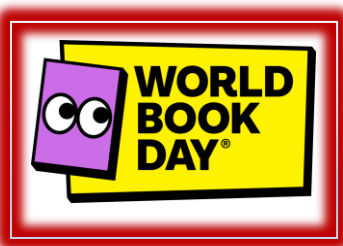


...Year 11 Practice Interviews

On 22 and 23 January, Year 11 were fantastic ambassadors for the school at our Practice Interviews event. The event gave the students valuable experience of what interviews entail and a chance to practise talking about their skills and experiences. The students were given valuable feedback on their interview skills and the feedback forms gave constructive targets to focus on. The interviewers were very impressed with the standard of interviews, and many commented on how articulate and personable the students were. Some interviewers even said they would hire our students on the spot! The event was a huge success and well done to Year 11 for the effort they put in! Next on the Careers calendar is National Careers Week 2 – 7 March and our annual Careers Fair on 25 March.



...Library Corner



It has been a busy start to 2026 - The National Year of Reading! Mrs Dearden has spent the last fortnight introducing the NYOR to all Year 7 and 8 students, encouraging them to 'Go All In' with their reading, leaning into what they love and really thinking about how reading can work for them. Looking forward to the next half term, we are getting excited about World Book Day on Thursday 5 March! £1 tokens will be distributed to all Year 7s and 8s following half term, just in time for our Scholastic Book Fair! Students from other year groups who

would like a token can collect one from the library after half term. The Book Fair will be held at the back of the school hall on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 February and Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March, opening at break and lunchtimes and after school. Students will need a bank card or can pre-order books on the Scholastic Book Fair page for Formby High School - more details to come after half term! I look forward to seeing you in the Library soon!

On the Horizon...

- ★ Y11 Non-Core In-Class Assessments – wb 9 Feb
- ★ Y12 Subject Consultation Eve – 12 Feb
- ★ Half Term – 16-20 Feb
- ★ Y11 Core PPES – wb 23 Feb
- ★ Y9 Options Evening – 23 Feb
- ★ Y11 GCSE Drama Scripted Exam – 26/27 Feb
- ★ LFC Onside Sporting Excellence Trip – 26 Feb
- ★ Y9 Subject Consultation Eve – 5 Mar