



## A message from CEO Andy Moorcroft

Despite the ongoing disruption caused by Covid 19, it has been lovely to see a return to more face-to-face events for our young people this term. The aim of the trust is to serve the staff and pupils within it and I hope all our young people get to experience some of the added value of attending an academy within TCAT. Within this edition alone, you will read about the Oxplore project, TCAT parliament's work with Andy Carter MP, sporting events, reading initiatives, anti-bullying work and some wonderful Remembrance events. This is before we even get to the joy of Christmas events. I do hope you have enjoyed the term and I wish you all a relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

# 'Good citizen' award for George

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England Year 10 student George Ralphs has been awarded a British Citizen Award for his voluntary community work.

When lockdown first began in March 2020, George took it upon himself to post his telephone number with a little message through the letterboxes of local bungalows, which house vulnerable people.

George's notes asked the residents to call him if they needed anything. Many did and

**'People go through difficult times and it is not hard to do something for someone that helps'**

George Ralphs



George shopped every week for 14 neighbours. Not only this; he walked neighbours' dogs and mowed their lawns. For these actions, George was nominated for a British Citizen Award.

Headteacher Mrs Bev Scott-Herron met George to congratulate him on his fantastic achievement.

She said: "This is a tremendous achievement and we are incredibly proud of you and the difference you have made to people's lives.

"You are selfless in your approach and embody our school values of Hope, Compassion and Endurance in everything you have done."

George said: "It makes me really happy to give back to people. People go through difficult times and it is not hard to do something for someone that helps.

"I loved speaking to the elderly people, shopping for them and walking their dogs."





# Contents

- 2 Sheriff's Award for TCAT
- 3 Learner of the Month and Five Questions with..
- 4 Beamont Collegiate Academy



- 6 Sir Thomas Boteler
- 8 Bridgewater High School
- 10 Broomfields Junior School



- 12 Great Sankey Primary
- 14 Meadowside
- 16 Penketh High School
- 18 Priestley College
- 20 Padgate Academy
- 21 Penketh South Primary



## Sheriff's award

On 7th December, we were presented with a Sheriff's award for our contribution to the Laptops for Kids project which we coordinated with the LA and local businesses.

This was an initiative aimed at providing disadvantaged

pupils across Warrington with reconditioned laptops.

We would like to single out Simon Carroll for his contribution to this scheme and to Howard Platt who helped pull the different stakeholders together.



## Learner of the month: James McKean

When Cristiano Ronaldo signs a contract it's a multi-million pound deal and the world is watching.

This month, however, there was a more modest signing, but it was no less exciting for 11-year-old James McKean who became Morecambe FC's newest recruit.

Broomfield Junior School's PE Lead, Adam Gardner, said James deserved to be TCAT's Learner award winner not just for the achievement of signing his football contract, but because of his conduct and effort levels at school.

"He's a lovely lad who gets on with everyone and is a leader," said Adam.



"Not only is he a great little footballer, but he always works really hard and sets an example for others."

Recently James proved what a sporting all-rounder he was by excelling at the Warrington Athletics event held at Priestley College, winning all his events.

James' mum Suzie said her son's big break at Morecambe came by chance after his regular football was cancelled.



"We decided to take him along for an open day that was on instead and he was spotted by one of the coaches," she said.

"He's improving all the time and is playing three times a week."

For now James is just enjoying his football, but is hoping to secure a scholarship with the club.

## 5 questions with



Anna Mawby, Assistant Headteacher for personal Development at Sir Thomas Boteler, Church of England High School

1 What drew you into a career in education? From a young age I wanted to teach and when I joined secondary school I knew that I wanted to be a PE teacher as sport was my passion and my PE teacher inspired me to personally achieve. Teaching is in my blood and many of my family were teachers. To motivate, inspire and see young people grow into amazing adults is what it is about for me. Passing on knowledge, developing passion, opening doors for students is extremely rewarding.

2 What is the best part of your job? I love my job and have done since the day I started all those many years ago. My roles have changed but I always remember that I am in it because I love it and want to support young people in their future decisions and give them the potential to succeed. I can happily say that there has not been a day in my career that I have not wanted to come to work.

