



## OUR VISIT TO THE HEART OF GOVERNMENT

Outside Number  
10 Downing Street



**There is no limit to the amazing achievements of our former students!**

Nicola Woodward, who left Prenton in 2004 and went on to gain a BA, an MA and a PhD, is now a Policy Officer in the Cabinet Office, at 70 Whitehall, London. Thanks to Nicola, eight of our Year 10 students were invited to London to learn more about her work and that of other departments at the very heart of Government.

They heard about the history of the building in which the Cabinet Office itself is based, overlooking Horse Guards Parade. Their tour included the office Sir Winston Churchill used during World War II, where he delivered his speech on VE Day and, at the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's office.

They also had a meeting with the Deputy National Security Advisor, Paddy McGuinness,

when they were given a true-to-life emergency scenario. Students 'represented' different departments and organisations with the aim of arriving at the best way to deal with an outbreak of Ebola in the UK. The key to these meetings, Mr McGuinness said, was to get everyone to agree.

Students took part in another exercise that underlined the importance of registering to vote – and with a General Election in May it was a timely opportunity to understand how our democracy works.

Amazingly, our students also made time to witness an inspection of the Household Cavalry in Horse Guards Parade, see Trafalgar Square, visit the statue recognising the work undertaken by women in World War II – and to have their photograph taken outside Number 10 Downing Street, of course!



High School for Girls  
Making a Difference

**Prenton High School for Girls** | Hesketh Avenue | Birkenhead | Wirral | CH42 6RR  
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**Headteacher:** Mrs Lisa Ayling BA (Hons) NPQH  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Geraldine Fraser BEd (Hons) MSc  
**Head Girl:** Lily Clark | **Deputy Head Girls:** Sahima Miah

# WE ARE IN THE TOP 20% NATIONALLY!



**Our school has been just recognised as one of the top 20% of schools nationally for value-added progress.**

The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) released the following statement:

*“Prenton High School for Girls has received national recognition for the value it adds to students’ achievements at GCSE.*

*SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state funded schools in England and identified Prenton’s success.*

*The school has qualified for an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16.*

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

*“Prenton should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this school could share.”*

*“These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Prenton and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud this this is a member of the SSAT network.”*

In a message to staff following this announcement Mrs Ayling, Headteacher said:

*“I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work and commitment, all of which makes a difference to all of our girls and earns us this national recognition. Well done!”*

# Headlines



It has once again been wonderful to see just how much our students have achieved this term, with students taking part in such a varying and impressive range of activities. I will never cease to be amazed at what they and the staff manage to do in a single term – not just the abundance and range of activities but also the sheer volume of great things that happen in our school. It is a real pleasure for me to see the hard work that regularly goes on in the classroom - and beyond.

For example, when I see the display of wonderful talent entering our Prenton's Got Talent competition, our monthly Physics Club meetings that have brought the subject alive with some hands-on and thought-provoking experiments, and our PE students who have competed at the highest levels in cricket, football, volleyball and netball, I am left in no doubt that these are real strengths of the extra-curricular provision at our school.

This term has seen an increase in student leadership opportunities for students from all years, following the many successful applications to the new series of student committees; I am excited at the prospect of the contribution they will make to the life of the school. I am also proud of those former students who keep in touch, telling us about their successes by gaining even more qualifications and achieving positions of responsibility in the world of work. This term we have had over 40 former students sign up for our Alumni association, helping them keep in touch with us and each other.

We are delighted we have a full intake in September – for the third consecutive year. Those joining us will find they will be part of a high achieving school – last year's GCSE results were our best ever, in spite of the more rigorous measurements set by government. They will find many opportunities to learn, take on responsibilities, and to develop skills in a wide range of areas both within and beyond the classroom.

It only remains for me to acknowledge the ongoing hard work of our Year 11 students and to wish them well in their forthcoming exams – and to wish all our students and their families, staff, neighbours and friends a very happy and peaceful Easter.

*Mrs Lisa Ayling*

Headteacher





# HESKETH HOUSE EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA



Getting us in the Easter mood, as well as raising money for local charity Claire House, Hesketh House students held a special lunchtime charity event at the end of term.

