



## DEBATES ARE SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT

TCAT students joined the political debate recently when they staged a contest at the Pyramid.

Sixth formers from Priestley College staged a discussion about whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 before the main competition started between three high school teams who debated Brexit.

Marks were so close at the end of the contest that there had to be a recount before Bridgewater were crowned winners.

Pupils from Padgate and Penketh also impressed the judges who were members of Priestley's Debating Society.

"We supported the younger teams throughout the debate because we know from experience how tough it can be," said Sophie Johnson, who is Vice President of the College Council at Priestley.

"We really enjoyed giving feedback to each group and were so impressed by them all because they made great progress between the two debates. They clearly worked hard to research the topics that seem a little too complex even for our politicians at the moment."

Students founded the college's Debating Society after conducting several debates within Priestley's Graduate enrichment classes and wanted to open them up to a wider group of people.



## **DEBATES ARE SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT CONTINUED...**

Mark Salmon, a Senior Tutor at Priestley, said the event at the Pyramid was an example of collaboration between the college and other schools in The Challenge Academy Trust.

"The pupils really did seem to look up to our students and responded well to the feedback they received," he said.

"The students and I were so impressed with the high level of debate from the pupils. We would all like to thank Paul Cordingley from Penketh High School for organising this exciting and challenging event."

## **LEGO FOR CLATTERBRIDGE**

Clatterbridge is a cancer hospital which treats many patients who need chemotherapy and radiotherapy, however there is only one of these hospitals in the North West so many people have to travel hours a day to receive lifesaving treatment. Therefore, Clatterbridge have decided to build a new hospital which is in the heart of Liverpool, hopefully meaning many more people can access it more easily. To help raise as much money as they can to build this, they are making an exact replica of the new Hospital in Lego. The idea is to encourage people to buy a brick which is then going towards the making of the new cancer hospital. As we know many families are affected by cancer, therefore we have decided to help Clatterbridge in whatever way we could. After doing a variety of fundraising and awareness for Clatterbridge, Penketh High School raised over £850. Clatterbridge then came into the school with the amount of bricks they had raised money for. A group of pupils then used the Lego bricks to choose and build the different parts/equipment that our fundraising would contribute towards. After building them they were added to the Lego structure in Liverpool. Penketh are still fundraising for Clatterbridge in whatever way they can. This has now developed into all the schools in TCAT becoming involved led by TCAT Parliament. This means that hopefully we should be able to raise a huge amount for such a great cause.

## **TCAT PARLIAMENT**

The TCAT Parliament have now been meeting for a year and this weeks meeting saw all members receive a certificate from Councillor Steve Wright for their hard work over the year.

'TCAT can clean up your future' is their moto and they have all worked hard to ensure that this message is around all our TCAT schools. Through their work they really are starting to make a difference.

In February TCAT Parliament presented to Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's Deputy Headteacher about the work which had been accomplished so far. Mrs Mawby sent the PowerPoint presentation to TCAT CEO Mr Grant who has taken it to our CEC. Mr Grant supports the initiatives and will fund the bins and water bottles. This is a huge success for our Parliament and we urge you to buy the water bottles and use the recycling bins when they are put into the schools.

Students are very excited about the next stage of the project.





# TCAT CHOIR AT THE PARR HALL

The TCAT Choir performed at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's Spring Spectuactlar at the Parr Hall. This was the first performance of the TCAT Choir. They rehearse on Wednesday afternoons 2 - 4pm at Boteler. Collarboration is the very essence of TCAT, and watching the young people interact and perform together is very special.



# PLAYTIME GETS A NEW LOOK AT PENKETH SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAYTIME at Penketh South Primary School just got a whole lot more fun after the renovation of its playground and Early Years outdoor space.

New features include a sensory pathway, climbing wall, bug hotel and an undercover reading corner as well as an investigation station complete with magnifying glasses.

"It has been lovely to watch the children's excitement grow as the project has developed," said headteacher Angela Grace.

"The opportunities now available to the children are fabulous and we feel so grateful for the money that has been invested into the playground."

Most of the improvements have been funded by The Challenge Academy Trust, of which Penketh South Primary has been a member since its formation in 2017.

Grants were received from Thomas Cook, Ernest Cook, The Lottery, Gregg's and Tesco. Teachers and pupils also raised some funds.

E.den Play were commissioned to design the new playground with a brief of banishing the grey concrete and bright plastics to create a natural play environment.

"We introduced a wide range of structures, all designed to maximise learning opportunities for the children at this crucial stage in their development," said Mari Dyson of E.den Play.





"It was so rewarding to see the children's delighted, smiling faces. Their eagerness to try it all out right away confirmed that it's a big hit."

Penketh South's new playground also includes a working pump that children can use to draw water into a stream that runs under a bridge.

There's also a tunnel, a wormery, messy play spot and a space to encourage roleplay as well as an extension to the Pirate Ship.

"This is the first week of the rota for playing on the Pirate Ship, which opens up a whole new world for the children," said Angela.



## **BEE THE BEST! WITH BCA'S SPELLING BEE!**

The Spelling Bee model is fun and inclusive. This way of quizzing allows students to fully engage with their learning and test and retest their core knowledge in exciting, collaborative and effective ways!

Students across all years are using this model for testing times tables, trivia, language translations and good old fashioned vocabulary and spelling. In a world where knowledge is power, knowing stuff is key! With this model our students are revising at home for 'Quick Quizzing' in their lessons, they have a minute to answer any of 20+ questions and their scores add up before their very eyes! Students see this way of working as high challenge, low threat and they engage brilliantly with the Home Learning so to beat their latest score!

The Spelling Bee model originated as a celebratory event at the end of the year, a way of showcasing those industrious and dedicated students who revise and practice their spellings and strive to be the best they can possibly be. The BCA Spelling Bee mirrored that of the Scripps Spelling Bee, originally founded in America and involved the whole of Year 7 and the support of many staff across the school. The English Department, along with tutors supported students to learn 100 words or varying degrees of difficulty and students were prepared, over the space of a week to compete against their peers. Two finalists emerged victorious from the class heats and they then competed in the final which took place in the hall in front of the whole year group.

