



Padgate Academy rowers leading the way

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Proud to be TCAT

By Andy Moorcroft

CEO of The Challenge Academy Trust

We were delighted to have such a considerable number of TCAT nominees for this year's Warrington Guardian Education Awards.

In true Oscar's style, the nominees were:

- Class/team of the year: Y11 boys (BCA)
- High school headteacher of the year: Bev Scott-Herron (STB)
- New teacher of the year: Jo Perkins (STB)
- High school teacher of the year: Owen Gifford (BHS)
- High school student of the year: William Kenwright (STB) & Tailun Sun (PC)
- School of the year: Sir Thomas Boteler CofE High School
- Unsung hero: Kim Payton (PC)

The winners were announced at a

sparkling ceremony on 17th March and the winners from TCAT academies were:

- High school headteacher of the year: Bev Scott-Herron (STB)
- New teacher of the year: Jo Perkins (STB)
- High school student of the year: Tailun Sun (PC)

We are so proud to have so many of our staff and students recognised and you can read more about them in this edition.

Another source of pride is the growth in our strategic influence on professional development in the region.

TCAT colleagues are both delivering and receiving high quality and nationally recognised professional development.

Our work as the Area Lead for the Generate Teaching Hub is off to an impressive start and we have a significant number of staff engaged as both participants and facilitators. We have:

- 14 staff enrolled on to Early Career Frame-

work programme

- Five staff delivering on the ECF programme and 14 mentors
- 47 enrolled on one of the National Professional Qualifications
- 10 delivering one of the National Professional Qualifications

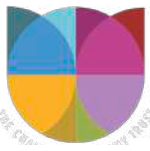
Furthermore, we were asked by the Department for Education to support a number of schools external to TCAT.

This was part of the Trust School Improvement strategy and led to over 30 TCAT staff supporting seven schools.

I have thoroughly enjoyed following all of our schools on Twitter recently and have been so impressed by the quality and variety of events and initiatives our young people are involved with beyond the classroom.

I am definitely #proudtobetcat so let's get this # trending and spread the word of our collective accomplishments.

@TCAT_CEO



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Tailun Sun named Student of the Year

At the recent Warrington Guardian Education Awards, Tailun Sun was named Student of the Year in the FE category. His story is a great achievement so we wanted to share it with you here.

When Tailun Sun moved to England and joined Priestley College he knew his English needed to improve if he were to succeed in his new home.

He took GCSE English, alongside GCSE Maths and a Level 2 qualification with his sights set on taking A-Levels next.

Just three years later – and through sheer hard work and dedication – Tailun has now secured an offer to study Engineering at the University of Oxford.

“When I was living in China the idea of going to Oxford was a dream,” he said. “When I was able to add Oxford to my UCAS application I didn’t want to miss the opportunity. Still, it has been a slow sense of realisation because I can’t believe I was accepted.”

This would be an incredible achievement on its own. However, Tailun has secured his Oxford offer while also making a difference in his local community during the pandemic.

During lockdown periods he has been brightening up the days of another child, chatting to him via Zoom.

He played songs on the piano and performed a magic physics show one night. Together they have taken part in online quizzes about Harry Potter and Spider-Man.

Tailun volunteered at Warrington Youth Club from June 2020 to June 2021, supporting the child who has a social disability.

Even before starting at Priestley, Tailun completed the National Citizen Award and during his time at college has tried to take advantage of every opportunity available to him despite also having a part-time job.

‘My dad has always told me to set a goal that I think is beyond my abilities so that is what I try to do’

Tailun Sun



He quickly progressed onto a Level 3 programme and is currently studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths.

Not content with that he has added the Linguistics enrichment to his programme and completed The Graduate which is specifically designed to help the most academically-gifted students secure places at the UK’s top universities.

“My dad has always told me to set a goal that I think is beyond my abilities so that is what I try to do,” said Tailun.