Helping to raise funds for the student-nominated House charity were activities like 'pin the tail on the bunny' (kindly painted by Art Technician Miss Dodd), and raffles for cinema tickets and Easter eggs. The event was to be the last one organised by Learning Mentor, Mrs Glynis Johns, who is retiring at the end of term. We all wish her a very happy retirement and Hesketh House especially thank her for helping them raise so much money for their chosen charities over recent years.



Ellie and Millie are pictured, ready to raise money for Claire House.

## AN INVITATION TO OUR OPEN EVENTS

You are invited to come along to our May 2015 Open events:



### Open Evening

Wednesday 6 May

6.00pm - 8.30pm

Headteacher's talk at  
6.30pm | 7.30pm

### Open Day

Friday 8 May

9.30am - 11.30 am  
2.00pm - 4.00 pm

Parents and carers only

If you are unable to make any of these times, please contact the school office and we can arrange a visit at a more convenient time. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Mrs L Ayling, Headteacher



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## HERE COMES THE SUN

Thanks to our ICT Strategy Manager, Mr Graves, Year 8 students were treated in the LRB to a live feed of the recent eclipse during their Humanities lesson with Mr Major. Isobelle is seen here with the eclipse clearly in view.



# A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL KEEN YEAR 5, 6, 7 AND 8 PERFORMERS

Having recently celebrated their 5th Anniversary with the extended support of Gary Barlow and James Corden, the Andrew Curphey Theatre Company are bringing their unique classes to Prenton High School after Easter. Classes will be in school every Tuesday from 21st April between 5.30pm and 7pm. If you are in Years 5,6,7 or 8 and are interested in acting, singing, dancing, taking part in stage shows, keen on enhancing your vocal and social skills, want to build up your

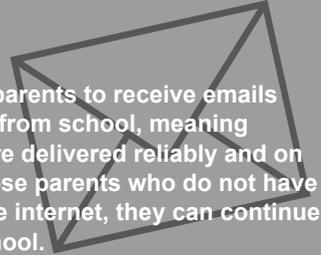
confidence – and have fun, this is for you! For more information and to book a place, call Andrew on 07590 529 116 or email [andrew@actheatrecompany.co.uk](mailto:andrew@actheatrecompany.co.uk). The company is also on [www.actheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.actheatrecompany.co.uk) and [facebook.com/actheatrecompany](https://www.facebook.com/actheatrecompany).



## Introducing ParentMail

Letters have been issued to parents inviting them to sign up to a new convenient way to receive school messages and pay for items: ParentMail. It allows parents to pay for school items such as books and trips online, by debit card or credit card, twenty-four hours a day. ParentMail

also allows parents to receive emails and/or texts from school, meaning messages are delivered reliably and on time. For those parents who do not have access to the internet, they can continue to pay in school.



## Half-term Bake off

Thanks to Mrs Winter and those staff who baked for the Bake-Off before the spring half term break. Over £45 was raised, with the money going towards the Year 11 Prom in July.

## GROW YOUR OWN IS BEST

Gardening Tutor, Carol Seery, has been working with our 'Grow-Your-Own' students in an afterschool course that ran each Monday in the run-up to Easter. The course is funded by a link she made with the community development trust, Lairdside Communities Together.

## 'High Life' on our website

Catch up with all the latest Prenton High School news from this term by looking at our website:

[www.prentonhighschool.co.uk](http://www.prentonhighschool.co.uk)

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on twitter too - @prentonhigh

# IT ALL STARTS WITH A 'YES'

Thanks to Chantelle, Paula and Leigh from the National Citizen Service (NCS) who delivered an assembly to our Year 11 students.

The NCS-YES network offers a wonderful opportunity to make the most of this summer's long break, once the GCSE exams have finished. Their programme helps build skills for work and life whilst taking on new challenges and meeting new people. Students will live away from home for the first week, staying with team mates at an outdoor activity centre, taking part in activities designed to push themselves, build confidence and develop teamwork, decision making and leadership skills.

The next stage is to put those skills and experiences into practice as a team, by completing a social action project that will really make a mark in the local community. Planning, managing and completing the project will help CVs, UCAS or college applications to really stand out!



