



TCAT TIMES

THE TERMLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

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NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE



DEBATING WORKSHOP FOR OUR TCAT PARLIAMENT

During June, our TCAT Parliament group were visited by Rachel Dodgson, a Senior Education and Engagement Officer from Parliament. Rachel led a debating workshop. The workshop focussed on plastic useage, and students debated wheher there should be an extra charge for single use plastic. This was a valuable experience for our young people and they showed impressive debating skills.





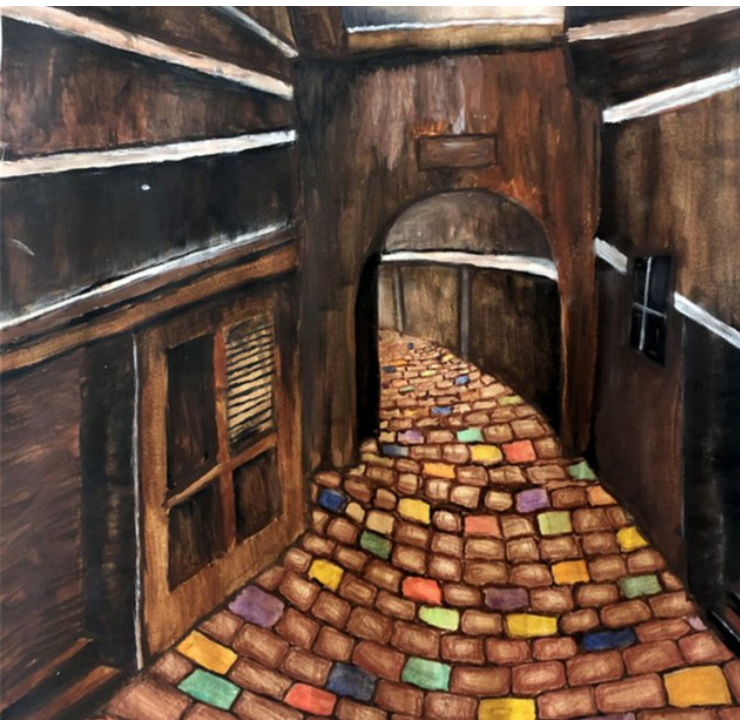
DOT ART COMPETITION WINNER!

We are delighted to share the amazing news that Megan Thomason was recently announced as the overall secondary winner for the DOT ART COMPETITION competing against North West schools. What a talent! We are so very proud of her.

Not only was her work on display at The Story House Chester, Megan also won some amazing prizes including:

- A scholarship to Liverpool John Moores University, should Megan choose to study at the Arts Faculty.
- Membership to dot-art, giving them a year's membership to dot-art's network, allowing them to showcase and sell their work alongside professional artists.
- Tickets to see the latest exhibition at Tate Liverpool.
- £50 worth of vouchers to spend at Rennies Art Supplies.
- Personalised Tangle Teezer hairbrush featuring their winning art work.
- As well as some amazing prizes of the school including vouchers to spend at Cass Art and a Creative Careers talk from Professor Caroline Wilkinson Director of the School of Art & Design at LJMU

We cannot wait to see what the future holds for this talented artist.



GOLDS FOR GRACE

Grace Barnett, Year 8 has just won two categories at the WUKF World Karate Championships in Bratislava, Slovakia – one of four members of the Evans House-based club, Cheshire Martial Arts Centre to win gold medals. Grace who is now a double work champion, won the female Mini Cadets Shito-Ryu Kata and Shobu Sandon Kumite (fighting) categories in her age group.





Beamont Collegiate
Academy

BEAMONT COLLEGIATE ACADEMY NEWS

GRACE BARNETT AT THE
WUKF WORLD KARATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA



A WORLD TITLE FOR JOEL - AGAIN!

Joel Eccleston, Year 8 also competed in the WUKF World Championship in Bratislava for the Sankey based SSK England Squad in the male Shito-Ryu Kata and Shobu Sanbon Kumite (fighting). Not only did Joel retain his World Title for a second year running to add to his Gold European titles, he won multiple fights against some very tough fighters to achieve a Bronze medal.

We are immensely proud of our sporting heroes.
At BCA our students really do great things.



JOEL PERFORMING HIS GOLD MEDAL KATA



RIVERS OF THE WORLD PROJECT

BCA has been successful in securing a chance to take part in the international Rivers of The world Project. Rivers of the World is an international art and education project delivered in partnership with the British Council that connects pupils around the globe to their local river through environmental, economic and cultural learning and themes.



Students have already met with visitors from the British Council from Ethiopia (our partner Country) and the Artists involved in the project in the UK. Our Partner school is Africa Andinet Primary School, Addis Ababa and our theme will be River Culture.

The two-year programme involves the pupils in the first year learning about their local river and in the second about a river in another country. Rivers of the World encourages young people to explore and reflect on local and global issues and perspectives to build the skills they need for life and work in a global society.

Working with our artist, Kirsty Rea who has been trained by lead artist Shona Watt, pupils learn and gather ideas that are channelled creatively into drawings, paintings, photographs and other visual media which result in the creation of a collective large-scale work of art. The artworks are then curated and exhibited in galleries, along the River Thames walkway, schools across the UK and around the world in partner countries.