The BCA was truly a spectacular event! Students made banners and posters in their Art lesson to cheer on their finalist for their class, they cheered, sang and danced to the BCA House Band and BCA Dancers who open and closed the event and they back their classmates 100%. The BCA Spelling Bee Final was indeed about resilient young individuals who revised and practised their skills to perform to the best of their ability but it was also about comradery and celebration – rewarding hard work and believe me, it was tough!





## BEE THE BEST! WITH BCA'S SPELLING BEE! CONTINUED...

Jessica Kennedy proved victorious and took the title of Spelling Bee Champion 2018 in July last year and we hope to crown another worthy competitor with the noble title of Spelling Bee Champion 2019, later this year!

For us at BCA, it didn't stop there, this concept has now become a way of life and we frequently quiz our students using the Spelling Bee model in lessons, in a variety of different ways and both staff and students love it!

"I couldn't believe how quickly the students were spelling the words – I could barely keep up with checking the spellings. If we could do this in a similar way with knowledge, we would definitely see an impact of results and student confidence within our subjects."

"The main things I loved about it were how exciting it was at the actual event and how you can really tie down how important vocabulary is into your lesson by talking to the students about it and doing your own topic based spelling bees!"

We are now working with the BOLD Primaries and those across TCAT to form our own Primaries Spelling Bee whereby all the Year 6 groups compete against each other and the final will be held at BCA!

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## RUGBY AT BEAMONT

Beamont's Year 9 rugby team have progressed to the North West school's county cup final and the English Schools Cup semi-finals for the third consecutive year. After victories over Great Sankey & Standish we are to meet Saddleworth in the final at Robin Park, Wigan where we can hopefully defend the trophy won by Beamont last year.

The team are also looking forward to making the National Final, having falling at the semi-final stage for the past two years. We qualified for this after beating Longworth, Hull and Furness Academy, Barrow.







## UNLOCK PROGRAMME

Twelve Year 10 students have been unlocking their potential and raising their aspirations as they have embarked on a personal journey with the Unlock programme.

This programme allowed our students to discover the many opportunities that they can explore for life after Beamont Collegiate Academy. Our students met many professionals in London including a chef who runs a multi-million pound restaurant, the people behind the making of adverts for McDonalds, JD and Vodafone (to name but a few!) and even the people who run Sadler's Wells – a world-renowned theatre! Students were given the opportunity to ask these professionals about the pathway they had taken and how they had become so successful. Upon the students' return, they were asked to present their findings to their entire year group... a task requiring great courage and confidence!



The programme has drawn to a close as the students have met with well-established professionals from Warrington including a forensic scientist, a lawyer and a social media founder! This opportunity has resulted in our students to creating connections for possible work experience... an invaluable experience!





# BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## A MAGICAL DAY OUT

On the 4th March, one hundred Bridgewater Year Nine pupils went on a rewards trip to the Harry Potter Studio, Watford. We went with our Year group leaders, Miss Mitchell and Miss Magee as well as some other teachers.

After a three-and-a-half hour noisy coach drive, we finally arrived at the Studio. We were greeted by our tour guide and went into a room where we watched a short film about the making of the eight films. The main entrance doors to Hogwarts opened and we entered the Great Hall. While in there, we were told many interesting facts about the filming of the series. Then we were allowed to wander around at our own pace with our friends.

We saw many amazing things including the sets, such as the Forbidden Forrest, Potions Lab, Dumbledore's office, the Gryffindor common room and Diagon Alley.

We even got to ride broomsticks and the Hogwarts Express, as well as buy our own Butterbeer (yum!). As we exited, we came into a room with a large scale model of Hogwarts which was amazing and impressive. There were options to buy a vast array of Harry Potter themed objects from the many gift shops.

All in all it was a wonderful trip, full of many amazing and interesting moments and we were very grateful for the opportunity.

*Rachel and Laura*

## DOT-ART CHESHIRE SCHOOLS ART COMPETITION

Bridgewater's Art department is proud to announce that we have been able to enter the Dot-Art Schools competition for the third year in a row.

The work selected for this year's competition is from the year 9 Zines project. There was so much excellent work to choose from that Mrs Silver had a very difficult job in selecting the top 25 pieces to put forward.

