

BHSA Newsletter

Spring Edition

2024

Edition 17



Welcome

Welcome to our spring term newsletter and yet again we have a bumper edition celebrating all the wonderful opportunities afforded to our students and their outstanding achievements. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our teaching and support staff, who continuously go above and beyond the call of duty for the children. This newsletter is testament to this! This term has seen such a wide range of activities, from a plethora of events in the Junior School to mark science week, careers fairs in the Senior School and of course, the amazing production of Annie with a cast of all ages.

As we break up for the Easter holidays we say a huge thank you and farewell to Mrs Eleanor Buckley, who is retiring from teaching after 12 years of dedicated service at BHSA. We wish her the very best of luck for her next adventure.

I hope the sun shines for you over the Easter break and that you have a relaxing time with your families. I look forward to welcoming the students back to school for the summer term on Monday 15th April.

Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Rebecca Mahony



During the Spring Term, Reception enjoyed visiting the science museum Eureka! It was exciting as it was their first trip out on a school bus. As part of their 'Understanding the World' curriculum the children explored the human body, looked in detail at our natural world and explored how our homes run. The children asked many wonderful questions and got to grips with mechanics. They explored different technologies and pushed their bodies with exercise. All the children were fabulous and displayed our school VALUES throughout their trip. Thank you Reception.



British Science Week



Year 1 had a fantastic time learning about animal classification during their workshops for British Science week. We even had some very courageous pupils who happily handled the snakes with a big smile-funnily enough the teachers weren't quite so brave!



'Time'



After beginning our celebration of British Science Week by learning about this year's theme 'Time' in an online assembly from The Royal Observatory, the Juniors took part in a variety of activities designed to develop their understanding of the world of science. KS2 spent a morning teaching each other different experiments in their Super Science Share and our younger pupils had hands-on experiences with snakes, tarantulas, a hedgehog and an owl during their animal workshops. We were grateful to several parents and other volunteers who spoke to KS2 about their careers in science and widened their knowledge of the many varied opportunities science can offer. The week ended by awarding prizes to the pupils who entered our BHSA science week competition to make a 30 second timer from household materials. Well done to Ella and to the pupils who won a free family ticket to Eureka Science and Discovery Centre.



Animal Poo!



Year 1 had a brilliant time investigating samples of animal poo (only pretend we promise!) to decide if the creatures were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

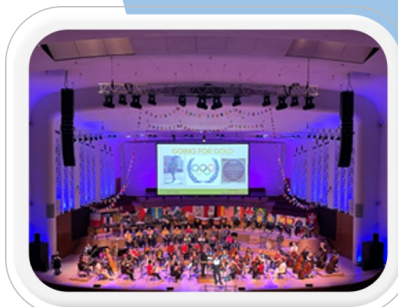


Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

“Going for Gold: The Orchestral Olympics”

Year 3 visited the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra’s “Going for Gold: The Orchestral Olympics” Schools Concert! These concerts have been running for over 80 years and are attended by 18000 children every year!

In partnership with National Museums Liverpool, the fun-filled concert explored the themes of sport and health as we discovered the history of the Olympic Games and their surprising connection to Liverpool. We also got to sing a specially commissioned song, “Personal Best”, accompanied by the orchestra!





Activity for All

A group of Year 4 children attended Activity for All to compete in a dodgeball tournament. Their skills improved throughout the competition and they all had a great time!



WESTERN APPROACHES WAR MUSEUM

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Western Approaches. This trip consolidated what the children had learned during their World War 2 topic and they had many opportunities to show off all their knowledge to the museum curators and guides!

Pupils took part in drill practice, discovered fascinating facts about the role Liverpool played in the Battle of the Atlantic as well as enjoying an interactive tour of the underground war rooms.

We all agreed that this museum is a hidden gem and a place we would definitely want to visit again and would recommend that others should pay a visit.