In the past few years he has entered national maths challenges, Chemistry Olympiads and in 2021 achieved a grade that placed him in the top 7% in the country in a Physics Olympiad.

This despite the fact he still faces a language barrier that many of his peers in the UK don’t have to worry about.

“Sometimes the words in the questions are challenging and I can’t get my head

around what the examiners are asking,” he said.

“To get round this I have been studying past papers and picking out the words that will help me understand.”

News of his Oxford offer left his mum ‘over the moon’ and back home there were celebrations. His father let Tailun’s former high school teachers know of his success and word quickly spread around their group chat leaving them all ‘joyful’ over his achievements.

His goal is to work in the artificial intelligence industry after completing his studies. He even completed the Extended Project at Priestley – a qualification that requires students to write a 6,000-word dissertation – on ‘what extent does AI contribute to good within society?’

Priestley Principal James Gresty said: “From what I know and have seen of Tailun I have no doubt he will go on to achieve whatever he sets his mind to.”



Beamont boys make their voices heard



Article courtesy of the Warrington Guardian

Support plaques will be placed at suicide hotspots across the town thanks to a group of inspiring Orford high school boys.

A team of year 11 boys from Beamont Collegiate Academy wanted to arrange a football tournament against their teachers, but they decided to turn it into a charity event after a visit from Sam Driscoll, a founder of Man Talk, which 'massively resonated' with them.

The group organised the whole event themselves alongside sitting their GCSE mock exams.

They set up a raffle, advertised and promoted the event on TVs round the school and organised the tournament itself.

The competition consisted of six teams – four year 11 teams and two teacher teams – and the games took place on the school's pitches.

A fee was also charged to watch the tournament which saw over 100 student spectators.

And as of Friday, over £600 had been raised for Man Talk – a mental health support group.

After the impressive sum was revealed, Sam shared the news that the money will go towards creating plaques to be placed at unfortunate suicide hot spots in Warrington.

The boys will have the task of creating them and choosing words to appear on the plaques that will show people that 'life will get better'.

'These young men have had a challenging few years, but they have reached out to their teachers to raise awareness for mental health'

Sam Driscoll

Sam said: "We have spoken with thousands of men through our network as well as working with many large companies doing presentations and talks with their employees on mental health and the importance of mental health maintenance.

"However this is the first time we have been given the opportunity to speak with

young men in a school setting and it's exactly where we need to be.

"These young men have had a challenging few years with Covid disruption but despite that they have reached out to their teachers off their own back to support man talk and raise awareness for mental health, through football."

As well as raising an incredible amount for the mental health charity, the group have also raised awareness of mental health and the importance of 'talking' throughout the school - among teachers as well as pupils.

The boys have been talking to younger pupils at the school about the importance of being open with their feelings, and have become 'strong leaders' across the school.



Year 7 prove to be good sports



Year 7 engaged with a new sport this term. They enjoyed an American football session in the sun with Edstart Warrington.



Leading by fine example

We are immensely impressed with our Young Sports leaders who have been working out in the community supporting extra curricular PE in primary schools. Fantastic role models encouraging participation.



Weekend activities at Academy



The Academy is a hub of activity even at the weekend. Alongside our regular tuition programme and Coder Dojo we have now relaunched Saturday Academy. Youngsters from across the town join us for Performing Arts, Sports Club and Lego Robotics. Saturday Academy runs every week during term time. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, contact the school for more information.



Cadets beat the storm

Even Storm Eunice couldn't stop our Combined Cadet force enjoying their weekend residential last month.

It was cancelled due to the weather warnings but they put up a good fight and were able to fire up the next day instead.

It was an early start for Cadets on a windy Saturday in February for their weekend camp at Fox Barracks!

The programme included weapons training, fieldcraft skills, harbor drills and patrolling on camp.

Reflect on work of a teacher

Follow the link for the latest blogs from staff at BCA >teachreflectshare.com or follow us on Twitter @BeamontTeachers for a collection of insightful and reflective writing and

reflections on classroom practice.