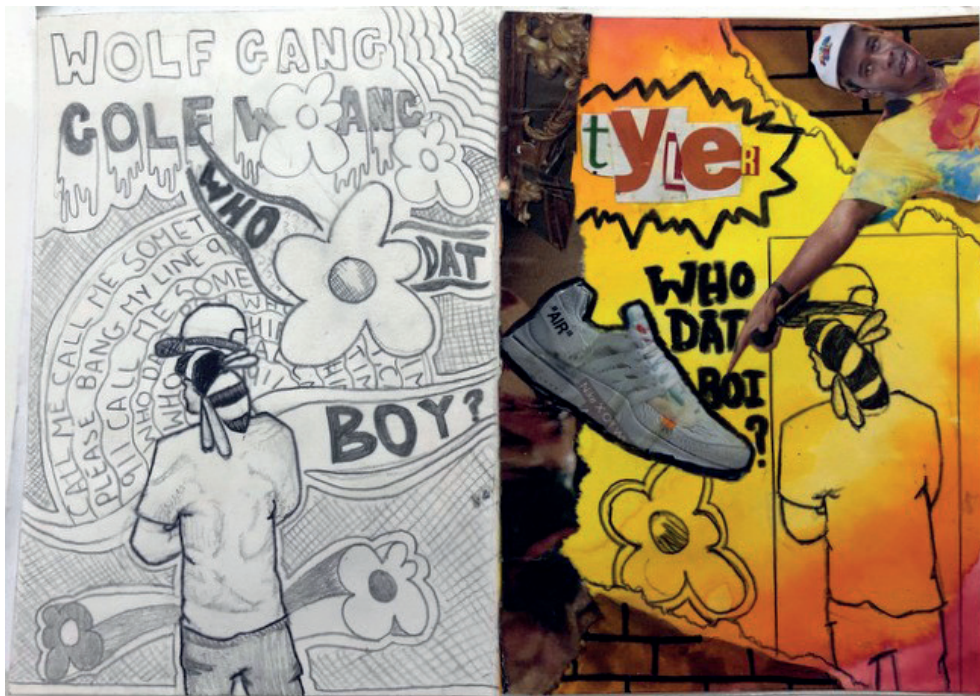
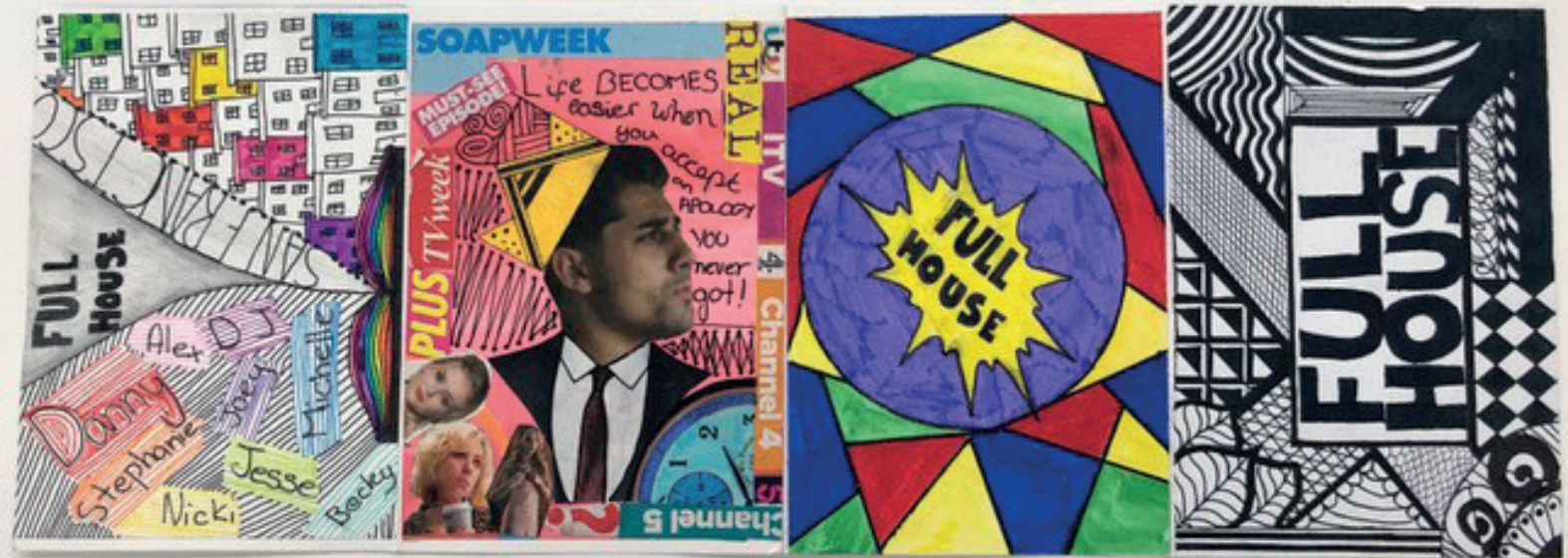
You will be able to see the school entries alongside many other schools work by visiting the Dot-Art website.

Public voting for Bridgewater's top three pieces of work, selected by the Dot Art panel of judges begins on 1st April until 29th April.

So, don't forget to log on to [schools@dot-art.com](mailto:schools@dot-art.com) to vote for your favourite entry! The winner's work will be on display in an art exhibition that will be open to the public from 28th June. On the following page are entries from Thomas, Will, Leah and Abby.



# BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS





# BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## BRIDGEWATER AT THE DEBATE

At the Pyramid Centre, ten Y9 Bridgewater students, including myself, were chosen to take part in a debating event about Brexit. This was the first of what it hoped to be an annual event for TCAT. The Bridgewater students won this event!

The event began with eight Priestley College students modelling how debates work. We were able to look at what the Priestley students were doing to prepare for the debate and how the Priestley students took part in the debate itself. They were absolutely brilliant and we learnt a lot from them.

After this, we were split into two groups, and then we took part in two debates against the other TCAT schools, about topics relating to Brexit. One of the groups won both of these debates. Later in the afternoon, each school gave a presentation about a topic that they were given relating to Brexit. Bridgewater had been given the topic of trade in relation to Brexit. We had spent time researching about this during school time. This was a complex issue which took time to understand, as you can imagine!

The team was led by Mrs Lomas who said, "This was an extremely difficult task. I was very proud of the Bridgewater team. They researched the topic thoroughly and presented their ideas confidently. They were worthy victors, though all the students who took part today should be very proud of themselves!"

Students from all the schools in TCAT who took part in the event did very well and we would like to thank everyone who helped with the organization of this event.



## BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST CHARITY – YEAR 10 BRIDGEWATER ENVIRONMENT DAY

During our environment day, our form created a display stand for our given charity, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. In our time given to create the display stand, we created flowers and bees out of tissue paper

and researched interesting and appealing facts about bees to create an informative poster to share later in the day. We even managed to sell some of our tissue paper flowers during the afternoon, when all the forms gathered together to share their display stall creations. Over all, I thought my form did very well creating the flowers, bees and posters for the environmental day, and I also enjoyed researching some facts about bees! I thought that each form worked hard on their stalls and our form are all proud of ourselves for winning the competition and being able to make a donation to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. *Sofia*



# Bumblebee Conservation Trust



## STEM AT GSP

Children at GSP took part in our annual STEM themed weeks during March, with the whole school focused on the theme of Space. The event culminated in a very well attended exhibition in the hall for our families to come and view and the children loved sharing all their recent learning on everything STEM related. They have had so many opportunities during STEM to enrich their learning through visits to Penketh High School and the SPARK makerspace as well as Priestley College. We were fortunate to welcome lots of visitors coming into school to share their expertise with the children and providing inspiration for our future scientists and engineers.