Further information on the project can be accessed here: <https://thamesfestivaltrust.org/our-work/education-programme/rivers-of-the-world>



BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

In a break from our normal lunch-time activities, Mrs Hughes and Mr Morrison kindly came to the library to talk about the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy, in commemoration of its 75th anniversary. Mr Morrison has extensive knowledge of the Normandy and D-Day beaches, as a regular visitor to the area, and bought in some war mementoes and maps relating to Operation 'Overlord'.

Mrs Hughes bought a personal touch to the proceedings by telling us about her father and his role in the War. Many thanks to both Mrs Hughes and Mr Morrison for taking time out to help us commemorate this important historical event.



CHESHIRE BOOK QUIZ

On 18th June, a Bridgewater Year 8 Boys' group took part in the Final of the Cheshire Book Quiz at The King's School, in Chester. They were accompanied by all of the teams from Y7 and Y8 who had taken part this year. Paul Dowswell, author of 'Eleven Eleven', one of the books the groups had read, was in attendance and happily signed books. He also gave a short presentation entitled '10 Facts You Might Not Know About WW1' and talked about how the haunting images of War had inspired his writing.



After reading six books in six months (no mean feat in itself!) and competing against 23 other schools in the Cheshire area, the boys came fourth and were invited to the Final contest. They were up against Helsby High, Weaverham High and The Queen's School, Chester. The team took part in 18 nail-biting buzzer rounds of general knowledge about books, with literary topics as diverse as: Flora and Fauna, Kitchen Sink Drama, Who's Who, A Note on the Refrigerator, Children's Classics, That's My Boy, Fruit and Twisted Fairy Tales. Well done for making through to the finals. We're already looking forward to next year's event!

WARRINGTON WOLVES PITCH PERFORMANCE

On Saturday 18th May, Dancers in years 9 and 10, had the opportunity to perform at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, alongside 300 performers. In a large scale community project, school, community groups and dance schools were invited by Culture Warrington to perform at half time during the Warrington- Hull game. Performers ranged from the age of 5 to 60+ and all performed the same dance.

Initially, the dance concept was sent to use over video and the students committed to rehearsals after school over a few weeks to prepare for the performance. The year 9s and 10s demonstrated 100% commitment throughout. They performed with high energy and professionalism on the day to thousands of supporters. They made the dance department proud, and were a pleasure to work with.





DANCE OSCARS - 26TH JUNE 2019 AT THE BRINDLEY THEATRE, RUNCORN

In our biennial show at the Brindley Theatre on the 26th June, we took 120 performers to perform a variety show that included Dance, Drama and Musical theatre. The performances ranged from extra-curricular dance clubs, students' own choreographies, BTEC Dance exam work, extra-curricular drama work and BTEC Musical theatre exam work. We also invited the local 'AT School of Dance' to take part as two thirds of the dance department work there as well, with many Bridgewater students dancing there in their own time.

We had the pleasure of rehearsing for the day at the theatre, where students acted with complete professionalism throughout. The day was jam-packed with technical and dress rehearsals. Students had the opportunity to watch others perform as well as gaining the experience of being in a theatre and staging a show for a day.

The show went without a hitch with all students managing themselves perfectly. From the many jokes from our BTEC Musical Theatre presenters to the talented dancers on stage, the event really did show how talented our students at Bridgewater are. The whole of the EPA faculty was very proud of what was achieved. The only thing to worry about now is how to top it in the next one!

A huge well done to all of the performers. You really did Bridgewater proud! - *Miss Hughes, Head of Dance*

THE CUBE

On Wednesday 26th June 2019, students from Religious Studies classes in years 7 to 9 spent the day inside 'The Cube', a multi-media experience in the shape of a 12 metre squared cube with light, sound, moving images and live presenters, all guaranteed to make them our young people ponder some big questions about life. 'The Cube' was set up in the sports hall and was organised for us through Warrington Youth for Christ who work closely with our RS department. As students entered the hall, they saw a 4 screened object which was designed to aid the teaching of Religious Studies in a unique environment. Students themselves participated in an interactive learning experience through video, sounds, lights, discussion and engagement.

In each session, students learned about Faith and Injustice, two key themes of the Year 9 Programme of Study which explores Human Rights and The Problem of Evil. It also built on students' prior knowledge of Christianity and explored questions such as 'What is injustice?', 'How does God feel about injustice?' and 'How can we tackle injustice?'

Students give the following feedback on their experience from inside 'The Cube':

'I enjoyed The Cube experience as it was interactive and made us think.' Year 7 student

'I liked the lesson about Injustice because it's something that we need to know about.' Year 8 student

'It was interesting to find out what other people thought about injustice.' Year 8 student

'The Cube was an amazing experience which I thoroughly enjoyed. My favourite part was 'Would your rather game?' as well as the videos.' Year 8 student

'I thought 'The Cube' was good because it was interactive and interesting. It got us thinking about injustice'. Year 9 student

'The Cube was interesting and it made me think. Overall and it was fun.' Year 9 student

'The Cube' stayed up after school and all students in school had the opportunity to come into it during 'Fresh' our weekly Wednesday Christian Union club led by Warrington Youth for Christ. The students had the opportunity to play some thought-provoking games as well as a Q&A time with the Youth for Christ Cube team.





BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

ROWING SUCCESSES

The Warrington Youth Rowing programme was launched last year with the aim of giving some of our students the chance to thrive in an area outside of their comfort area and also develop Rowing participation in Warrington. This year the programme has grown substantially and has shown over 200 students throughout Warrington develop their skill and desire for Rowing.



The Rowing season unfortunately had to come to end towards the back end of this term with boys and girls teams progressing with technique and the speed in which they were rowing.

They finished the year well with the Warrington Rowing Regatta. Both Crews rowed exceptionally well with the Girls being pipped slightly at the finish line. The boys went on to be overall winners of the year 8 competition. A highlight of the year for the rowing team was Kyle being awarded the Male Outstanding Rower throughout the whole year 8 boy's cohort from all schools taking part. His commitment and resilience earned him this award. Well done Kyle!

FOOTBALL SUCCESSES

The football season at Bridgewater finished on a high this year with four of the five teams featuring in Warrington Finals in the chance of being the best team at their age group in Warrington. The finals night proved to be fantastic, with great success throughout the year groups. There was some excellent football played and two of the five games being taken to penalties to decide the outcome. Year 7 managed to come out on top but unfortunately the year 9 team was unable to complete the clean streak of wins from Bridgewater High School.



Results

Year 7 Warrington School Champions
Year 9 Warrington Schools Runners up

Year 8 Won - Warrington School Champions
Year 10 Warrington Schools Champions

OXNET

On Wednesday 1 May, fifteen Year 8 Bridgewater pupils were fortunate to visit the Warrington Wolves Stadium, together with Year 8 pupils, from each of the TCAT high schools, and others from Years 5 and 12. Warrington Wolves hosted the first of the STEM Delivery Days, which will now be a regular event on our school calendar. TCAT has been invited into a partnership with Oxnet, part of Oxford University, with an aim of promoting academic aspirations for our pupils. The challenge for the first year, with the assistance of Researchers from Oxford University, is to explore one of the Explore Big Questions – Can you choose to be healthy? Pupils spent the Delivery Day in groups, participating in a variety of activities and looking at issues surrounding Epidemiology, Nutrition, Exercise and Nanotechnology. Pupils enjoyed the competitive element to the day and were able to talk with the Oxford University Researchers, who supported each of the activities. Plans are well underway for the next event during July, followed closely by another in the Autumn Term. Take a look at Oxnet's website, their home for Big Questions: <https://oxnet.org/>

Jacque Watson, Science Faculty



HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

The end of June saw GSP become immersed in our 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' themed fortnight. During this time, we took part in a range of physical activities to demonstrate how important it is to be physically active every day and that being active can be done in many different ways.

We kick-started the topic with our KS1 and KS2 Sports Day and then our EYFS Sports Day. These days were filled with competitive, inclusive activities and races where everyone could join in. Lots of fun was had on these days and the children, parents and staff created a really positive atmosphere full of encouragement and celebration of the children's efforts and achievements.

We also had our 'Fantastic Four Sports Festival' provided by Progressive Sport for the whole school. During these days, we had an exciting assembly to start off with that tested our knowledge about different sport events. The days were themed around sport events that are going on this year, e.g. Cricket World Cup and Women's Football World Cup. All children took part in 4 different sports competitively and received a certificate for taking part.

We have also been learning some new skills in KS1 and LKS2 with the help of the Warrington Wolves. Their coaches have come in to teach us how to play tag rugby safely, including scoring a try, playing the ball and avoiding forward passes!

All children have had a rare experience to try out wheelchair sports, led by England Wheelchair 7s manager, Martin Beddis. The children learnt how to move, change direction and bash into each other! They even got to play a game of wheelchair basketball and some also tried rugby. What an amazing experience!



UKS2 had a wonderful experience when they competed in 'Road to Tokyo', along with 750 other children! The festival allowed the children to compete in athletics, tennis and orienteering, as well as allowing children who had never been to a competition the chance to compete in multi-sport events. We performed brilliantly in the athletics, won the first heat in orienteering and got silver in the tennis!



GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND continued...

As well as all the sporting activities, we really wanted to improve our choice of snack / tuck at playtime, so we set each class the challenge of researching and making healthy snack options. The children came up with some fantastic ideas and presented them to the rest of the school. Ideas included fruit kebabs, jellied fruit, banana oat cookies and fruity popcorn. As well as this we all had a visit from the 'Mini Makery' where children got to make great animal art out of fruit and veg.

We ended our fortnight with the annual Race for Life. Every child in our school runs to raise money for Cancer Research UK, this is always well-supported by our parents and families who cheer from the side-lines. It was such a fitting finale to a wonderful two weeks.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

We are proud to be part of The Children's University at GSP, and many of our children embrace the many enrichment opportunities we offer outside of school hours. Attending these after-school clubs, and their own chosen clubs meant that we had a lot of our pupils gain their bronze award which culminated in them graduating from St Elphin's Church. It was a fantastic evening of celebration.



GLOBAL LEARNING DAY

This term we celebrated Global Learning Day across our school where we focused on the theme of refugees. This learning was all led through age-appropriate and thought-provoking books. The children were captivated in learning all about issues that can affect children in different countries. Some classes created beautiful poems linked to the story 'Malala's Magic Pencil' after hearing about the tragic events in her life when she stood up to fight for what she believed in. Others linked stunning art work to 'Wisp - a Story of Hope' which demonstrated the darkness and sadness associated with a refugee camp but then went on to demonstrate how hope could grow from it. The children were really engaged throughout the day and produced some moving pieces of work. We are confident that they now have a much better understanding about refugees and can empathise with their plight. They really impressed us with their maturity and empathy.



