

# BHSA Newsletter

Autumn 1 Edition

2022

Edition 12



## Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. It has been a particularly busy half term and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights. The students have embraced all the opportunities given to them so far this year and set themselves some impressive challenges. We want them to set no limits on what they can achieve academically or in their enrichment and extra-curricular sessions. All students who helped at our recent Open Evening were amazing ambassadors. We were inundated with emails praising the girls and emphasising how confidently they guided our visitors and answered any queries. It was the busiest Open Evening on record with over a thousand visitors attending. Our Junior School students have also stepped up to the mark with outstanding engagement in their new classes. Our whole school Oracy focus is developing well and I am very much looking forward to our Key Stage 3 Spoken English competition next half term. The judges will have tough decisions to make with so much talent already emerging!

I hope you have a relaxing half term break and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

*Rebecca Mahony*



## All about me!

It has been fantastic to welcome our new Reception pupils as they embark on their journey with us at BHSA. It has been rewarding to get to know our wonderful children through our 'All About Me' topic and the children have enjoyed discussing what is familiar to them. They have enjoyed sharing our new 'My Time at Home' books with their peers and their conversations have been brilliant to hear. Through the wonderful story 'A Handful of Buttons' we explored our own special and unique families. We made our own button and pebble families. Well done Reception!



# Year 1—Investigating

Year 1 have been investigating how toys have changed over the last century. They have had a wonderful time playing with some old fashioned toys and discussing what they are like and what they are made from.



## Year 6 House Captains

Please welcome Y6 new House Captains who will be holding the position until February 2023.



**Badgers:** Bea & Scarlett-Lillie



**Penguins:** Isis & Lupe



**Pandas:** Brooke & Ava-Mai



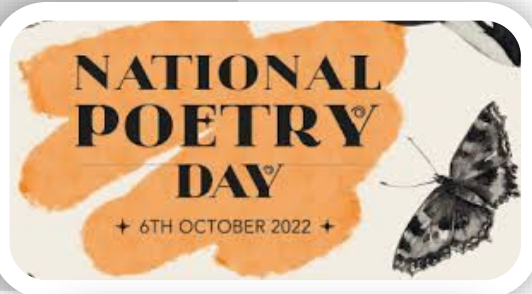
**Zebras:** Tabitha & Daisy





# BHSA Library Service

An exciting author event is coming to BHSA after the half term break. In partnership with Lingham's bookshop, Natasha Hastings will come and visit us on Monday 21st November 2022. She will talk about her newly published debut, *The Miraculous Sweetmakers: The Frost Fair*, to our pupils. She started writing this book while she was studying History at Cambridge University. It would be a fantastic opportunity for our girls to meet an inspiring author. Natasha Hastings will also sign the books at the end of the talk. Pupils can buy the book via school ParentPay after the half term.

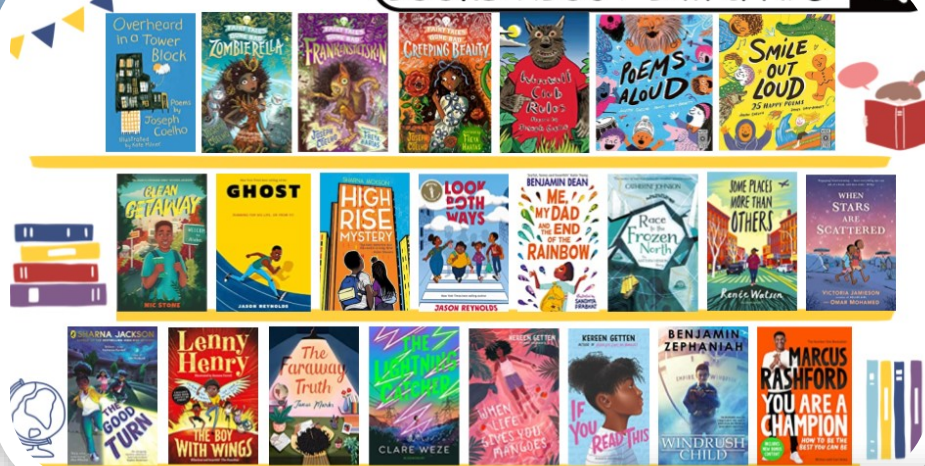


## October - Black History Month and National Poetry Day Celebration

All KS2 and Year 7 pupils have a chance to read Joseph Coelho's poems during the reading lesson. Joseph Coelho is a famous British poet and was elected as Children's Laureate in 2022. Year 8 and Year 9 pupils explored a wide range of verse novels written by the Black authors such as Jason Reynolds and Manjeet Mann. Miss Forshaw, our English teacher, is hosting a poetry writing competition in senior school and Mrs Doran will run The Lost Words poetry competition with junior school pupils.