## The Big Bang Fair - Penketh High



Children in years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to go over to Penketh High School and take part in their 'Big Bang Fair'. It was a great chance for the children to see some of the work produced by Penketh pupils and learn about how the first moon landings have influenced our world, including how many of the things we take for granted today have been revolutionised due to space travel!



## WISE UP AWARD

In February, our school was awarded the gold Wise Up award for the work we do around inclusion, anti-bullying and tackling hate crime. Two of our pupils went to the ceremony to be presented with the prestigious award by the town's Mayor. It now proudly hangs in our school entrance.



# GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PAN ART PROJECT: WE ARE WARRINGTON

GSP were commended for their contribution to the performing arts in March due to their participation in the Warrington Primary Arts Network. This year's theme was 'We Are Warrington' and from this the whole school produced stunning art work based on Warrington canals and the wildlife, local architecture and, as homage to Lewis Carroll, work around Alice in Wonderland. This was displayed at an exhibition at The Pyramid Centre. Our wonderfully talented choir then sang at the PAN concert at The Parr Hall to finish off the event. It was a great evening.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

The 7th March saw the whole of GSP dress as their favourite book character - from Horrid Henry to The Boy in the Dress, we had it all! And, of course the staff all had to join in, so they came dressed as the many characters from Alice in Wonderland. Our theme for the day was 'Reading Around the World' where each key stage focused on a book from a different continent. The chosen books were all a hit and the work produced that day was of such good quality. A great time was had by all!



## WORLD MATHS DAY

To launch our STEM fortnight into orbit, we started off by celebrating World Maths Day where the children (and staff!) came dressed as rock stars, astronauts or strange space beings! Throughout the day, we 'rocked-out' to our online times tables programme, Timestables Rockstars and participated in other fun maths activities too. Timestables Rockstars has been an overwhelming success at our school and we have seen such a positive impact on children knowing and recalling their times tables with greater fluency and accuracy.



## GLOBAL LINKS

Two of our teaching staff had the opportunity to visit our link school in South Africa in March. We have been linked with Thembelihle Primary school for over five years and have strong relationships with them, sharing our learning with one another. We were able to Facetime them resulting in a drumming performance from the UK and a song from SA. The learners were delighted to talk to our children as well as be taught by our staff. This year our theme was on learning about the importance of equality and we carried out a joint project based around the 'No Outsiders' learning.

We also welcomed Chinese delegates from the city of Xi'an to share in our learning this term. We gave them a taste of what life is like in an English school so that they can take some ideas back into their own classrooms. We also hope to build further links with them and develop opportunities for the children to communicate with one another across the globe.



## WARRINGTON SCHOOL GAMES

In January we were delighted to receive our Gold Mark award in PE recognising our commitment to participating in competitive sports, offering a range of sport enrichment and encouraging our children to participate and lead in a wide range of sports.



## GSP SCHOOL COUNCIL IN ACTION

At GSP, we feel very strongly about reducing the amount of plastic we use. As a result of this, the School Council have started to monitor the use of refillable water bottles and are aiming to reduce single-use plastic bottles in each class.

## CLEAN UP MY COMMUNITY

Last term, Pine Tree Class were lucky to have a visitor to carry out creative workshop activities to learn about how plastic and litter harm our environment. This workshop was funded by Clean Up My Community Warrington and photos of their drama activities were compiled into their own class comic. Pine Tree School Councillors were chosen to attend a presentation to receive their class's printed comic.





## PADGATE ACADEMY

The talented students in our Designated Provision have, as part of the "Future Foods Month," built a robot from recycled materials, including computer parts and plastic bottles. The initiative is to generate interest in futuristic modern concepts in the dining area for the school community.

The students have also successfully completed the criteria for the AQA Unit Award Scheme in demonstrating their ability to work and communicate as part of a team.

Shaun Kelly said, "I really enjoyed making the legs for the robot out of recycled cardboard tubing and sticking them on to his body. It was great fun to work as part of a team and I feel really good about it."

As a team effort the students have named the robot "Dezzy." Gillian Wakefield, Head of Catering at the Academy was extremely pleased with the students' efforts and has rewarded them highly with a breakfast of their choice.



## STUDY DAY FOR ENGLISH LIT STUDENTS

Year 11 students from Padgate Academy recently attended a study day with professional poets, reading their poems and answering questions from students about them, in order to provide them with a greater understanding for their upcoming GCSE English Literature exam.

The Chief Examiner also delivered two sessions to students, providing tips about how to tackle unseen poetry.

Mrs Hawley, Head of English, said "This was an excellent day that really made the poems come alive for the students. We gained some invaluable insight into key skills needed for the exam".

Nathan Hawkins, Year 11 Student, said, "It was a nice experience for all of the students who attended; it helped me understand the context behind the poems".

## NATIONAL JUNIOR INDOOR ROWING COMPETITION

After competing at The Indoor Rowing competition at Warrington Wolves, Grace Bain received a place at the London National Indoor Junior Rowing Competition. Grace took part in the Year 8 three minute individual rowing, from this she totalled a fantastic 712 meters and qualified for the year 8 relay race, with 3 other students from Warrington Youth Rowing.

The Relay group came 1st in the pen and completed the 2000m in 7 minutes and 32.2 seconds.

The visit brings together the students who take part in the Warrington Youth Rowing and qualified for the National Competition.





## NATIONAL JUNIOR INDOOR ROWING COMPETITION CONTINUED

Miss Parkinson said "The trip was a fantastic experience! Grace gave 100% in all of her races and even beat her personal best in her 3 minute individual race. The engagement and support amongst the peers across all of the Warrington schools that attended was great to see".

Grace Bain said "The best part of the day was finding out we came first in the relay in our pen. I was extremely happy to have the opportunity to attend the event. All staff and students all encouraged each other and that helped me to achieve my best".

## YEAR 9 BIG BANG STEM

Year 9 students from Padgate Academy recently visited Priestley College for Big Bang STEM. The day provided students with an insight into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and had the opportunity to take part in some exciting workshops that included:

- Lego Mindstorm robotics
- Chemistry flash bang
- Marvellous molecules
- Aquaphonics and drones

The visit was intended to give students a fantastic opportunity and introduction to STEM based workshops. It has shown it can enhance learning across a range of subject areas and in particular Science, Design Technology and Mathematics.

