



BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

BHSA Newsletter

Christmas Edition

2022

Edition 13

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. As you can see it has been an extremely busy few weeks for everyone in the academy with staff going above and beyond the call of duty to give all of our students some outstanding opportunities. A real highlight for me was the final of the KS3 Spoken English competition. The standard set by the finalists was extraordinary and the choice of topics certainly a challenge. We look forward to this becoming an annual prestigious event.

It was wonderful to see so many of you supporting the Christmas Fair on the 3rd December and students being impressive ambassadors for school. We are eternally grateful to our small Parents' Association who work tirelessly organising events throughout the year to raise much needed funds which go directly to support your daughters and wards. If you can offer a few hours to help them in 2023, it would be most welcome.

I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful Christmas holiday. Thank you for your ongoing support, it makes such a difference when we all work in partnership to give our students the best possible opportunities to thrive.

Please remember that we finish at 12:15pm for the Junior School and 12:30pm for the Senior School on Friday. I look forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Thank you again

Rebecca Mahony



Beth has given her permission for the exam board, AQA, to use her design for their Christmas card. It was originally created as part of Beth's GCSE Art & Design coursework

Reception

Reception enjoyed writing their Father Christmas letters last week. We addressed and stamped our letters before going on a Christmas walk to post them. We hope to get a reply!



Year 1



To celebrate kindness week, Year 1 enjoyed stories about friendship and kindness read to them by some of our senior pupils.



Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a trip to 'Trinity and Palm Grove Church' for their 'Hope Journey'. They learned all about the Christmas story in preparation for our next RE topic on Christianity.



Year 3

Year 3 had fun on Monday when Adrian and Laura came to BHSA with their interactive, drama-history workshop about the Stone Age.

First we helped to make a timeline of the Stone Age period from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic.

We learned about important weapons and key inventions.

We learned about the purpose of a Bull Roarer and how Stone Age people would communicate with it.

We worked as a team to outsmart dangerous Terror Bird.

And finally we found out about Stone Age cave painters, what they used for paint and what they drew.



Year 4

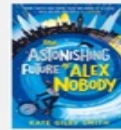
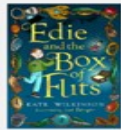
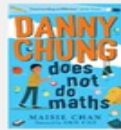
Year 4 visited the World Museum and the Walker Art Gallery on Wednesday 23rd November. We enjoyed a hands-on history workshop on Anglo-Saxon artefacts, and we got to hear cockroaches hissing during a science classification workshop!

A great time was had by all!



Year 6

AWESOME BOOK AWARDS 2023 SHORTLIST



The Year 6 Book Club has got off to a brilliant start in Autumn Term. We started with the winner of the Spark! School Book Award this year, *Wolfstongue* by Sam Thomson, which all thoroughly enjoyed.

We have now started making our way through the shortlisted Awesome Book Awards books having already read, 'The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody' and, 'Danny Chung does not do maths'.

We all take our judging role very seriously and we are looking forward to much discussion and debate before we select our overall Awesome Book Awards winner!



Year 6 visit Williamson Art Gallery



Year 6 had a wonderful time on their trip the Williamson Art Gallery this term.

The girls learned all about the Della Robbia collection, which is housed at the museum, and took inspiration from the pieces to use in their own sketches.

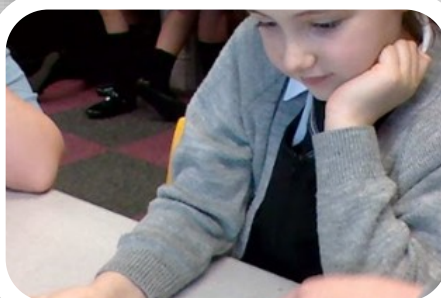
The girls are now completing their own designs in an Arts and Crafts style which they will use to create block prints and to design their own wallpaper.

All pupils were commended on their impeccable behaviour by the museum staff and visiting public. Well done girls!



We celebrated World Science Day this term in juniors by holding our own BHS Science Day. During the morning, KS2 split into their House groups and took on the role of teachers. Each group learnt an experiment and taught it to other groups of pupils. They became experts at demonstrating their experiments and explaining the underlying science concepts involved. Our experiments included many areas of science including refraction, density, capillary action and the Stroop Test.

During the afternoon, the whole of the junior school undertook the opening flower investigation using all their science investigation skills, particularly those of identifying variables.



Bugsy Malone—Ava Smith—Y7

Ava auditioned early last year for Bugsy Malone after playing Young Cosette in the UK tour of Les Miserables. Ava had three auditions and was offered the role of Lena/Baby Face. This is the first ever tour of Bugsy Malone and it opened in Bath in July and so far, Ava has performed in Bath, Birmingham, Southampton, Leeds, Coventry, Hull, Leicester, Edinburgh and will spend Christmas performing in London at the Alexandra Palace. It's been a fantastic experience for Ava she has worked really hard performing and keeping up with schoolwork and has tutors while on tour but has loved every minute and the support of Mrs Mahony and all the teaching staff has been fantastic. Ava hopes to carry on working hard and pursue a career in Musical Theatre like her big sister Annie Winstanley also a former BHSA student now a professional dancer in London.



