

BHSA Newsletter

Summer Edition

2022

Edition 11



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

What a year and what an adventure! I cannot quite believe that we have reached the end of this academic year. There have been many Covid based obstacles in our way as we have navigated our way back to some normality in school, but our students and staff have dealt with everything thrown at them with determination, resilience and flair! Over the last few months it has been wonderful to see all of our students involved in so many activities beyond the classroom, whether they be in the mountains of Eryri for the Duke of Edinburgh award or a walk down the road to Birkenhead Park for a music event; these opportunities were not available over the last two difficult years. This last week alone we have whole year group visits, Y12 work experience, cadets on camp, exchange visits with Belvedere, sports days, culture and volunteering days. I hope you enjoy reading about the term's success stories. We are so proud of all of our students' achievements. None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work from our staff, the support of our governors and the continued powerful partnership we have with our parents and carers.

Rebecca Mahony



STEM Workshop

STEM Ambassadors from the Science and Technology Facilities Council Laboratories in Daresbury visited Years 5 and 6 in May to tell them to the James Webb Space Telescope which was launched recently. The girls learnt some amazing facts about space and attempted their own methods of arranging the 18 hexagonal mirrors to fit into their rockets!



The Pirates of the Curry

Y6 put on a fabulous show about swashbuckling pirates and brave sailors ably supported by Y5. The girls all performed fabulously, making great leaps in their acting ability and learning to follow stage directions. Well done, Everyone!



ActivityForAll

Y6 enjoyed a day of climbing, team building and football skills when they visited Activity-ForAll towards the end of term. A number of girls faced their fear of heights and others displayed their climbing prowess as they scaled the climbing wall. Everyone developed their communication skills whilst undertaking a range of team challenges - well done, Girls!



Thurstaston Country Park

On Thursday 30th June, Year 4 went on a geography field trip to Thurstaston Country Park. Whilst there, Year 4 went on an informative ranger led geology walk along the beach. The pupils were taught how the Dee Estuary was formed by glacial action! They also took part in a meadow sweep and a litter pick as well as creating some land art. A busy day but they were still able to squeeze in an ice cream after lunch.



Eco Warriors



The Eco Warriors in Junior school took part in Duracell's Big Battery Hunt. After learning about the damage to the environment that is caused by the 20,000 tonnes of batteries which end up in UK landfill sites each year, they were determined to do something about it! They spread awareness and encouraged pupils to bring in used batteries from home so that they can be recycled. In 7 weeks, they managed to collect an impressive 3,651 batteries! Here is a photo of the Eco Warriors excitedly launching the project in school at the end of the Spring term.



SeCret
GARDEN
by AILEE

In May, The Eco Warriors led a great assembly updating the school on what we had been up to throughout the year.

During this assembly, they also introduced a competition to design our Secret Garden space, a project we will be working on over the next few years. We had some fantastic suggestions from pupils including a path running through which was the shape of a tree, gardening patches, a bee pollination area, and a willow tree tunnel. It is lovely to see so many budding environmental enthusiasts in Junior School!



Annual GDST Debate Competition



Two Year 6 teams took part in the annual GDST debate competition in June. They were given a range of topics to discuss and were pitted against children in Key Stage 3. They held their ground and both teams won a debate each.



Reading Discover Group

Sixth Form and Junior school House Captains took part in our Reading Discovery groups this year; inspiring children to read for pleasure and explore characters and themes in a range of books. Sixth Form spent time in classrooms listening to children read and discussing ideas with them. At lunch times, Sixth Form and House Captains inspired the children with toys and activities based around books by Benjamin Zephaniah, Roger Hargreaves and Tom Percival. We look forward to continuing this next year.



This term Year 1 have been learning about the different classifications of vertebrates. One of our favourite activities was making bird feeders and taking them home. We completed tally charts to see how many of each common garden bird we could spot!



Allotment Club

In allotment club we finally had some success and have grown some broadbeans. The pupils are incredibly excited, and we hope to broaden our vegetable choices to carrots and potatoes next year!



The summer term brought not one but two exciting literary successes BHSA Juniors!

GDST Creative Writing Competition

In May, Heidi Powell of 4 EC was awarded runner up prize in the BHSA Creative Writing competition with her composition, 'The Lost bear'. Judge Rachel Hore commented, "Excellent dialogue and an engaging, whimsical voice bring to life this exciting adventure of saving a real lost bear."



