



BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

BHSA Newsletter

Summer Term

2019

Edition 04

Welcome

Welcome to our bumper edition final newsletter of this academic year. I am sure you will enjoy reading about the huge variety of activities, achievements and opportunities the girls have enjoyed over the summer term throughout the academy. There were many highlights ranging from the Year 2 production of Treasure Island to our record number of cadets heading off to their first week long camp. The final weeks of term have been hectic with examinations for all in the senior school and a week of healthy activities for everyone in the junior school, not to mention a plethora of trips and excursions for many year groups before we break up. All of these opportunities are made possible by our dedicated teachers and support staff, who continue to go that extra mile for all the girls at BHSA. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in everything we do, it is very much appreciated.

Please enjoy this newsletter and I hope you have a wonderful summer break.

Rebecca Mahony



Take That!

BHSA music staff were lucky enough to sing with Take That as part of the backing choir on their recent Odyssey tour. The concert took place at Anfield Stadium in front of an audience of 40,000 people. As well as singing with Take That they had the opportunity to work backstage with Lulu, warming up with her before appearing together on stage. This was a great experience made all the more special as it was the first concert that followed Liverpool's recent Champions League final victory.



Year 2

Treasure Island Performance

The Year Twos wowed us with their performance of Treasure Island. The children were amazing performers and showed their audience what a talented bunch of budding actors they are. Here are some photographs to give you a flavour of what of the Year Twos did. We are very proud of every single one of the girls in Year Two, who all worked together as a team, to produce something wonderful.



Childnet Digital Leaders Programme

Eight girls from Junior School have worked hard all year to successfully complete the Childnet Digital Leaders programme. Well done to Ava Seabury, Amelia Ratcliff, Eva May, Anna Phillips, Helen Wallwork, Lucy Bullock, Darcy – May Bonnet and Noora Mustafa.

Since being appointed as Digital Leaders, the girls have worked hard to complete 7 modules including learning how to support their peers when dealing with cyberbullying. This qualification is recognised nationwide and enables them to be able to deliver online safety workshops for parents and pupils. We look forward to them delivering peer – to – peer support during the next academic year.



Accelerated Reader Reading Programme

Celebration Afternoon

Before the end of first summer half term, the library and English Department presented the reading certificates to the pupils who had read brilliantly in the school year. A celebration party was organised to celebrate with the pupils who achieved more than 100 reading points, approximately equivalent to reading 12 books. We had pizza lunch and watched the film, Wonder, and played games until the end of the day. All the participants had a marvelous time on the last day of term.



Junior Science competition



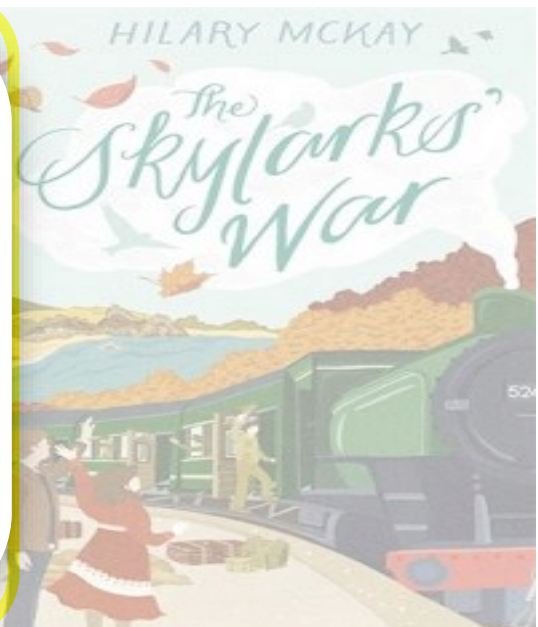
Well done to the team from 5L who won the Junior Science Investigation Competition. They amazed us with their super paper aeroplane investigation which they devised and carried out independently. They will go forward to represent BHSA at the Wirral Big Science Event in the last week of term. Good luck, Team!



Hilary McKay's Visit



Renowned author Hilary McKay visited our school on Thursday 25th April. She shared with us her writing journey of the award-winning title, *The Skylark's War*, which was the winner of 2018 Costa Children's Book Award and showed us those delicate artifacts such as the sovereign coins and old newspaper published during the First World War period. Both junior and senior school pupils spent a lovely literary morning with Hilary McKay. Our fellow GDST school, Belvedere Academy, also came and joined us.



