



Newsletter



Turn to page 3 to read about the amazing performance of Matilda, performed by our students at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

Headteacher's Welcome



Although this half term has been slightly shorter than others, you will see from the newsletter that there has been so much going on I am surprised how we have fitted it all in. This will be the first newsletter that parents/carers of our Year 6 students have received since receiving the news that they have been allocated their place to join us in September. Next term, there are many more activities for students to take part in to aid with transition and as ever, if you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

It is probably a good opportunity to remind you all about 'PLUS', our pre-loved uniform shop. Since it was launched last year, we have helped 113 families with items of uniform, including PE kit.

If you have items to donate, or would like to enquire about our stock, please contact Mrs Matthias via the link on FROG or via email. Due to your kind donations, our stock has increased and now is located next to the first aid room.

Finally, well done to all the Year 11 and 13 students who have made such a positive start to their formal examinations. Assessments have already taken place in a number of subjects, including health and social care, drama, ICT and art and their maturity and approach to these has been superb. Keep it up!



Have a lovely Easter break.

Mrs R Johnson
Headteacher

Matilda

Our first musical in goodness knows quite how long found us entering the wonderful imagination of Roald Dahl. Whether you have seen the Danny Devito or Emma Thompson films, or even the Tim Minchin musical, there is something here for everyone - great group numbers, fantastic solos and even the largest chocolate cake ever!

My thanks must first go to the cast themselves. They have worked really hard, pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and made me chuckle on a daily basis. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, skill level and help each other out when needed. Thanks also go to all the family and friends who have been their taxi drivers to and from rehearsals, helped them learn lines and sourced costume pieces.

"Being part of this years school musical has been amazing and it's been something I've hoped for since Year 7, I've loved working with the younger cast members and doing what I love: singing, dancing and acting. "
Cadence K



A show like this doesn't just happen without lots of other people involved. Special thanks must go to the site team - I am surprised they do not run in the opposite direction now when we approach them with another crazy idea - and the DT and art departments for all our main set and props.

But above all, I want to thank Miss Housley and Miss Balewski - great sounding boards, great directors and even better people.

Remember: 'Nobody but me is gonna change my story, Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty!'



Mrs K. Baines
Curriculum Leader of Drama

Chess Tournament

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Three strong teams were selected to represent Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form at this years North Staffordshire Schools Chess Championship at OSSMA. Great effort and skill was shown by all our players, especially Dexter H who won all his games and Hayden O who beat an opponent in around 15 seconds! Our Year 8 team 'The Blythe Bridge Knights' consisting of Liam O, Ryley P, Dexter H and Hayden O, finished a very credible 4th out of 20 teams, with the teams above them being much older. Well played everybody!

Mr K Pugh

Teacher of Maths



Food Technology

YEAR 9 COOKERY AND BAKING



Art

YEAR 10 GCSE FINE ART

This term our Year 10 GCSE fine art students have been exploring a chosen artist looking at the theme of animals. They have produced a range of developed ideas in their own style using the artist for inspiration.



Apprenticeship Vision

WG TANKER SERVICES – A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO OUR APPRENTICE VISION



WG Tanker Group are Market Leaders and Innovators in the supply and installation of Pressure Discharge and Vacuum Equipment in the Dry Bulk Industry. We are always on the lookout for the best talent and helping people to grow in their careers.

After being invited by Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form to hold a stand at a careers fair, the management here at WG Tankers responded positively and attended the fair to talk with local children and how they can move in to “heavy goods vehicle engineering”, and other aspects of the dry bulk industry.

The engagement from the children was met really positively from both sides. A couple of children really stood out at this event and in particular a young man name Will G who's passion for mechanical works really shone through.

Paul Moore head of operations for WG Tankers said “the careers fair at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form was a great success and we thank Mr. Goodwin and his team for allowing us to be a part of the day. The children were an absolute credit to the school, and we hope to return next year”

Following the careers fair at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, Will got in touch with us where we invited him and his dad to come over to our Foston location for a tour of our workshops, where the workshop management gave a business presentation. Discussions were held around WG Tankers vision for development and the chosen career path for their apprentices. Will and dad were informed that WG Tanker management would be attending the Stoke-on-Trent opening evening to look at the venue in more detail to ensure they were placing their apprentices in the correct environment.

“First of all, thanks very much for your time last Friday. Both me and my dad thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very impressed. At this stage I am very keen on the apprenticeship you offer. You mentioned that you were attending and open day at Stoke on Trent College and if possible, I would really like to come along to that with you. Finally, would it be possible to come and have a few days' work experience during the school holidays to have an even better understanding of how the company operates”. Will G

Finance



FIRST UNIT ASSESSMENT

We are really proud of the first cohort of finance students here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form who have completed their first unit assessment. They are all very pleased with their results, as are we too.

The success of the first cohort of finance students at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the students. We look forward to seeing what these students will achieve in the future and are excited to continue offering this valuable course to future students.



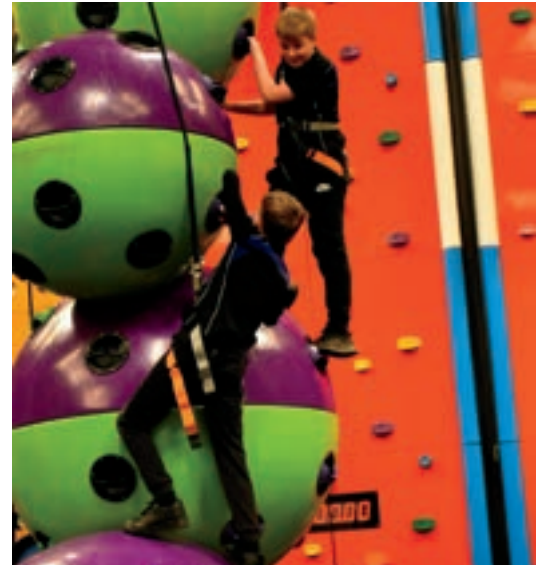
Well done Year 12.

Mrs P Hart-Cadman
Teacher of Business, Finance and Computing

Enrichment

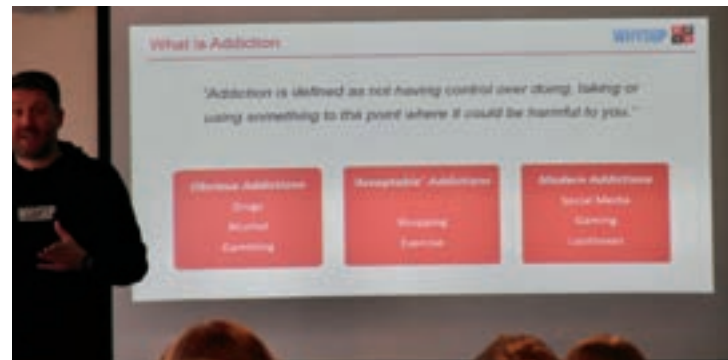
YEAR 8 CLIP N CLIMB

On 13th February, selected Year 8 students took part in a resilience and confidence building workshop at Clip 'n' Climb in Stone. The students were fantastic, taking part with enthusiasm and determination. Challenges included blindfolded climbs of the 'stairway to heaven'. Many students enjoyed challenging themselves to progress to the top of the drop slide. Well done to you all.