<https://liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/>



World Poetry Day



Junior school, together with students from senior school, joined together in a celebration of poetry to mark World Poetry Day.

Over the past few weeks, children from Years 1 - 6 have worked hard to create some spectacular poems to enter into the BSA Poetry Cup competition.

Our celebratory assembly began in style with Kirsty Ndoro and Gaby Liu reading their poems to the junior pupils. All class winners recited their poems beautifully and winners of the Queen's Cup (Years 1&2), O'Connell Cup (3&4) and Carter Cup (Y5&6) were announced.

Huge congratulations to all class winners and to the cup winners who go on to represent the school in the esteemed GDST-wide Laurie Manus Poetry Competition

Class winners

1S Martha Swanick
2M Evie Harrison
2W Evie Pemberton

Winner of the Queen's Cup - Imogen Bailey 1B

3BC Maddie Davies
3H Martha Calverley
4B Hannah Stern

Winner of the O'Connell Cup Megan Roberts 4EC

5M Alexandra Adams
5R Tilly Harris
6BT Heidi Powell

Winner of the Carter Cup for Poetry

Rosanna Abdulla 6K



Media & Communications Careers Fair



A Media and Communications careers fair was held at BHSA on Monday 26th February. We were delighted to welcome to the school many media industry professionals and representatives from higher education centres, including the BBC and Liverpool Hope University. The event was a huge success and feedback from pupils has been positive. Students from years 9 to 13 found themselves greatly inspired by their conversations with our amazing guests.

It is very important for pupils to understand how each of the subjects that they study fits into their career plans. We have therefore collated a number of website links for further information from several of the organisations who participated in the careers fair. These will hopefully be useful to pupils and their families to continue the conversations begun at the event.



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

Liverpool Hope University

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/>



Career Connect

<https://careerconnect.org.uk/>



University of Law

<https://www.law.ac.uk/locations/liverpool/>



Liverpool John Moores

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/>



BBC

<https://careers.bbc.co.uk/>



Zircom Marketing

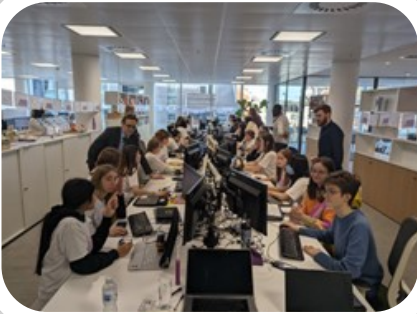
www.zircom.uk.com

Y8 CAD Club enrichment



Year 8 students have enjoyed taking part in CAD club in enrichment this year. Pictured are the 3D printed minifigures that they learnt how to model using google SketchUp.

Raspberry Pi Day GDST



In February, in a cosmic convergence of innovation and exploration, our Year 10 and 11 students recently participated in the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) Space Technology Programmes Raspberry Pi Day at the GDST Trust Office. The event showcased the exceptional talents of our young minds as they delved into the realms of machine learning and Raspberry Pi programming. From crafting a machine learning program using climate data to programming Raspberry Pi devices for image detection and recognition—critical for telescopic advancements—the students demonstrated a profound understanding of the intersection between technology and space exploration. We extend our gratitude to GDST for orchestrating this stellar event



Black History Month Poetry Competition



Nell Ost Y8 successfully reached the final of the Black History Month poetry competition with her poem about her inspirational black woman Audre Lorde. She attended a winner's reception at the House of Commons on March 21st. A huge congratulations to Nell!



Sporting Events

Netball League



The year 7 netball team have played matches throughout the year in the Wirral Schools Netball League with many different girls representing BHSA as part of the team. The girls have played against lots of different schools on the Wirral and made it though to the semi-finals of the league. The year 7 team played two matches in the semi finals and came 3rd overall. Congratulations to all who have played in the team this year!

Congratulations to the year 9 netball team who won the Wirral Schools Plate tournament. Across all the matches played during the tournament the girls were undefeated!