Religious Studies

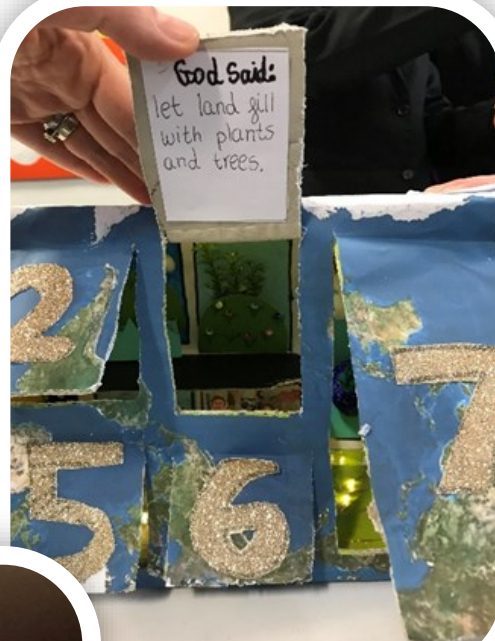
Year 9 have been working hard on their debate skills, debating whether the death penalty should be reinstated in the UK. They were not given a choice on whether they were for or against (much to their disappointment!) but they did a brilliant job of researching their side of the argument, and some fantastic arguments were put over in the debate. There are definitely some future lawyers to be found here!

Well done Year 9, keep up the hard work.



Year 7

The Year 7's have been getting creative with creation! The students were given the task of finding ways to present the 7 days of creation in an unusual way and they definitely did. We had all manner of wonderful, imaginative creations in the humanities faculty. Amongst them was a creation story made out of lego, beautiful glass jars decorated with glass paint, a seven days of creation lift and reveal (with a light that you could click on for the first day!) and Helsa Ugkelase was very popular when she brought in her creation cake! Well done Year 7 RS students.



New York Trip



In the Easter holidays Mrs McCarthy, Miss Murphy and Mrs Crawford took 30 students to Washington and New York. It was an amazing experience. In Washington we spent a full day in the city exploring all it had to offer. The students were able to visit the American History Museum and the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. We also visited the Washington Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol building and the White House.

Then we headed to an action packed stay in New York. Staying off Times Square meant easy access to a variety of things; a Broadway Musical, Empire State building, Liberty Island Cruise, Central Park, Grand Central Station, Fifth Avenue, and we even appeared on Fox News!

The students had a wonderful time, and although it was a really tiring itinerary, it was a great experience and we look forward to the next sixth form trip....watch this space. To see more photos of our Star Spangled stay head over to [Instagram](#) and follow us @BHSAsixthform.



History

Year 7 were allocated one of the contenders for the throne in 1066, and they had to convince the judges that their contender should win. This was the 1066 X Factor and they had to create a marketing campaign so that they would win the coveted title. The judges were swayed by a Viking land boat cake made out of chocolate, cookies in the shape of a French flag and cakes with Harold Godwinson flags. The judges had a great time being bribed!



Peer Mentors



A peer mentor in school is someone that you go to if you are finding things difficult and don't know where to go or what to do. They are not meant to take the place of a Progress Leader or the inclusion team. They are here to help you know the right place to get help if you need it.

They may just be a listening ear, or a friendly face when you have a falling out with someone, or maybe there are things that you are feeling unhappy about and haven't got anyone to talk to.

All of peer mentors have had training from Kayte Walsh, from the Anti-bullying Alliance.

They will be around the school wearing their purple lanyards so look out for them... and use them if you need them.

Year 7 peer mentors are Ruby Fenton, Ruby Mathieson, Grace Courtliff, Imogen Morrell, Maddy Gregory, Amy Hughes.

Year 8 peer mentors are Sofia Cuffe, Annabel Glynne Williams, Lydia Mc Devitt, Olivia O'Dowd, Lily Ost, Victoria Rose Sherlock.

Year 9 peer mentors are Amelia Burnett, Leah McGrotty, Beth Hammon, Rosie Wade, Arabella Burns Kiera Adams.



Politics

In politics, the Year 12s have been lucky enough to have a visit from Matthew Hill, a senior lecturer at John Moores University. He is a specialist in International relations, and he gave them a mini lecture in this area, and then gave them a talk about life as an undergraduate. Matthew wrote the book 'American politics for Dummies' (no reflection on our students though). The students found the experience really helpful, and they were able to ask questions about life in university.

Chester Zoo trip



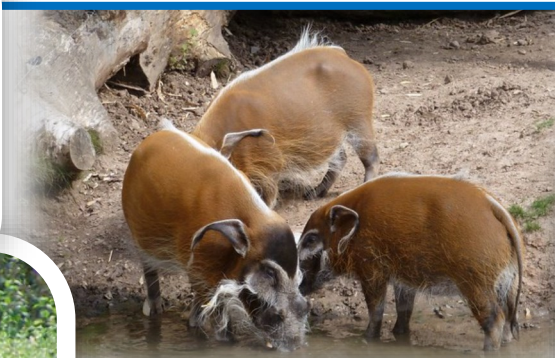
Year 8 visited Chester Zoo as part of their project on habitats and conservation. All groups enjoyed classroom sessions focusing on the various risks to endangered species, including climate change, habitat destruction and the welfare dangers posed to various species by the exotic pet trade. We learned that many “cute” or “cool” photographs on social media of people with exotic animals come with a considerable welfare cost to the animals, and were urged to think before we liked such photographs. The problems facing many amphibians such as frogs were given particular attention.