BORN TO MOVE

In May we launched our brand-new exercise to music class, 'Born to Move'. All children had a taster session so they could see how the programme worked and how it could be used in the classroom to complement their weekly PE sessions. We then launched it to our families as it is a programme that you can also do at home, so we invited adults to come and join their children and work out together. We had over 100 children and grown-ups participating! It was a fantastic atmosphere and so wonderful to see everyone being active together. The idea is to keep our children active at home, as well as at school.



GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS

The month of May saw election fever enter GSP as the battle for House and Vice Captains 2019-20 began for our Year 5 pupils. Those that wished to be considered for the role had to write a speech encouraging their peers to vote for them and deliver it to the whole school in assembly. Democratic voting then took place with children across the school placing the cross against their favourite candidate's name. Once votes were counted, the successful House and Vice Captains for our four houses were then announced in assembly. We were so proud of all who took place; they demonstrated courage, confidence and great ability to carry out the prestigious position. Congratulations to our worthy winners, we know you'll be great role models next academic year.



PADGATE ACADEMY



JUNIOR MASTERCHEF 2019

Year 9 students were finalists at this year's Warrington Vale College Junior Masterchef. They worked as a team to submit a two-course menu for two people and then had the opportunity to cook in a professional kitchen, preparing and cooking their menu under timed conditions.



YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2019

GCSE Art students were entered into this year's Warrington Vale College young artist of the year competition. 3 Padgate students got through to the finals Kate Berry, Rachel Hoolihan and Olivia Davies. The overall winner was Olivia Davies. Her artwork will be on display at the annual Padgate art exhibition 14th September 2019.





ARTIST WORKSHOP WITH EMILY BARTLETT

GCSE Art students had the opportunity to work with Emily Bartlett a professional local artist who shared her techniques with students during a one day visit at the Academy. Students were able to explore a wide range of media and showcased outcomes that focused on the theme of 'abstract art'



TCAT MFL OXNET EVENT

Would it be better if we all spoke the same language?

Students from Padgate Academy recently had the opportunity to learn about the importance of languages and their development by attending a TCAT event, in conjunction with other schools from the local area. Students learnt about the origin of the modern English language and its links with other languages throughout history, whilst learning foreign language words and creating new ones based on Latin.

I. Zarain, Teacher of MFL, said "All students had an impeccable behaviour. They were very engaged and interacted with students from other TCAT schools."

Luske Lasko-Abram, 8MVC, said "It was very good and educational because we learnt new words in Latin".

ACCENT MUSIC EDUCATION HUB'S YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2018/19

One of our students has progressed to the final of the Accent Music Education Hub's Young Musician of the Year competition 2018/19.

Sasha Nicol has impressed the panel of judges with her preparation, quality of performance, musical skill and technique.

The Final of the Young Musician of the Year takes place on Thursday 23rd May 2019. This is a fantastic achievement for Sasha and their success is celebrated. Congratulations and good luck for the final!

Miss Ward, Head of Sports and Performance, said "I'm so proud of Sasha getting through to the final – it shows that hard work does pay off. She was really nervous about doing it but keep practicing her pieces and asking her teachers for advice. I'm so thrilled to be able to see her perform at the final – fingers crossed!"

Sasha Nicol, year 11 student, said "I can't believe I got through the first round to get to the final! I was up against some incredible performers so I'm really happy and excited to be in the final".



YOUTH MUSIC CALLS FOR A FOCUS ON 'STORMZY RATHER THAN MOZART'

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".

A national charity has called for school music lessons to be overhauled to include grime, electronic music and hip-hop after research found that more inclusive music-making improves attendance among pupils at risk of exclusion.

A four-year study by Youth Music concluded that too many schools fail to include current musical genres and recommended that lessons should focus on "Stormzy rather than Mozart" in order to engage hard-to-reach young people.

The charity, working in collaboration with Birmingham City University, set up partnerships between contemporary community music organisations and secondary schools in England to examine the impact of introducing a modern music curriculum.

Almost 1,000 pupils aged 11-15 were exposed to the new lessons. Researchers found that young people who were at risk of exclusion at the outset of the programme maintained high levels of attendance – more than 95% – throughout the programme.

Some who had already been excluded said the programme helped them to return to mainstream school. Researchers also found there was a beneficial impact on other subjects, with participants performing better than expected in maths and English.

The research comes at a time when music education in schools has been described as being in a "perilous state" because of funding cuts and curriculum changes, which critics blame for squeezing music out of the school day.

Miss Ward, Head of Sports and Performance, said:

"We are thrilled to be part of this report, which we hope will directly impact the future of musical education and curriculum development in this country. It was an unbelievable project to be part of and our students had some many wonderful experiences, from performing their own music in recording studios to planning and delivering large scale concerts. It was very much so centred around the young people involved, what they wanted to learn about in music and what they wanted to experience.

It wasn't without its challenges and over the 4 year project our curriculum developed and changed as we continued working with our young people and external tutors from Unplugged. The final conference with Youth Music and Birmingham City University really did make for some challenging reading and it will be interesting to see how Schools Minister Nick Gibb reacts to our open letter from the project which urges everyone involved in developing the new music curriculum to ensure it is 'sustainable, innovative and diverse'."