YEAR 12 WHYSUP TALK

On 13th February, we welcomed Mark from WhysUp to talk to Year 12 about the risks associated with gambling. His talk was powerful and inspiring, and staff and students gave extremely positive feedback about the impact this session had.



PGL RESIDENTIAL

Year 9 students are gearing up for their 2-night residential visit to Boreatton Park in Shropshire on 10th May. We are very much looking forward to seeing them develop their teamwork, leadership and resilience, and giving them an opportunity to learn outside of the school environment.



YEAR 9 PARLIAMENT TALK

On 30th January, Year 9 engaged in a virtual session with Parliament Learning, developing their understanding of the UK political system to supplement their citizenship work. Students engaged well and asked lots of questions to support their learning.

ALUMNI

We are always keen to connect with our former students; their experiences are invaluable to our careers provision in school. If you know anyone who has left our school, we would love to hear from them.

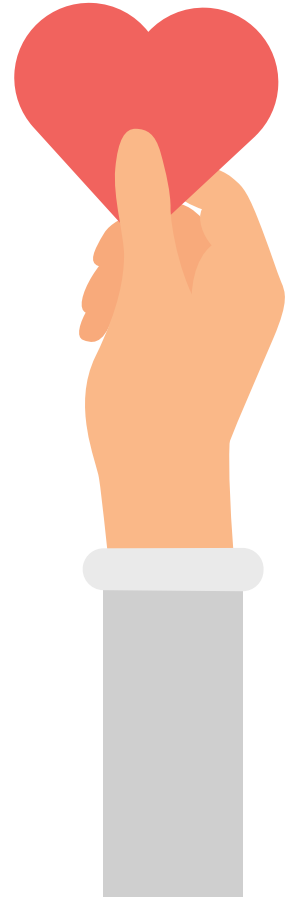
Enrichment

UHNM CHARITY

We continue to support the wonderful UHNM Charity. Proceeds from our Inspires group's Talent show enabled us to provide a significant number of Hug in a Bag care packages and much-needed toiletries for the critical care unit at the Royal Stoke Hospital. The charity were extremely grateful to receive our donations.

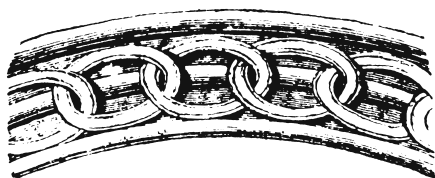
The hospital are currently celebrating the third birthday of the Staffordshire Children's Centre. As part of their celebrations, they have invited a handful of their supporters to produce videos to mark the occasion.

In recognition of our work, we were delighted to be selected, and Ava B from Year 7 was chosen by UHNM to share her experiences. Ava was eloquent, passionate and the epitome of our school values, and we look forward to seeing her contribution online. Well done to all involved in the project; we have now been supporting the hospital for over 3 years and in this time donated thousands of care packages.



History

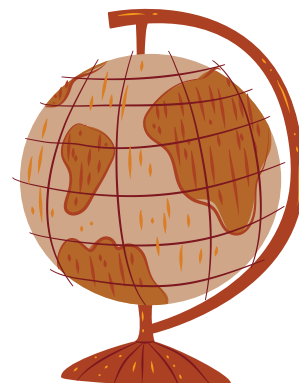
YEAR 7



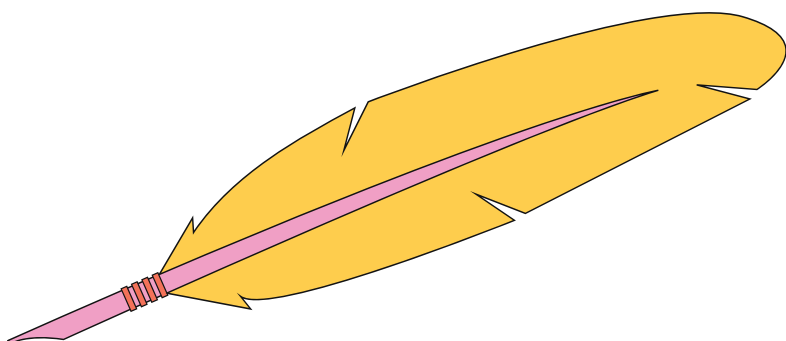
Year 7 have been continuing their studies of Medieval Britain with enquiries into the Norman Invasion followed by the Crusades and women in Medieval England.

YEAR 9

Year 9 studies have focussed on the Second World War, the Holocaust and Post-War Britain. Students have explored enquiries into the turning points in the Second World War, what the world has learnt since the Holocaust and why it was allowed to happen.



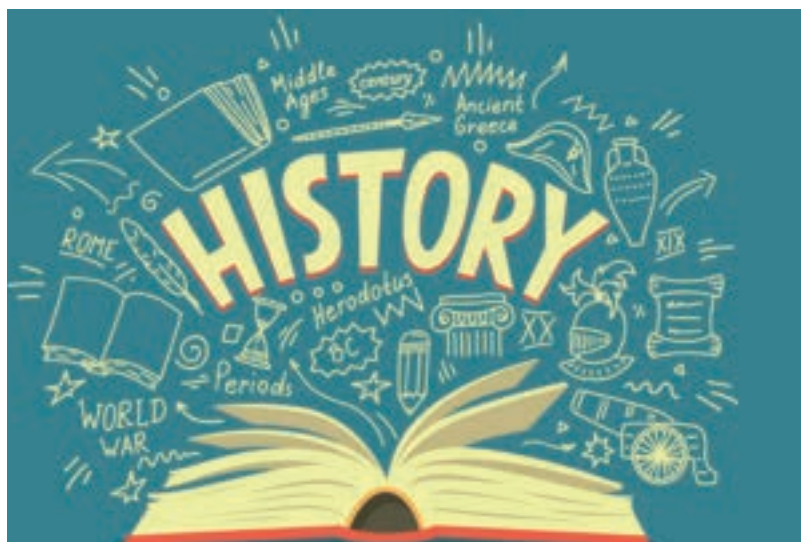
YEAR 10



Year 10 have come to the end of the first GCSE paper having completed the Medicine Through Time topic. This will come up in the Summer mock exams, so make sure you are revising Year 10! They have now moved onto Paper 2 - Elizabethan England.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have finished their GCSE studies! This term students finished studying the Weimar & Nazi Germany paper having explored how Hitler came to power, and what the Nazi state was like. Year 11 also completed their second round of mocks in readiness for the summer. We continue to run revision sessions after school on Thursdays, and make sure you are completing your 'history question a day' in readiness for your exams!