Proud moment as school scoops awards

The Warrington Guardian Education Awards took place on 17th March, and what an exceptional night. Mrs Scott-Herron was awarded Headteacher of the Year, and DT Teacher Ms Perkins was awarded New Teacher of the Year.

Year 8 student William Kenwright was highly commended in the Student of the Year category, and we as an entire school community are so proud to have been highly commended in the School of the Year category.

Upon winning New Teacher of the Year, Ms Perkins commented: "It was a huge surprise to be nominated and I am absolutely thrilled to have won this award. It is such a pleasure and an honour to



work with the incredible young people at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School. I'd like to thank Mrs Scott-Herron for giving me the opportunity to work there, the wonderful DT department – of course the Head of Department Mr Robinson who is my mentor and supports me all the way.

"I'd also like to thank Mrs Mawby who is the professional mentor for ITT and ECTs. It's a wonderful place to work and I really enjoy it. With it being a small school, we



are like a nice big family: we are known as the Boteler family. We make sure our young people are well looked after. I am excited for September with offering the new course as well.

Offering Graphic Design gives another dimension to the DT department, with lots of career and post-16 education opportunities for our students.

Upon winning Headteacher of the Year, Mrs Scott-Herron commented: "I'm extremely humbled. It really does mean an awful lot, especially being a local award from within the community I serve.

"The school is my life. It is a real privilege to do the job that I do for the young people of Warrington. I have amazing students who, no matter what, will always come first. I am so grateful for the award, but it is for everyone.

"It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team of staff and I am so proud of their utter loyalty and their trust in me. I am proud of their resilience: we never give up, we find a solution to every problem and

there are never any barriers. I can't do what I do without the support of everyone – the staff and the young people. It really is a team effort.

"We work really hard every day, we do it because we love it, because it is a privilege to do it and we want to make a difference. We do it together and we do it because we care."



Swap Shop opens for business



Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's Swap Shop, based in the school's Art Department, had its grand opening on 10th March.

The Swap Shop is a project created by Head of Art Sam Joice, in a bid to teach students the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, and to give them an avenue to steer them away from fast fashion. Students can swap their nearly-new clothes for tokens, which they can then use to get different clothes through Swap Shop.

Students were asked: 'Have you

got clothes in your wardrobe that you don't wear? Worn twice? Not your thing anymore, but still in good nick?

By using Swap Shop, those clothes can go to a new, loving home, and in return your wardrobe can be full of pieces you love to wear. No cash involved!

The Swap Shop Grand Opening was a great success and the space was packed out with students, parents and staff, with many students perusing the rails and swapping items they'd brought along for something new for themselves. There are several student volunteers who proudly

wore their 'Swap Assistant' badges.

Mrs Joice commented: "I am humbled by the generosity of those who have donated, and how many visitors we had today embracing the project.

"Not only does this project mean our students can be part of something eco friendly and sustainable, it gives our current and future Swap Shop volunteers the opportunity to gain experience in the operation of a small business."

You can view the Swap Shop Instagram account here: www.instagram.com/botelerswapshop

Cakes for cause



There was such a wonderful effort from our Ethos Council to mark LGBT+ History Month in February! A huge well done to Courtney Webb who spent her free time baking 24 fabulous themed cupcakes. Well done, Courtney!

Fantastic Four take on literary challenge

A huge well done to our four fabulous Year 9 reading champions who took part in the Cheshire and Merseyside heat towards the national final in London. The quiz was devised by the National Literacy Trust and the heat was hosted by Wirral Girls Grammar School. It was a fantastic opportunity for hundreds of students to enjoy a book quiz with their peers and compete with many other schools in our region.

Gaining a top three position wasn't to be for our Boteler team, unfortunately, but they certainly did us proud. Well done, everyone!
#NRCQuiz2022

Ellie's top week



- The first week of March was quite a week for our very own Ellie Barker in Year 8 – with so many achievements in one week!
- U13s Girls Warrington Athletics Club championship Champion
- Cheshire Cross Country 2022 team Bronze and individual 4th place
- Selected for U13s Cheshire Sportshall Athletics squad.