ROWING

Penketh High School's Rowing Team took part at the Inter-Schools Rowing Competition at Warrington Youth Rowing Club on the 2nd of July. Our team, AKA the Penketh Paddlers, consisted of a group of nine Year 8 pupils, who have worked hard all year around learning this new sport through weekly training sessions. Throughout the year the pupils have been challenged to learn everything from understanding the specific techniques, improving fitness and new terminology. As a result of the opportunity they have had this year 3 of the team, scouted by Warrington Youth Rowing, are now members of the club and attend training sessions and race for WYR in events in their own time at the weekends.

The pupils have worked incredibly hard representing school throughout the year at WYR and have received high praise from the staff at WYR. On behalf of the pupils I would like to thank Richard Sinnott from WYR for helping provide this opportunity for the pupils with his hard work throughout the year.

Miss Fleming took the pupils to the event and said;

'On the day of the event, pupils where excited yet nervous. We waited over 2 hours to get on to the water. Having watched all schools compete our pupils knew what they had to do when it was their chance to race. We stayed positive and had the mind-set that we were going to win and if we didn't they done their best. Both Teams done fantastic, the open quad missed out from the finals by the nose of the boat, however they showed great team spirit and stayed for the duration of the event to cheer on the four girls who won their race and was into the finals against Culcheth.

The four girls remained calm and pulled off an amazing performance putting them in 1st place out of 8 schools. It was an honour to watch all pupils. They done Penketh High Proud.'

Finally, I would like to congratulate and thank all of the Rowing Team for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year and for representing the school and yourselves wonderfully.



BUSHCRAFT

A group of 48 Year 7 students took on Bushcraft at the start of July. Students were away from technology and experienced a camping experience like no other! They learnt bush survival skills such as making fires, first aid and working together with their tribe. Students found their teachers abandoned in the woods and had to use their skills to rescue them. Some students took on the gruesome bush tucker trial, whilst other students displayed their amazing talents at 'Tribes Got Talent'. A brilliant few days with lots of memories that will last forever!



MAN>BCN ¡Vamos!

In June our MFL Department left behind the sunny sights of Penketh and flew 40 Year 9 and 10 pupils to Barcelona to allow our pupils to be fully immersed into the Spanish culture. Pupils spent four action packed days in the Catalan city getting accustomed to the Spanish way of life by practising their linguistic capabilities and sampling typical delicacies of the region – (much to the pupils' surprise 'los calamares' were not onion rings)! The pupils took in a variety of iconic tourist attractions during their stay such as La Sagrada Familia where pupils listened to an audio guide detailing the work of Gaudi and his unfinished masterpiece, both pupils and staff alike enjoyed learning about the history of the building and some were even inspired to use photos for their GCSE art projects next year. The second day saw the group visit El Camp Nou, home to Barcelona Football Club where pupils had a tour of the stadium and visited the impressive trophy room (the Everton fans amongst them couldn't believe their eyes). Pupils also visited Gaudi's Parc Güell, a mosaic paradise and after a mammoth walk to the top of the park they experienced 360 degree views over the whole of Barcelona, a memorable visit for our pupils. Whilst in Barcelona, the group meticulously navigated their way around the city via 'el metro', a cultural experience for all our pupils, living like a local and exchanging small conversations with the people that live there. As the sunset for our last evening in Barcelona we walked up to Montjuic area of the city to witness the extraordinary magic show of 'El Font Màgica', pupils watched in awe as rows of cascading waterfalls were set off in time to popular songs, a brilliant end to what was a fantastic trip!

YEAR 10 WARRINGTON CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our Year 10 Boys who were crowned Warrington School's Champions this year. In a tense game against Culcheth in the final, the Penketh team secured victory in extra time, beating the home side 2-1.



OxNet@TCAT

On 1st May Penketh High School, as part of TCAT, began a long term project with Oxford University. The purpose of this project is for Year 8 learners to work with researchers from Oxford University around the STEM subjects and showcase the abilities and understanding that our learners have. Activities on the day included critical thinking, analysis of exercise data, and programming Sphero robots to tackle a maze.

All Penketh learners performed incredibly well and it was a team from Penketh that received the most points for the tasks that day. The OxNet@TCAT project will be continuing over the next 6 months with the second session happening at Beaumont College Academy on Monday 15th July.





PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 11 PROM

This year Friday 28th June saw one of the most hotly anticipated events on the school calendar: the Year 11 Prom. The event was held at Hallmark Hotel, Warrington and, as the sun shone down on a glorious evening, over 170 pupils and staff gathered for an evening of fun and dancing to celebrate the departure of our Year 11s. As well as a two course dinner and disco, sweet treats were provided by The Enchanted Candy Cart while many attendees had a ball using the selfie mirror. Needless to say that, as well as looking absolutely stunning in their prom finery, Year 11 once again showed they were a credit to the school with the hotel and photographer commenting on their impeccable behaviour and polite manners. The only thing left to say to Year 11 now is "Good Luck for your exam results in August. You have been an amazing Year Group and deserve every success for the future!"