3 If you were to offer every child that attends a TCAT academy one piece of advice for their futures what would it be? I could talk for hours about this however I would say "You must do something that you are interested in and love, don't follow your friends, be independent and make your own choices that will enable you to succeed."

4 What do you believe is the greatest strength of TCAT? The networking of the schools and the sharing of good practice to develop each and every member of staff. This starts from the training school where we are developing our own future teachers.

5 Tell us one thing about yourself that might surprise everyone that is nothing to do with your work. I have won a few National medals playing Hockey, the most recent in the National Cup for the Over 45s.



# Students' warm welcome

It has been wonderful to see the school return to 'normal' with so many great opportunities for our community. BCA believes that curriculum is more than what is taught in the classroom.

One of the occasions that was particularly exciting was welcoming the primary schools back in as part of the school's Transition programme. Such enthusiastic and talented young people.



## Love of languages



The school had a wonderful day celebrating European Day of Languages.

Thank you so much to the fabulous pupils who taught all day.

## Exploring university



BCA welcomed Higher Horizons to the school to explore routes into university and higher education with Yr9. The students received a

fantastic message; they left this performance with an understanding that higher education and university is accessible to all.

## Amelia's swim

Amelia Gerrard Year 8 qualified for the Winter Wales Nationals swimming competition which features swimmers able to compete for Commonwealth qualifying times.

Her club Warriors have asked those who have times to go so they can go as a team.

Amelia continued to shine in another open water 1500m swim.

She did an amazing sub 20 minute time (19.44) came first in her age group and actually came 5th overall in the 10-15 age category.

She also did a pool swim trial event for the 800m and 1500m and gained her age group squad time in both which was amazing for her.

Also she currently sits third in the country for the 1500m for her age 12 group.

## Students up for the challenge

Beamont's Year 8 students were challenged on a team building residential in Yorkshire. The pandemic meant this couldn't happen

for these students last year. Huge well done and thank you to all the staff involved in making sure this finally happened for the youngsters.

## Joel takes gold

Joel competed in the international open karate championships in Dundee recently. Despite a two-year break due to Covid, he succeeded in winning both his categories bringing home the Gold in both his Kata

and Kumite section with over 30 competitors in each.

He was also selected to compete for the world champions cup in Romania - due to help 10th -13th December - which the school is immensely proud of.



## Science in the spotlight

BCA held a brilliant evening of science for the community led by the Royal Institute of Science.

It was fantastic to see so many families from the local community at the event.





# 'Good' school is a happy school

The Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School community are celebrating following their recent Ofsted inspection, having being graded a 'Good' school.

This was the first routine inspection of the school since 2014, and this is the first time it has been judged as 'Good'.

Inspectors met with the headteacher, senior leadership team, middle leaders and a range of teaching and support staff, as well as the students.

An inspector spoke with the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the governing body, a representative of the local authority and The Director of Education for Diocese of Chester.

The report states: "Pupils are immensely proud of their school. They value the sense of belonging that they feel in this tight-knit community."

"Many pupils told inspectors that they feel part of the 'Boteler' family. The school community celebrates diversity. Pupils said that the school is a safe space

where they can grow, free to be themselves. They are happy."

"The school has been on an incredible journey since it was placed in Special Measures in 2014," said Headteacher Bev Scott-Herron.

"I remember standing in front of the parents and carers (as I had only just been appointed) and promised them that we would get the school to 'Good'.

"That moment has never left me. Our young people have always been our priority and remain so.

"Our moral purpose and vision and values have remained steadfast.

"We do what we do because it is the right thing to do to improve life chances, and we will continue to go above and beyond. The love, care and compassion has not changed, and never will.

"I am extremely proud of all my staff and we have been able to achieve this wonderful report because we work consistently as a team."

The full report can be read here: <https://bit.ly/3Ht9UEd>



## Inauguration Evening for new Year 7s



Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School held their annual Inauguration Evening at St Elphin's Church.

During the Service each Year 7 student is formally handed over to 'The Boteler Family' by their primary teachers.

Headteacher Bev Scott-Herron said: "It was amazing to be able to celebrate with parents and carers as their child embarks on their new high school journey."