Remembering Freddie



Year 10 pupils have been busy raising funds for the Owen McVeigh Foundation. This is a charity which helps support terminally-ill children.

They offered a lot of support to Freddie Williams and his family several years ago. Freddie (pictured with Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk) was a pupil in this year group who very sadly died in August 2019, from a type of bone cancer called Ewing's Sarcoma.

To remember Freddie and to support the Owen McVeigh foundation, pupils organised a raffle with fabulous prizes including

two match tickets for Liverpool v Manchester United, a signed John Barnes picture, £20 Nandos voucher and lots more. They also organised a penalty shoot-out for Year 10 and some Year 11, shooting against Mr Taylor and Mr Anderson. All prizes were donated from local businesses, including the Co-op and Sainsburys.

The event was organised by Luke, Ollie, Lewis and Matthew, all in Year 10. Prizes were generously donated by Mrs Gill, Mrs Dunbabin and Mrs Williams. A staggering £1600 was raised in Freddie's memory.



Little Shop of Horrors heads for the stage



Since the beginning of September, when we were first introduced to each other, this year's musical theatre class at Bridgewater have been working non-stop on a very special project; Our BTEC Component 2 Production, which we are very happy to say is a thrilling adaptation of the original stage show "Little Shop of Horrors"!

We dived head-first into the show, conducting auditions in singing, acting and dancing, which were absolutely terrifying but we somehow managed to survive, and were then cast by our director Miss Plimmer.

As soon as the cast list was up, we were on our feet and have been ever

since! Each lesson a new section of this mean, green production was brought to life by the talented members of our cast, who put everything into making the show the best it could possibly be.





Pupils put life in the picture

Bridgewater High School and the Prosser family are proud to announce the results of the 5th Frank Prosser Memorial Award – a photography competition open to all students at Bridgewater High School.

The theme for this year was “Weather” and the standard of entries was extremely high, giving the judging panel a lot to discuss! Congratulations to all who entered, especially to those who were awarded top places.



Pupils join in global cause

We had an amazing day on Monday 21st March celebrating and supporting World Down Syndrome Day by selling sock gingerbread biscuits and wearing odd socks. This is a globally celebrated awareness day that is always on the 21st day of the third month to signify the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down Syndrome. The children wore odd socks for the day too. As a school we raised £278 which was just brilliant.



Ambassadors become mental health champions



As a school we work hard to support our pupils in every way we can to feel positive about themselves and equip them with skills to develop their intrinsic motivation.

Recently we trained our school SEAL Ambassadors to be Mental Health Champions, through the One Goal initiative.

They had a full day of training in school and are now beginning their work with children in each class. Mental and emotional health is such a huge part of all we do, so it is great to have the children supporting one another.

We also had Bella our school dog celebrate her third birthday this month.

She works so well in school, supporting children with their emotions amongst many other tasks.



Formula for success in science classes

Our science lead, Miss Dean, has been developing a focus on scientific enquiry as part of each lesson taught at Broomfields. There have been so many exciting experiments being carried out in school. Year 3 have been learning about magnetism, Year 4 created their own water cycle in a bag, following an observation on condensation. In Year 5 the children have been learning about reversible and irreversible reactions, whilst Year 6 have been investigating the laws of reflection.



Sports stars shine for Broomfields

There have been a number of sporting achievements in school this term. We are delighted with our achievements at the Warrington Athletics Tournament. Our Year 6 children were absolutely unbelievable at the Warrington Athletics County Finals event. They won every event and were so proud on their return to school. They then performed brilliantly at the county finals, finishing third overall. Amazing! Our Year 5 and Year 4 Football teams both really enjoyed competing at Priestly College recently in the school tournaments. They performed brilliantly in their teams and we are very proud of them.