PENKETH SOUTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



REFUGEE WEEK

Penketh South marked Refugee Week in a number of ways. All of our children showed empathy and understanding during the week in the work that they completed. We are so proud of them all. Our families also donated lots of items to be donated to refugees both locally and abroad. Sue Cowlshaw from CareUK charity launched the week and attended the showcase on Friday which was well-attended by family members. Cllr Craig Lenihan also encouraged local donations and brought these into school.

KIN-BALL

Some Year 5 pupils at Penketh South have recently been getting enthusiastic about the new sport of kin-ball. Kin-ball is a team sport played with an enormous inflatable ball. The Penketh South pupils were first introduced this at a kin-ball festival held at Priestley College in May. They followed this by competing at the 'Road to Tokyo' multi-sports event at Orford Park. Penketh South were the winners of the kin-ball tournament at this event and the team came away with Gold medals around their necks. A fantastic achievement by the pupils, none of whom had represented the school previously in any other sport.



OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY VISITORS

Y6 and Y5 had visitors from Oxford University and Cambridge University. They shared with us lots of information about what life is like at a university and what courses we could do such as medicine, geography, engineering and history. The children asked lots of questions and really enjoyed listening to the visitors. A lot of the children indicated after the talk, that they would like to attend University when they are older.



SATS CELEBRATION

Following their SATs, Year 6 children had an amazing time on their residential to JMA At Condover Hall. They enjoyed 3 days packed with activities including: Jacob's Ladder, fencing, archery, laser maze, buggy building, orienteering, mini olympics and climbing.

The children showed great team work, resilience and made special memories with their classmates.



A VISIT FROM PAUL STURGESS

On 20th May, a mystery visitor came to Penketh South. When he walked into the school hall, the children and staff were amazed! Paul Sturgess is the tallest basketball player in the World, standing at a huge 7ft 7in! He talked to the children about embracing your differences and following your dreams as well as teaching every class some amazing tricks. He has not only played with the Harlem Globetrotters and other famous basketball teams but has recently started an acting career. Look out for him in Harry Potter and on Michael McIntyre's show in the Autumn. He also told us that he is in a new Disney film but was sworn to secrecy about the title of the film!



UNIVERSITIES SET SIGHTS ON PRIESTLEY STUDENTS

UNIVERSITIES have lowered their grade requirements for students who have successfully completed the Extended Project at Priestley College.

Grace Duffy, who achieved an A* with her dissertation on the bleaching of the coral reefs, had her original offer from Birmingham reduced from an A to a B in each A-Level on the strength of her project.

"It is great news for me because Birmingham was my first choice to study a Masters in Geology with a year abroad," said the former Penketh High pupil.

"I wanted to do my best in the EPQ anyway, but it definitely gave me more motivation knowing it could influence my offer."

The Extended Project allows students to choose their own topics and titles, which have been as varied as 'Are humans really made of stardust?' to 'What makes the perfect pop song?' Most students complete a dissertation of at least 6,000 words. Students can opt to complete an investigation, experiment, field study, performance or an artefact plus 2,000 words instead.

Many universities reduce offers for successful EPQ candidates because it demonstrates a number of key skills including the ability to learn independently. Almost half of the students who take the course alongside their other A-Levels and BTECs at Priestley secure A* or A, two thirds achieve a grade B or above.

Former Sir Thomas Boteler student Daniel James also completed his EPQ early and received a reduced university offer. At Priestley he is studying Classical Civilisation, History, English Language and Literature and has now accepted an offer to study Ancient History at the University of Manchester. However, it was the University of Liverpool that lowered its grade requirements after he achieved an A in his EPQ. Daniel wrote about how Julius Caesar became so powerful that he could claim to be a dictator for life.

"EPQ has helped me to develop numerous skills like the ability to collate and critically analyse a selection of useful sources and giving an effective and efficient presentation," he said.

"Delivering my presentation also greatly increased my confidence when presenting to, or speaking in front of, a group."

For aspiring chemical engineer Ben Hilton, the Extended Project was a chance to write about a vast area of research in his chosen field. He investigated whether hydrogen fuel cells are the best option to power transport. The A* grade he achieved meant that a one of his grade requirements for studying Chemical Engineering at university was reduced from an A to B. "I thought an EPQ would be helpful, as it would give me an academic topic to talk about at length in an interview," said the former St Gregory's Catholic High School pupil.



OXFORD UNDERGRADUATE'S INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE TO WARRINGTON STUDENTS

AN undergraduate is encouraging other young people from Warrington to aim high as he finishes his law degree at Oxford University.

Greg Horne, who studied A-Levels at Priestley College, is planning to become a barrister after his time at Christ Church is complete. In a video message recorded for prospective new Priestley students, the former Lymm High School pupil said he had not considered Oxford an option until he went to college.

"My advice to anyone going through A-Levels is to believe in yourself because people are capable of so much more than they realise," he said.

"Just having an enormous amount of heart and being willing to shoot for the stars with everything that you do would be my advice because the higher you aim the more you achieve."

Greg, who coxes one of Oxford's rowing teams, left high school with A*s, As and Bs, but never believed that would be enough to get him into Oxbridge. However, after he joined Priestley's Graduate programme and visited Oxford with others aiming to study at a Russell Group university he realised a place was within reach.

"I found out that the focus wasn't about my grades. At the interview you are asked deeper thinking questions just to figure out how your mind works and the sort of logic you have," said Greg.