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Anna Mawby said "It was wonderful to listen to such powerful

words about each student from their Year 6 teacher and Headteacher.

"The students were a credit to their families and to their primary schools."

School Chaplain Mike Wildsmith commented "What a privilege to attend my first Inauguration Evening - it was amazing! So humbling and inspiring.

"Impressive musical performances, students speaking eloquently, and most of all, the wonderful pen pictures of the new Year 7 students."



## Pupils take time to remember the fallen with moving service

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School held their Remembrance Service on 11th November.

The service was led by School Chaplain Mike Wildsmith and attended by some of the school's former student 'Old Boys', including former students who are currently serving in the forces and cadets.

Some family members of students and staff who served in the forces also attended.

Current students who are cadets wore their uniforms. The first part of the service took place in the schools' Peace Garden, which has been decorated by the poppy

cascade donated by St Barnabas CE Primary School, and flag from Bridgefoot cenotaph.

The service then continued in the school hall with performances from students, leading to a two-minute silence at 11am.

Teacher of MFL, Mrs Sarah Woolley, played the Last Post on her trumpet. The poppy

**'It is an important time that we think and reflect about what has been secure for us'**  
Mike Wildsmith

dress which Head of Art Mrs Sam Joice created in 2017, made from over 900 individual poppies made by students across all year groups, again made an appearance being worn by Year 11 student Ella-Louise Tarry.

Lieutenant Commander Adam Hughes, who left Boteler in 2003, is now a Marine Engineering Officer in the Navy. He said: "It was great to come back and be in front of the students again.

"The service was very thought provoking."

Daniel McGee, Royal Signals veteran and husband of Teacher of English Mrs McGee, said: "It was a pleasure

to attend and participate in remembering our fallen comrades."

School Chaplain Mike Wildsmith said: "I thought it was brilliant how the children were involved; the singing, the readings.

"It is a really poignant time, it is an important time that we think and reflect about what's been secured for us, not only for our nation but for us as individuals.

"I think that's key, and something we must continue to remember.

"Even though history has moved on to some extent, it is important that we keep remembering."



# Sport starts off to a flying start at Bridgewater

Bridgewater High School has launched an exciting new programme of study for elite athletes called Academy Sport+.

This programme aims to celebrate and showcase the amazing talents of elite athletes within the school.

Bridgewater has forged a fantastic new programme of study with LJMU involving some of the best lecturers in Sport and Psychology in the country.

They have developed specifically tailored programmes of student workshops from Strength and conditioning to elite Sports Nutrition.

Below are some of the amazing successes celebrated so far since September.



Walsall. 30 boys were invited to try out and 13 were selected. Kacper won gold in the K1- light category with the English title belt.



Gabriella qualified and competed in the Swim England NW Regional Championships. She competed in three events: 50m Butterfly (12th), 800m Freestyle (14th), 100m Breaststroke (13th). She also competed in the Junior open age group (16 and under). Gabriella enjoyed personal bests in all events.

Keira helped the NW to 7th place in the classic challenge Bronze national competition. Keira competed in the NW classic challenge Bronze competition at Manchester Academy of Gym-

nastics. She was awarded Bars senior champion and fifth overall for seniors.

Jocelyn played in the Severn Stars pathway squad with a super 65-30 win against the Stafford Hub. This was an amazing experience and achievement.



Eva finished first at the Agecroft Head Rowing event at Salford Quays Watersports Centre. She competed in the timed race (over 3,200m) on the River Irwell.

Lucy received the Achievement Award from the highly prestigious Royal Ballet School.



Jack and Leyton helped Morecambe FC U18 to a win in the first round of the Youth Cup.

Gabriella competed in the Liverpool and District Age Group Championships achieving eight

1st places in the age groups

Oliver signed a scholarship contract with St Helens Rugby League.

Ella-Grace attended a gala at Knowsley. She competed in six races - picking up a Gold and Bronze. She enjoyed personal bests in all races and has been invited by Swim NW to attend a Regional Swim Camp for the top 45 swimmers in her age group.

Harriet competed for Warrington AC in the U15 North West Road Relays at Birchwood Park. Her team came 5th overall and won gold for Cheshire.