Mr J Biggs
Curriculum Leader of History

Drama

YEAR 12 DRAMA PERFORMANCE

In January, the Year 12 Drama BTEC class performed a version of 'Everyman' adapted by the theatre company Splendid Productions. The story of God seeking a human representative and choosing the selfish and egotistical Everyman asks us if we have led a good life and what would God think of us if we were chosen to represent humankind.

The production used lots of Brechtian techniques by breaking the fourth wall, having the actors interact with the audience, song and movement as well as different roles played by the same actor.

The students Maddie, Dan and Leo performed brilliantly in a very different style piece to what they were used to and we had some great feedback from the audience.



Mrs K. Baines
Curriculum Leader of Drama

Author Talk

ALEX FOULKES

On Thursday 9th March, Year 7 were lucky enough to be joined (virtually) by published author Alex Foulkes. Alex spoke passionately to the students about her series of books, 'Rule for Vampires', and her life as an author. Our students were outstanding, asking numerous perceptive questions, and were very much inspired after the Q & A session.

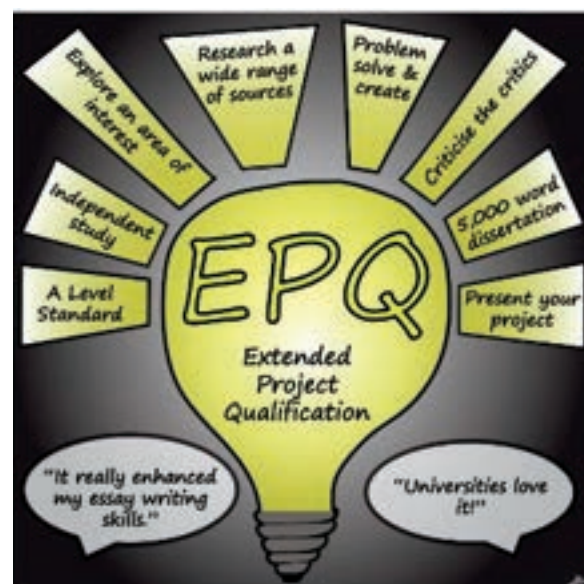
A 'fangtastic' opportunity for our budding writers!

Mrs L Moorcroft
Teacher of English



Extended Project Qualification

YEAR 13



Ten Year 13 students have completed the Extended Project Qualification this year with project titles ranging from reasons for the Cold War, how the role of a midwife has changed over time and whether BEVs should use multi-speed transmissions.

The students have researched their areas independently, written a 5,000 word essay, completed a diary alongside their project and in the week before Easter, they presented their projects to teachers and peers. The presentations were interactive with a question and answer session at the end of each allowing students to show the depth and range of their new knowledge.

Mrs K Baines
Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Geography

GCSE GEOGRAPHY REVISION STRATEGIES

We have lots of opportunities for all GCSE students in geography:

Additional support sessions - Many students now attend after school revision in geography (Tuesday after school).

Online material – The department have created a range of materials to assist you on FROG including revision powerpoints, knowledge organisers, specification tick-lists and sample exam papers.

Recommended strategies - use the specification tick-lists (available on FROG or ask your geography teacher).

- 1) RAG rate your tick-list (red, amber, green) to identify areas you are unsure of
- 2) Use your book or revision materials on FROG to make notes on the aspect you are revising
- 3) Get someone to test you on this content
- 4) Try an exam style question from the papers on FROG or the AQA website.
- 5) Use the mark scheme to mark it or ask your teacher to help

Mr A Knight

Curriculum Leader of Geography

Young Reporter

BBC YOUNG REPORTER COMPETITION

A team of very enthusiastic Year 7 students have been busy producing their entry for the BBC Young Reporter competition today. If successful, they will have the opportunity to produce a short film about their charity work, working with the BBC. Well done, team!

Mrs L Pheasey

Teacher of English



Hilderstone Hall

At the start of this academic year, Mrs Cotterill and the other eco-gardeners were invited to start an intergenerational project and helping the elderly residents with their Memory Lane garden at Hilderstone Hall. Hilderstone Hall is a residential home for dementia care with beautiful outdoor space and a 600 year-old Lebanese Cedar tree. It is a beautiful building with equally stunning gardens and fields, but flowers were sadly lacking back when we first visited early November. We busied ourselves with planting bulbs and winter bedding and over the winter months, they have now rooted and grown in their new homes to beautiful colourful flowers.



Each visit, the gardening team do a multitude of different things such as general garden maintenance like watering to planting all new seedlings and bedding plants. Gardening is a very rewarding thing to do as you can very clearly see the rewards of your labour. However, some task can feel as though they are never ending so, with this in mind, we would like to thank the people who each week along with planting new plants and bulbs take their time to also remove some of the moss which is thrown onto the paths from birds living on the roof or nearby trees.

The opportunity to go to Hilderstone Hall on a regular basis is something which all the student gardening team are extremely grateful for. This opportunity is something we all look forward to and are happy to do and be involved in. It is a very enjoyable experience as it is not only an opportunity to have a change of scenery, it is also lovely to see and speak to some of the residents. This certainly helps to give a new view on school life and life in general for some of us, the things they do and say also remind us of our very own grandparents, including the ones we sadly lost as well.

Year 7

HEAD OF YEAR COMMENTS

Thank you to everyone that attended and supported the Year 7 and 8 valentine disco! Students looked like they had a fantastic time, and their dancing shoes were definitely on! Thank you to all the prefects who supported tonight, you helped the evening run smoothly.

Through ticket and refreshment sales, we have raised a massive £565.41 for Cancer Research UK.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Seth G and Poppy H who organised the event and to Evie B who helped to sell tickets. Also, a massive thank you to DJ James, the time and effort that he put in to make sure the students would enjoy it goes above and beyond!

We are currently in discussions with the Cancer Research team to see if we can have one of them to come in and discuss the importance of the money raised and to allow our student ambassadors to hand over the cheque in person. Hopefully, this will be able to take place in the summer term.