"It was the way I responded that made the difference to them in terms of giving me an offer rather than the grades."

Greg's inspiring message is being shown to any prospective Priestley student to prove what they can achieve. Since going to Oxford he has also returned to Priestley to offer advice and guidance to the current cohort on how to secure university places.

Senior Tutor Mark Salmon said a lot of work was taking place between Priestley College and the UK's leading universities to ensure young people in Warrington saw them as obtainable. "There is still an issue with young people across the North West not believing that Oxbridge or Russell Group universities are for them, but Greg's story – and that of countless others – proves this is not the case," he said.

WONDER OF SCIENCE IS CELEBRATED AT PRIESTLEY

A WARRINGTON college has been putting science under the microscope in recent weeks with a series of inspiring events.

Priestley College – 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. 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.





WONDER OF SCIENCE IS CELEBRATED AT PRIESTLEY continued

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.

Student Kaitlyn Jones, formerly of St Gregory's RC High School, 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."

HARD WORK PAYS OFF AS BATES SECURES WOLVES CONTRACT

A YOUNG rugby player has earned a second chance to prove himself at Warrington Wolves after securing a contract for the U19s team.

Karlton Bates, from Fearnhead, previously trained with Wolves two years ago, but was released after struggling to live up to his potential. However, the second opportunity arose after Karlton captained the Priestley College Academy team, which is run in partnership with Warrington Wolves.

"I know there are people who would have given up if they'd had the setbacks I've had, but if you want something I believe you've got to go out and work for it," said Karlton, who is 17.

"I've got to stay grounded because I understand now that the hard work is just starting."

Karlton was late to rugby and joined Rylands when he was 15. However, he was quickly scouted by Wolves and asked to join the training with their xx squad.

"I thought I'd made it and took my foot off the gas," said Karlton. "I know for a fact my effort level could have been higher, but I wasn't ready. I learned a lot from that experience because I was heartbroken when I was released."

Despite the blow Karlton never gave up. He kept playing, working on his strength and fitness and watched as many rugby matches as possible, analysing team strategies. However, it was joining Priestley College's rugby team that led to his second chance. Wolves coaches Lee Mitchell and Lee Westwood work with students in the Cat 3 academy to develop all aspects of their game and Karlton benefitted from the added discipline he developed. It was during a match against Wigan's Cat 3 academy that Karlton impressed Wolves' Head of Youth Peter Riding who invited him in to discuss his future.

"When I was told I had a contract I was like a kid at Christmas because it is something I have been working so hard for."

Lee Mitchell said Karlton was a prime example of how Priestley's academy aimed to give players a second chance or the opportunity to be discovered for the first time. "Rugby is a late maturation sport and some players can be missed if they don't develop until late," he said.

"Thanks to the academy we are already seeing lads develop a greater love for the sport and more of them are going out to play in the local community."

For more details about the Priestley Rugby Academy contact leemitchell@wolvesfoundation.com



OFSTED PRAISE FOR PRIESTLEY COLLEGE

PRIESTLEY College has been praised by Ofsted for its high pass rates and how it prepares young people in Warrington for their next steps in life.

In a report about the college – which this year celebrates 40 years of excellence in the town – inspectors said pass rates at Priestley were consistently high and above the national average. It went on: “Students who are targeted to ‘aspire high’ nearly all got a place at prestigious universities including the University of Cambridge. A high proportion go to Russell Group universities.”

Principal Matthew Grant said: “It was a positive endorsement of the work we do as a college and the inclusive nature of Priestley. The inspection has demonstrated we meet the needs of young people in Warrington and the surrounding areas. We know there are things to improve, but are pleased that Ofsted acknowledged we had already identified these issues and are taking action to improve upon them.”

Ofsted spent three days at Priestley College meeting students, tutors, governors and parents as well as spending time in classrooms. They found that ‘teachers ensure students develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their qualifications and in their working life’.

“A high proportion of students, many of whom do not have a family history of higher education, go to university,” said the report. Students benefit from a nurturing and inclusive culture with effective pastoral support. The college was deemed good across the board with inspectors also finding areas of excellence during their visit. In particular the Art and Design, Performing Arts, Music and Sport departments were acknowledged for their very high standards.

Inspectors praised the behaviour of students who they said were ‘polite and highly respectful of their peers, staff and visitors’. “The report told us something that we already knew, that our students’ behaviour and the respect they show in college is excellent,” said Matthew. It was the first time Priestley had been assessed under the latest Ofsted framework and since it became an academy. Inspectors noted that ‘the proportion of students remain on their course is high in all subjects. ‘The number of students who progress to a second year of study is high, particularly on A Level courses.’

The findings demonstrated that a ‘very high proportion of students achieve their qualifications’ and also have the chance to be involved with ‘interesting and worthwhile additional activities that help them develop their personal, social and communication skills’.

“Our mission at Priestley is to inspire, challenge and support our students and this Ofsted report shows we are achieving that goal,” said Matthew. “I am very proud of all our staff, students, parents and governors who together make Priestley a wonderful community in which to work and learn.”



SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Our very own Miss Mullen was nominated for 'The 2019 Award for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year'. We are extremely proud of her and how she is inspiring our students to have a love and passion for Modern Foreign Languages. Miss Mullen will be teaching GCSE Spanish next year and it is the first time that Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School will have had the capacity to offer two languages at GCSE. Bien Hecho señorita Mullen.