Esme was also a part of the successful team for Warrington AC in the U15 North West Road Relays at Birchwood Park. She came 5th overall and won gold for Cheshire.



Oliver windsurfed in the UKWA national cup event at Stokes Bay and ended up 4th overall and 2nd in the boys' techno fleet.

Emily won an award for the 'rising star' category in England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Grass Roots awards for outstanding volunteers at their sports clubs.

Congratulations to everyone!

## Challenge accepted



155 Year 10 students have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Both weekends had their challenges with two expedition groups hiking and camping across south west Cheshire from Whitchurch all the way to Kelsall. All students completed the weekends with an excellent attitude.

## MP offers an insight



Bridgewater's Year 10 pupils recently met with Andy Carter, MP, at Sir Thomas Boteler School as part of TCAT's youth parliament. The pupils (Abigail, Ruby, Lois and Joe) asked thought-provoking questions about the new housing estate in Warrington and learnt about how Westminster is run.



### Art with something to say

As part of Bridgewater's return to school in September the RS Department launched a competition for Key Stage 3 students to come up with a piece of artwork to encapsulate the words 'You only see with open eyes, you only hear with open minds, you only think with an open mind.'

We were impressed with the quality and variety of ways our students responded to this in creative ways and would like to thank all those who submitted a piece to the competition.

The competition was so close. Eventually they were able to settle on four worthy winners; with two sharing third place as it was so close!

**1st place - Sophie (Year 9)**  
**2nd place - Bess (Year 7)**  
**Joint 3rd place - Gaby and Harry (both Year 7)**



# Circus arrives to bring book to life

It has been a really exciting start to the school term with our Pathways to Read and Pathways to Write work. Each year group have exciting and challenging texts that they have been immersed in. In year 4 the children were so excited that the circus came to town.

When they arrived in school their classes had been transformed with a circus theme, including a miniature circus tent! All the children in school have also visited our book fair, choosing from a wide range of texts to engage them in reading for pleasure. Our latest school initiative to encourage reading – A Book and a Biscuit is going down a storm. The children are avidly reading to try to be the winning class in the year group, who are rewarded with biscuits and a new book for their school library.



## Year 3 enjoy a bake-off



Year 3 have had a really exciting few weeks within their DT lessons.

They have been learning about a wide variety of breads, including taste testing.

The children became master bakers in the school hall, creating their own breads. As

you can see from the photo, they all had so much fun and really enjoyed learning these new skills. The following week the children then created their own sandwiches. They used excellent safe knife skills and all took home the most amazing creations.

## Autumn outdoor fun



**Year 6 took full advantage of the milder Autumn weather when they visited Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden. They produced some amazing animal sculptures and**

**enjoyed being in the outdoors. Staff were proud of how the children engaged with every activity, they really were fantastic ambassadors for the school.**

## A time for all to remember

On the 11th November the school came together for a Remembrance assembly. Throughout the week each class completed work on Remembrance and the importance of stopping and reflecting.

Year 6 created some amazing pieces of artwork using textures and tones of grey to create the turmoil of the battlefield, black silhouettes to show the stillness of those lost and colourful poppies to remember and inspire hope.



## Sporting success

Year 6 were absolutely unbelievable at the Warrington Athletics event at Priestley College. They won every event and were so proud on their return to school. They have now qualified to go through to the Warrington finals.

Amazing!

## Fireworks go off with a bang

Broomfields were absolutely thrilled to be able to go ahead with its annual fireworks event, having missed it last year.

It was just brilliant to have our whole school community, past pupils and local families coming together for such a special event.

The PTA should be so proud to have raised over £6500!

The school is hoping the money will go towards new interactive whiteboards in the classrooms.

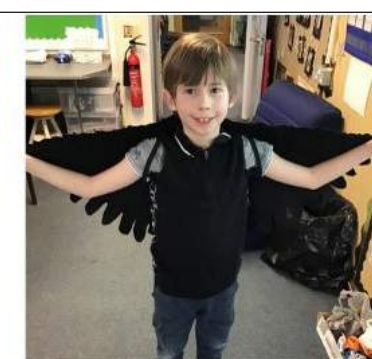
## Children take part in Anti-Bullying Week

During Anti-Bullying week this year the children started with 'Odd Sock Day' to celebrate the fact that we are all unique.

