

FOCUSON...



Issue 221
13 March 2026

Celebrating our school and community



...Music Mark Recognition

We are delighted that the Music Department has been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition - a flagship award from the Music Mark organisation for the ambition and quality of music education across the school. This recognition follows on from our new role as a Lead School for the SOUND! Music Hub, supporting and spearheading developments in music across Merseyside secondary schools.

...Voice Fest

Last Tuesday, Voiceworks, our newly formed Sefton Voice Collective, and G:Force delivered a fantastic concert at Edge Hill University, performing alongside the sensational Leeds Conservatoire Contemporary Pop Choir. The evening was filled with wonderful singing, plenty of swaying, and concluded with a collaborative performance of *Pink Pony Club*, bringing all performers together for a memorable finale.

Earlier in the day, our students also had the opportunity to take part in a vocal workshop led by the Pop Choir's Musical Director, Craig Lees. This was a brilliant experience for our pupils, giving them a glimpse into what a rehearsal with the choir is like while learning new warm-ups and repertoire.

Our students were truly inspired by the talent, dedication, and enthusiasm of the visiting choir, and we are already looking forward to working with them again in the future.



...Band Night

The Music Department's third Band Night is fast approaching and will take place in just two weeks' time on Wednesday 25 March. Over the past few months, A1 has been buzzing with enthusiastic musicians rehearsing and preparing for what promises to be a fantastic evening of live music.

This year's event will feature at least five bands, including our sixth form sensations, Shelf Life, and our resident staff band. The set list spans a wide range of styles, from indie to pop, with songs by artists such as Radiohead, Pearl Jam and Chappell Roan.

It promises to be a brilliant evening celebrating the musical talent across our school community. If you would like to join us, please purchase a ticket using this link - <https://fhsbandnight2026.eventbrite.co.uk>

...Eggcellent Engineers in the House!

Miss Hargan extends a huge "Well Done!" to the students who took part in the House Egg Drop Competition! It was wonderful to see the creativity and engineering that went into designing parachutes to protect your eggs!

Top Times:

- 1st – Toby (Y7) – 9.76s
- 2nd – Christos (Y9) – 6.37s
- 3rd – Reuben (Y7) – 5.55s
- 4th – Zack (8R) – 5.20s
- 5th – Ben (Y10) – 4.90s
- 6th – Alfred (Y8) – 3.95s



Overall House Winner: **MEOLS** – Congratulations!



...School Parliament

School Parliament has been in full swing this year, sitting once each month in 2026 already. Our house committees have been creating action plans on the areas of school they want to improve. Members of School Parliament were particularly excited to be the first in school to see the plans for our new toilet block refurbishment, which should be in place for September. Who knew whether to include mirrors would be such a hotly contested debate! Parliament sits again on the last Wednesday before the end of term, with the main focus being around our Community Day in the summer.



Community & Charity



Sustainability & the School Environment



School Food



Student Leadership & Rewards



Curriculum

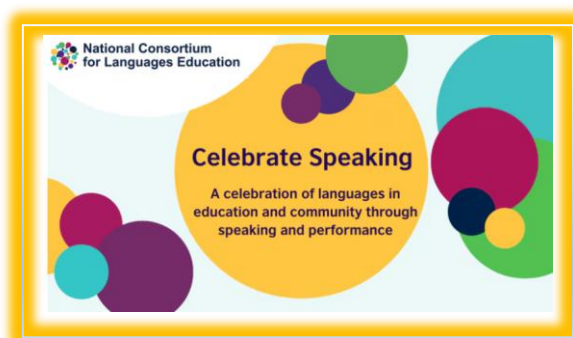


School Site & Facilities



...Celebrate Speaking

Well done to the students who took part in February's British Council national 'Celebrate Speaking' festival by recording themselves speaking in another language (Greek, Romanian, Russian..) and earning house points along the way! There's a great skill to speaking another language confidently and coherently, sharing a love of language and celebrating the diversity of people in the UK who speak a language other than English. It's also great fun to get your tongue around those different words!



...Sixth Form Matters



Year 12 students attended a 'Pathways to The Legal Profession' event attended last Wednesday. The event was hosted by the Liverpool Law Society with contributions from University of Liverpool, LJMU, The University of Law, Weightmans, and Liverpool Barristers' Chambers. This year's event this year also featured ex FHS student, Keira, who is now pursuing a solicitor degree level apprenticeship. The event looked at the various pathways to a career in Law and gave students a huge amount of useful advice to support their applications, whichever pathway they choose.

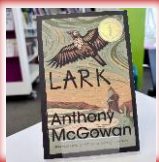
In the last issue we mentioned Year 12 Economics students who had made it through to the Economics Olympiad Regional Finals at Lancaster University. We are incredibly proud to announce that Zoe and Joe have now made it through to the National Finals in June! Success there would see them head to the International Finals in Greece. This is an incredible achievement, Zoe and Joe, and FHS wishes you all the best for June. Amazing stuff!