Melissa Day, who supported the trip, said "The students were really engaged and were very competitive when building and navigating the drones".

Olivia McQueeny, Student, said: "It was good to see the local college and get an insight into what it might be like to study there. I really enjoyed the science dissecting experiment, I could relate to this with recent work I have done at school".





# PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

## MUSEUM IN A BOX

Spark had the privilege of being asked to be one of only two schools in the UK to take part in the "Museum in a box" project this term. The amazing project utilises 3D prints, postcards, near-field communication (NFC) technology, and Raspberry Pi to connect objects and artefacts to the web and radically increase outreach and engagement through local museums, along with museums further afield.

As an Internet of Things project it uses cutting edge technology and we have been delighted with the support from the team at Museum in a box. We were fortunate to have a visit from Adrian McEwan and Craig Sherwood who we have been working with since January to create 3D scans of museum objects. "It's been a fascinating experience", said Collections Officer Craig Sherwood, "We were founded as a museum of Science and Art in 1847 and so it feels fitting that in 2019 we should be working with SPARK Penketh to use technology to explore the museum collections. 3D printing is already changing how we are approaching art, design and manufacturing and a project like this engages young people in exciting and creative design work while also encouraging them to consider how they can use AR technology to interpret the material culture that surrounds them."

Several staff at Penketh will be developing their own collections for this project so watch this space!

## WARRINGTON LIBRARIES - SPARKED AT PENKETH

We have been working with our local libraries to expand the SPARK project to other areas. This has involved us giving some of our time to training local librarians to enable them to run workshops during school holidays for young people across Warrington.

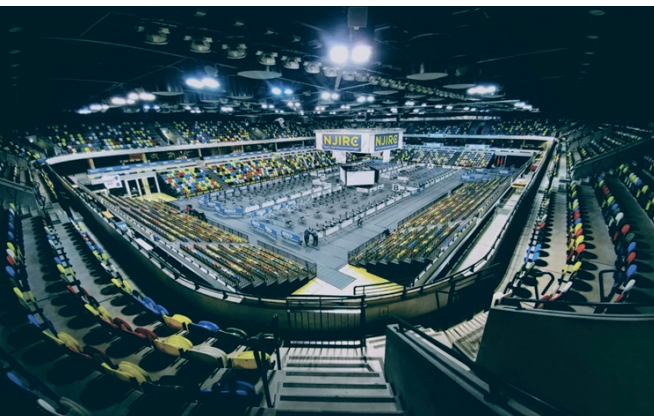
Chris Everett (Senior Community Librarian) LiveWire said; "Working with Penketh High School has been brilliant for Livewire libraries. It has really made our digital offer to families more exciting and expanded the skill set for our staff. The partnership has created more learning activities that are fun and relevant to taking the STEM agenda outside the classroom. The school couldn't be more supportive and Caroline's calm and positive attitude together with her vast knowledge has encouraged our staff to have a 'can do' attitude. We are looking forward to more brilliant projects in the future."



## ELITE ROWING

Penketh High School was proud to have two of our pupils represent Warrington at the National Indoor Junior Rowing Competition on the 15th March in London's Olympic Park. Amelia and Poppy, both in year 8, were selected to be a part of the Warrington Youth Rowing team, along with select pupils from other schools in Warrington to go up against other schools from around the country. The girls have been working hard during their Tuesday sessions at Warrington Youth Rowing Club with Richard Sinnott, Head of WYR, and Mr Pinder to prepare for the competition. Amelia and Poppy both competed in the singles and team event, placing 17th and 30th out of 194 competitors in the singles, and 5th out of 66 in the team

event! The girls did themselves and the school proud in the effort and commitment they have shown since starting Rowing in October, leading to both girls becoming members of WYR club and regularly attending weekend training sessions. Future Olympians in the making?





## TCAT BREXIT DEBATE

On 1 March, pupils from the TCAT secondary schools - Penketh, Bridgewater, Boteler, Beamont, and Padgate - participated in the first TCAT Debate competition, supported by pupils from Priestley College. Nine of our Year 9 pupils went to the Pyramid Centre in Warrington to fiercely debate Brexit in the style of the MPs in Parliament. In the morning session, our two teams debated with teams from other the schools whether (1) Brexit was in the best interests of the UK and (2) whether there should be a second referendum. In the afternoon session, the pupils had to research and prepare a presentation on the legal and economic consequences of Brexit in relation to Employment law. There was a high level of academic challenge presented by these topics and our pupils performed exceptionally well, to achieve a third placed finish in the event!



## RYMAN NATIONAL CHALLENGE

In February, twelve of our Y9 Enterprise and Marketing pupils took part in the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge. The pupils travelled to the University of Chester and had to complete a number of activities against the clock to plan a sporting event to increase female participation in Sport. One of our team's pitch was so successful that they qualified for the Regional Finals which will take place in Chester at the end of April.



## SELLAFIELD/EDF ENERGY

Over the last few years Penketh High School has been working closely with Sellafield Ltd, this has included taking part in the Sellafield Big Bang challenges (which we won in 2018), having Sellafield come into Penketh to deliver a STEM workshop to Year 9 students (Summer 2018) and allowing a member of Penketh teaching staff to shadow some of their engineers for 5 days in July of last year. As a reward for the Big Bang win and the STEM workshop, Sellafield organised for a group of Year 10 students accompanied by Mr Fone and Mr Webb to visit the nuclear Power Station at Heysham. During this visit, the students were taken around the main reactor building (observing from the safety of the viewing gallery) and the turbine room. To see the scale of the operation and be told how much electrical energy is generated was quite staggering. This visit also happened to take place on International Women's Day and some of our learners had pictures taken with an engineer, which were posted on the EDF Energy social media feed.