The children completed a variety of activities around bullying and the STOP acronym (Several, Times, On Purpose)

They also took part in the NSPCC assembly and workshops, continuing the school's great work on keeping us all safe. The children learnt about the different types of abuse and how they could seek help.

Broomfields closed the successful week with Diversity Day – come as yourself because everyone else is taken! It was great to see what the children chose to wear.



PIC-COLLAGE



# Activities to enrich the school experience

Pupils have returned to a full range of enrichment activities and opportunities following 18 months of disruption.

The school has hosted a range of clubs, trips and visitors and it has been great to see the curriculum come alive with so much excitement.

In Early Years, the children welcomed in the year by learning about Autumn and wildlife and were engrossed in the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell.

The children learnt about other nocturnal animals, talked about where different animals live and were fascinated when 'Wild Wings' came in to visit with their own birds of prey. Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 have been fortunate enough to arrange visitors that link to learning in Science.

Key Stage 1 have been learning all about animals and Years 3 and 4, learning how to



keep their mouth, teeth and gums healthy.

The children were treated to a visit from Dylan's Reptile Time and the NHS Dental Team to enhance their learning and share their expertise.

In the words of one child in Year 2, it was 'The Best Day Ever!'

It is great to have the curriculum come alive and the children have enjoyed experiencing the practical elements of the subject first hand.

Following on from the school's



successful promotional video for the Rugby World Cup last year, it was visited by Jodi Cunningham who presented some prizes and spoke about her role playing for England Rugby.

She even showed some of her England Caps and the children had the opportunity to ask questions about her successful career in women's rugby.

A range of internal and external enrichment clubs have been held including 'Crafty Kids', Choir to Science Club, and the children have thrown themselves back into different sports and



trying out new hobbies.

As part of the school's enrichment there is a great wider curriculum offer that links in with PSHE.

This year the children have celebrated Black History Month and It's Cool To Be Kind Week to raise money for different charities out in the community.

The children have loved learning about significant and inspirational black figures (both past and present) and created pledges on how to ensure everyone in our school feels welcomed and valued.



## Children think about their future prospects

This year Great Sankey Primary has welcomed back the team from OxPlore to kick start a new block of work with the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. The children learned about university and opportunities it can provide.

They spoke to students and researchers who gave them an insight into life at Oxford.

The children asked questions and shared hopes and dreams for the future about how studying at university could help them to achieve their goals.

They then used this knowledge to design their own university. They had to think about what would make a good university before planning, designing and building their university. Some wonderful models were created demonstrating that the

children really understood what makes a university great and the opportunities that attending university can bring.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed their session and have been inspired by their learning and the researchers.

## Great Sankey Primary in the community

### Harvest Festival

This term, the school and eco council have hit the ground running and started fundraising for school and our community. This year they are looking to renew their green flag award to recognise the work our school does in helping to look after the environment and raised money for Children in Need to support charities in our local area.

As part of our Harvest Festival this year, they also organised for food donations to support the local foodbank in our community. It is important to think of others during these difficult times and show acts of kindness.



### Cross Country

Every year, Great Sankey Primary enters a team into the Warrington Community Cross Country runs and this year it has been great to get back out in the community once more. This was the team's second outing of the year and they ran brilliantly as they took to the grounds of Walton Gardens; showing excellent stamina, sportsmanship and perseverance. A special mention must go to Euan in Year 6 and Ashton in Year 5 who won and came 3rd in their age categories. Both are now in line for individual medals.

### Local pride

Earlier this half term, children in UKS2 have been out into Great Sankey and Penketh to learn more about 'What makes Warrington a good place to live?' As part of their fieldwork study, children have conducted traffic surveys, identified physical and human geographical features that make the area an appealing place to live.



### Remembrance Day

Remembrance is a key part of the GSP calendar as the school remember those who have fought for our futures in wars and conflict both past and present. The school particularly remember those in the local community as wreaths are laid. This year, the learning in school was themed around the story 'Brave as a Lion and Proud as a Peacock' as the pupils looked at the sacrifices soldiers and their families made. A special assembly was held and the school took children to pay their respects at the cenotaph in the local community.