## We are 'All different all beautiful'

This term a group of sixteen Year 9 students attended a lecture given by Brook Wirral. They developed the award winning 'All Different, All Beautiful' programme which has been delivered for young people across Wirral for the past seven years.

# HANNAH'S HAIRCUT HELPS CHARITY

When Year 9 student Hannah decided to have her hair cut recently at her regular hairdressers, she also wanted to help others less fortunate than herself.

She donated her cut hair to The Little Princess Trust who make real-hair wigs for boys and girls with cancer that have sadly lost their hair through their cancer treatment. When staff at Amanda Burns Hairdressers in Bebington learned about her wishes, they cut her hair free of charge!



## COOL TO BE WITH KOOTH

Kooth is an award-winning website that provides a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people to ask for help, advice and support.

We welcomed Phil Rhodes who told a Year 7 assembly about Kooth. The service is available to over half a million 11 to 25 year olds in England and Wales and, at lunchtime following the assembly, Phil came to the LRB to help our students sign up and learn even more about the service. He is pictured here

showing student Phoebe around their website.



# UNIFORMS ARE FREE WITH FUSS!

Prenton High School fully endorses FUSS - Free Uniform for Secondary Schools.

It is a Wirral-wide scheme which benefits everyone – schools can donate their lost property and parents their unwanted items of uniform and sports kit. All uniforms are either

new or good quality and are laundered and ironed and made available free of charge.

FUSS has regular open days around Wirral where you can come along and try on items for size – there is likely to be a centre near you.

For more information, visit FUSS on facebook, twitter or their website; don't forget – it's free!

## We love Chinese food

Thanks to our innovative Dining Hall staff, we were treated to a Chinese Valentine Special menu on the last day before the spring half-term break.

With Chinese New Year approaching and St Valentine's the following day, it was an opportunity to celebrate with food that reflected the two events. There was a choice of spring rolls or prawn crackers as starters, with a main course selection from beef in black-bean sauce, chicken or quorn sweet and sour, and chicken curry, accompanied by stir fry vegetables and fried rice, finishing with Valentine Cupid Cakes or banana fritters. Alternatively, there was a range of chicken chilli dishes on offer – wraps, sandwiches, batons and salads – as well as the usual dish of the day.

A very busy day for our Caterers and very much appreciated by students and staff.



## WE'RE OFF TO BETT

Aiming to keep ahead of the game when it comes to the latest developments in learning technology, a delegation of staff attended the recent BETT Show (British Educational Training and Technology).

Strategic ICT Manager Mr Graves, IT Technician Mr Kaminski and Subject Leader ICT/Computing Mr Simon travelled to the International ExCel Exhibition and Conference Centre in London where they spent a full day learning about the latest innovations and developments in the classroom at what the organisers described as 'the world's leading event in the education sector for the last 30 years'.

They returned to school having made some valuable contacts and gaining some great ideas for our school.

# Daisies help RSPB Birdwatch...

Prenton Daisies Gardening Club members Molly, Caitlin, Ella, Courtney and Megan are pictured here taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2015 (for more information visit: @RSPB\_Learning).

It was a great opportunity to observe our local wildlife and gain a greater knowledge of the birds who visit our school gardens. We have submitted our data to the RSPB and the information will help them see how well some of the UK's most familiar birds are faring. It was also wonderful for us to know that we are helping to provide a welcoming part of our school to our feathered friends.



# ...and ASDA help Daisies



Prenton Daisies is the name of our school gardening club. Over recent years, club members have designed the garden's layout, planting trees, shrubs and bulbs and growing seasonal fruit and vegetables. They are very proud of the garden which is a haven of tranquillity where insect, animal and bird life can be observed.

Now, the superstore ASDA in Woodchurch has very kindly offered Prenton Daisies the opportunity to become one of their preferred recipients of their green token scheme for the next two months. If you shop there, please nominate our club to receive your tokens – the money they will earn will make a big difference to our gardeners.

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## Megan gains top Diana Award honour

Many congratulations to Year 11 student Megan, who has been awarded the Diana Award, Champion Volunteer, for her tireless work in the community – both at home and internationally.

The Diana Award is the only charity that bears the name of the late Diana, Princess of Wales and is a living legacy to her belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better. Since 1999, the Diana Award has recognised thousands of ordinary young people who have made an extraordinary difference to their community.