World Book Day

As a school we are continuing to have a focus on reading, encouraging the children to read high quality texts.

We celebrated World Book Day by dressing as characters from books, donating a book to the class libraries and a number of reading related activities.

The day started with a huge treasure hunt around the school. In Year 6 they combined their book detective work with MFL and translated French blurbs. They learnt Where's Wally in French is Où est Charlie?

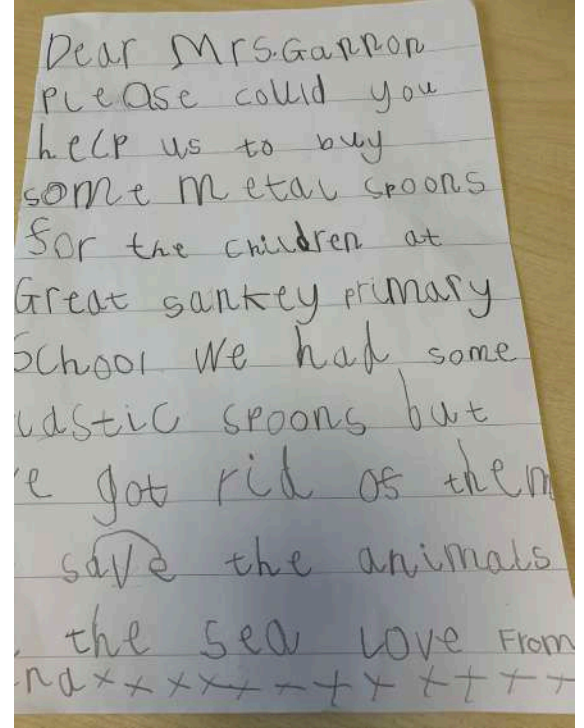


Explore causes a real buzz

- Our Year 5 children were buzzing with excitement following another visit from Explore.
- They looked at life on a different planet in the morning and created a solar system.
- In the afternoon there was an MFL focus. These sessions are really positive and children look forward to the next session eagerly.



Eco Warriors!



Our youngest children in school have been inspired by their class story about reducing the amount of plastics in our oceans and have taken it upon themselves to write to the TCAT team about improving our school kitchens and reducing plastic waste. Anna Warburton, who is in Cherry Tree Class, wrote a letter and met Mrs Gannon to share her views. What better way to get the children hooked into their writing from such a young age than by engaging them with real life issues?

Visitors make a return



It has been a little while since we have been able to have visitors into the school without restrictions so this year we are certainly making the most of it. GSP kick started the new calendar year with a visit from Paralympian Stuart Robinson who held a continuous fitness circuit and assemblies with all pupils across the school. Stuart spoke passionately to the children about his time in the British forces and then later about his life as a sporting Paralympian. The children were inspired by his story and raised lots of money for School Sport England and for new equipment in school.

History brought to life

As part of their recent learning into The Great Fire of London, pupils had a visit from the Warrington Fire Service to talk about how and why the Great Fire spread so quickly.

Officers set light to rows of houses that had been created by the children to demonstrate how the proximity of the homes contributed to the spread being able to happen so quickly. It was also great to have a female fire officer in attendance to help break down those gender stereotypes of all firefighters being 'firemen'. As part of the visit, pupils had chance to pull in their learning about materials from Science as well.

A memorable experience that I'm sure will stick with the children!

Sporting success

Children across Great Sankey Primary have been throwing themselves back into the local sporting tournaments across the town and have celebrated some great successes.

The school football team won all of their matches throughout the tournament to reach the grand final and lost only on penalty shoot out.

A great achievement and we are very proud of them.

On the athletics front, children again performed well in their first leg of the tournament to reach the finals held at Birchwood Sports Centre.

Pupils across the school also took part in the Sporting Accessibility Day held in the town to increase participation in sporting events from pupils who many not always get involved and it was a great platform to promote enjoyment and inclusivity in sport.

Well done to all who took part.