TOP ACHIEVERS

Lily M	1892
Frankie A	1832
Sophie H	1825
Evie B	1763
Asia N	1737
Freya L	1687
Maddox C	1658
Katie G	1653
Joshua E	1646
Maisie T	1634



Miss K Fargher
Head of Year 7

Year 8

HEAD OF YEAR COMMENTS

As we approach the end of another term, we can reflect on the events that have occurred and celebrate our achievements. This half term you have dived into the world of politics during your citizenship lesson. You have been developing your speaking skills you debate current topics of the day and listening skills as you listened to each other's arguments.

This term you have sat your Year 8 exams in the hall. Although this can be daunting for some, as a year group your attitude and behaviour towards these assessments was exemplary. You all have developed further as independent learners and I hope you all achieve the results your efforts deserve.

As a year group you have decided to support the Daisy Garland charity.

The Daisy Garland charity supports children in the UK with drug-resistant epilepsy. On the 27th March 2023 students in the year group wore purple and you were challenged to, collectively, walk the length of the country. The distance from Land's End to John O'Groats is 1913km. Over 1 hour you completed 1783 laps of our school field which totalled to a staggering 1961km. So, well done Year 8, you completed your challenged walked the entire length of the UK.

This term I have also challenged Year 8 to aim to receive four outstanding lesson scores in one day. As a year group you went above and beyond and I was overwhelmed with the entry's into my raffle. The winner this term was Mikey Purcell, well done. This competition wil restart for the summer term with more prizes to be won. Students were also nominated for showing our core values of pride, respect and kindness.

Mr K Knight
Head of Year 8

TOP ACHIEVERS

Chelsea R	1572
Michael F	1569
Amelia D	1550
Jessica C	1465
Dexter H	1456
Joshua G	1419
Charlie B	1404
Betsy B	1392
Nicole S	1391
Freya A	1374



Year 9

HEAD OF YEAR COMMENTS

One of the key areas that has stood out to me in particular over this half term, is the number of extracurricular opportunities in which so many of Year 9 students are engaging with. Year 9 talent was certainly on show for the performance of Matilda, and to see the confidence of all of the performers on stage was a joy to witness. D of E training is also in full force, with a number of students attending school on the school INSET day to receive the training needed in preparation for their expeditions. Despite the weather, a number of sporting fixtures have also gone ahead with students representing Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form extremely well. Such activities provide our students with the opportunity of enhancing key skills outside of the curriculum that will be of great benefit as they move ever closer to thinking about their next stages of their learning. There is an extensive extracurricular package that is available to all students if you wish to engage with activities outside of the curriculum.

There are important decisions for Year 9 students to be making over the next two months. The option evening in which students, parents and carers are actively encouraged to attend on Tuesday 2nd May will enable you to speak to the teachers from different departments to identify what each subject option offers for GCSEs and to answer any questions in which you might have. Students will then have a time period in which they need to submit their option choices in preparation for the next academic year. Staff will be on hand to assist students in the process and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate in getting in touch.

As I am writing this, I am preparing for our end of term celebration assembly. As always, I am blown away by the nominations for tutors' stars of the term, number of achievement points that many of our students have achieved and the exceptional behaviour for learning average scores, demonstrating the outstanding behaviour that students consistently achieve. I hope that this continues into the next term. Have a well-rested Easter break, stay safe and I look forward to

welcoming students back on Monday 17th April.

Mrs L Cartlidge

Head of Year 9

TOP ACHIEVERS

Jorja H	1851
Will H	1802
George M	1577
Ryan E	1513
Scarlett B	1470
Chloe B	1460
William S	1460
Ella R	1426
Jack P	1361
Isabelle R	1358



Year 10

HEAD OF YEAR COMMENTS

It is quite unbelievable to think that we are now six months into Year 10, and have already completed a large part of their GCSE courses. Everyone has proved their worth in many different ways and we are now beginning to see people excel over the different subject areas.

Our recent renovated toilet facilities have been a welcome addition for our Year 10 students. They now have state of the art toilet facilities to use during the day, and we are grateful to the school for allowing us to have the first set of new toilets in the school.

There has been a lot going on over this past term, most notably, the Matilda performance. Months of hard work culminated in three nights of unbelievable performances from cast members in year 10. Feedback from those who watched the show, was excellent and I cannot tell you how great it was to watch our students perform on the stage. We also have a Silver Duke of Edinburgh group, who are busy preparing themselves for the expedition season.

They have worked tirelessly on completing their sections for the award, and are just about ready to go and complete their practice and final expeditions in the summer term.

The Year 10 mock examinations are nearly upon us, and all our students are acutely aware of the importance of this set of examinations. It will be a good benchmark for the students to understand how they are progressing in their different subject areas, and hopefully, give them the motivation to continue in the same vein as they have started their GCSE courses.

The Year 10 pastoral team have been spending time advising and assisting with the setting of revision timetables and also highlighting the different ways to revise. However, we know that this is a team effort, and I call on all parents/carers to assist their son/daughter in ensuring that they are fully prepared for the first examination on the 17th April 2023.

Another term down, and what I feel will be, the best term to come. I am looking forward to the summer term with enthusiasm, as I always feel that this is when we see the best of our students. I ask that we all maintain the standards that we have set for ourselves and enjoy the time that we have together to finish the year off strongly. Good luck to everyone in their preparation for the examinations.

Mr J Gibbons
Head of Year 10

TOP ACHIEVERS

Ruby G	1818
Megan W	1503
Will D	1489
Charlie C	1468
Finlay G	1467
Samuel B	1382
Emily C	1337
Jacob W	1330
Immie P	1323
Logan B	1314

Year 11

HEAD OF YEAR COMMENTS

I am stunned that this is the final Spring term for this year group before they start their GCSE exams in the summer!

Over the course of the Spring term Year 11 have completed their final round of mock exams and have under 25 school days until the beginning of the exam season! I've been delighted to see the continued focus, and dedication to revision.

We have also seen the year group begin their weekly mentoring sessions during Monday afternoons as we begin final preparations.

This term we also have seen Year 11 students excelling in their Matilda performances, completing their coursework across a range of subjects and the prefects supported Mr Goodwin with careers events.

TOP ACHIEVERS

Katie B	1583
Zack D	1570
Tyler H	1456
Dannie S	1416
Tanayeh B	1326
Macy A	1270
Phoebe M	1269
Lucy H	1242
Devon B	1233
Gabriel H	1213



Fundraising

MAKE A WISH

To help raise precious fund for our year group charity, Make a Wish, a group of Year 10 students decided to help with the refreshments during our school play, Matilda.