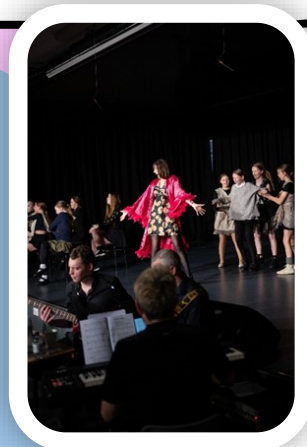




Annie—The Musical

What's happening in the Music Department

This year's Birkenhead High School Academy annual school production was the much beloved 'Annie', but with a unique twist: both junior and senior students took the stage together to exhibit their acting and singing talents across three evenings to sold-out audiences. The camaraderie between the youngest and the oldest students was a testament to the unifying power of art. All the members of the audience were impressed by the quality of the performances. Behind the scenes, dedicated teachers and staff had worked since September to support and coach the students to ensure that every performer's creativity shone through. It was an incredible feat to incorporate this love for the arts alongside the daily curriculum and examination preparations. This year, the arts faculty undoubtedly raised the bar in its production of the musical extravaganza. Eve Riddaway, one of our talented year 9 students, played the lead role of Annie, delivering an outstanding performance as the tenacious orphan, Annie, alongside an exuberant and engaging cast. Over 80 students took part in the production and through their hard work and dedication, they created a memorable performance, which wowed audiences. On the final night, the cast and audience received a thrilling surprise when Principal Rebecca Mahony featured as a very glamorous Miss Hannigan, complete with pink dressing gown alongside her year 10 counterpart. It was a fabulous demonstration of Mrs Mahony's support for the show, which was handled with great verve. Rita, the school's reading dog, was also persuaded with ample treats to make a cameo appearance during each night's rendition of 'Tomorrow'. Collaborative working is what the Arts Faculty do best, and the production provided a wonderful opportunity for some of our budding Junior school performers to be on stage alongside some of our talented Senior students. All that appeared on stage gave convincing and committed performances each night and many, I'm sure, are destined to be on the stage: watch this space! We look forward to the next production!



GDST Sing



During February half-term, five of our year 13 music students were fortunate enough to be able to attend a day of musical workshops, followed by a concert at the world renowned Royal Academy of Music in London, as part of the GDST Sing event. The day was led by the award winning conductor, Tori Longdon, and the repertoire included a variety of pieces, including 'The Girl From Aleppo', which is a unique and powerful memoir that gives voice to the Syrian refugee crisis, told by acclaimed British foreign correspondent, Christina Lamb. This awe-inspiring work was composed by Cecilia McDowall, who, alongside the librettist, Kevin Crossley, spoke at the concert, delivering their powerful message. The day was a huge success and was a wonderful opportunity for some of our talented musicians to perform alongside music students from other GDST schools in a world-renowned concert hall.



Year 13 BTEC applied science class have met with professionals from various scientific fields, to bring the world of work to life in the classroom:

Professor Mark Taylor, an expert in a disease we have been studying called lymphatic filariasis and PhD student Carrie Barrett who is studying the mental health and socio-economic effects it has on people in developing countries.

Pete Leary, from WaterAid who specialises in Incident Management & Resilience with the Environment Agency. He discussed the work WaterAid do to help people in developing countries have access to clean water and toilets, and the impact this has, especially for girls who often miss school in order to collect clean water for home.

Physiotherapist Huw Williams, shared his experiences working for the NHS and in trauma wards of Liverpool hospitals. Inspiring students towards a career with the NHS and discussing conditions we have studied such as Ehlers-Danlos syndromes, Paget's disease of bone, and osteoarthritis

Lymphoma Action services manager, Karen Bonell discussed the services available for people with Hogkin's Lymphoma, and the benefits of social media in providing a strong community support network for those who are diagnosed.