Students also had the chance to look round the zoo in small groups and study the enclosures and welfare needs of their chosen animals. Various groups saw the baby giraffes, orang-utans, chimpanzees, okapi, crocodiles, penguins and the red river hogs with their endearingly tufted ears, amongst many other animals. The male jaguar spent some time lounging on a rock, seemingly for the admiration of visitors, and the sloths were having an unusually energetic day.

Senior school science technicians Mrs Hale and Mrs Hunter bumped into Chester zoo vet, Dr Ian Ashpole, who is a regular fixture on the TV program “The Secret Life of the Zoo”. They talked about the conservation programs at the zoo and 2 year-old elephant Indali Hi Way who made a full recovery from Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV), a virus that only attacks elephants. This recovery is due to ground breaking developments in early detection and treatment methods. Indali Hi Way is the first elephant in the world known to survive after developing this virus.

Particular thanks are due to the staff at Chester Zoo for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm and Mr Hennessey for his hard-work in organising the trip.

CHESTER
ZOO



Y10 visit the Open Door Centre and the Bloom Building

Y10s visit the Open Door Centre and the Bloom Building in Birkenhead.

During the month of May staff from our Inclusion Team took a group of Y10 students to visit The Bloom Building in Birkenhead.

The bloom Building opened its doors in February, it's the new home for the Open Door Centre and is larger than their previous site in Wallasey, enabling them to quadruple capacity and support and better serve Wirral as a whole. They continue to offer immediate mental health support to 15-30 year olds. As a space, Bloom is not only home to the Open Door Centre but has an important remit of being a creative space for music, art and conversation, the place where art, culture and mental health live side-by-side.

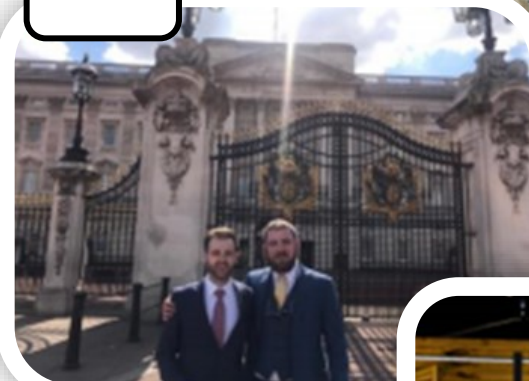
Bloom will play an integral role in the community by helping to normalise mental health issues. By encouraging young people to engage, it will diminish the stigma associated with mental health. Young people are encouraged to become involved, whether that be for support or volunteering, but also to come to gigs and events as Bloom is Wirral's only music home at present for local emerging talent and a landing point for high quality creative provisions.

Bloom houses a coffee shop which is open to the public from Monday to Friday 10:30 – 17:00 serving fine coffee and home cooked dishes each day. Appointments for Open Door Centre support are available via telephone booking 0151 639 4545. Bloom Building, 3 Abbey Close, Birkenhead, CH41 5FQ (close to Birkenhead Priory).



Congratulations!

Recognition for the work of Open Door continues to go from strength to strength as the charity has recently been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. This is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. Charity founder, Lee Pennington, and Operations Manager, Greg Edwards, were invited to Buckingham Palace in May to attend The Queen's Annual Garden Party in recognition of the award. The pair discussed mental health at length with the Duke of York who showed a real, genuine interest in the work being done and the importance of getting it right as a sector to support those in need.



Keep in touch!

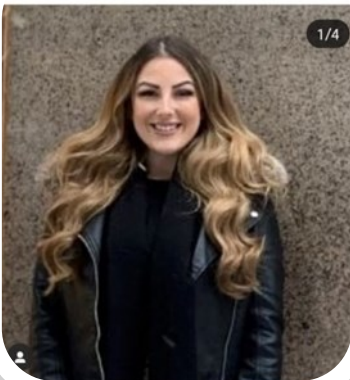
There is nothing more powerful than inspiring our current students with the achievements of our past pupils! Miss Murphy has been doing some work recently getting in touch with our Alumnae and showcasing their success! We now have an 'Alumnae of the month' project featured on our Instagram account (@BHSAsixthform) and also a Wall of Fame in our school hall! Some girls featured this term include...