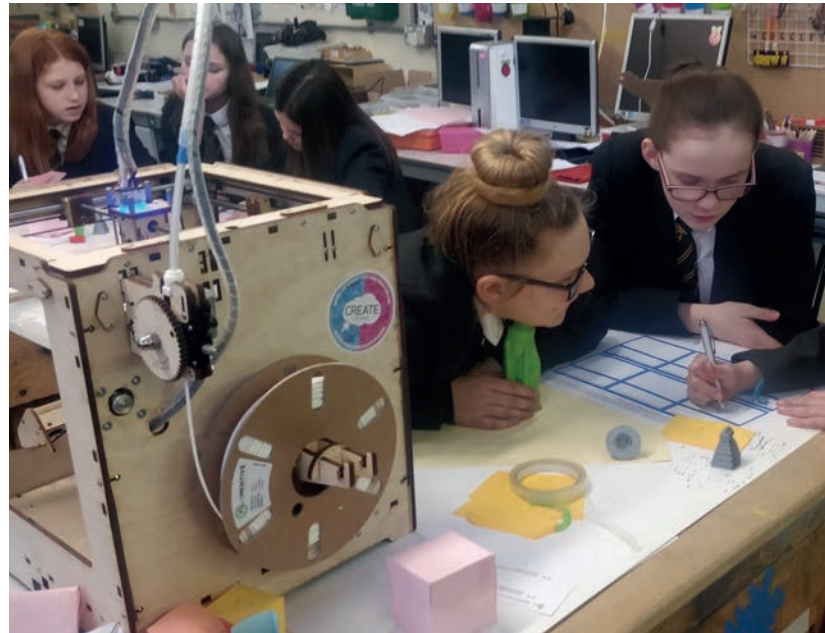


# PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

## DIGITAL UPSKILLING

As you know the main focus for Spark is to provide our own pupils with experiences to support their wider development. This term has seen us developing skills in 3D printing with all students in year 7-10, this will continue into next term with workshops in Wearable technology during Tuesday Lunchtime and a bespoke 3D printing enrichment each Wednesday Lunchtime.

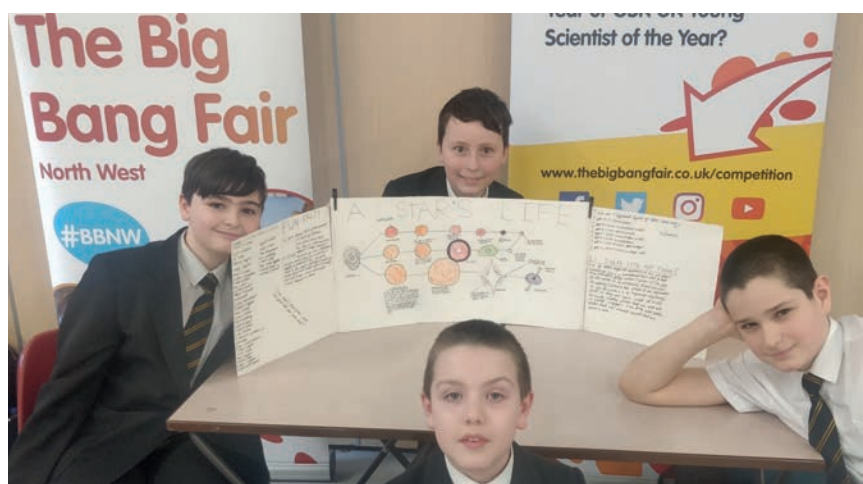
Pupils are continuing to design items in Autodesk 360 which is free for all young people, or Tinkercad online. If any parents have ideas for 3D printing projects that they would like to contribute please get in touch as we would like our students to use their newly acquired skills in 3D printing to contribute to our community and be able to establish creative solutions to real world problems.



Thank you to all parents who donated electronic goods, laptops and equipment to our space this term. As you all know Spark has been built entirely on community contributions and we are exceptionally grateful for the support. If you would like to donate equipment or funding for Spark, please get in touch with Ms Keep.

## BIG BANG @ PENKETH

On Friday 22nd March, Penketh High School had the privilege of hosting a satellite event for the Big Bang North West Festival. The students of Penketh High School were given the challenge of showing how the moon landings (50 years ago this year) had affected how we live our lives. After working on their projects for 5 weeks, they were given the opportunity to present their ideas to a judging panel that included Penketh's own Mrs Lomax and Daisy Fox from the Institute of Physics. The event was supported by Ali Christoffer and the media team from All About STEM. This meant that the projects and involvement of Penketh students were shown on their social media feeds and their website (<https://www.allaboutstem.co.uk/2019/03/big-bang-north-west-big-bang-penketh-high-school/>). Not only did a dedicated group of students present their ideas to the judges, but they also explained their ideas to year 5 and 6 pupils from Great Sankey Primary School, not an easy task as any teacher would tell you. Well done to all who took part and good luck to our winning teams who will be presenting their projects at the Big Bang North West Festival in Liverpool in the summer term.



# PENKETH SOUTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

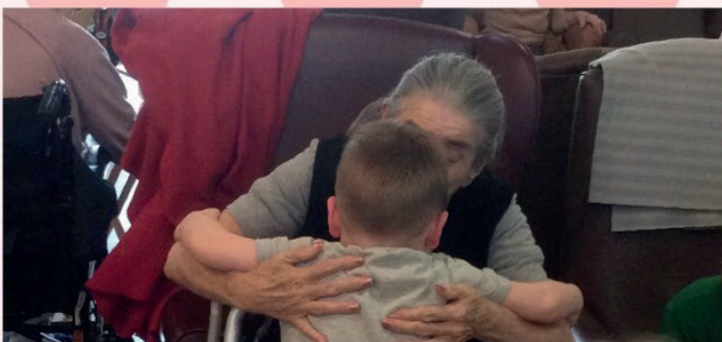
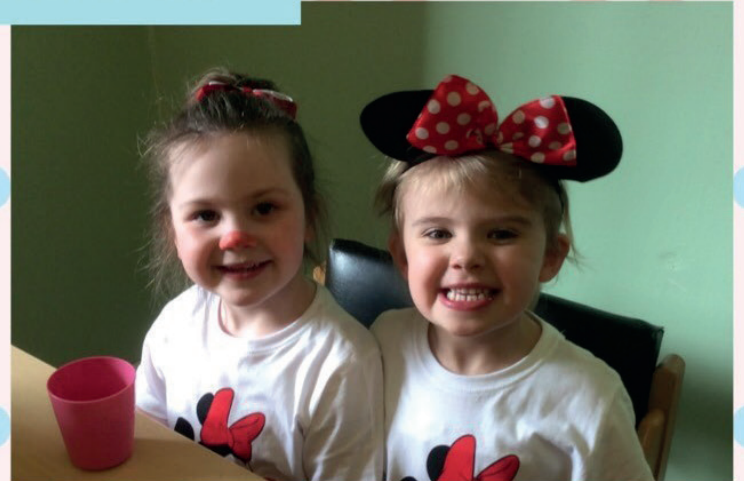