### (BOOKS ABOUT B:M & NPD)



## Books of the Month

KS2 and Year 7

### (BOOKS ABOUT B:M & NPD)





# GDST Northern Trust Rally

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the Senior volleyball, trampolining and fitness team travelled to Newcastle High School for Girls for the GDST Northern Trust Rally. All BHSA pupils competed really well and we came out as winners in the trampolining and volleyball competitions. Congratulations to everyone involved!



## Tennis Event—Laver Cup 2022

As well as the very special experience for the young people to be involved in, Action for Children were chosen by their Patron the Princess of Wales as one of the charity partners for The Laver Cup 2022 - who will share proceeds from the tickets to help to support vulnerable children and families all over the UK.

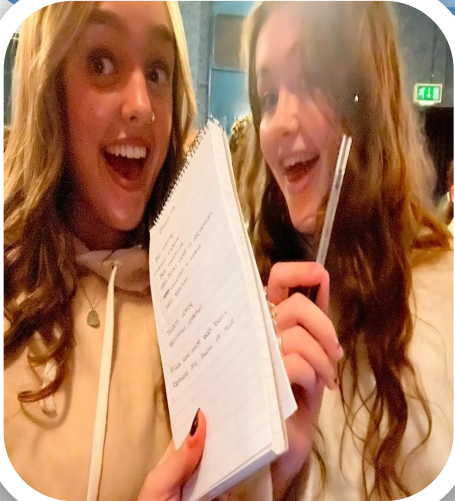
The young people were lucky enough to be treated to some of the best seats in the O2 in London for Practice day, joined by 16,000+ spectators to watch Roger Federer warm up for the tournament on court with Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic – between the four players they have won 66 Grand Slam Tournaments!

Action for Children have been delivering their wellbeing programmes within Birkenhead Academy over a number of years, with such a great partnership 4 young people were chosen from the school to attend the exciting tennis event. Pippa, Lucy, Orlaith and Ava were an absolutely credit to both the school and Action for Children and said they very much enjoyed being young ambassadors and getting involved in such an exciting event. Afterwards they said “I made some new friends and saw live tennis and saw Andy Murray. I also had a lot of fun and it was an amazing experience.”



# Othello Theatre Visit

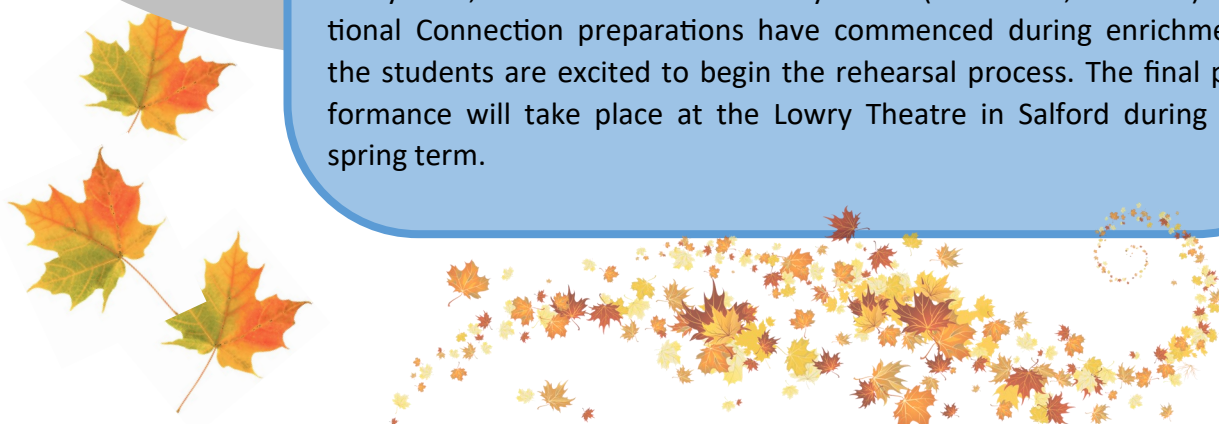
This half term year 11, 12 and 13 drama students visited the Liverpool playhouse to see Othello performed by Frantic Assembly and directed by Scott Graham. The students were enthralled by Shakespeare's tragedy of paranoia, power and murder. Frantic Assembly did a fantastic, powerful, energetic and cinematic performance in their portrayal of the story. This contemporary performance was set in a run down pub clearly which highlighted the relevance to a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience as Othello unshielded the tension, fear and paranoia buried beneath the veneer of some relationships and how easily that can be maliciously exploited. It was fantastic to see our students engage so well with this poetic Shakespearean play and to appreciate the powerful use of physical skills that were deployed to retell this famous play. All our students were inspired, they enjoyed a positive and creative experience; it was pleasing to hear them analyse and evaluate the performance and design elements and share their personal response to the performance.