Year 13 BTEC Applied Science

Drama News



This half term 8 students have been exploring stage makeup. They have created some wonderful designs. They have researched and developed knowledge of Stage make-up, design techniques and make-up application skills. They have designed the make-up for various characters and applied this to a model.



Text based drama



During this half term GCSE drama students have worked hard and showcased their theatrical and drama design skills in a live performance. Students performed a range of scripted performances whilst some students played a production role such as costume design. They practically explored their given play and performed texts from a range of play genres and theatrical styles. It was an enjoyable experience and wonderful to see our students perform live and celebrate their creativity.



Drama News



GCSE & A level Drama & Theatre Students Theatre trip news

Next half term GCSE and drama students are going to watch the production of 'Everyone is talking about Jamie' at the Liverpool Empire Theatre. This is a great opportunity for our drama students to watch a creative and engaging performance of the 'Everyone is talking about Jamie', sell out West End musical story. Jamie New is sixteen and lives on a council estate in Sheffield. Jamie doesn't quite fit in. Jamie is terrified about the future. Jamie is going to be a sensation. Supported by his brilliant loving mum and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight!

The drama department regularly runs theatre trips and we would encourage all students to get involved.



Cagebirds

During enrichment KS4 students are preparing for a performance of Cagebirds by David Compton. In this extraordinary play, a "room" and a "cage" and "people" and "captive birds" all become confused until a dramatic climax in which we suddenly see reality.

Six women live in a locked room, each absorbed in her own petty interest and in placating the "Mistress" who takes care of them. Then a "Wild One" is thrust in among them. She talks of breaking out of the room to find freedom. She troubles the others who remain secure in their cage, and they all join against her in the shattering conclusion to this unforgettable play that offers eight actresses an unusual opportunity.

The year 11s have taken on a 1:1 mentor role, coaching the year 10 students who will be performing Cagebirds. This allows year 10 to continue to develop their theatrical skills from experienced year 11 mentors who are weeks away from completing their qualification. Mentorships give year 11 crucial leadership skills and allows them to look at drama from a directors perspective!



DRAMA NEWS



Drama & Mental Wellbeing



The BHS theatre company has begun exploring the process of devised drama. The BHS theatre company contains students from KS3 to KS5 and they have worked together efficiently and professionally looking at different roles, responsibilities and the process in which drama is created from a stimulus.

They are in the early stages of show development and have decided to produce a piece centred around mental health stigmatisation to help educate an audience. This will be developed into an absurdist play with each student taking on an additional design role for either costume, set, light and sound.



MEDICAL REMINDER

Please can you remember to access the SIMS Parent App to update your daughter/ward's medical information

Extra help needed?

For parents who need some extra support, please look at the 'drop in resource' available for year 7 onwards.



GDST Short Film Competition—Notting Hill & Ealing High School



All GDST students from Years 7-13 were invited to submit a film entry with the theme to "Flip the Script: A Different Perspective" and showcase their unique perspectives through the art of filmmaking.

Two Year 12 students Grace Courtliff and Lexie Steingruber submitted an entry and were shortlisted to attend the gala event on Tuesday 19th March.

The judges were highly impressed by the quantity and quality of entries, making the selection process challenging. They praised the remarkable talent and creativity of the students. The films were evaluated by five judges, including one based in Hollywood.

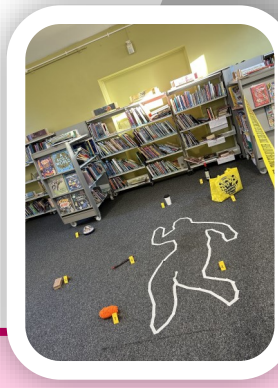
The Chrystall Carter Speaking Competition

BHSA recently hosted the northern heat of the Chrystall Carter Speaking and Listening Competition, and we were blown away by the talent and enthusiasm of the students! Year eleven contestants from the Northern GDST schools - BHSA, Belvedere, Nottingham, Newcastle, and Sheffield - showcased their impressive communication skills, delivering speeches on a wide range of topics.