THE BOTELER SPELLING BEE

Our Year 7 students took part in the Boteler Spelling Bee finals this term. All of our students did an amazing job. Our 'top speller' was Caitlin Bold from 7AM who won a £10 Amazon voucher!

Well done to our Year 7 students for participating and supporting one another so well. We are very proud of you. - Miss Farrar and Miss Brown.



UNDIAGNOSED CHILDREN'S DAY

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School student Jess Smith, aged 16 gave a powerful assembly last week, to raise awareness of Undiagnosed Children's Day, which was in aid of the charity SwanUK. 'Swan' stands for Syndromes Without A Name. Undiagnosed Children's Day is a day to raise awareness of children and young adults in the UK with varying conditions that have yet to receive a diagnosis. Approximately 6,000 children a year are born without a diagnosis in the UK. SwanUK is the only dedicated support network available for families of children and young adults with undiagnosed genetic conditions.

Jess says "In my family I have a younger brother, aged 10, who has an undiagnosed genetic condition. This condition means he cannot walk, talk or barely lift his head up, amongst many other complex needs. He spends a lot of time in and out of hospital, which means he has to go through a lot. This year's theme for Undiagnosed Children's Day was all about being brave like a lion, and my brother certainly is brave with all he has to go through. The charity SwanUK and its Undiagnosed Children's Day help both myself and my family, and I'm very grateful to everyone who raised money on the day to help keep it going."

The school's Graphic Designer Miss Roberts commented "We are extremely proud of Jess and the work she has done to raise awareness and funds. She is an inspiration to the other students – and to the staff." For more information about Swan UK, please visit their website: www.undiagnosed.org.uk

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Our school show took place this term– High School Musical. The students worked tirelessly and put on a great show! We are so proud of all involved. Both nights and the matinee were really good fun and full of energy from our super performers. A huge congratulations to all our cast, stage hands, technicians, front of house, musical directors and producers of this fantastic production. The comments from our primary students and their staff were really positive and family members were so proud of their children. Thank you to our PSB group for serving refreshments!



MISS HAYES – AN INSPIRATION!

We are celebrating our Head of Year 7 Miss Kerry Hayes, who ran the London Marathon on Sunday 28th April.

“Running the marathon has enabled me to channel my grief into something positive after losing my dad, and to do something good from a bad situation. Initially I was raising money for a local lady living with cancer who just wanted to walk her son through the school gates on his first day in September. Unfortunately due to circumstances around bloods and other things, the NHS couldn’t fund treatment. I knew only too well after going through a similar situation with my dad how frustrating this can be so really wanted to offer help in some way.”

Miss Hayes raised £300 for the lady, and just over £600 for Bowel Cancer UK. Staff were not only highly impressed that she ran the marathon, but that she was straight back in work the next day, not missing any time to support students. Assistant Headteacher Mr John Leonard commented: “We are extremely proud of Miss Hayes for her achievements and her amazing strength of character. This is just another example of her going above and beyond for others, something she does every day here in school. To balance her training with work and her commitments to her young family is admirable. We know the charities are close to her heart and I’m sure, knowing Miss Hayes, this won’t be the last piece of fundraising she will be doing. Congratulations Miss Hayes!”

Miss Hayes added: “The whole experience has been amazing, students in school have been really supportive and some of them have even told me they’ve been inspired which is lovely to hear.”



SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



A TALK FROM ADRIAN MORLEY

In an assembly this week our Year 10 students were lucky enough to be addressed by the former rugby league player Adrian Morley. He came to speak to our students about his career and how his hard work led to his success. Adrian played as a prop and second row forward in the 1990s, 2000s and 2010s. Adrian played for Great Britain and England international, he played for the Leeds Rhinos (with whom he won the 1999 Challenge Cup), Sydney Roosters, (winning the 2002 NRL Premiership), Bradford Bulls (winning the Super League X in 2005), Warrington Wolves (winning the 2009, 2010 and 2012 Challenge Cups) and the Salford Red Devils. With a reputation as a tough, uncompromising competitor, Morley was the first British player to win both the NRL and Super League.

During the talk Adrian was completely down to earth and modest about his career. He emphasised how hard work and commitment leads to achievement and meeting your goals. It was very inspirational to listen to.

Many thanks to Warrington Youth Club for arranging the visit. They are currently promoting the NCS programme which will be recruiting soon. NCS helps young people build their confidence and gain new skills while having fun and giving back to their community – the best possible springboard for their future. Whether they're about to start sixth form or college, or preparing to enter the working world, signing up to NCS is one of the best decisions a young person can make.



A BACKSTAGE TOUR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WEEKENDER SITE

Twenty of our Year 10 BTEC Music & Drama students had a back stage tour of the Neighbourhood Weekender festival site the day before the gates opened to the public. The students had a guided tour of all the areas, the main stage, surrounding stages, VIP area, Headliner backstage spaces etc – they even saw where George Ezra would wait and rest before he goes on to perform! This was very exciting. The students had a real insight into what putting on a music festival involves backstage. The visit links extremely well with the Music Industry Unit in BTEC Music as well as preparing for creating their own music products next year. They also heard how valuable volunteering is for building up experience and employability in the entertainment industry. This was a valuable experience for our students and we thank the festival team for accommodating us!