We decided to choose Make a Wish for our charity, as this foundation creates happiness and life changing wishes for children who are with unfortunate critical illness. Therefore, we felt the need to help those our age and younger/older children to really enjoy the special moments what Make a Wish creates for them.

All in all, it was a really enjoyable experience to raise the £104 profit we made for Make a Wish, and we also got the chance to watch an amazing play!



Gardening

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM ECO GARDEN

Gardening is a very relaxing pass time for many people, and this is no different with the gardening in school.

Within the school garden we have and do many things, some of these includes planting new seeds and bulbs, watering pre-existing plants/trees, taking care of the chickens and our rabbit, and litter picking around school.

A lot of research has gone into discovering the benefits of gardening. Most of the research suggests that gardening can significantly improve a person's mental health and well-being, and given the atmosphere which is always surrounding our school garden, this does not surprise us at all. Mrs Cotterill and the other member of the gardening club work hard on a daily basis to make sure the garden not only looks nice but also has a safe and welcoming feel to it.

Above being good for mental health, it is also good for the environment. As a group we do many activities which have environmental qualities: for example, planting trees all around the school field. Gardening is very good for our local wildlife in providing a good source of food and nutrients.

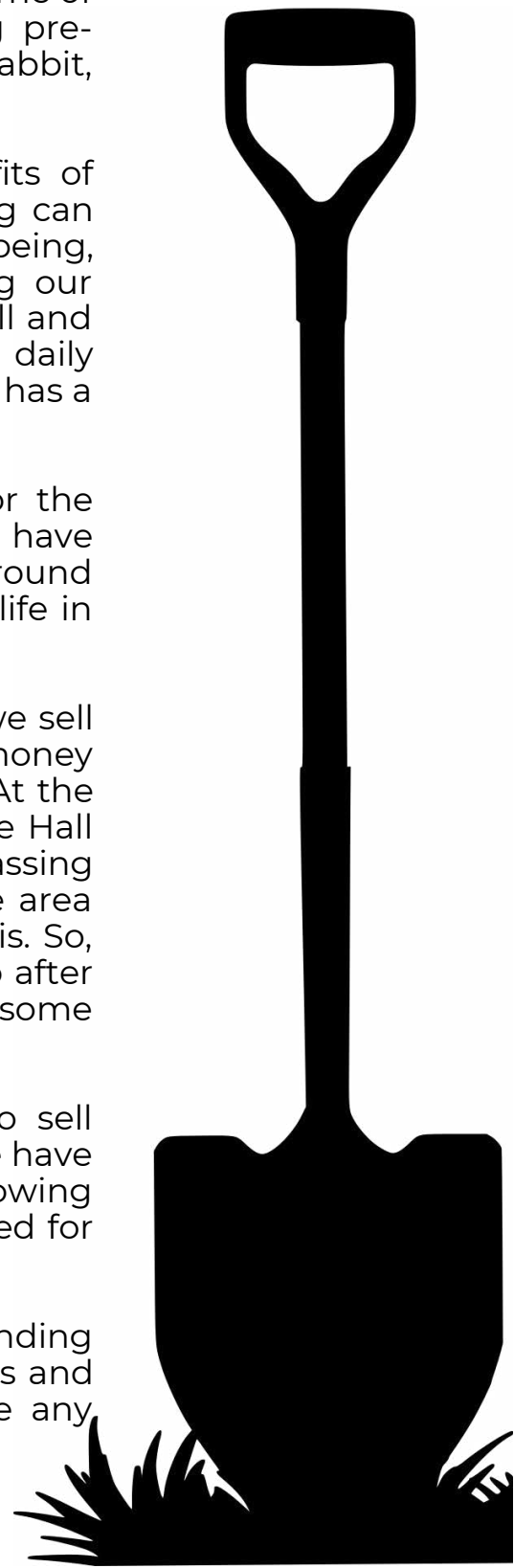
In the garden we also grow organic food as well, which we sell on the botanical bargains cart in the SLT area and all the money goes back into the garden and our projects at the time. At the current moment our latest project is going to Hilderstone Hall to help with their garden along with ours. Following the passing of an old resident who used to care for their garden, the area itself no longer has anyone to tend to it on a regular basis. So, we set out to change that and we go once a month or so after school, weather permitting. A great opportunity to do some intergenerational projects with them too.

Going back to "Botanical garden" on our stall, we also sell organic eggs which come from our very own chickens. We have 10 chickens in the garden and that number keeps on growing with the arrival of our new cockerel. The chickens are cared for each day by all the gardeners and Mrs Cotterill.

Overall, gardening is a very enjoyable thing to do and spending time in the school garden allows us all to focus our minds and reflect on the day and the days ahead, or even release any stress and worries our studies can bring.

Mrs K Cotterill

VLE & Learning Technologies Team



Transition

INTAKE 2023

Many relieved parents and families received the fantastic news on Wednesday 1st March that a place had been allocated for Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form for September 2023. From the 292 applications received by School Admissions, 186 students will be starting. We look forward to inviting Year 6 students into school on Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th July for their Intake Days. Parents and Carers will also have the opportunity to meet Senior Leaders and clarify the arrangements for September on Monday 3rd July. Invites to the above-mentioned events will be sent to parents in June.

Please ensure you have updated your personal contact details via our website ready to transfer important information after Easter.

SUMMER SCHOOL

We are currently in the planning stage of a Year 6 Summer School for children transferring into Year 7 in September. This highly successful event has run for the past two years with over 120 students attending each year.

Year 7 student, Lexi, attended in July stating "The summer school was a great opportunity to make new friends and explore the school. There were no other year groups in school meaning we could go everywhere. The lessons were fun and made me feel ready for September".

Fellow Year 7 student, Fred, commented 'I really enjoyed science, art and languages. The staff were nice and I met people from different schools. It stopped me worrying about September'.

Invites will be sent to parents and carers after Easter.

OPEN WEEK

The annual Year 5 Open Week will run from Monday 10th to Friday 14th July. Families will be formally invited to book appointments to tour the school, observe live teaching and talk to senior leaders about the application process. Invites will be sent to Primaries in June.

Transition

YEAR 5 TRANSITION

Year 5 students have been eagerly exploring the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form premises, familiarising themselves with their new learning environment and meeting staff. Students have had the opportunity to participate in science, D.T. and swimming lessons, whilst visiting classrooms to view lessons and attending the school production Matilda. Further events are planned for the Summer term.

Year 5 student Elizabeth from Meir Heath Academy said: "The school is really big, but I like how the different subjects are all together. The science was great fun and I got to see my big brother. He was really embarrassed". Fellow student Elijah commented, "I liked the D.T. I enjoy working with my hands and being able to use the tools and equipment was really fun. I want to help build the electric car we viewed in Mr Hughes room".