### Shop local

Great Sankey Primary is proud to support local community events and is taking part in the 'Shop Local This Christmas' fayre as local businesses come together to sell their products in a Christmas Market. Shopping local has never been more important as small businesses recover from the aftermath of the pandemic that has hit so many so hard.







# Developer helps pupils to foster a love for reading

Meadowside Community Primary & Nursery School officially opened their amazing new book vending machine with the help of local author Rob Parker.

The school received a donation from David Wilson Homes 'Our Space Your Place' scheme as well as a generous donation from Hebron Church.

Joanne Makin, Deputy Headteacher, said: "We want our pupils to foster a love of reading and our children have a chance to receive a token for their reading miles every half term."

Robert Holbrook, Managing Director of David Wilson Homes North West, said: "As one of the UK's leading developers, it is really important that we support the community in the areas in which we build."

"Meadowside are working hard to support their pupils in and out of the education environment, and we are happy to support them in the plight to encourage

a love of reading.

"We wish them the best of luck with their new vending machine, and in difficult times like these we're encouraging more people to support their local community."

Rob Parker said: "It is always such a pleasure to visit Meadowside, I admire so much what they do as a school for the children."



## 'Kipper' pays a visit to Reception

Reception class have been covering the book Kipper's Party as part of their Talk 4 writing sessions and the children had been planning a surprise birthday party for him, writing invitations and designing birthday cards.

Little did they know, but it was they who got the surprise, when he actually turned up in their classroom! They were delighted to

have a visit from 'Kipper', whose real alias is actually Bailey (Mrs Makin's very own dog).

He really enjoys coming into school for visits and the children asked him some really good questions.

Everyone was delighted to be able to meet Kipper and are already asking when he will be back in school.



## Meadowside Mini Tots Club

Meadowside Minis is a free tots and carers group that meet at Meadowside CP School on Wednesday mornings.

There's lots of fun, singing, playing, dancing and building.

One of Meadowside Mini's favourite things to do is arts and crafts and hte group make sure there is an activity on the art & craft table each week.

They are really pleased with the success of the Minis group because they want to encourage children to play together and learn to interact with others.

These children have been part of the covid lockdowns and have missed out on so many opportunities to socialise and learn together through play.

It has been interesting watching the children slowly build relationships with each other and it gives carers the chance to meet up too.







# Dual approach is right for the future



Penketh has launched its Dual Curriculum giving pupils subject-specific knowledge alongside holistic skills.

The two parts consist of the taught curriculum and a wider developmental aspect that includes both formal experiences such as trips as well as sessions offered by external visitors and in-formal experiences including enrichment clubs.

It helps pupils develop four fundamental competencies;

Knowledge, Skills, Values and Attitudes.

In order to fully prepare pupils for their life beyond school, in a modern world, we need to not only develop their traditional academic skills but also develop a pupil's self-awareness relating to their wider holistic development.

By doing so they develop a greater sense of their wider abilities and skills but are also able to converse around these in interview for university or

employment and, crucially, draw on examples of where they've had to employ such skills to be successful.

Penketh is delighted to be working with external provider, East Learning, who have really bought into the Dual Curriculum model and the personal development work it is undertaking.

Matthew, Managing Director of East Learning, said: "What Penketh are doing in putting PD so high on the agenda is

something we've not seen before in any of the schools we work with, and in combination with the data from Aspire showing intent and impact, we believe that this is a model which could attract interest across the sector.

"Starting with the child at the centre, focussing on the person not just the grades, using data to inform their support, and engaging with the relevant partners where appropriate is simple to do and incredibly complex in practice."

## Career clusters set pupils on right path as they find out more about professions

Penketh's career cluster has taken off again this year, with every pupil across the school joining a cluster associated with the pathway they're interested in pursuing beyond school.

The career cluster programme ensures that pupils receive a minimum of 20 career-related experiences across their time at Penketh and each year they receive at least four experiences within their chosen field, these are focused on;

- Work-related experiences and visits
- Employer talk and Q&A
- Targeted visit to FE/HE
- Impartial career advice

At the end of each year pupils are able to evaluate whether or not they wish to pursue a career in this field or if their experiences have prompted thoughts in a different direction.