Well done to both girls, the whole school is so proud of your achievements!



GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize

This month, in the prestigious GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize, Marnie Roberts of 2B achieved joint second place for her fabulous poem, 'I am an alien'.



'Empowered' poetry competition

A number of our year 9 students have had their poems chosen for publication after entering the 'Empowered' poetry competition. They were challenged to express their opinions and raise their voices through their poetry, and they did so well their poems will be published in an anthology! All of the winners will also receive a certificate and a bookmark to celebrate their achievement.





Mrs Crosby is reading 'What a Wonderful World' by Leisa Stewart-Sharpe.



Mrs Kingsley is reading 'The Murderer's Ape' by Jakob Wegelius.



Mrs Jacobson is reading 'Wonderscape' by Jennifer Bell.



Mrs Boyd is reading 'The Boy Who made Everyone Laugh' Helen Rutter.



Miss Brookfield is reading 'Anne of Avonlea' by L M Montgomery.



Mrs Bailey is reading 'The Brilliant Deep' by Kate Messner & Matthew Forsyth.

To help encourage their classes to join in with the Summer Reading Challenge this year, Junior school staff are taking part in the Teachers' Reading Challenge. This is a great opportunity for our school and library staff to expand their knowledge of contemporary children's books and to promote reading for pleasure. A summer full of reading is most definitely on the cards at BHSA!



Mrs Moss is reading 'Where the World Turns Wild' by Nicola Penfold.



Mr Rathe and Mrs Doran are both reading 'Escape to the River Sea' by Emma Carroll.



Mrs Ramsbottom is reading 'Kindness' by Jaime Thurston



Mrs Smith is reading 'Mog's Bad Thing' by Judith Kerr



Mrs Tidman is reading 'October, October' by Katya Balen



Combined Cadet Force

In our first full year of training since COVID, our cadets have taken part in lots of different training and events. From spending their first weekend under a basha, living in the field on ration packs and learning how to complete a section attack, to performing civic duties such as providing an Honour Guard for the Mayor of Wirral, our cadets have had lots of opportunities to take themselves out of their comfort zone and see what they are made of. The cadets have also had the opportunity to put their recent weapons training skills to use during the fieldcraft weekend and will get the opportunity to complete their first live firing exercise at this summer's annual camp. We have had a number of visits from outside units, such as the Queen's Own Yeomanry, where the cadets were able to experience the role of a light armoured reconnaissance unit. Merseyside Fire Brigade and Police have also visited, delivering road safety and County Lines education, as well as giving cadets the opportunity to look at police vehicles and experience what it would be like to be in a car crash using VR! Some of our senior cadets trained for and passed their First Aid at Work qualification in school this year, adding another string to their bow. Our senior cadets have also taken time to develop their leadership and teaching skills, helping to deliver training to junior cadets during our weekly parade evenings, and we are aiming to send some of them on a senior leadership course next year. Upcoming in October, our first event of the year is our recruit's weekend, followed by another absolutely packed programme throughout the remainder of the year. As always, we are somewhat a victim of our own success and we are always in need of more volunteer staff. To see more of what we get up to please also visit and subscribe to our Instagram page. Just search for 'BHSACCF'. If you think you might like to be part of our incredibly busy and active cadet team, then please get in touch at ccf@birkhs.gdst.net and I can give you more information about what would be required.



Platinum Jubilee Honour guard for lighting of Jubilee Beacon by Mayor of Wirral



Learning to use radios during weekly training



June 2022, Visit by Merseyside Fire Road Safety team, using VR to experience a car crash and it's aftermath.