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 13th June: Year 5 Able & Talented Science Fun Fest

Wednesday 21st June: Year 4 Olympic Legacy Day

Tuesday 27th June: Y5 Maths Puzzle Day

Thursday 29th & Friday 30th June: Y6 Familiarisations Days.

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th July: Y6 Intake Days.

Monday 10th – Friday 14th July: Y5 Open Week.

Mr A Jackson

Progress Director of Transition

DEPARTMENTAL REWARDS



Back in December, we updated you on the awards that had been given out to MFL students during their lessons. Since then, a further 500 prizes have been given out, which is an outstanding achievement. That brings our overall total to 750 prizes so far this year. Almost 30 students have already achieved their gold certificate and are well on their way to achieving their platinum certificate. This is an immense achievement and I look forward to their continued hard work and participation in language lessons in the summer term. Well done everyone!

LA FÊTE DU CITRON

Every year, in the town of Menton in France, the townspeople get ready for their annual celebrations for 'la Fête du Citron'- otherwise known as the Lemon Festival. Each February, the festival celebrates Menton's rich history as the main producer of lemons in Europe. Whilst they may not produce as many lemons today, the quality of their citrus fruits is second-to-none. They celebrate with elaborately decorated floats made from oranges and lemons, with a different theme chosen each year. The fruit is then sold at the end of the festival and this festival is the second biggest festival on the French Riviera. Menton celebrated its 89th festival this year with the theme of Rock and Opera.



Mrs. N Hughes

Deputy Curriculum Leader for MFL

LILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET VISIT

In December, after a three-year gap due to the pandemic, we were really excited to take our fifth group of Year 8 students, along with four staff on a visit to France. We visited the Hauts-de-France region of Northern France so that students could experience French Christmas traditions first hand. The 40 students stayed for two nights in the Château d'Eblinghem near to the town of Saint-Omer. During the visit, students visited a traditional French bakery in the small town of Escœuilles where the baker demonstrated how bread is made in wood-fired ovens and students were able to try their hand at shaping loaves before sampling freshly baked pains au chocolat. Students then visited the Christmas Market in the city of Lille and purchased food and drink, Christmas presents and souvenirs from one of over 80 wooden chalets.

MFL

On our return journey the following day, the group crossed the border into Belgium where we visited a chocolate workshop in a very icy Adinkerke where students learnt about how chocolate is made, decorated their own chocolate bar and visited the factory shop. I would like to thank the students for their excellent behavior and the staff for their help and support, all of which contributed to the great success of the visit.



GCSE EXAMINATION PREPARATIONS

The GCSE examinations for French and Spanish will take place over the coming months, beginning with the speaking test (25% of the GCSE) from 2nd to 5th May 2023. Each student will be given an individual date and time after the Easter holidays. Thorough preparation for this examination is crucial. There are lots of resources available to you on Frog that you can use to practise for your examinations further.

Key dates for your diary:

GCSE French examinations à Listening and Reading – 23rd May 2023 / Writing – 5th June 2023

GCSE Spanish examinations à Listening and Reading – 6th June 2023 / Writing – 13th June 2023

GOOD LUCK!

In the run up to the start of the exam season, we would like to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best of luck in their examinations. Students are working hard in these final few weeks, and it is wonderful to see their resilience and determination. Follow our advice carefully, work hard and you will achieve great success. Good luck!

Mr. D Sutton

Curriculum Leader for MFL

iDEA

IDEA PROGRAM

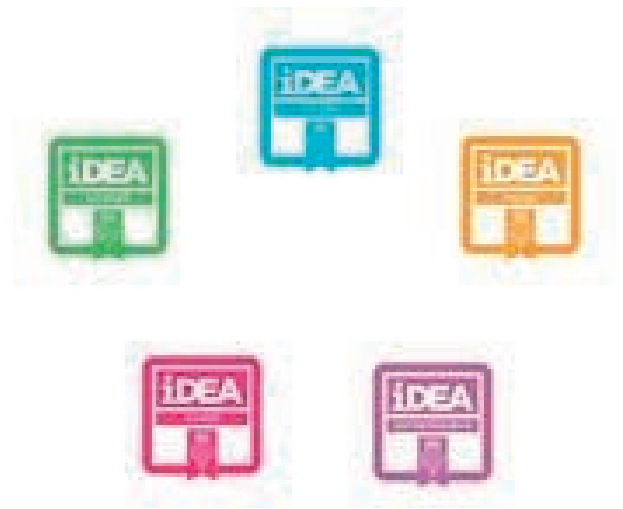
Students in Year 11 have been following the 'iDEA' program which is a collection of courses that enable students to develop their digital, enterprise and employability skills. They must work through a series of online challenges to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold level awards. iDEA is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Bronze is beginner, Silver intermediate and Gold is advanced.

These industry-recognized awards support career progression and offer a flexible mix of topics. Students choose units of study to support their particular interests and ambitions for the future. The iDEA programme covers five key areas:

- Citizen
- Worker
- Maker
- Entrepreneur
- Gamer

So far over 2500 badges have been awarded with our top achievers being Dom R & Branden H.



DT Design Competition

HAT PRODUCTIONS

Congratulations to HAT productions for winning the Year 10 inter DT design competition. HAT productions were created by Taliyah H and Harrison K. Students were given the task of designing and developing a product that could be sold in the Design Museum shop as part of the Design Ventura challenge. HAT productions created a ruler that would help improve young children's reading skills by helping them breakdown words. Students won a class vote by their peers where they then had to present their ideas to the Headteacher and governors. They were up against "Cosmic Pop" who had created a paper popping products/ assembly kits and team "Finger Football Entertainment" who had created a table finger football game. By a very close margin, HAT productions were selected to represent the school in the national competition.

Cosmic Pop – Jack V and Reece M

Finger Football Entertainment – Owen L, Matthew T and Alfie B

HAT productions

What is our product?: This is a bookmark/ruler that helps parents teach their children how to read fluently by breaking down words and phrases.

What is the impact on the

environment?: Acrylic is made of oil and is not very environmentally friendly, however it lasts a very long time so it would hopefully be a one time purchase.

On the other hand the book mark can be used as a whiteboard which will reduce wasting paper when making little notes, and the packaging is made out of paper reducing the impact on the environment as it is biodegradable.

What the product does?:

The arrow at the top of the ruler points to the word that the child needs to read or focus on, once finished reading you can then put the ruler into the book and use it as a book mark. The latch on the end ensures that it will hold the page. It can also be used as a ruler and whiteboard.



Who is this product aimed at?: Our product is aimed at parents and children to make teaching your child how to read a little bit easier.

