

# BHSA Newsletter

## Spring Edition

### 2023

### Edition 14



## Welcome

Welcome to our Easter term newsletter. As you can see, it has been an incredibly busy few weeks and we have so much to celebrate. This newsletter only gives a flavour of a "term in the life of BHSA"! Highlights for me are the Fiver Challenge in the Junior School, our amazing Matilda The Musical and our fabulous literary festival. Our staff and students have yet again taken my breath away with their energy, commitment and community spirit. Our Year 6, 11 and 13 students have shown great maturity and resilience in the preparation for their approaching examinations and I know they will use their time wisely over the Easter break to ensure they all reach their full potential in the summer.

This Easter we say thank you and goodbye to Ms Shannon and Mr Howard, who are leaving BHSA to go on to new roles. We wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

I am sure you will enjoy reading about our students' achievements.

Have a relaxing Easter break.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Rebecca Mahony*

### Reception— Spring planting

Reception have enjoyed getting stuck into their growing topic this half term. Despite the cold snap, they have observed the growth of a range of seeds. They used their artistic skills to create their own daffodils from a range of media. Their study of the illustrator Eric Carle led to some brilliantly bright collage daffodils, such an impressive sight. Through their science observations the children were able to confidently name and label different parts of a plant. During the topic Mrs Bass was blown away with their scientific writing about the needs of seeds to germinate well and we enjoyed sharing this writing during Science Week. Every child took home a sunflower seed to plant at home, care for and then keep us updated so we can have a sunflower height competition. Good luck Reception



# Minibeast Hunt—Y1



## Animal Talk Y1 & Y2

As part of British Science Week, Years 1 & 2 enjoyed meeting and learning about animals with Ms. Sands and some of the sixthformers. Our special visitors included an African pygmy hedgehog, a corn snake, a Syrian hamster, some Madagascan hissing cockroaches, a Horsfield tortoise and a bearded dragon.





# Birkenhead Park

**Year 1** enjoyed their trip to Birkenhead Park. We observed different features and added them to their own maps.

They have also created their own fruit kebabs in DT. They carefully followed their designs to create bright, appealing and delicious treats!





## Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

### “Sensational Symphonic Time Machine”

'Year 3 went to see the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's "Sensational Symphonic Time Machine" Schools' Concert! These concerts have been running for 80 years and are attended by over 18000 children each year.

Our fun-filled concert was presented in partnership with National Museums Liverpool, and explored the topic of History. We also got to sing a specially commissioned song, "Back in Time for the End of the Song", accompanied by the orchestra!



## Anti-bullying Ambassador Training

During the Spring term, pupils from Year Four to Year Ten attended Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training supported by The Diana Award, a national charity and the Nationwide Building Society. The Diana Award defines bullying as 'Repeated, negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable, or unsafe'.

The training aims to engage and empower young people to change attitudes, behaviours and the culture of bullying by building skills and confidence on how to address different situations, both on and offline.

Our twenty Anti-Bullying Ambassadors endeavour to ensure that our school is a safe and happy place free from any forms of bullying. They will be running events and campaigns in our school aimed to celebrate what makes everyone special.

We are very proud of the work that the team has undertaken and their ongoing efforts to ensure that everyone feels safe and happy in our school!





# KAILASH BUDDHIST CENTRE

Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the Kailash Buddhist Centre, in Prenton, as part of our RE curriculum. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to enter an authentic Modern Buddhist Centre and to ask questions to Buddhists who live on site. Year 4 also took part in a breathing Meditation session to cultivate mindfulness which we have since been using in the classroom.

