



BIRKENHEAD  
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# BHSA Newsletter

Autumn Edition

2021

Edition 09

## Welcome

Welcome to our autumn term newsletter. I am sure you will enjoy reading about the students' successes and be suitably proud of all their achievements. Staff and students at BHSA never cease to amaze me with their fresh ideas, energy and creativity. We have also seen much community spirit and contribution to a wide range of charities this term, which is equally impressive. A real highlight for me since September has been the relaunch of our enrichment programme and also our cross-phase work, with girls in the Juniors benefitting from the older girls being able to offer support in and out of the classroom. We all need older positive role models in our lives!

Once again, we have all faced several challenges due to the ongoing pandemic, with many families hit by COVID-19 and all its repercussions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and governors for their amazing work and support, the girls for their determination and resilience and of course, our parents and carers for working in partnership with us to ensure the girls make the very best of their time at BHSA and the GDST.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

*Rebecca Mahony*



## Ellie Howard - Year 9

Ellie has signed to play for Manchester United's girls team and is pictured here on the Old Trafford pitch. The staff have been really impressed to hear how much time and commitment Ellie gives to her sport as well as doing well in school. We couldn't believe the hours of training, journeys to Manchester and away matches she has to do per week.



## Libby Moss - Year 8

Libby performed the lead role in Oliver at The Little Theatre in Birkenhead in October and had fantastic reviews!



## Trampolinists - Year 10 and 12

Congratulations to Lilly - Rose Dumbell (Y10), Zara Rutter (Y10), Jamie Thomas (Y12) and Rosie Wade (Y12) for competing at the Regional School Trampolining Competition in Macclesfield this month!





## Library Updates

We are delighted to have our fully-operative school library service back this academic year. Our Year 3 to Year 9 reading lessons are back in our resourceful and welcoming library, and Rita, our brilliant reading dog, is on hand to assist in the reading lessons. A lot of the girls are keen on reading out loud with Rita.



## "This is Me" Project

We are delighted that the "This is Me" project continued to be hosted at our school for our Year 8 girls who took part in the creative writing workshop previously. The girls joined a free screen printing workshop run by Jane Gordon, a professional artist based in Hoylake, with the commission generously offered by Curious Minds. Our girls enjoyed the workshop and creating their tote bags.



## Library Elf

During this festive season, the library elf has come and visited the girls from the North Pole. Junior pupils need to spot the library elf and guess what his 'recommended read' is in the library. Senior pupils will guess the name of the elf. All classes will have some lovely brand new library books to read for their upcoming winter break.





# Junior School

## Remembrance Day Art



KS2 had a great time creating a battalion of peg doll soldiers which came together to create a spectacular art installation in the Junior School Foyer for Remembrance Day.

Each year group focused on a different group of people, including the medics; foot guard regiment of the household division; Indian soldiers of WW1 and the variety of work women who assisted during the first and second world wars.



### STEM Lego Workshop

The KS2 girls enjoyed some lego-based engineering activities this term. Whilst improving their teamwork skills, they competed to build the tallest tower, the most stable bridge and a car to travel the length of the hall. They learnt the importance of repeated testing of their ideas and about the need to make a plan and divide up the required tasks. Lots of STEM skills and lego fun!



### Tortoise Visit

Two tortoises visited Year 6 just after half term to help them with their learning about Darwin and his theory of evolution. The girls spent time observing them and creating 'lift-the-flap' posters to inform younger children about tortoises. They went on to write explanation texts about tortoises in their English lessons. The two tortoises, named Mary and Joseph, inspired the beginning of our studies and proved very popular!

### Donations to Teams4U

We were delighted to donate 98 shoeboxes to Teams4U. These gifts of love will be sent to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe.



### Maths in Art Week

Y6 thoroughly enjoyed their GDST Maths in Art week. They found out all about M. C. Escher and his amazing 'impossible' pictures. During the week, the girls had the opportunity to explore and make tessellations, platonic solids and kaleidocycles. This special week ended on a high with a maths talk all about shape and an interschools quiz.



## Sixth Form

### Trip to the University and Apprenticeship Careers Fair

In BHSA Sixth Form, the 18th November was a day dedicated to our futures as we took a trip to Anfield Stadium in Liverpool to take part in the University and apprenticeships fair. Our year 12 students spent time chatting with providers about next steps and gathering information and guidance on their post 18 options.