Swim School

SWIMMING POOL

Our swimming pool is a fantastic facility which all our students having the opportunity to access through the Health, Sport and Exercise curriculum here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth form.

The pool has been used more than ever this year with children having the chance to swim before school every Tuesday 7.45am – 8.15am in our early bird swim. We also have after school swimming groups Tuesday 3.10pm for girls and Wednesday 3.10pm for boys.

During all our lessons our students are guided through stroke technique, along with competitive starts, turns and finishes. We ensure that our students achieve the highest standard of swimming possible, as we believe that this is not only a sport but also a lifesaving skill.



We also have evening lessons which are run by our Pool Manager, Miss Laura Martin, Monday – Thursday. They have fully qualified teachers and lifeguards, and work towards the Swim England stage awards. Lessons are progressive and enjoyable and there are limited spaces in these lessons so enquire now to book your place.

LMSwimschool.LM@outlook.com

Miss L Martin
Pool Manager

Maths

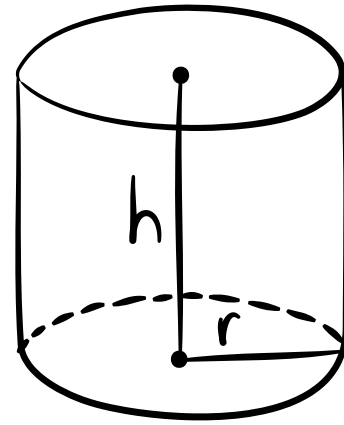
UKMT INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our mathematicians in 9EY1 and 10EY1 this term who have taken part in the UKMT intermediate challenge. All students involved showed great skill and resilience with attempting some tricky problems! A special mention to those who managed to achieve a bronze certificate:

Jacob W, Aaron W, Lyla W-T, Reece M, Robert M, Chloe J, Regan C, Logan B, Samuel B, Tobie W, William S, Sidney R, Jorja H, Layla H, Seth E, Ryan E, Grace B, Olivia B, Chloe B, Kaynan B.

Also, to those achieving a silver certificate: Scarlett B, Hannah F, Dylan H, Will H, Isaac A, Henry A, Dominic F, Oliver L-W, Leon P.

A final special mention for our gold certificate holder Will D, who also qualified for the follow-on Kangaroo round and was only a few marks away from the merit award. Well done to all involved, we are very proud of your achievements!



$$V = \pi r^2 h$$



Dance



On the 2nd February, Year 10 GCSE dance and Year 12 A-level dance students performed at Thomas Telford School. They participated in a dance showcase which saw various schools across the West Midlands come together for a celebration of dance. The students all participated in a Wednesday Addams inspired piece, followed by a trio performance based on immigration.



Jessica C from Year 12 commented on how she "thoroughly enjoyed the performances by Thomas Telford School, especially the Lady Gaga and cabaret mix the male dancers were extremely talented- "it was an inspiring day out." Furthermore, students' were thrilled by the Thomas Telford sixth form student's love of their performance which boosted their confidence immensely. Evie H from Year 10 commented how this made her feel confident and happy. She shared how the girls from Thomas Telford said "your piece is really good".

Various students ranging from Years 9-13 have attended a weekly afterschool club and have committed to rehearsals for two performances. The first took place at the Regent Theatres on the 6th February in '023 Dance: Our Planet. The showcase ran from the 4th-11th February selecting schools from the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area to perform in the region's biggest celebration of dance. The theme for this year's performance was Our Planet, with our students focusing on four of the world's elements which are earth, air, water and fire which pulled together a performance to showcase our student's talents. "This is the second time that I have performed with BBHS, I enjoyed the air dance the most as I enjoy the hip-hop dance style"-Hollie B Year 9.



Dance

This was a special performance for Abbie J in Year 13 as this was her last performance with the BBHS at the Regent Theatre. "I have danced in the '0 Dance' performances for 6 years and have enjoyed doing this with friends and showing off what we have created each year"- Abbie J. This may also be the last performance of many Year 11 students, one being Ashton W who explained "it was really enjoyable and I enjoyed working as part of a team to give an amazing performance, this will be my third and last time performing at the Regent Theatre with Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.



The students' third performance of this year was at the Victoria Hall on the 13th March. The same students who committed to the Regent Theatre had a quick turnaround of 4 weeks in order to prepare for this performance alongside both Primary and Secondary schools in the area of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. The chosen theme for this performance was 'proud of Stoke'. As a school we choose to concentrate on significant people born and raised in the area. The first being Edward John Smith, who was the Captain of the Titanic, he was born and raised in Hanley. The second inspiration being Adrian John Rawlins who is a Cobridge-born actor most famous for playing Harry's Potter's father. The third important figure being the musician Slash, most famously known as the guitarist of Guns N Roses followed by entrepreneur John Caudwell, founder of Phones 4 U. These personnel influenced the music, costume, dance styles and narrative of the performance. Grace B from Year 9 said "this is the second time I have danced at the Victoria Hall, the quick changes were stressful but fun and have given me the experience of the pressure of quick changing costumes in a show".

Dance

On the 10th March the GCSE and A-Level dance department were not defeated by the snow and 19 students took the train and tube to the London Excel for what is known as “the world’s biggest and best dance event” of the year. Students participated in various dance classes from Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Lyrical, Commercial, Stretch and Tap. Alongside watching performances of the most influential dances of today, students met the likes of Neil Jones from Strictly Come Dancing and the current Principle dancers of The Royal Ballet. Students also had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a future in dance from speaking to various dance colleges and universities in the country. My favourite part of Move It was...

“Meeting other dancers”-Millie P Year 10

“Speaking with different colleges”-Isabel H Year 10

“Watching the performances on the main stage”-Kaya P Year 10

“Watching the performances on the freestyle stage”-Jessie H Year 10

“Attending the Ballet Virtuoso class”-Evie H Year 10



New afterschool dance clubs running right through to the end of the school year are open to everyone. We have Jazz every Tuesday and Street Dance every Wednesday 3:10-4:10. Come along to be a part of our end of year production, Art in Motion at The Repertory Theatre in Hanley where the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form dance academy will perform for two consecutive evenings on Monday the 3rd and Tuesday the 4th July.

Miss E Housley
Curriculum Leader of Dance and Work Related Learning

Art

MATILDA SET

The art department ran an afterschool art club this term, where students were offered the opportunity to design and paint the set for the school production Matilda. Lots of parents commented on how fantastic the stage looked when they viewed the production.