To gain this prestigious award, Megan funded her own trip to The Gambia last Easter, where she helped children learn how to use a new toilet block effectively, helping them to develop good hygiene habits. Nearer home,

her work in looking after the children of those attending the Ferries Family Group has given the adults of the group time to meet up with professionals from the local community and local services to receive advice and training. In their citation, Project Organiser from the Diana Award, Daniel Gothard, states: "We are absolutely honoured to count Megan as one of our Award Holders. Best wishes to Megan and all at the school."

This is the third award recognising the special work in the community that has been given to Prenton High School students. Megan follows in the footsteps of previous winners, Lauren Bailey and Sarah Clarke.



## EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT HELPS MEGAN HEAD EAST

Not one to bask in her Diana Award success, Megan has set her sights on Eastern Europe this summer. Live music, sketches and monologues, a raffle and a secret auction were all part of an evening of free entertainment laid on by her at the Little Theatre, Birkenhead in March. She raised nearly £400 of funding so that she can attend summer work camps helping young people in Slovakia, Romania, Poland and Hungary. This follows her trip to the Gambia last year. Well done, Megan!

## COURTNEY – ONE OF OUR FIRST GOLD STAR IRIS STUDENTS



## IRIS is here

First line should read: Everyone has now received some IRIS rewards, and the on-line shop is now open for students to choose their gifts. There is a range of rewards on offer: from basic stationery (pencils pens and notebooks) to items of clothing (snoods, hats, gloves and leggings). More information about ordering and delivery of rewards will be given during assemblies. Happy shopping - and keep collecting those rewards; the more you get, the more you can spend!

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Students are being encouraged to take an active part in school life, giving back to the school community. They can now experience more responsibility through a new set of committees that have been formed. Not only will they increase the student voice in school, working alongside a link member of staff, but the committees also allow also allows them to take a leading role and have more autonomy in respect of how the school is run in certain areas.

The committees are:

Confidence Committee | Rewards Committee  
Anti-bully Committee | LGBT Committee  
Community Committee | Debate Committee

Students interested in becoming more involved in day-to-day school life, and would like to take part in any of these committees, please contact Miss Eastwood, Assistant Headteacher.

## INTRODUCING MINDFLOW

Geraldine Thomas is a Director of Mindflow with over 20 years' experience studying and practising mindfulness. Her company is committed to improving people's lives through the development of mindfulness and emotional learning based programmes and Geraldine has been coming into school to work with a group of students. The aim is to empower our young people and help them to manage their own well-being; something we believe to be essential for our students in supporting them both now, and in the future.

**Primary First Aid for all** Thanks to our Health & Safety and Premises Manager, Mrs Sanderson, who organised a First Aid training day in the Drama studio. Joining our staff were delegates from other schools on the Wirral.

## Making healthy eating choices

There was a 'carrot' to encourage students to make healthy choices in their eating habits during Healthy Eating Week this term. By choosing well, extra bonus points were gained throughout the week and the winning student will receive a voucher giving five days of free dinners in the dining hall, a healthy hamper and extra IRIS rewards. The winner will be announced at the end of term.

## Annoushka kicks out for charity

Year 9 student Annoushka made the local newspapers this term when she called into the Age UK offices in Birkenhead with £135 for them.

Annoushka had raised the money for them by completing the challenge to do 1,000 mixed martial arts kicks - all done within one hour. Sadly, her much loved Nan has been diagnosed with dementia so she had chosen Age UK in Birkenhead as they are a local charity that specialises in dementia care.



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS KEY

Attending school regularly is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all students fulfil their potential. Legislation surrounding the definition of persistent absence has changed recently – moving from 85% to 90%. An absence rate of more than 10% now risks a Fixed Penalty Notice and a fine of £60 per parent.

We monitor the attendance of all our students very carefully to ensure each one makes expected progress and that they are fully integrated into life here at Prenton High School. We work hard with parents and carers at home to ensure that students are supported in their attendance every day. Our Student Services Team will meet with individual students, call home and meet with parents to reinforce the school's expectations and implement policy, but also to aid students in overcoming any barriers that may prompt an absence from school.