### Sixth Form Open Evening

It may have been dark and cold outside but on 17th November there was an excited buzz and warm welcome during our Sixth Form open evening. We were delighted to welcome record numbers of students from BHSA and beyond who enjoyed subject talks, school tours and even a visit to the BHSA air raid shelters. We are so proud of what we offer at Key Stage 5 and so telling prospective students about Sixth form life was a real pleasure. If anyone has any questions or would like to know more please feel free to contact Mrs McCarthy or Miss Murphy or take a look at our Sixth Form Instagram on @BHSASixthForm

### Super Curricular in Sixth Form

The Sixth Form team have waged war on 'having nothing to do' and have launched a super curricular scheme. Super curricular activities are those that take your regular curriculum further. They take the subject you study in the classroom beyond that which your teacher has taught you or what you've done for homework. On this webpage and on our downloadable app, there are a range of activities, suggested by teachers for you to stretch yourself and explore your subjects. By just adding in an hour a week of super curricular activities, you could be enhancing your grades and opening more opportunities for your future simply by broadening your understanding of a particular subject area. QR codes have gone up around the Sixth Form block, students should scan their subject to enjoy a range of documentaries, podcasts, reading lists and competitions.







## Drama and Theatre over the Autumn Term



### National Connections - visit to London

During half term Mrs Pinnington and Mrs Sillitoe travelled to London for the National Connections Directors' weekend. National Connections is the National Theatre's annual, nationwide youth theatre festival. Each year the National Theatre commissions ten new plays for young people across the UK to perform.

This year our students will be performing 'Cable Street' by Lisa Goldman (pictured). Auditions are now completed and rehearsals are underway. This is an exciting opportunity for our students as they will get the opportunity to work with professionals in the creative industry and will perform at the Lowry Theatre in Manchester in April. One production of each play will then be transferred to the National Theatre festival in London.

### Year 12 Alice in Wonderland Performance Preparation

Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies students are currently creating a performance of "Alice in Wonderland" for Reception students in the Junior School. The Year 12 production team have been working hard creating engaging and colourful sets, costumes, marketing materials and makeup for the performance.



### Year 13 That Face Performance

This term Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students put on a short performance of "That Face" by Polly Stenham. She wrote her debut play at the age of 19. "That Face" is a gritty, realistic, dark comedy which is powerfully guided by the Oedipus myth, but also by the middle-class environment of boarding-school torture rituals, addiction clinics and business class travel. The play explores a dysfunctional family, every character needs saving in some way. The Year 12 production team did a fantastic job creating and designing costumes and sets for the performance.



### Year 9 'Daisy Pulls It Off'

During lunchtime, some Year 9 girls are preparing for an upcoming performance of 'Daisy Pulls It Off' by Denise Deegan. A parody of a 1920s boarding school adventure story, Daisy Meredith faces and overcomes snobbish prejudice and school-girl pranks at her boarding school.



### Year 12 Drama Ambassadors

Year 12 drama leaders and ambassadors have worked hard this term.

They have been supporting KS3 drama lessons, organising and sorting the drama costume resources and mentoring KS4 students with their performance work.



## Drama and Theatre over the Autumn Term

### Year 7—Key Features of Pantomime!

Mrs Maylor's Year 7 drama class are learning the key features of pantomime. They are applying their knowledge and skills of stock characters, exaggeration, audience participation, narration and slapstick comedy within performance. They are working towards creating their own modernized pantomime in the lead up to Christmas. As you can see they are having lots of fun exploring this specific genre!



### Year 8 children's Theatre

Year 8 students have been exploring children's theatre and have created children's theatre performances for Year 1 and 2 students in the Junior School. The students have worked so hard and should be so proud of their engaging, entertaining and creative performances.



### Drama Golden Theatre Ticket

In the new year, a selection of BHS drama students will receive a drama department golden theatre ticket. This entitles the students entry to the drama studio to watch a Digital Musical Theatre production; treats will be provided courtesy of the Drama Department. This is to reward and celebrate excellent drama performance and design work, creativity and effective collaboration.