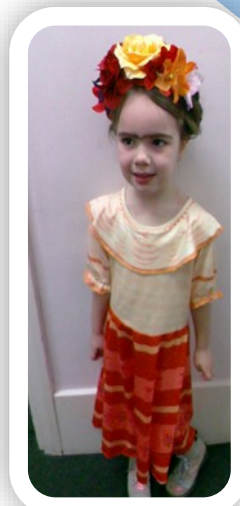
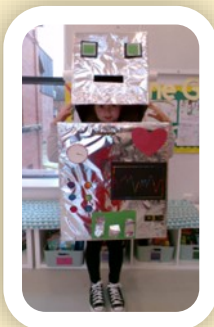


## House Captains—THANK YOU

Spring is when we say a huge **thank you** to our first round of House Captains and welcome new girls into the role. We really appreciate the hard-work they have put in for Junior School!



We love World Book Day at Juniors! The effort the children and staff put in to their outfits is always outstanding. Huge well done to Miss Capes for her outfit – she was nominated by Junior children as being the 'Best Dressed' member of staff. Our overall 'Best Dressed' children are pictured



World Book Day

# Earthquake Appeal Charity Event

On the last day of the half term we had a lunchtime disco run by our wonderful 6th form team. Students paid 50p entry and the sixth form controlled the tunes. There was definitely a party atmosphere. The event was a huge success and raised over £300 for charity in less than 45 minutes! Huge thanks to our sixth form team who created the atmosphere and baked or bought cakes to sell. Well done all.

## Visit from Wirral DEEN Centre

On the 3rd March we welcomed Amanda from the Wirral DEEN centre to speak to all of year 7 students. Amanda spent two hours with the students talking about all aspects of Islam, and explaining to the students how she prays, what her daily life is like, and about the celebrations she takes part in. The students saw first hand some of the religious artefacts used within Islam, and one student even volunteered to wear some religious clothing. Even Mrs Crawford learnt a new fact; that DEEN means religion or faith; hence the name of the centre. We are really grateful to Amanda for coming into school and we look forward to bringing students on a visit to the DEEN centre very soon







The 27<sup>th</sup> January saw the first BHSA STEM Fair, where 28 STEM-related employers and Universities displayed some interactive and engaging stalls inspiring the next generation of scientists from years 8-13. Students spoke to scientists from Unilever, Airbus and the NHS to name a few; they were able to discover what it would be like to be a geneticist or a physiotherapist; they discovered their routes into different careers by looking at their degrees options for some of our local Universities such as Chester and Liverpool John Moores; they were able to find out about various apprenticeships with the ASK.

Year 11 student, Alexia, said, "I learnt so much, I loved being able to pipette pretend blood into a tiny vial!"

Year 9 pupil, Libby, "The stall at Eureka was so much fun, I wish we could have stayed for longer! I can't wait for next year!"



## Year 10 Science Trip to ScienceLive

This year, our Year 10 science students were given a remarkable opportunity to hear from five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. They heard about the research from some prominent scientists like Professor Robert Winston, the pioneer of IVF and television presenter, as well as Professor Alice Roberts, a clinical anatomist who has presented a range of programmes on BBC2, including *Coast*, *Wild Swimming* and currently, *Digging for Britain*. Jim Al-Khalili, a professor of physics who won a Faraday prize for science communication. His documentaries include *Order and Disorder*, *Everything and Nothing*, *Chemistry: A Volatile History* and *Atom* on the BBC and appeared in Channel 4's *Genius of Britain*. The day was fast-moving, exciting, thought-provoking and gave students the chance to ask the scientists some challenging questions! The primary objective was to generate greater enthusiasm for science amongst GCSE pupils.



# What's happening in the Music Department

## Masterclass

Earlier this term, a number of talented year 6 students had the opportunity to engage in a music masterclass, led by the year 12 BTEC music students, assisted by Mrs Davies and Mr Lammin. The workshop took place in the Music Department, in our new staged rehearsal space, equipped with lighting and live sound equipment. The year 6 students involved, thoroughly enjoyed the experience, relishing the opportunity to work closely with, and be mentored by, some of our fantastic year 12 musicians. They performed with flair, using their instruments / vocals to produce an excellent performance by the end of the session.



Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's

Robyn Pulford was chosen by Barnardo's to speak at the House of Lords on behalf of Young Carers, they then went to 10 Downing Street to write a letter to Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister. This was a great opportunity for Robyn and they did brilliantly.