The Time Traveller's Wife — Eve Corbishley—Year 9

One of our Year 9 students, Eve Corbishley, recently appeared in the professional production: 'The Time Traveller's Wife' at the Storyhouse Theatre in Chester. This incredible production is based on Audrey Niffenegger's *'The Time Traveller's Wife' – a best-selling novel and world-wide hit film. The performance was brought to life on stage with music and lyrics by global superstar Joss Stone and multi Grammy Winner Eurythmics' Dave Stewart. Eve was the only child cast in the production which received critical acclaim. Here she is pictured with David Hunter who played Henry, the time traveller. We look forward to seeing Eve's progress - it's clear that she has a bright future ahead of her.*



CyberFirst Girls Competition

Now in its sixth 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 some of our students have been competing against teams all over the country in the qualifying round since 21st November. Teams have completed online cyber related challenges, cracked codes and hacked their way to gaining points before the opening round ended on 30th November.



Year 13 BTEC Applied Science

The year 13 BTEC applied science class met with NHS physiotherapist Huw Williams today to discuss musculoskeletal conditions they're studying for coursework, such as scoliosis, osteoarthritis, and anterior cruciate ligament injury. Huw had a wide range of experiences to share, including how various surgeries are performed and the impact these conditions have on quality of life as well as the economy.

The Power of Books

In February 2021, Birkenhead High School Academy's *Start a New Story* appeal raised more than £11,000 in just four weeks from more than 200 alumnae, parents, staff and other supporters. As one of two GDST academies, BHSA does not offer means-tested bursaries. However, there will always be students at our academies who do need additional financial support. The *Start a New Story* appeal helped ensure every girl in the Junior School, Year 7 and Year 8 received a new book during the lockdown period. The appeal far exceeded its original target of £6,000 and has only strengthened BHSA's commitment to encouraging reading for pleasure and reading associated with all subjects and themes.



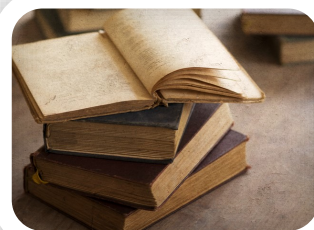
The school recently received a generous gift from the husband of Birkenhead alumna, Maureen Sleeman (Class of 1979, pictured left) who sadly passed away in April 2019. She was a writer herself and a "great reader with a love of books which never left her." Maureen had a rewarding career teaching English, before moving to Penzance with her husband, David, where she began to write. Maureen and David also loved to travel and following a trip to Italy, Maureen wrote her novel *Holy Macaroni*. Having learnt about the school's book appeal in the GDST alumnae magazine, Mr Sleeman felt that donating to the *Start a New Story* appeal was a poignant way to remember his wife and her love of literature.



Giving



Reading at BHSA



Kindly donated by Maureen Sleeman, each form room in KS3 and KS4 now have a box of books in their classrooms which contain a range of fiction books for form time reading.

Additionally, this half term a new page on our website has been created to inform our school community about our focus on reading. Please visit our website to find information about reading at BHSA along with book recommendations, advice to support reading at home and upcoming events. For full updates about reading in the Senior school, please see the reading newsletter.

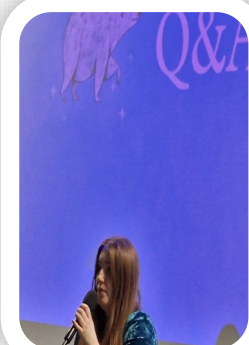
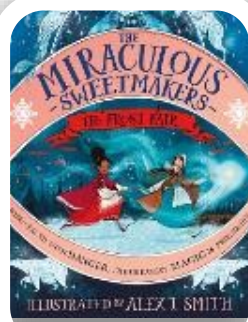


BHSA Library Service

Natasha Hastings' School Visit

Natasha Hastings, author of the brand new debut, *The Miraculous Sweetmakers: The Frost Fair*, visited our school and spoke to Year 4 to Year 7 pupils on Monday 21st November 2022. It was absolutely a well-received event and our junior school literacy lead, Ms Bailey, highly praised this wonderful opportunity:

"The funny and energetic Natasha Hastings visited BHSA to share the experiences that led her to write her current novel, *The Frost Fair*. The children were taken on a magical adventure with the characters from the book and explored some of the places Natasha had created. They also took part in a traditional dance which very nearly brought the roof down!"



Year 8 Computing

What is AWS GetIT? Spanning the school year, AWS GetIT invites teams from different schools all over the country 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.

Last year Aimee Walker, Lila Burton, Sara Neagu, Lauren Holden and Isabella Brown from BHSA travelled to London for the final and came second overall in this national competition. Below you can see our students with the judges from Amazon.

On the 21st November year 8 took part in an extended assembly to launch the competition and were introduced to our Amazon ambassador; Sally Cox. Sally took time out of her busy schedule to talk to year 8 about Technology and what her role with Amazon is. Following the presentation all year 8 students were invited to enter the inter-school app design competition. .



Animal Care



This is Fluffy, the long-haired Syrian hamster, and the students have been learning how to take care of him. Hamsters require a spacious cage and large wheel. Fluffy also needs grooming regularly to avoid his fur from matting.



U15 GDST Football winners



U15 did not concede a goal or lose a game in the tournament. They won the semi-finals by a penalty shootout and then beat Oxford in the final. Amazing team work from all.

Some Lionesses of the future!

Trampolining

Congratulations to all pupils who participated in the North West Regional Trampolining competition. The results were:

- Year 7-9 Intermediate team B—3rd place
- Year 7-9 Intermediate team A—2nd place
- Year 7-9 Elite team A—2nd place
- Rosie Wade—1st place year 1-14 elite



Day of Dance





**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Artwork by Beth Harwood

REMINDER:

School opens on 4th January 2023
following the Christmas break

Follow



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