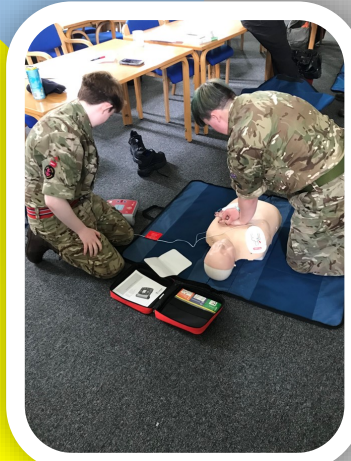
All of the cadets at a parade in September



Cadets at their first fieldcraft



Cadets visiting the Queen's Own Yeomanry at Fox Barracks, Chester in April 2022



Our senior cadets attending First Aid at Work course in April 2022, passing successfully



Cadets providing an Honour Guard for the swearing in of the new Mayor of Wirral, May 2022

National App Design Final Runners Up

Amazon Web Services (AWS) GetIT competition

Congratulations to the UKSettle team (Aimee Walker, Lila Burton, Sara Neagu, Lauren Holden and Isabella Brown) who finished in second place in the Amazon Web Services GetIT App design competition.

Aimee, Lila, Sara and Lauren set off from Birkenhead Park station with Mr O’Gorman and Miss Kirkby on the 26th April to attend the final at the Amazon Web Services summit at ExCel London. Our students were excellent in presenting their app idea, which was to help immigrants settle in our local community, to an audience of over 100 computing professionals. The girls were VIPs for the day at the Amazon conference and brought back home a trophy as well as some goodies, including an Amazon Echo Dot.

Our current year 7 students will have the chance next academic year to enter the same competition, come up with a ground breaking App idea and hopefully once again we can make the grand final in London.



European Football Championship

Ellie Howard (9SHY) will be a ball girl in 4 televised matches at the Women's European Football Championships this summer.

Metal Culture

On 10th and 17th of July some of our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils took part in a project with METAL (<https://www.metalculture.com/about-us/liverpool/>) exploring the ongoing climate crisis and how disinformation can, and does, spread in the media. They were tasked with creating a pastiche brand advert to expose greenwashing within our media by corporate interests. They completed some research on environmental impacts before coming up with their own satirical product to poke fun at the hypocrisy often displayed by for-profit organisations in their presentation of their green values. Artists from METAL used these ideas and our school green screen kit to produce short adverts that will form part of a viral takeover. Our students were complimented by the project manager not only for their passionate and enthusiastic response to the material but for their maturity and the sophistication of their group efforts, Well done girls! See METAL's social media pages for more information.



Art!

3 of our students work have been requested for loan by the Exam Board to be shown at Moderation meetings as examples of outstanding pieces of artwork and excellent practice.



Birkenhead Sings Project

The Luminelles took part in a performance last week at the Floral Pavilion Theatre, alongside Charlie Landsborough, as part of the Birkenhead Sings project. This was a wonderful initiative with a key focus - to bring together people across Birkenhead through singing. The students also took part in a concert at Christ Church in Oxton, alongside various other ensembles. As always, The Luminelles performed beautifully and it was wonderful to welcome back some of our old students, who came along to sing in the concerts.



BHSA Guitar Group / Luminelles—Birkenhead Park Performance

As part of the Birkenhead Sings project, The BHSA Guitar Group represented the Music Department and did us proud performing at the Birkenhead Sings event on Saturday, 2nd July at Birkenhead Park. Mr Chalmers has worked wonders with the group during enrichment time and we thank him for all of his hard work. The Luminelles also performed, alongside the joint BHSA and St Anselm's Manor Hill Jazz Band. It was a really lovely afternoon which showcased some of our talented BHSA performers.



'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' - West End Workshop

At the start of June, several of our year 7 and year 8 students were lucky enough to take part in a workshop led by the current Musical Director of the West End production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.' Ben Turner inspired the students, engaging them with vocal warm-ups, as well as teaching them various songs from the musical. The students were then invited to see Ben in action, going to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch the show. We're extremely grateful to Ben for taking the time to come into our school to deliver a workshop – this was an unforgettable experience which inspired each and every student that attended.



Seasonal Crafts

The students involved in the Seasonal Crafts enrichment have been putting their sewing skills to the test his last term working on creating Spring hanging decorations. They have incorporated a variety of designs within their crafts and have learnt some news skills along the way.



Athletics

On Thursday 5th May the year 7, 8 and 10 athletics teams competed at an athletics track competition at The Oval. The year 7 team came 2nd, the year 8 team came 4th and the year 10 team came 4th. It was their first competition in three years and many individuals placed in the top three for their events!



On Thursday 12th May, the year 7 athletics team competed at the Wirral U12 track and field athletics competition. Megan Newton and Fern Chapman won their field events, Isla Harrison came second in her field event and Brea Jackson and Grace Hanks came third in their events.