# Biology field trip

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, the Year 13 A-level biology class enjoyed a field trip to North Wales. The facilities and equipment at FSC Rhyd-y-creuau enabled students to collect excellent data and significantly deepen their understanding of the ecological techniques component of the A level course. This was definitely a case of “I see and understand; I do and I remember.” On the first afternoon we did kick sampling in Afon Conwy to investigate the relationship between water flow and invertebrate diversity. On the second day we investigated zonation and limpet height to width ratio on a sheltered rocky shore in Anglesey and on the morning of the third, students completed the data collection for their required practical 12. All students worked hard and were unfailingly cheerful and industrious, despite the weather turning very wet on the last morning. The warm beds and excellent food at the field studies centre helped with that. Field work during the day was followed by teaching from the centre staff in the evenings and analysis of the day's data as well as planning for the next day's investigation.

Any BHSa staff member who accompanies a trip is well-accustomed to hearing our students praised for their pleasant and courteous manners, their sensible behaviour and support of one another. This time was no exception, but it was also delightful to hear praise of how quickly students grasped new concepts, solved problems and made suggestions. Centre staff were also very complimentary about the quality of the data the BHSa students collected and their concentration care and diligence in doing so.

Year 13 biologists and I would like to thank the centre staff for their enthusiasm and good teaching, Dr Nelson for organising the trip and Mr Perry for driving the minibus and guarding our equipment when we were on the beach.



# Sporting Events

## Milano Gymnastics competition

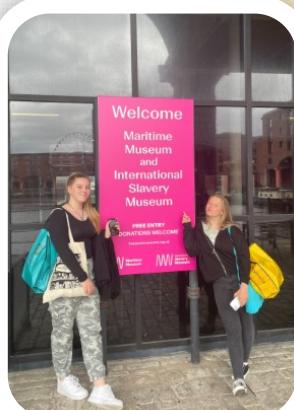
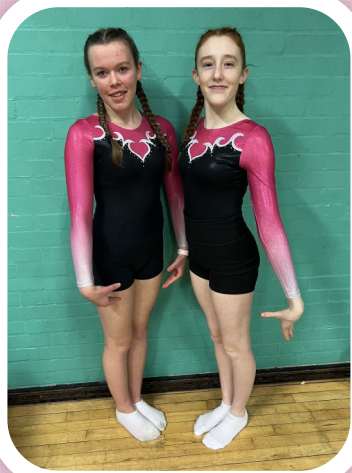
The gymnastic squad went to St Bebes R.C. High School in Blackburn and competed a floor and vault routine against other schools in the North West. They all worked really hard and competed excellent routines. Well done to the under 13s for coming 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Maddie Robinson in Year 11 has been selected to play for the Liverpool under 21 football squad next season.

We had a fantastic visit from **Brendon Prince, founder of the charity 'Above Water'**. He came in to talk to us about his record breaking paddle board adventure and also provided some training in relation to drowning prevention. Pupils from St. Anselm's also joined us for the day.

## Scholars day

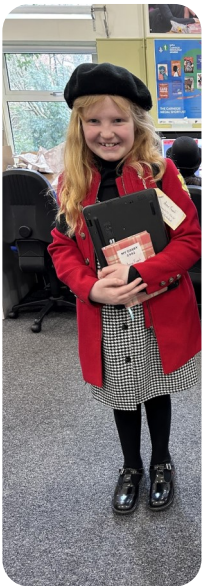
Some of our senior athletes took part in an excellent sports scholars day organised by the GDST. It was hosted in collaboration with the Mintridge Foundation and all pupils attended workshops delivered by athlete mentors from a variety of sports.





# Literary Festival 2023

It was another incredible year for our annual Literary Festival. The theme this year was Time Travel. We looked into some time slip fiction and its mechanisms of going back in time. We explored past events, for instance medicine through times as well as Anglo-Saxon Norman England, related it all to the history curriculum through the enthralling Escape Room. All the teams enthused in the puzzle solving tasks to find their way back in time. It was a joyful and engaging experience for pupils to learn and revise some aspects of the history curriculum.