## OUR VISIT TO MEADOWVIEW

Our red nose visit to Meadowview. Singing, dancing, smiles and cuddles with the residents. Enjoying special red nose biscuits made by the residents at snack time.



*Visit to Meadowview*



## MINIBEASTS!

To enhance our learning about minibeasts this half term we were lucky enough to have a visit from Steve from 'Wild Workshop'. We had the opportunity to explore and handle a range of common minibeasts that you could find in the garden and learnt lots of interesting facts. Steve brought along some mice for us to examine the difference between insects and mammals. We had a great learning adventure.



## GYMNASTICS SUCCESS

Pupils from Penketh South C.P. made a clean sweep of the medals at this year's Upper K.S.2 'Key Steps' gymnastics competition, held recently at Wire Gymnastics Club in Birchwood. In the individual competition, for more experienced gymnasts, Joe Harding was awarded the Gold medal, closely followed by good friend and Year 6 classmate, Aaron Griffin, who received the Silver medal. The Bronze medal went to Year 5 pupil Paige Revenhorst, who was really surprised by the school's amazing achievement against so many talented gymnasts from across Warrington.





## WONDER OF SCIENCE IS CELEBRATED AT PRIESTLEY

Priestley College has been putting science under the microscope in recent weeks with a series of inspiring events.

Priestley – named after the scientist who discovered oxygen – invited high school pupils to take part in 'The Big Bang at Priestley' science festival and has also organised activities to challenge and inspire its own students.

"It is fitting that at a college named after Joseph Priestley celebrates science in a big way," said STEM coordinator Shahida Khanam.

"One of the most enjoyable parts of the activities over the past month has been seeing young people of different ages inspired and in awe at the beauty of science."

During the Big Bang event pupils from Priestley's TCAT partner schools Beamont Collegiate Academy, Padgate Academy, Penketh High School and Bridgewater High School enjoyed numerous hands-on STEM activities ranging from explosive chemistry to flying drones.

There were workshops in physics, chemistry and electronics as well as the chance to make water wheels, control LEGO Mindstorms robots for a Mars mission and create mini ecosystems.

In recent weeks Priestley's own students have heard from speakers from the Science and Technology Facilities Council, National Nuclear Laboratories and Colas. They also had the chance to programme Sphero drones in an HE apprenticeship challenge.

Priestley student Kaitlyn Jones said: "It has been great to hear about the experiences of people working in industry because it gives a real idea of how what we are learning in college will be used once we go into work."



### **PRIESTLEY'S FOOTBALLERS REACH NATIONAL FINALS**

PRIESTLEY'S footballers have reached the final of the AoC Cup – a national competition open to every college in the UK.

Their 2-1 victory of Hampshire-based Peter Symonds College saw them through to the final on 1st May, which will be played at League One side Walsall FC's ground.

"It was a great team performance and the lads showed a lot of character recovering from one nil down," said coach Josh Greaves.

"We showed that we can play beautiful football at times, but also find a way to win ugly if we need to."

Priestley went 1-0 down in Wednesday's match before an own goal off a dangerous cross by Jamie Benson let them back in.

In the 72nd minute Priestley went ahead courtesy of a goal by Jamie Smith off a Benson assist.

"We worked as a team and wanted it more than them," said captain Jamie Smith, a former pupil at King's School Academy. "We were thinking of everyone who was on the sidelines watching and that it was our chance to prove ourselves."

Football academy manager Dan Jordan and coach Josh Greaves have focussed a lot of this season's training on keeping possession from the back, playing through the thirds and

transitioning quickly between attack and defence.

It's an approach that has paid off as Priestley are competing for the first and second division in the North West College's league and are in the John Sleigh Cup Final on 4th April.

"The AoC Cup is the biggest competition we can compete in as a college so to reach the final is a massive achievement," said Josh.

"It could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some of the lads to play in such a big stadium and one we know they are going to take full advantage of next month."





## WARRINGTON SHOWCASE FOR PRIESTLEY ALUMNAE

A YOUNG artist is to stage her first exhibition in a museum she used to visit as a child.

The work of Alice Cornelia will be displayed at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery from 13th April to 22nd June.

"It's an exciting prospect for me as an emerging artist," said Alice, who studied BTEC Art and Design and Art Foundation at Priestley College.

"It feels great to be making new work and to be able to install it in a Warrington museum. I remember primary school and college trips to the museum so to be exhibiting my own work there feels rather strange."



Roger Jeffery, exhibitions and interpretation officer at Culture Warrington, said he was delighted to be welcoming Alice back to present her own exhibition.

"Helping emerging artists forge successful careers in the arts is a huge part of our work here at Culture Warrington, so it's always a great pleasure to see young, local talent displaying their work at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery," he said.

"We're very excited to open Alice's exhibition in April and are confident that visitors are in for a real treat."

Alice's exhibition – Alice Cornelia: Back Now – will feature a projection of a short film shot on the East coast of Scotland alongside a selection of photographic prints.

The installation will question boundaries between documentary and fiction, with a playful relationship between representation and abstraction, moving image and the still image.

"I was inspired by our social relationship with images and moving image under the genre of documentary, particularly our tendency to save images which has become part of the human condition," said Alice.

After studying at Priestley College, Alice went on to Glasgow School of Art and left with a 2:1 in Fine Art, Painting & Printmaking (BA Hons).