On Monday 13th June, the year 7, 8 and 10 athletics team competed at the GDST athletics competition. It was a great day out and many of our athletes qualified for finals in their events.

On Thursday 23rd June, the year 7 athletics team competed at the Wirral School's U14 track and field athletics competition. The team came 4th overall, with some pupils producing personal bests and others competing for the first time.

Well done to all involved in these competitions!

'Pathways to the legal Profession'

6th form law students recently attended a virtual conference on 'Pathways to the legal Profession' organised by the Liverpool Law Society. Guest speakers outlined different ways you can access the profession.

'Police Powers'

6th form also had a talk from Detective Inspector Rannard from Merseyside Police. She talked about police powers, including stop and search and also arrest and detention. This is part of the BTEC course.

Drama News

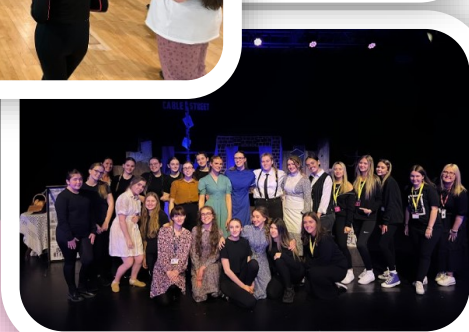
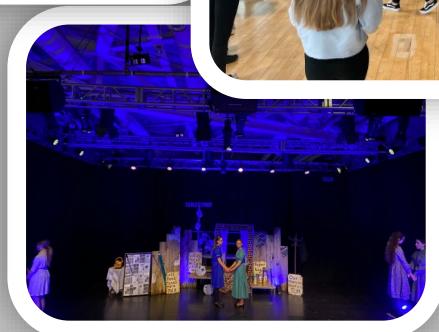
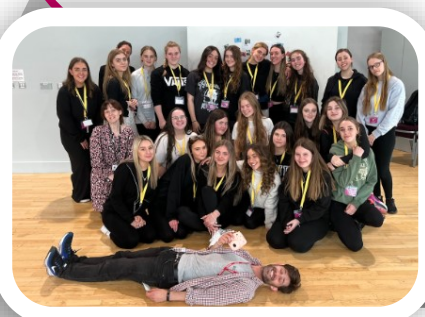
BHSA drama students successfully performed 'Cable Street' by Lisa Goldman at the Lowry Theatre in Salford in April. We're incredibly proud of their creativity, enthusiasm and passion. All of the students who participated received excellent feedback from the National Theatre:

'The play is well realised and inventively directed. It feels like this production really embraces the provocation from the writer of being a collision of 1930s London and contemporary Britain. The music helps this, along with the brilliant movement sequences. The performances across the board are so strong. The storytelling is incredibly clear, which is not always easy with this play. The set design is brilliant – I really, really like it, and as Gemma said, it's the most impressive Cable Street design I've seen.' **(National Theatre director Ali Pidsley)**

Gemma Evans, the National Theatre Connections Festival Producer, was so impressed that BHSA were awarded funding for transport costs to ensure the set could be transferred from the home stage to the Lowry Theatre for the National Connections Festival.

During our day at The Lowry, students were allocated their very own 'green room' and conducted themselves extremely professionally during the technical and dress rehearsals, as well as contributing well to the workshop that was put on for us. We also got to use the professional changing rooms in the basement underneath the stage!

We had such a great day and we're so excited for future National Connections productions and would encourage students to get involved as either a performer or production team member.



[AUDITION NOTICE: \(Performers, dancers, singers, production team members\)](#)

BHSA students are invited to participate in two school productions starting in September 2022. Students will need to audition and be fully committed to attending rehearsals and performances during lunchtimes, some enrichment slots and ALSO scheduled after school rehearsals.

For further information please speak to a member of the drama or music department.

['The Witches' by Roald Dahl \(KS3 Production year 7-9\)](#)

This is Roald Dahl's classic story in which a Boy and his Grandmother defeat the Grand High Witch and her followers, who are holding a Conference in an English seaside hotel.

[Whole school Musical Theatre Production](#)

Our annual whole school Musical Theatre production will return in September 2022. The choice of musical will be confirmed at the start of the next academic year. Watch this space!