Progression in art

CPD is so important to ensure we continue to improve and learn from others in developing our practice. Staff at Great Sankey Primary have been focused on developing work in art this half term and in particular skills progression in sketch books. Subject leaders have engaged with wider development opportunities and you can see the quality of one of the outcomes here.



Delving into the past

As part of the Primary History and Geography national curriculums, it is so important that pupils are taught about their local area and its history. We are so lucky in Warrington to have a rich history and have so much change that has taken place.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 at Great Sankey Primary have been learning all about just that and how, during WW2, Warrington played its part with the Burtonwood airbase and bomb factory at Risley Moss.

As part of their learning, children visited the Burtonwood Heritage Centre at Gulliver's World and learnt many fascinating facts from the site volunteers and guides.



A happy story to tell

We have been able to hold our annual World Book Day celebrations back in school after two years of them being celebrated whilst in the middle of a lockdown.

We all know the importance of reading and how this vital skill can open up windows into new worlds and unlock potential across so many curriculum subjects.

This year, in conjunction with work linked to TCAT reads, Great Sankey Primary

focused the day around learning new vocabulary. Children (and staff!) came to school dressed as a word to share with their class to broaden and expand their vocabulary range.

Teachers selected books that linked with vocabulary and children completed activities linked to them throughout the day. A few games of Scrabble and Boggle were also played to put into action some of the new words learnt that day!

Aid pours in for Ukraine victims

A Polish school - which meets on the Meadowside site on Saturdays - has been 'overwhelmed' with donations for Ukrainian refugees.

Karolina Czornik from Polskie Centrum Edukacji i Kultury w Warrington asked for supplies to be dropped at Meadowside Community Primary School on Saturday, March 5.

The group is also known as the Polish School, and runs at the Clough Avenue site on Saturday mornings.

And donations from the community 'kept coming from far and wide all day', with residents volunteering their time to help sort items.

A group of schoolchildren from Wigan left a minibus filled with goods at the centre during an 'emotional' day.

Alison Stokes, welfare coordinator at Meadowside, said: "We were all surprised at the scale of the donations.

"At one point the school dining room and main school hall were full to bursting.

"These donations will travel to Ostroda in Poland, where they will be ready to be shared with the families that are fleeing the atrocities in the Ukraine."



Making it count on World Maths Day



Children of all ages had an amazing time in the sunshine participating in a variety of practical maths activities to enhance their arithmetic knowledge and understanding.

This was also a valuable opportunity for the children to practise other areas of the

maths curriculum that they had previously struggled with or had not yet covered.

A Year 5 child commented 'Today has been incredible because it was a combination of my two favourite lessons: maths and PE!'

We also found time for the children to participate in an exciting TT Rockstars competition to improve their recall of key times tables.

Roll on next year.

Fun science

Another incredible day working with the researchers from Oxford University. The children took part in a variety of fun science and MFL challenges. Roll on day 3 in the summer term



Pupils meet local councillor



Our school council recently met with Councillor Helen Milner to discuss local parking issues and littering in our community. Many thanks to Miss Phillip for doing an amazing job leading our council all year.



Support for Ukraine



Our Pupil Leadership Team have been driving a series of events to show support for the people of Ukraine.

The student body have arranged for a sunflower growing competition across all forms as the sunflower is Ukraine's national flower.

The task for each form is to plant and look after their seed until it grows into a beautiful sunflower.

The form who grows the tallest sunflower will be winners. The team also organised a joint non-uniform day for pupils to support both comic relief and First News' Ukraine appeal with pupils being allowed to wear either blue and yellow clothes or red clothes for a donation of £1. To enhance the fundraising the pupils also undertook a bake sale at breaktime and overall raised an impressive £790.



University trip for pupils



We were thrilled to be able to offer pupils a visit to the University of Manchester, the first visit to a university campus since the pandemic.

Pupils were able to sample university life and think about courses that directly relate to their career cluster and their future pathways.