Finally, don't forget our Sixth Form Taster Afternoon for Year 11 is taking place next week (18 March), there is no better way to experience where Sixth Form @ FHS can take you than hearing how our current and former students have thrived and excelled in their time with us.

...Library Corner

Last week, we had the Scholastic Book Fair in school for four days which proved very popular, allowing us to earn £90 credit with Scholastic to get new books for the Library! As well as selecting a couple I know are really great books, I had student help in choosing books that our avid readers wanted, which are already being taken out and read!



On World Book Day our Year 7s completed a Book in a Day! During each lesson, they had a number of chapters from Lark by Anthony McGowan read to them, culminating in finishing the book during Period 5. The sense of community in sharing the reading of a group with a whole cohort of our students and teachers was wonderful and I have had so much positive feedback from both students and staff.

I was also very excited to attend the Open University Reading for Pleasure Secondary conference last Friday, where I got a lot of inspiration for building on our existing community of readers here at FHS and developing on this in the coming months and years. I also won the conference raffle and received a big bag of freebie books for the Library to add further to our catalogue!



On Monday I will be launching our FHS Official Carnegie Shadowing Group! Yesterday, the shortlist for the Carnegie Award 2026 was released and we have three sets of these books winging their way to us as I write. We will be using our time at Monday Book Club to choose which book to read next and to discuss our thoughts, feelings and favourites from the selection as we each work through the list. In May, the Shadowers' Choice Vote will open online and our Shadowers can vote for their favourite, culminating in the announcement of the Shadowers' Choice winner being announced on 23 June! You can find the list of shortlisted books here: [The Carnegies](#). This is a great opportunity for our keen readers at FHS to be part of a larger community of students across the country who are working their way through this selection of outstanding books for young people, voting for their favourites and engaging in lots of book blether together!

The logo for 'The Carnegies' award, featuring the text 'The Carnegies' in a green, serif font with a yellow starburst graphic above the letter 'i' in 'Carnegies'.

Mrs Dearden, Librarian

...LFC Foundation



'City of Sporting Excellence' was run by the Jockey Club at Aintree Racecourse for the second year running; an event that showcases all that is great about sport and its impact on the community in and around Liverpool. Our students got to take part in sporting activities like dodgeball, football and teambuilding games, not to mention some darts and technological obstacle courses controlling a gyroscopic ball via iPad! After the sports, students got the opportunity to meet Daryl Jacob, 2012 Grand National winning jockey. They were guided around the fabulous

Aintree racecourse facilities and got a real insight into what life is like on the road for people in the horse racing industry. Liverpool legends Phil Thompson and Natasha Dowie were there on the day to talk to our students. It was great to see Natasha engage with our young female footballers! Another great event thanks to our partnership programme with the Liverpool FC Foundation; we are already looking forward to next year!



Lily, one of the students attending, said "It was a great experience and one I will definitely remember. I had the BEST time taking part in all the activities and meeting most of the members of the LFC Foundation and the Everton community and all the superstars and legends there. They were so inspiring. My favourite part was meeting the horse (Rocky). It was a dream come true meeting a horse. Learning about the jockey's lifestyle was cool too. The sports were fun as well."

...Attendance Matters

Did you know: students with 95% attendance or above are significantly more likely to achieve their potential? If your child is unwell, please let us know and continue to report this each day. In some cases, we may well arrange to conduct a home visit to help support students in their return to school. Please note we will not authorise absence for medical reasons without appropriate evidence. Every day matters and every lesson matters. We have seen an improvement in attendance since returning from half term; let's keep the positive momentum going!

...High School Musical



This year, our award-winning Musical Theatre Company bring this smash hit movie musical to life on stage in *Disney's High School Musical JR.* Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike. Performance times and pricing can be found below, and ticket sales will go live on Eventbrite from Thursday 19

March (9am): <https://FHSHighSchoolMusical.eventbrite.co.uk>

- Friday 17 April at 7.00pm (£8.00 and £6.00 concessions)
- Saturday 18 April matinee for primary school families at 2.30pm (£5.00)
- Saturday 18 April 7.00pm (£8.00 and £6.00 concessions)

On the Horizon...

- ★ Y13 Geography Fieldwork – 16 Mar
- ★ Fire/Lockdown Drill – 17 Mar
- ★ Careers Breakfast (Architecture) – 18 Mar
- ★ Sixth Form Taster Afternoon – 18 Mar
- ★ Y11 GCSE Music Solo Recordings – 19 Mar
- ★ Joint Music Service Concert – 20 Mar
- ★ Y13 Geography Fieldwork – 23 Mar
- ★ Y12 UK University & Apprenticeship Fair – 24 Mar
- ★ Y10 Amy Winehouse Foundation Workshop 25 Mar
- ★ All Years Careers Fair – 25 Mar
- ★ FHS Band Night – 25 Mar
- ★ Y11 Parent Webinar – 25 Mar