This programme ensures access to quality experiences throughout a pupil's school

career helping them to build aspiration and understand their future pathways. There are 19 career clusters within the programme covering medical careers, construction and trades, humanities and politics, law and legal, STEM and many more.

Here is the medical and healthcare cluster enjoying a visit from medical mavericks a few weeks ago; pupils got to hear about 350 job roles within the NHS.



## Robbie weighs in with a top result

Robbie Simpson in year 7 is a member at a local weightlifting gym where he trains regularly.

At a competition he won gold in a British Weightlifting event, what a significant achievement.

Robbie is also an integral member of the year 7 rugby team, scoring a hat trick in the Champions Schools fixture against Moorside High School from Salford.

## Warren is a Community Hero

Last week another member of the Year 7 rugby team, Warren Robinson, attended the Warrington Wolves Foundation 'Man of Steel' awards and was given community hero award for raising money for cancer research UK. He did this by running ten 10km runs on consecutive days raising an amazing £2030 in the process. The Wolves have organised for him to spend a day with the Warrington Wolves first team as a reward for his amazing contribution to charity.



## Putting sparkle in the day



The Pupil Leadership Team did an amazing job in organising a "Sparkle" day for Children in Need. Pupils – and staff – were encouraged to add a little sparkle to their uniform for the day and they very much got into the spirit of the event, with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

## Pupils join community event

Penketh were thrilled to be invited to contribute to the local remembrance service this year.

It was fantastic to see so many pupils, past and present, representing the local community through various uniformed youth groups

including various cadet services.

The pupils who represented the school on the day were fantastic and Penketh were proud to play a role in remembering those who have fallen.





# Scholarships for college students

Students from Priestley College have been offered scholarships by one of the most established banking institutes in the country.

The London Institute of Banking & Finance offered the scholarships to 17 current and former students after they achieved outstanding results in their Level 3 qualifications.

Speaking via zoom for a virtual presentation of their certificates, the LIBF's financial education relationship manager, Stephanie Payne, said it was a significant achievement.

"It has been such a difficult year so to achieve these scholarships marks a great effort by all of you as well as your tutors," she said.

"To put it into perspective I have only spoken at several other schools and colleges across the country this year so you should be extremely proud of yourselves."

Students who have achieved A\* and A grades in the 2020/21 academic year were eligible for the scholarships.

Those with the highest grade in either their CeFS or DipFS qualifications received an offer of £750 and anyone who achieved

an A will receive £500 if they choose to study at the institute.

Among the Priestley cohort who received their certificates from Principal James Gresty was former Sir Thomas Boteler pupil Faye Bannon who also studies Business.

"I am glad my hard work has been recognised by the LIBF despite the challenges of COVID-19 and I feel honoured that I have been offered this opportunity at such a young age," she said.

The scholarship winners have now been invited to visit the institute's City of London campus to gain an insight into studying banking and finance.

The London Institute of Banking & Finance's programmes are developed to ensure students are highly employable after graduation. Within six months 100% of its students find work including within organisations such as Barclays, HSBC, Deloitte, Thomas Reuters and Goldman Sachs.

Priestley tutor Tracy Croft said: "Achieving these high grades has required a lot of hard work on behalf of the students, but also their teachers so everyone deserves huge congratulations for their efforts this year."



## Sisters enjoy STEM success after Priestley

Two sisters who studied at Priestley College have taken their next steps towards a career in healthcare.

Heidi Kressel finished college two years ago and went on to study Medicine at Hull York Medical School and, after collecting her results in August, younger sibling Isabella has followed in her footsteps to study medicine at Manchester

University. Both took Biology and Chemistry at Priestley College and have inspired one another with their outstanding achievements so far.

"I couldn't be prouder of Isabella," said Heidi.

The sisters excelled at Priestley. Heidi studied German and Art alongside her sciences and earned two A\*s and two As. This year Isabella earned

four A\*s in Biology, German, History and EPQ as well as an A in Chemistry.

Taking the Pre-Med enrichment at Priestley gave both sisters access to Medic Mentor, which Isabella described as 'instrumental in placing a successful medical application'.

Heidi has just started her third year at medical school and is now working in a hospital seeing

patients full-time.