The competition fostered a spirit of healthy competition and encouraged students to think critically, express themselves clearly, and answer a range of challenging questions from our audience of students and staff. The judges were thoroughly impressed by the participants. Mr Ascroft, Headteacher of Wirral Boys School, commented on how impressed he had been with "five young women with talent, bravery and with markers set down in their own personal journeys".

They had a difficult decision to make, but after some deliberation, Nitya Prasad from Nottingham was declared the winner. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event such a success! We look forward to seeing even more incredible presentations at the next competition.

Literary Festival 2024



Once again, our week-long celebration of reading and literature at BHSA was a resounding success! We had “a Murder in the Library” - a murder mystery event in which all KS3 pupils were busy putting their knowledge and skills to the test to solve the crime puzzle - in a ladylike manner, or course! Their observation skills, logical deduction skills and technological skills were all needed to solve the mystery. Additionally, we launched a brand new Friday Murdle Club to unlock our BHSA sleuths’ potential! An extended murder mystery book quiz was sent out to all pupils to test their book knowledge and all around the school there was a buzz around books!



In addition, our book club participated in the National Reading Champions Quiz 2024 regional heat on Monday 4th March at Birkenhead School. It was the first time our teams competed with another 16 teams face-to-face. We answered a total of 75 questions (over the course of two and half hours) related to books! It was an intense and competitive atmosphere in which to share and challenge our book knowledge. Proof that reading does sharpen our minds and help us bloom! Our team members agreed that it was a fruitful learning experience.



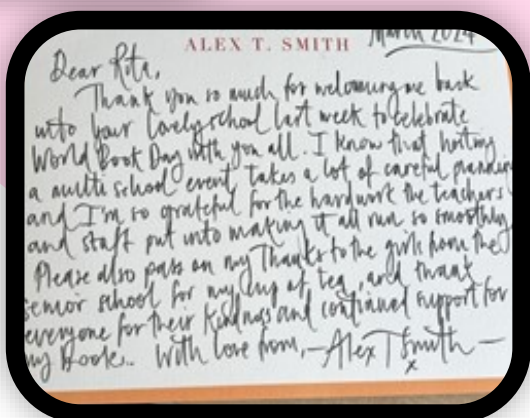


Alex T Smith

At BHS, we always ensure our pupils are treated to at least one author event around World Book Day, and this year was no exception. These events enable our young readers to connect with celebrated authors, but also be inspired to become a writer or a storyteller in the future. We work in partnership with our local independent bookshop, Lingham's in Heswall, and organise multi-school author events to embrace reading among the community.

This year, beloved children's author, **Alex T Smith**, visited us again and celebrated reading with our junior school children, coming together with Oxton St Saviour's Primary and St Werburgh's Primary.

Alex T Smith talked about his newly published adventure series, 'Astrid and the Space Cadets: Attack of the Snailiens!' and taught our children how to illustrate the book characters. He also sent us and Rita, our school reading dog, a lovely thank you letter for having him back as well.



Last but not least, thank you to everyone who took part in the annual Scholastic Book Fair. All the extra book funds we raised will be invested in acquiring a new library collection for both junior and senior school pupils.



Latest Book Awards News

Carnegie Medal 2024 Shortlist announced on 13th March 2024

The yoto **Carnegies**

Medal for Writing Shortlist 2024

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Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2024

WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE 2024
CHAMPIONING NEW TALENT FOR 20 YEARS

Older Readers Shortlist

WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE 2024
CHAMPIONING NEW TALENT FOR 20 YEARS

Younger Readers Shortlist



British Book Awards 2024 Children's Books Shortlists:





Thank you for your support during this
past term.

Enjoy a relaxing Easter break.



REMINDER:

We close for Easter at 3.35pm on Thursday
28th March and school re-opens on
Monday 15th April 2024



Follow us



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