Photograph: Tristram Kenton for the Guardian

## National Connections 23

Mrs Pinnington and Mrs Sillitoe will be traveling to London during the half term break for the National Connections Directors Weekend. National Connections is the National Theatre's nationwide youth theatre festival. Each year it offers a unique opportunity for youth theatre groups to stage new plays written for young people by some of theatre's most exciting playwrights, and to perform and work with leading people in the creative industry. This year BHSA students will be performing 'The Heights' by Lisa McGee. This is a play about stories. Lillie is a teenager who lives on the Heights Estate. A place where nothing ever happens, except in Lillie's head. Lisa McGee is a playwright and screenwriter from Northern Ireland. She is the creator and writer of Derry Girls, the hit television comedy series (Channel 4, 2018-22). National Connection preparations have commenced during enrichment, the students are excited to begin the rehearsal process. The final performance will take place at the Lowry Theatre in Salford during the spring term.





# MacMillan Coffee Morning

We were very proud of Grace, one of our Deputy Head girls for organising the MacMillan Coffee morning. The Sixth Form foyer was transformed into a delicious cake shop with many staff, sixth form and year 11 pupils coming to buy a sweet treat raising money for a worthy cause. The teamwork and organisational skills behind such an event is praiseworthy.



## PA Update

The AGM and PA committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 welcomed new members to the PA including new co-chairs, and further support with social media to promote the work of the PA. As par to this meeting, it has been agreed that the PA will organise a couple of events within the Autumn Term to help raise funds to support projects within the school.

With this in mind dates for your diaries include:

School Disco for Infants and Juniors – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Volunteers to help on the night will be required, and further information including times for this event will be forthcoming.

Christmas Fair – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. Volunteers will be needed to support on the day before and day of the fair to set up, run stalls and clear up after the event.

Further updates re both events will come out as plans progress.

## Wirral Young Sportsperson

Congratulations to Patience Wood in Year 11, who has won Wirral Young Athlete of the Year. This outdoor season, Patience has represented GB at the European Youth Cup and European Championships achieving 2 European Records, 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 bronze medal. She won the Under 18 UK Junior Masters Championships and the Under 16 Junior National Championships. She won Gold recently for Cheshire in the Senior U.K National County Championships. She is currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> under 18 in Europe and is also as an Ambassador for Archery GB and has given workshops and have a go sessions to numerous charities and even promoted active sessions for seniors in nursing homes.

She is due to compete internationally at a Senior level (as an adult) in Holland (November) and Berlin (December) and if she then qualifies high enough at the European Indoor Championships in Turkey (February).





# Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

This weekend our new recruits attended their first ever camp away at Nesscliffe Training Area in Shropshire, having only been cadets for just over a month. The excitement of being away from home for the weekend was clear to see, just as the shock of waking at 0600 on a Saturday was! Cadets took part in a variety of activities such as cooking and making shelters in the field, archery, paintballing, drill and semaphore. Our senior cadets were supposed to be undertaking further leadership training, but unfortunately couldn't due to staff shortages. Instead, they took a leading role with the recruits' training, showing them the ropes and having a great time themselves. All in all, a weekend of good times followed by a Monday of some very tired, but happy, cadets (and staff!). Be sure to follow our Instagram page, bhsaccf, for more photos of the weekend and everything else we get up to.



## Prom Committee

Our Sixth Form Prom committee showed their Entrepreneurial side when, during Open Evening they raised over £150 to out towards the cost of their Year 13 Prom. Selling cakes and pastries was a welcome addition to the wonderful tours of our Sixth Form building.



**Thank you for your support during this  
half term.**

**Enjoy a relaxing break.**

**REMINDER:**  
School opens on  
Monday 31st October 2022

**Follow us**



**Birkenhead High School Academy**

86 Devonshire Place, Prenton, Wirral CH43 1TY — **Website:** [www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net](http://www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net)