In addition, we now have a drop-in service each morning where we invite all parents who wish to discuss any aspect of school with one of our Learning Mentors. This service is available from 8.40am to 9.10am every day and does not require an appointment.

If you would like any additional information on these changes then please contact Mrs Lindsey Thompson, Attendance Manager.

# THE BIG BANG

There was a loud noise reportedly coming from the NEC in Birmingham recently and forty of our Year 8 and Year 9 students headed straight for it!

Thanks to organiser, Miss Kelly, and trip leader, Mrs Pinder, they attended The Big Bang Fair, aimed at young scientists and engineers. Promoted as the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK it highlights just how many exciting and rewarding opportunities there are out there for our students with the right experience and qualifications.

The event comprised a mixture of activities, theatre shows and workshops that included: a 'gastronautic' show blending multisensory perception with multidisciplinary scientific mayhem, how scientists created the crown jewels using everyday chemicals, live computer coding and explosions, the Higgs Boson and Beyond, website development, and a wind tunnel challenge – just to name a few.



## Prenton People

We wish a long and happy retirement to:

**Mrs Glynis Johns, Learning Mentor**

Congratulations to:

**Mrs R Fraser who has been appointed Subject Leader for English**

**Miss Hockenfull who gave birth to a baby girl, Faith Ella, on 13th February**

**Mrs Lisa Jones on achieving her Certificate of School Business Management**

**Mrs Debbie Stewart on achieving her NCFE Level 2 in Mentoring**

**Mrs Helen Sanderson on gaining her NEBOSH qualification**

Thank you to:

**Mrs A Braid and Mrs J Robson, part-time teachers of English who left us this term**

**We were sorry to hear of the sad death over the half term of one of our cleaning staff, Rose Griffiths. Our condolences go to all her family, friends and colleagues**

## PRENTON ALUMNI

We are delighted that over forty former Year 11 students who left in summer 2014 are amongst the first to join our newly created Alumni. More in our next issue!





## Fresh Perspectives at the Lady Lever

One of the best experiences for any artist is to have your work exhibited. That is just what is taking place for many of our Art students – not only that, but their work is being shown in the company of internationally-renowned masterpieces in one of the most prestigious galleries on Merseyside: The Lady Lever Art Gallery.

Entitled 'Fresh Perspectives: Art from Wirral Schools', this is the second time we have had artwork displayed at the Lady Lever in this biennial exhibition run by the National Museums Liverpool.

Teacher of art Miss Churton says: "We are extremely proud to be part of the Fresh Perspectives exhibition again this year. It is wonderful for our students to have the opportunity to show their work outside of

school to a wider audience; especially in such a prestigious gallery. To have their work professionally displayed in such a beautiful setting is a fantastic reward for their hard work and achievements. I'm sure this will be an experience they will not forget, and something that will inspire them greatly."

Maya and Niah are photographed here against some of our Venetian windows themed pictures. Other themes we had displayed in the exhibition were: Fantastical Birds, Natural Forms, Close-Up and Whimsical Creatures.

The exhibition runs until Sunday 19th April.



## INSPIRED BY WEDGWOOD, DISPLAYED AT LADY LEVER

We are very fortunate to have ceramic artist Marie Canning conducting workshops with our Year 10 Art students over the coming weeks.

Marie is advising our students on designing their own 'Wedgwood' pottery, a brand known across the globe for its craftsmanship to create beautiful works of art, pottery and china.

At the same time, the Lady Lever Art Gallery is refurbishing the section displaying their Wedgwood collection. When their new display opens in the spring of 2016, there will be a new section added – showing the work that our students are currently producing.

Marie runs courses at the Bluecoat, Liverpool's centre for Creative Arts and you can find out more on: [www.thebluecoat.org.uk/events/view/events/1847](http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/events/view/events/1847)



## A weekend workshop for our artists

Thank you to teacher of art Miss Churton who took a group of Year 10 students to the Conway Centre. There they had an intensive weekend workshop aimed at helping their GCSE studies.





## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT REASEHEATH

Reaseheath College is set in superb countryside on the edge of Nantwich in Cheshire, just 35 miles from Birkenhead. The college offers a range of Higher and Further Education courses as well as Modern Apprenticeships, and is popular with many students from our area.