Around the World with PHS

It was great to see 35 primary school classes, over 1000 children, interacting with our "Around the World with PHS" event earlier in the term!

Our live languages event, broadcast online, allowed pupils to interact and

undertake sessions in Swedish, Spanish, German and Mandarin Chinese, French and Latin! It was fantastic to see staff use skills developed during periods of remote learning to bring children across Warrington together for an educational event!

Celebration of books



Pupils have really enjoyed the launch of our reading curriculum this year and, more recently, our vocabulary strategy "Learn. Use. Relate."

So World Book Day came as a great opportunity to celebrate pupils' love of reading and literacy.

Form groups, who read together weekly, were tasked with turning classroom doors into book covers and the results were very impressive!



Penketh All Stars go unbeaten

Absolutely fantastic performance from our Year 8 & 9 basketball team who achieved qualification for level 3 Cheshire games by navigating their second tournament unbeaten!!

Alumni making moves in rugby



We were thrilled to see not one but two former Penketh High pupils selected for the England Universities Rugby League Squad for 2022. Charlie McCurrie and Nathan Taylor were presented with their squad numbers in March.

We were pleased to be able to celebrate Nathan's success with him in staff briefing as he's currently on placement at Penketh as part of his teacher training programme with TCAT.



Minister visits college to hear student views



Students met Minister for Higher and Further Education Michelle Donelan to speak about their experiences at Priestley College and their aspirations for the future.

Minister Donelan met more than a dozen young people to hear about their courses and if there was anything they might change about them.

She said: "It was fantastic to meet with students and staff at Priestley College, and to hear about their studies and aspirations for the future – to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

"Apprenticeships and T-Levels offer high-quality routes for young people to develop

the skills they need to progress, and get on the path to a rewarding job."

The Minister was joined by Warrington South MP Andy Carter for a discussion with Priestley's Principal James Gresty as well as several other headteachers from the area.

Next, after a brief tour of the campus, they were joined by students on a range of courses including A-Levels, T-Levels, Vocational options and the mixed programmes.

Also joining them was Ben Sefton, the managing director of Alcimi which has been offering T-Level work placements at its Greenall's Avenue headquarters.

Students talked about different plans for

their progression after college and explained how they had benefited from taking part in National Apprenticeship Week at Priestley.

Former Bridgewater High pupil Jake Burke has chosen to study a degree after Priestley College and secured an offer from the University of Cambridge to study Philosophy.

"College has been a great help because it has been a lengthy process to apply to university and I couldn't have done it without the support I have received," he said.

Principal James Gresty said he was extremely proud of all the students who took part.

High achiever

Priestley student Tailun Sun scored one of the top marks on a Physics paper taken by some of the brightest young scientific minds in the country. Tailun, who studies Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths at Priestley, finished in the top 7% of the 4,400 students who entered the Physics Olympiad.

Tailun, who has just received an offer from the University of Oxford to study Engineering, said the achievement took him by surprise.

Spellbound

A guest lecturer sparked the imaginations of Warrington pupils during an enlightening talk at Priestley College.

Doctor Frank Mair, a chemist and researcher at The University of Manchester, captivated his audience with a series of memorable demonstrations.

Year 11 students from Sir Thomas Boteler and Bridgewater High were among those who were left spellbound by coloured flames, bangs and expanding foam.

Top challenge

A former student returned to Priestley College to give the current cohort a scientific challenge.

Duncan Cathie now works on projects for the Royal Navy.

He challenged the high-achieving Chemistry and Physics students to develop a way to make the Creamfields Festival more environmentally-friendly. Former Sir Thomas Boteler pupil Bailey McDermott said he enjoyed working in a team on the project.



Oxford is achievable

Two former Priestley students who are now studying at one of the world's top universities hope their achievements will inspire others.

Madgey Thompson and Thomas Shaw said the UK's most competitive universities needed people like them.

"Oxford needs state school students," said Madgey, who is studying Arabic and French.