Her first solo exhibition has been supported by Priestley College, which has provided her with a projector.

Alice also praised Warrington Museum & Art Gallery for supporting her showcase and its ambition to display other local artists.

"I entered the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival open exhibition and was offered this opportunity off the back of that," she said.

"Warrington town centre is experiencing a period of regeneration and that provides a point to reconsider the role of art and artists in contributing to such growth.

"A local art scene can sometimes become lost in regional towns between big cities, but the museum is keen to tackle this and I'm grateful to be a part of it."

## ROWING SUCCESSES

Students at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School were joined by Mark Davies, the Chairman of British Rowing on Friday 29th March. Mark has a strong rowing pedigree and has been involved in the sport since learning to row at Christ's College, Cambridge. He coxed in two reserve Boat Races, represented England at the Home International Regatta and was a finalist at Henley Royal Regatta. Mark served on the executive committee of Cambridge University Boat Club and founded Crabtree Boat Club in 1995.

The Boteler students who participate in the Oarsome Project met with Mark and had the opportunity to ask him questions. They told him of how this project has inspired and motivated them. Head of Year 7 Kerry Hayes, who assist in coaching the students, says "The project has been massive for our students and has exposed them to opportunities that they never thought possible."

We are also celebrating some wonderful news for our Year 10 student, Iffy Marinos, who rows with Warrington Youth Row. Mark informed Iffy that she had received a scholarship at Eton College for a week in the summer holidays! This will be to train there in the gym and on Dornay Lake, where the college team train and where the Olympic rowing events take place. There were only 6 scholarship spaces available for students in the country. Iffy says: "It wasn't something I was expecting. I am still in a bit of shock." Boteler Headteacher Mrs Scott-Herron says: "It is a real privilege to be Iffy's Headteacher and to be a part of her rowing journey. She is exceptionally talented and an inspiration to our younger rowers and her peers. She will definitely be in the Boteler history books and we look forward to seeing her progress within rowing, as her future looks so bright. I really admire Iffy, her spirit and her determination as she never gives up. I am really proud of her and it certainly brought a tear to my eye seeing her reaction."



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



## TCAT TAKES OVER MCFC! A report by Year 8 Boteler student Alice Jennings.

We arrived at Manchester City's stadium, The Etihad and had a tour round the main stadium. It was really interesting and we got to go in the changing rooms. We had pictures with the men's playing shirts that they would wear for a match. We had the opportunity to go pitch side and sit on the managers and substitute seats. It was amazing to feel and hear what the atmosphere would be like as a player and get a different perspective of the pitch. We also learnt about the different jobs and careers that we could do in sport other than being a professional player. These included being in the media, data analyst, physiotherapists, partnerships as well as finance.

Next we went to see the ladies first team train and were given a special Manchester City Football to keep and a pen for them to sign the ball. To meet the players, including 6 internationals was

amazing. My rolemodel Steph Houghton shook my hand and signed my football! We watched them train and had photos with the whole squad. To end the tour we were given a bag with a Manchester City water bottle, badge and a pop socket for our phone. It was a really interesting tour and great opportunity. I'm glad I was invited. This has inspired me to keep up the good work in football and push myself at school to reach my dreams. *Alice Jennings (Year 8)*

## HELLO HANDBALL REGIONAL FINALS!

U13's march into the Handball Regional Finals! Congratulations to our Year 8 Handball team who qualified for the North West Regional Finals and are one step away from the National Finals.

## AIMING HIGH

Thirteen GCSE PE students took to North West Face Indoor Climbing wall on Winwick Road as part of their preparation for their final GCSE assessment. The first in a four part series saw our students learn how to belay, route read, tie in and show off their skills on a variety of wall faces. It was great to see our students rise to the challenge with smiles on their faces! Thank you to Mrs Hughes and the PE team for supporting our students. Well done team!



## TWISTA CONNECT AT THE FIRE STATION

For the next part of the Twista Connect programme, which is a mentoring programme run by Cheshire Police, students visited the fire station. They were able to ask questions, learn about the opportunities in the fire service and take part in some activities! Many thanks to Warrington Fire Station staff for giving us their time and helping to inspire our young people.



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



## GOLD ARTSMARK STATUES FOR BOTELER

Students and staff at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School are celebrating after the school was awarded the Gold Artsmark status.

In order to achieve Artsmark Gold status, Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School has demonstrated its commitment to incorporating art and culture into every student's life and learning, as well as showing ambitious plans for the future. The school will now continue this journey with the support of Curious Minds – the Arts Council England appointed regional agency for creative and cultural education for the North West. As part of its Statement of Commitment, Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School highlighted the strengths of its Music, Art, Drama and Dance provision. The school is known nationally for the work it does with World Music and the successes of its Samba Band (Samboteler), African Drummers (Djoliba) and Steel Pan groups.

Commenting on receiving Artsmark status, Headteacher Mrs Scott-Herron said: "We are so proud to have achieved this status. The Arts are so important. They transform young people's lives and must never be forgotten both within and outside the curriculum. I am delighted that all our students benefit from all the wonderful provision we have in place and their successes and talents must be celebrated. The Arts is accessible to all and it is wonderful to see our young people have that sense of achievement and pride in what they are doing."

## ARMY RESIDENTIAL

A massive well done to the girls who took part in the 5 day Army residential experience before half term. They were AMAZING!

They pushed out of their comfort zones and well and truly had a taste of life in the army. They climbed higher and ran further than they have before, they have jumped over, across and crawled through stuff, carried stretchers and worked hard. They wore cam-cream for camouflage, proper army ponchos, big army boots – they tried army rations, the assault course, army canteen food (actually very good) – they jumped over a wall – or tried very hard to!

Most of all they gave it a go, they made friends, they were polite, they were a credit to us and it was my pleasure to take them.

– Mrs Savage



## THE GREAT BOTELER BAKE OFF

Last week, staff at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School went head to head in a battle of the bakes – all to raise funds for Comic Relief. View the video here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfmzrk6> or by searching for 'Boteler Bake Off' on YouTube.