Laura Savvas, who is now a BBC Broadcast Journalist for BBC Sport!

Annie Bhullar, who is now one of the first female Sikh Police Constables in Merseyside Police

Vanessa Higham, who is now a Government Affairs Researcher working with elected politicians

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If you would like to nominate a past pupil to be featured
please contact Miss Murphy!

How do you eat yours?

Just after the Easter Holiday Miss Murphy welcomed back BHSA pupils with an Easter Egg hunt. More than 100 Crème Eggs were hidden around school – those lucky enough to find one needed to snap a photo of themselves eating the egg and submit it to the Sixth Form Instagram account. One of those submissions were then selected at random to win a larger Easter Egg! Congratulations to Sadie Reynolds and Casey Taylor who won!!





NEURODIVERSITY

It takes all kinds of different minds

ADHD | Dyslexia | Autism | Dyspraxia

www.Neurodiversity-Celebration-Week.com

Neurodiversity

During the month of May, our SENDCO Miss Kennerley and our Inclusion Team Leader Miss Cumiskay ran assemblies and activities for students in both Junior School and Senior School to celebrate neurodiversity. Neurological differences like autism and ADHD are the result of normal, natural variation in the human genome. Students learnt that not all brains are the same and that is ok, neurodiverse people achieve amazing things.



Mental Health
Foundation

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
13 - 19 MAY 2019

'Body Image'

How we see ourselves and how that makes us feel



This year's theme for Mental Health Awareness week 13th – 19th May 2019, was Body Image: How we think and feel about our bodies. To kickstart the week we had assemblies delivered by our SENDCO Miss Kennerley and our Inclusion Team Leader Miss Cumiskay. Various activities took place throughout the week, helping staff and students explore the facts and myths around body image. We took part in national conversations about how we can be kinder to our bodies, starting at a very young age as research shows children who have positive body image / self-esteem are less likely to develop mental health problems as they grow up.

Mental Health

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions



Congratulations to all of the Year 10 students who successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in the Llangollen area. The girls were able to show huge amounts of resilience as they battled some of the worst weather conditions we have ever had on their trial. Luckily, the sun was shining on them for their test and they were able to enjoy the walking and camping a little more.



Sixth Form Leadership is strong!

At BHSA Sixth Form we believe it is important for students to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling, to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. This term we welcomed our new Head Girls and her team of deputies! After some hard fought election campaigns, we would like to congratulate Sophie Dyas (Head Girl) and Charlotte Hughes, Holly Potter, Mariama Harrison and Jodie Bryce (Deputies).

We have also appointed a team of Prefects who are excited to act as role models for all of our girls and to support the Head Girls Team. To this role we would like to welcome, Priya Bhullar, Jade Nile, Amelia Mangan, Poppy Whelan, Caitlin Peters Murphy, Theodora Townsend, Gabriella Johnson.



Birkenhead Blitz!

This year one of the aims of our Head Girl Team is to get our students enjoying the air raid shelters more! Our team were inspired as we held our HGT meeting down in the gloomy but glorious original shelters. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events to get your chance to witness our very own piece of 'Horrible Histories' – Birkenhead Blitz!



BHSA Sixth Form would proudly like to announce our new Head of Houses and Deputy Head of Houses. After some tough interviews with Miss Murphy and Mrs McCarthy it looks set to be an exciting year of events ahead, with sports tournaments, subject quizzes and charity events all discussed by our new House leaders! Congratulations to Kate Hazeldine, Tasha Senogles, Mia Reid, Lily Foster, Aimee Williams, Katie Botting and Sarah Hawkins.

Heads of Houses

UCAS ready!

On the 9th May, Year 12 and their parents were invited to a UCAS talk led by Mrs McCarthy. In this really useful session girls were informed about how to make an application and how to write personal statements. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Liverpool John Moores University who led a session on student finance and grants available to our girls.

All students had a wonderful two days (13th/14th June) experiencing next step options focusing on university applications with talks from specialists in next step applications and apprenticeship opportunities. We also took a trip to the Liverpool Higher Education Conference and enjoyed a bespoke afternoon at Edge Hill University. Applications are now well underway and we are looking forward to reading their wonderful personal statements.



Welcome to our new Year 12

On the 20th and 21st June we welcomed our new Year 12 for our Sixth Form introduction and taster sessions. We started with a wonderful lunch together and then had an afternoon of team building activities, followed by a day of taster lessons in the subjects that they have chosen.

We are really looking forward to working with them all next year and seeing their wonderful results in the summer.

Goodbye and



Year 13

On Friday 10th May we said a very tearful goodbye to our wonderful Year 13. It is very sad to see them leave us but we wish them well in their examinations.