"We do think a little differently and bring something unique to the university. I did have a feeling of 'imposter syndrome' when I first was offered a place at Oxford, but that has gone away now."

Thomas, who is studying Chemistry after his successful stint at Priestley College, advised others who might be considering following in his footsteps to aspire high. "I would say 'go for it,'" he said. "There's no reason why you shouldn't apply to the top universities in the country. What's the worst that can happen if you do?"



Textiles students put talent to good use

More than 70 students and staff at Priestley College volunteered to make wiggly bags for patients at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

A wiggly is the child-friendly term used by doctors to refer to their Hickman line and the bag is used to hold this vital piece of equipment.

When tutor Emma Lingard asked for help her call was answered by First and Second Year Textiles students, staff from across college as well as friends of Priestley.

"There were more than 70 people involved and it took three weeks to hit the target of 200 wiggly bags," she said.

"Many of those involved have some connection to Alder Hey personally or through relatives and friends so wanted to give something back."



Wiggly bags are usually bright and colourful, they are used to keep the Hickman line safe and clean.

Emma was looking for projects her students could get involved with when she spotted an article on the Embroiderers' Guild website about the bags.

Although the project was delayed by Covid, Priestley College was able to deliver more than 200 of the bags to Alder Hey in January.

Many of the volunteers have offered to give their time again if needed.

"It has been amazing to see everyone join together for this cause and put their skills to good use," said Emma. "The fact people are willing to help again is very inspiring."

Taking small steps

Y6 were lucky enough to be selected to take part in an initiative led by the Peace Centre in Warrington.

This was funded by The Rotary Club who we are extremely grateful to.

The theme was small steps to peaceful problem solving and resolution and the workshop included lots of drama, games and discussion.

They had a great morning.



Footballers' teamwork



Y4 competed at Finch Farm Football tournament. Overall they won, drew and had a loss in the group stage of the competition.

Then they won a friendly afterwards. They showed great team work and did themselves proud.

Team go for gold



The KS1 children took part in the Key Steps Competition. The team won Gold overall; 2 of our girls won gold and silver and a boy won gold for the highest scores overall.

The KS2 competition was last week. One of our teams won Gold. In the individual competitions, we won two golds and a silver.



Rowers are leading the way



Individual and team golds for Padgate

Padgate's rowers did brilliantly throughout the winter taking part in the London Youth Rowing monthly challenges. They have really enjoyed getting back out on the water, now that the weather has improved and the indoor competition is complete. A number of Padgate students won medals for their performance in the indoor competition at Birchwood High School in February. The school had individual gold medals for Tyler and Megan in Year 10. The Year 10 mixed relay team also took gold in the team event and the Year 8 girls' relay team won bronze. The rowers are now working on improving their technique and teamwork on the water, in preparation for the end-of-year regatta at the beginning of July, where they will race against all of the other schools on the project.

Tweddle Gymnastics arrives Choc heaven

We are so excited to have recently introduced the fantastic Beth Tweddle Gymnastics as our new, exclusive gymnastics lesson provider.

Founded by Olympic Medallist and World Champion Gymnast, Beth Tweddle MBE, Beth Tweddle Gymnastics offers children aged 2+ of all abilities, the highest quality lessons with an emphasis on FUN and fundamental movement skills.

As well as experienced coaches, customers will have access to a

simple online account to track their child's progress and every gymnast will receive certificates and badges throughout their journey.

Lessons will begin on Saturday 23rd April 2022, as an existing parent at Padgate Academy, you will receive 24 hour priority booking to secure your child's space.

TO BOOK, go to bit.ly/BTGPadgate and select your preferred day and time. Spaces are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis.

Padgate Academy student, Alice, has organised a raffle where you could win a year's supply of chocolate.

Alice has been selected to go to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023 and she, along with the other young people in her section, have organised a series of fundraisers including the special raffle.

Alice will join with another 40,000 members of Scouting from all over the world at the jamboree. Find out more in the news blogs of the Padgate Academy website.