# Computing and STEM

## Year 8—Amazon Web Services (AWS) GetIT competition

What is AWS GetIT? Spanning the school year, AWS GetIT invites teams from different schools to take part in an app-designing competition. Working through the process should help students think about how they can solve real issues that their school or community faces. Along the way, students will learn design skills, the principles behind designing an app, and the practicalities of building one. They will gain experience working in teams and gain self-confidence by presenting their ideas to wider audiences all while being exposed to technology as a potential career.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November Year 8 took part in a virtual assembly to launch the competition and were introduced to our Amazon ambassador; Stephanie de Albuquerque. Stephanie led the assembly from her London workplace and inspired our students to think about why a career in technology could be for them. Following the presentation all Year 8 students entered an inter-school app design competition. After the Christmas break selected students will be invited to attend a GetIT virtual bootcamp where they find out more about how to develop an app and the technology behind it.

### Upcoming dates

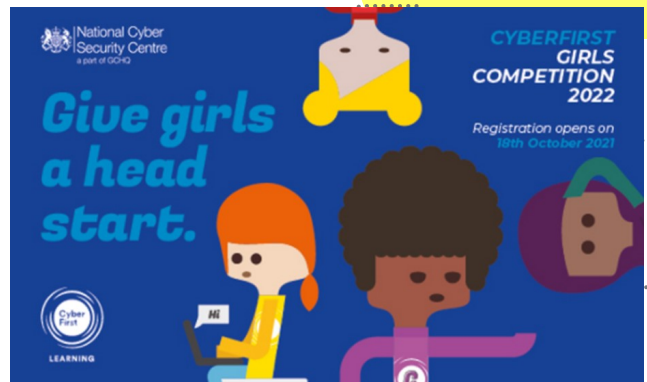
November/December 2021 – Students will choose their App ideas and research technology

January/February 2022 – Selected students of BHSA will be invited to attend a virtual bootcamp

February/March 2022 – Students will design a prototype of their App idea

April 2022 – Submission deadline

GOOD LUCK TO YEAR 8!!!



## CyberFirst Girls Competition

Now in its fifth year, the CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls to pursue their interests in technology and consider a career in cyber security – a field where women are still under-represented in the UK, making up an estimated 15% of the sector workforce.

At BHSA 6 teams of 4 students in year 8 have been competing against teams all over the country in the qualifying round since 29<sup>th</sup> November. Teams have to complete online cyber related challenges to gain points before the opening round finishes on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The more points they gain the better chance they have of making it through to the next round.

Teams have been working very hard to complete challenges and we wish them all the best for the remainder of the competition.

Our active teams are: -

Axox – Avril Yates-Law, Olivia Berry, Xuan Yu, Xin Yu

Coding crew – Aimee Walker, Amelia Phillips, Isabella Brown, Emily Herries

Control alt compute – Lilia White, Emma Black, Charlotte Powell, Mayura Naguleswaran

Eclipse – Bonnie Lowther, Katerina Davies, Fatima Audu, Miley Ly

The Christmas Elves – Charlotte Bradford, Katie Holden, Annie Holbrook, Fearnie Brazier

The Shapes – Olivia Wylde, Olivia Hackett, Esther Gray, Colbie Topping





## Department of Modern Foreign Languages

In October as part of our ongoing celebrations for the European Day of Languages 2021 our students were invited to take part in a bake-off style competition. The quality of the entries was superb with lots of creative and fun designs! Please see below a small selection of our amazing entries!