As part of our annual literary festival, pupils and staff dressed up on World Book Day to celebrate reading. The efforts that staff and pupils put in were superb. Alongside with the Jurassic age of dinosaurs roaring around on the day, we met Victorian workhouse children, suffragettes, war time evacuees as well as the eighties funky party dancers. The Best Dressed Pupil on the WBD will go to Ellie Barber who dressed up as Anne Frank. She put lots of detail in her costume, including the homemade badge and diary.





# Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was also organised for whole academy pupils to browse and buy new books and stationery. It was fantastic to see so many people attend the reading evening. Parents and carers had the opportunity to buy books and stationery from the Scholastic Book Fair whilst also having the opportunity to discover more about how to support their daughter/ward at home with their reading. Both the Junior and Senior Library were full, and it was wonderful to see so many excited faces eager to get home to read their new books. Thank you to everyone who attended and for being patient with the card machine. The event raised nearly over £1000 for the book fund for our school library which will go towards many new purchases for all our children to enjoy. If you would like to find out more about how to support your daughter/ward at home with their reading, please visit: <https://www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net/page/?title=Reading&pid=151>



Our book club participated in the National Reading Champions Quiz regional heat on Tuesday 21st March. Our teams competed with another 23 teams from Manchester and Merseyside and answered 75 questions (two and half hour) related books! It was fun and competitive to share and challenge our reading knowledge. Reading does make our mind bloom!







# Author Visits

Dame Jacqueline Wilson came and visited our school on Friday 24th March. It was an honour that we could host a multi-school book event which has not happened since the pandemic. All our KS2 and Year 7 pupils were keen to read and find out more of Jacqueline's new book, 'The Other Edie Trimmer'. Jacqueline Wilson shared with us how she got the ideas for naming her two well-known book characters, Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather. Apart from telling us about her newly published book, she also shared with us her writing tips and what moves her to keep on writing. She made great friends with Rita the Reading Dog. We are very grateful to have the partnership with our local bookshop, Lingham's, who brought Dame Jacqueline Wilson to our school.



## More reading news:

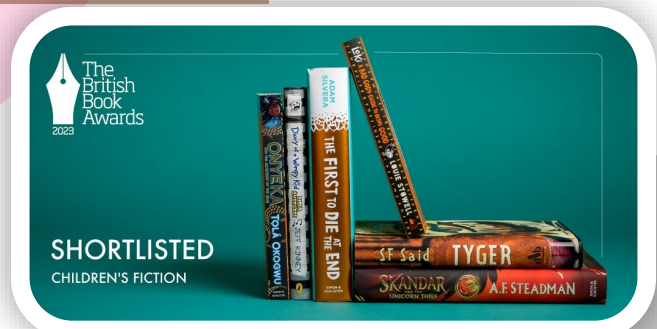
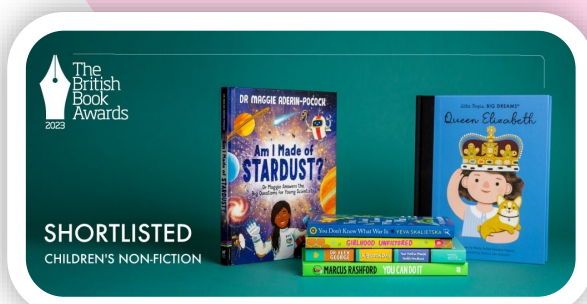
A lot of national and regional book award shortlists have just been revealed. Here are some awards shortlists:



## Wirral Book Awards 2022 – 2023



## The British Book Awards - Children's Fiction shortlists:







Thank you for your support during this  
past term.

Enjoy a relaxing Easter break.



## REMINDER:

We close for Easter at 3.35pm on Friday  
31st March and school re-opens on  
Monday 17th April 2023



Follow us



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