Fifteen of our Design and Technology Food students had the opportunity to spend some time there to learn more about the college. Thanks to Bakery & Patisserie Lecturer, Andy Dale, they looked at butter production, ice cream manufacture and received information on courses and careers in the food industry – the single largest manufacturing sector in the UK – with an annual turnover of £95bn.

Students also made lemon curd and chocolate truffles and took part in a sensory taste panel in which ginger biscuits, bread and lemon drizzle cake were sampled – literally making it a great ‘taster’ day!



## Produced with love – and bags of energy

In a design and technology and mathematics department collaboration, we held a Year 8 Valentine Enterprise Day in February. The event was timed perfectly so that a selection of St Valentine’s Day products could be designed, materials costed, made, priced and marketed - all ready for the ‘big day’.

On the day, ‘Shooting Hearts’ gave the best presentation to the Dragon’s Den panel and ‘Love Birds’ were ‘Best Stall’ winners.

The six competing teams made £337 between them but, overall, congratulations go to 8R1’s winning team ‘Amour’, who made almost £70 profit. Kathryn, Jade and Lois are seen here with their specially made framed Valentine pictures.



## NOT JUST ANY LASAGNE!

A lunchtime treat was served up for staff earlier this term by our Year 10 Catering students. They prepared a wonderful meal, perfect for a cold February day. The first course, straight out of the oven was lasagne, with a rich beef bolognese sauce with vegetables, pasta, a smooth creamy béchamel sauce, topped with bubbling cheese. The lasagne was served with garlic bread, toasted to perfection, and salad. Dessert then followed - profiteroles in a rich chocolate sauce, of which any professional chef would have been proud to serve. To drink, there was the students’ own version of alcohol free mojito, with mint, lime, lemonade and ice.



An inspirational menu, thanks everyone!

## Now where did I leave my phone?

There’s no excuse for our Year 9 students to wonder where they have left their mobile phones when at home. They have been busy designing and, with the aid of our high-tech laser cutter, producing their own mobile phone holders using acrylic material this term. They came up with some wonderfully creative ideas.



## A TRUFFLE-TREAT FOR MUMS

Caitlin, pictured here, was just one of our Cooking Club students who have 'sprung' into action this year to give their mothers a wonderful treat. There were some seriously rich chocolate truffles prepared for the special day – let's hope every truffle makes it home!



## English, Drama, LRB & Performing Arts



### WIRRAL'S BEST PAPERBACK IS SOON TO BE DECIDED

Along with students from other Wirral secondary schools, our students have been busy choosing the 'Wirral Paperback of the Year'.

In this joint venture, our keen readers have enjoyed 'working' their way through a special shortlist of fifteen books, writing reviews and scoring each book out of five stars.

As part of the run-up to the vote, sixteen students travelled to Wirral Grammar School for Girls for a 'Meet the Author' afternoon.

The event was hosted by 'Morlock' author Jon Mayhew and first on the agenda was a Skype session with Edward Carey, who was talking from Texas. He had delayed his departure on holiday just for us – and presented a section of his shortlisted book 'Heap House'. The audience of 185 students then heard from authors Keren David (Salvage), Nikki Sheehan (Who Framed Klaris Cliff?), Berlie Doherty (The Company of Ghosts) and Catherine Bruton (I Predict a Riot).

Afterwards, students were able to meet the authors in person and have their own copies signed. Chloe and Holly are pictured here with author Catherine Bruton – Chloe happened to have an LRB copy of Catherine's book with her. It is now a signed copy!



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## CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY

It was a generous start to World Book Day on 5th March when Literacy Ambassadors Megan and Abeda helped hand out a free fiction book to every Year 7 student. Congratulations to those staff (especially our inspirational English department) who dressed up as literary characters for the day. Among those pictured here are characters from Alice in Wonderland, Of Mice and Men, Pride and Prejudice, The Hungry Caterpillar, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Cat in the Hat and The Hunger Games – see if you can spot who is who!



# Sherlock under the microscope

The television crime drama Sherlock presents a contemporary adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes detective stories and stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Doctor John Watson. The series has received high critical acclaim, with many reviews praising the quality of the writing, performances, and direction, gaining numerous entertainment industry awards.