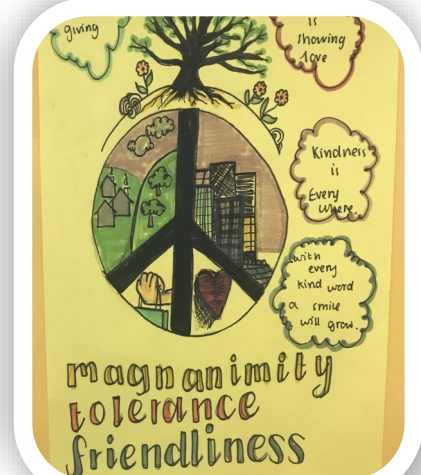
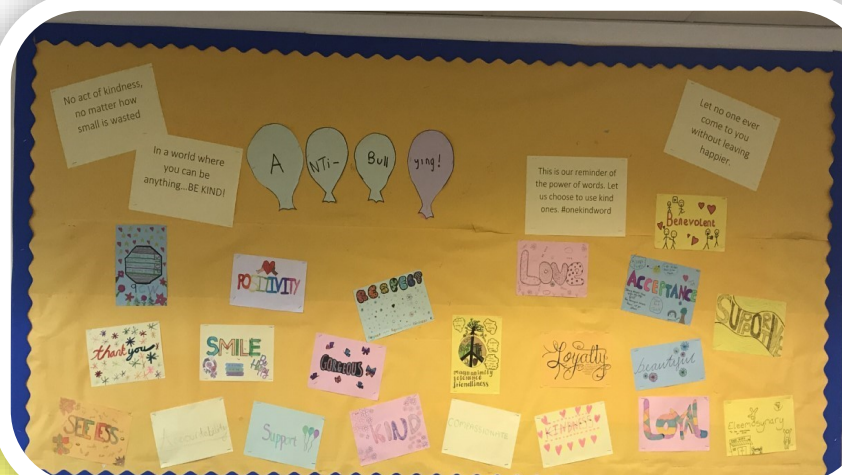
In November our KS4 French and Spanish girls enjoyed a food tasting at lunch whilst listening to some French and Spanish music. The Spanish students sampled some olives, chorizo, tortilla de patatas, and pimientos, whilst the French students sampled some sweet patisserie treats and a variety of cheeses! Our sixth form students supported with this and were on hand to give lots of tips to our Year 10 and 11s about how to be successful in your languages GCSE.

## Anti-Bullying and Interfaith Week

The week beginning the 15th November was a busy one! Firstly, it marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week. In forms we created words for a campaign called "One Kind Word". Each form created a word to place on our display in the canteen. This will serve as a reminder to our students about the importance of the language we use to one another.

It also meant the start of our activities for Interfaith Week. This is a national celebration when we can take time to learn about the faith of others.

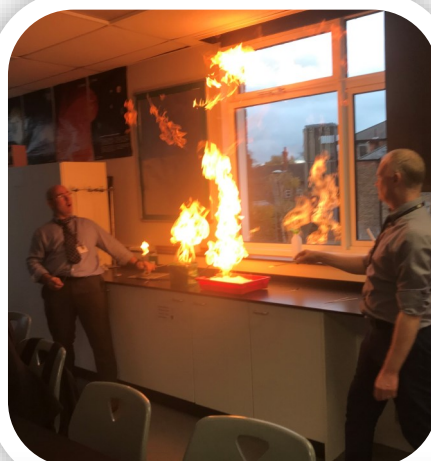
Four of our students held a 'Talking about faith' session in the Heart Space. This allowed our students to gain an insight into what practising that other faith might mean. Katy Bragg and Rosabella Goodman in Year 9 shared their insights into their Jewish faith. Fatima Audu in Year 8 talked about following Islam and how it affected her everyday life. Sara Neagu, also in Year 8, spoke about being a member of Orthodox Christianity. Their discussions were fascinating, and it was lovely to see our students asking such important questions. Sara even brought in artifacts to share, including Myrrh for the students to smell!





## Enrichment

This academic year, we were very excited to relaunch the enrichment programme at BHSa. Enrichment is a great opportunity for our students to learn outside the classroom and to engage with activities they enjoy. The enrichment activities come from the following five blocks: STEM, Physical, Creative, Mindfulness, Community and Global Impact and after February students will be able to choose a new set of activities. This has been a great way to end each school day! Please enjoy a variety of photos of what we have been up to in some of our many and varied programmes!



## Newspaper Enrichment

This half term our newspaper enrichment have been busy writing news items for our new online publication *BHSA Brew*. With the help of Sixth Form editors, Years 7-11 have been writing a wide array of pieces including an environmental feature in response to the recent COP26 conference. Our team of writers are very excited to launch our first edition at the end of the Autumn term. Keep an eye out on Google Classroom for announcements about how to read our first ever edition!





## Animal Care Enrichment

Welcome to our Animal Care Enrichment Club!

The students have been learning how to take care of Rango the bearded dragon and Hattie the African pygmy hedgehog, as well as handling Madagascan hissing cockroaches - if they are brave enough!



## Allotment Enrichment

We have just started up allotment club during enrichment time and the pupils have been having an excellent time attempting to grow some herbs and vegetables. So far, we have planted cauliflower, basil and rosemary and we are hoping to extend this to more vegetables in the summer months. Please see below photographs of our green







## REMINDER:

School opens on 5th January 2022  
following the Christmas break

Please check the school email about the staggered start for all Senior  
School students

Follow us



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