She's also hoping to intercalate next year and complete a BSc in either Neuroscience or Global Health on top of her medical degree.

"I have a particular interest in neurology at the moment, but I'm not fully certain on which area of medicine I want to specialise in," she said.

## College leads way for elite athletes

Priestley College is leading the way in supporting talented athletes in England after receiving a new accreditation.

The honor was awarded by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) recognising the way Priestley supports students in achieving both their sporting and academic goals.

Priestley is now selecting those students who will most benefit from being on the scheme.

Among the 16 who have already been chosen are GB rowers, judo athletes, swimmers, kickboxers, as well as regional Thai boxers and rugby players.



## Students investigate 'scene of a crime'

It reads like a storyline straight out of the Netflix hit series You.

A woman's friend murdered and her boyfriend turning out to be the guilty party. In fact it was a workshop at Priestley College designed to give Criminology students an insight into police investigations.

"I want to become a detective constable so for me this was a great opportunity," said Yasmin Karkin, who also studies Drama and Public Services.

Former Merseyside police officer Andrea Richards led the workshop during which students were assigned different roles. Everything from the murderer to the detective investigating the crime.

First they heard a 999 call alerting investigators that a body had been found.

"You really had to pay attention and take notes on all the important details," said Yasmin, a former pupil at Weaverham High.

During the scenario Yasmin interviewed a suspect, completed some DNA analysis and was a judge in the final case brought

against the suspect. Shoe prints found at the model crime scene showed two people had been in the apartment where the murder took place.

Further investigation by the students eventually allowed them to rule out an officer that had left prints and instead close in on the real culprit.

Interest in studying Criminology at Priestley has quadrupled since its introduction three years ago with many students combining it with Public Services or social sciences such as Psychology and Sociology. Many are choosing to go on to study the subject at university. Tutor Claire Colwell said: "Most of us are unlikely to commit a crime, but we are intrigued to discover what motivates others to do so."

"We are drawn into the criminal underworld so being offered the opportunity to further our understanding of what makes a criminal tick, how different theories approach this and why crimes remain under-reported are things that are really enticing for students."



By highlighting their sporting commitments and successes, tutors will be able to offer extra support such as virtual catchup sessions to review work when a student is competing away from home.

In exceptional circumstances they might also be allowed deadline extensions for assignments. Priestley also plans to organise workshops focusing on time management, goal setting, nutrition, prioritising sleep, First Aid and careers.

TASS is backed by Sport England and said that Priestley would now be an important part of a network supporting more than 600 young athletes across the country.





# Children delve into the past

The whole school worked on a central display for Remembrance. Each class was tasked with designing their own 'paper plate poppy'.

The children explored mediums in art to decide what would be most effective. The school was so pleased with the finished look.



## A history of toys



Year 1 had a very special visitor in school as Warrington Museum came to visit! Children looked at the differences between old and new toys, explored

the toys and even made their own toys. The children had smiles on their faces all day with Brooklyn saying, "Old toys are better than iPads!"



## Luke's on target



Congratulations to our very own Luke, the newly crowned Ireland Open Darts Champion, making him the youngest ever winner of

a BDO/WDF event. Luke has now earned his spot at the Lakeside World Darts Championships in January.

## Students take to the stage

Year 10 Performing Arts students attended a multi media dance performance "Neverland" at the Pyramid Centre. In the new year they will also take part in dance workshops at the Parr Hall and attend Chester University to have a taste of further education dance courses.



## Mayoral invitation

Students were recently invited by Cllr Sue Emery to meet the Mayor and visit the Town Hall.

They were in awe of the beautiful décor and captivated by the history, learning how the Golden Gates were rejected by Queen Victoria so ended up in Warrington.

## Poppy display to remember

The whole school worked on a central display for Remembrance. Each class was tasked with designing their own 'paper plate poppy'.

The children explored mediums in art to decide what would be most effective. The school was so pleased with the finished look.



## Looking to the future

Y5 enjoyed a visit from Oxplore. The children worked in teams to create their own universities. The children asked the Oxford University researchers lots of excellent questions and showed real enthusiasm for learning about university life. The school is looking forward to further visits during the year.