YEAR 7



All Year 7 students have studied the theme of man-made objects and still life this term. All students have researched the work of Jim Dine, and Michael Crag Martin. Some students have also studied cubism. They have investigated and experimented with a range of media including, pencil crayons, drawing inks, poster paints and acrylic paints.



YEAR 8



Year 8 students have explored the theme of still life and nature this term and have researched the work of Vincent Van Gogh. They have investigated and experimented with oil pastel, poster paint and acrylic paint to produce drawings of natural forms and sunflowers. Some students were commissioned by Forsbrook church to also create drawings and paintings of the church in the style of Van Gogh. Some pieces are currently on display inside the church for the public to view.

Art

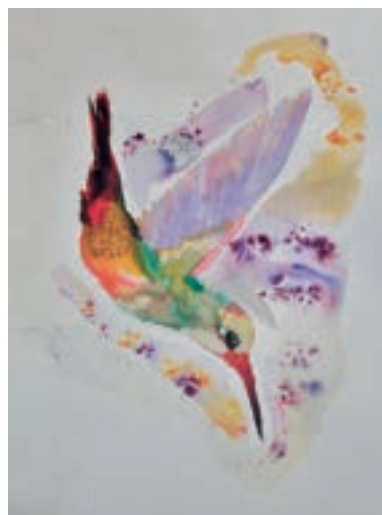
YEAR 9

Year 9 students have all explored the theme of 'Architecture and Street Art' this term. They have researched the work of both Banksy and Joshua Smith before designing and making their own 3D buildings with graffiti on. The students have 2 hours left to finish their work off in April and staff cannot wait to see student intentions realised.



YEAR 10

Year 10 students have continued to explore the theme of 'Animals' this term drawing, painting and printing in a range of media, materials, processes and techniques. Students have also independently selected artists to research and draw inspiration from as their projects progress in the summer term. Watch this space.



Mrs R Johnson
Curriculum Leader of Art & Design

History

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ TRIP

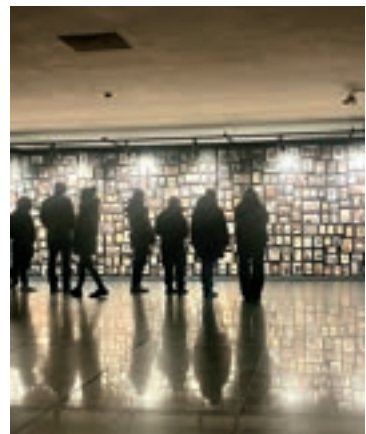
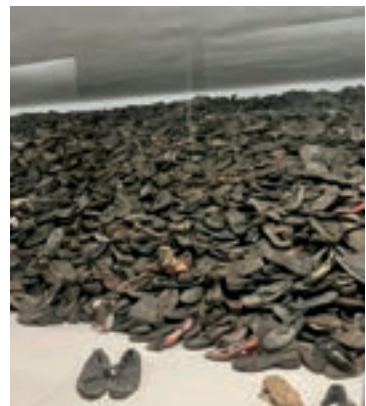
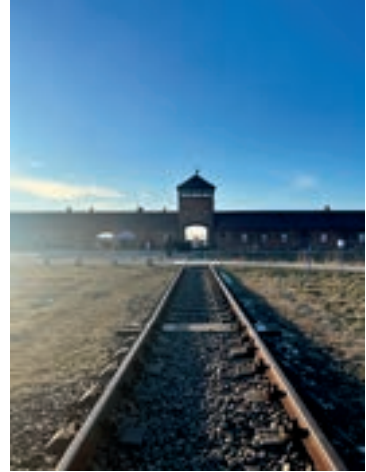
In February I was lucky enough to be one of 7 history students from our school selected to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project with the Holocaust Educational Trust. Before our trip to Poland, we attended an orientation seminar and learnt about pre-war Jewish life in Europe, this was important given that it is necessary to humanise the victims of the holocaust and recognise that communities were affected in different ways. The trip to Poland itself was indescribable. Driving into Oświęcim, where Auschwitz-Birkenau is located, it appeared that modern life continued, with shops and restaurants less than 100m from the camp itself.

We first visited Auschwitz One, where rows of army barracks had been converted into a work camp for those that had been sent there- Jews, members of the LGBTQ community, ethnic minorities and those with disabilities. As we walked around the site, we saw several exhibitions that demonstrated the scale of the holocaust- masses of suitcases, shoes, glasses, utensils and even hair. Possibly one of the most harrowing moments of this day was seeing the book of names, a huge book that spanned the space of a large room containing the names of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust. However, it is important to note that approximately 6 million people died in the Holocaust, and only 4 million names were recorded. This is because the remaining 2 million victims had no one to remember their name.

The next place we visited was Birkenau. One thing I learnt was that Birkenau was specifically commissioned as a death camp and it very quickly became clear that the site lived up to its stereotypes as an eerie and isolated place. We stood on the infamous train tracks that lead into the camp, where millions of people were transported in awful conditions. Having no expectations before arrival, I was shocked at the sheer size of Birkenau- whichever direction I looked, there were countless barracks, fencing and ruins extending for miles in the distance.

Coming home from Poland we all felt differently. Personally, it took me a while to comprehend the horrors I had witnessed however others felt more compelled to talk about their experience. One thing that I think all students on the trip can agree on is that 'hearing is not like seeing.' Visiting this place in person was an eye-opening experience and I feel incredibly privileged that I have had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge of the holocaust and share my learning with others.

Mr J Biggs
Curriculum Leader of History



Rugby

COMBINED AGE RUGBY SQUAD

This afternoon, a combined age group rugby squad took part in the Leicester Tigers Rugby Festival at Keele University.

The squad played a total of seven matches against a mix of opposition from all over Staffordshire and Stoke.

Results were as follows (the number depicts tries scored): -

Lost 3-0 vs King Edward's VI School, Lichfield

Drew 1-1 vs Clayton Hall School

Won 3-2 vs Newcastle Academy

Won 1-0 vs Madeley School

Won 3-2 vs Thistley Hough School

Won 2-1 vs Lichfield Cathedral School

Drew 2-2 vs Chesterton School

An excellent afternoon of rugby, and special mention to Ben R, Rory H and Dempsey F, who were singled out by the Leicester coaches for their attacking prowess, and unbelievable defence.

We would like to say a big thank you to the whole squad for all of their effort over the past six weeks, that culminated in some superb rugby being played over the seven games this afternoon.

Well done to you all and you did both the school and yourselves proud.

Mrs H Willott
Curriculum Leader of Health, Sport & Exercise



Ben R
Dempsey F
Alex B
Ben H
Rory H
Jacob H-J
Mikey P
Zac F
Jack B
Seth E
Louis R
Seb R
Euan O