Sixth Form

Monday 27th - Sixth form Diversity Day

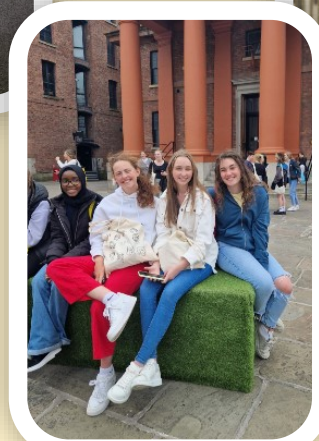
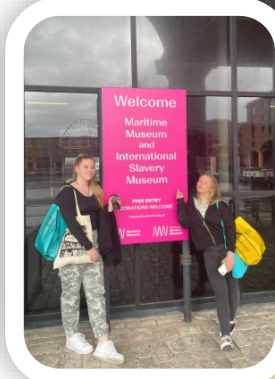
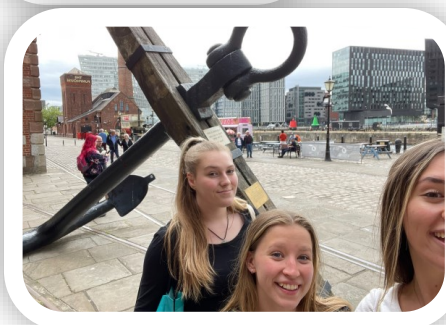
To launch our 'Future Focus week' with a bang, on Monday 27th Year 12 took part in a diversity day. We had some amazing speakers that got outstanding feedback. These included, including an LGBTQ+ workshop led by Sefton Council, Wirral Multicultural Organisation who led an interactive session on Chinese culture that included dancing and students making a flower pouch and 2 sessions on Protected Characteristics and Disability.

Future Focus week

This week has been all about preparing our students for life beyond Sixth Form! we have had a full timetable of activities including a visit to Edge Hill university, attendance to the UCAS fair in Liverpool Exhibition Centre and workshops on a range of interesting topics such as money matters, apprenticeships, CV and interview skills and searching for jobs. Year 12 also had a week of work experience.

Cultural Capital in the Sixth Form

To celebrate the amazing culture that we have in our local area - on Tuesday Afternoon our year 12 pupils spent a cultural afternoon in Liverpool. They were tasked with a culture scavenger hunt with 20 places, art works, museums and people that they had to seek out and take photos of! Some of these included the Titanic memorial, Maritime Museum, Tate art gallery and the Liverpool eye.



Summer Book Fair

To encourage girls to keep reading in summer, our library has hosted another scholastic book fair on Saturday summer fair. It's a half price book fair and we raised money for our library to get more new books in Autumn term.

Besides the book fair, our pupil librarian team also delivered a storytelling session to our school community. It's such a lovely scene to witness our girls who are hooked on reading.



Accelerated Reader 2021—2022

At the end of school term, Mrs Saccheri has drawn the lucky three pupils who won the book vouchers of the Reading Bingo Challenge. Congratulations to Beth Moran, Evie Moran and Bisan Hraish Jammal. They have been awarded with book tokens and chosen a new book for summer.

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Apart from pupil reading in summer, our English department has also taken part in the Teachers' Summer Reading Challenge 2022. Our staff members are going to read the current award-winning teenage titles this summer and they will share them with our girls in the autumn term reading lessons.



Are you a reading champion?



teachers'
reading
challenge
2022

Teachers, librarians and other education staff can grow their knowledge of children's literature and reading for pleasure pedagogy with the Teachers' Reading Challenge.



What will you read?



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest free reading for pleasure programme for children, encouraging 4 to 11 year-olds to keep reading during the summer holidays.



Remember to login to your online profile to add books, find recommendations, access the Children's Book Sorter and learn more about the Reading for Pleasure Pedagogy: www.teachersreadingchallenge.org.uk | Visit our official children's website for book recommendations, competitions, videos and games all year round: www.summereadingchallenge.org.uk



Supporting creativity
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge is supported by Arts Council England.



Teachers' Reading Challenge is brought to you by The Reading Agency in partnership with The Open University.



Thank you for your support during this
past year.

Enjoy a relaxing Summer break.



REMINDER:

School opens on 7th September 2022
following the Summer break

Follow us



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