With many students being enthusiastic viewers - and with different aspects of the series to explore and discuss - the English Department's debating society set up a group devoted to 'Sherlock' in the autumn term, chaired by teacher of English, Miss Addison.

In the last of its weekly meetings, held before the spring half-term break, they examined the role of Irene Adler, a notable female character and one who intrigued Sherlock - particularly as she was someone who actually got the better of him!

Following on from the success of this forum, the next debates are centred on the supernatural series 'Sleepy Hollow'.

## EMILY'S A POETRY STAR

Congratulations to Year 11 student Emily who has been awarded second place in the 'Poetry by Heart' regional final, held at the Lantern Theatre Liverpool in February. It was an incredibly tough competition, and the judges made it clear how close she was to coming first. Emily just lost out to a sixth form student from Ormskirk, but her three recitals were cited as incredibly moving and powerful. Well done, Emily.



## Waterstones welcomes our readers

We had two trips to Waterstones flagship store in Liverpool One this term. In the first trip, LRB Assistant, Mrs Williams and seven students accompanied SENCO, Mrs McGarry, to choose books for her classroom. The second trip saw eight of our keen Year 7 and Year 8 readers helping LRB Manager Mr Taylor and LRB Assistant, Mrs Williams, choose new books for the Learning Resource Base. It was a morning literally well spent - fiction books to the value of over £2,000 were purchased during the morning there.

The new additions to the LRB are now available for students to borrow.



## THE WINTER'S TALE

Billed as a 'magical Shakespeare romance', our Year 8 English students enjoyed a production of 'The Winter's Tale' at The Floral Pavilion in February. It was performed by the award winning Hand in Hand Theatre as part the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open-stages.

The Hand in Hand Theatre has an awesome reputation for great productions and fine acting, and this was an opportunity for our students to see how impressive and inspirational live theatre can be. The next theatre trip will be to see John Boyne's 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' at the Playhouse in March.





## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

Sixty of our students travelled to the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton to join up with other students of history, religious education, and citizenship from secondary schools across Wirral.

Hosted by the Mayor of Wirral Councillor Steve Foulkes, they had gathered for the Wirral Holocaust Memorial Day. Guest of honour was Rudi Oppenheimer, who spoke about his wartime experiences, which included moving to Holland from Germany then being captured with his family by the Nazis and sent to Westerbork concentration camp, and later to Belsen.

As well as hearing Rudi's personal story, there were also two talks given by our Head Girl Lily Clark and Year 11 History student Lily-Maia Smith. They each described their school visit to Auschwitz in 2014 and the profound effect the trip had on them.



Thanks to the Wirral Globe for allowing us to use their photograph.

## EASTER TRIP TO POLAND FOR HUMANITIES STUDENTS

This Easter thirty-eight Year 10 students of History are heading to Poland on an educational trip where they will visit Auschwitz concentration camp, have guided tours of Kazimierz, the Jewish quarter, Schindler's factory and the Wieliczka Salt Mines.

## MAJOR RELIGIONS STUDIED ON THEME DAYS

As part of their religious education studies, Year 8 students are currently finding out more about the six major religions. The aim of one of their theme days this term, arranged by Subject Leader of RE, Mrs Close, was to give students an understanding of their local area, including Liverpool's religious diversity and geographical and historical importance.



Their trip to Liverpool included guided tours of the Princes Road Synagogue and the Liverpool Mosque and Islamic Institute in Allerton. There, they took part in question and answer sessions before heading for the Liverpool International Slavery Museum at the Albert Dock. The day in Liverpool built on their visit to the cathedrals the year before and certainly helped deepen students understanding of the RE and Humanities curriculum.

On the second theme day, students received a series of PSHE workshops and Charlotte is pictured here with a bottle containing a liver damaged by alcohol addiction, demonstrating the lethal effect it can have on our bodies.





## STAYING SAFER ON THE INTERNET

It is important for each one of us to stay safe on the internet and social media. Safer Internet Day was marked across the world in February and it was a good opportunity for us to consider how we at Prenton use the internet.

In addition to watching some thought-provoking e-safety films, ICT Subject Leader, Mr Simon, held a competition amongst our Key Stage 3 students for the best poster to use around school. Congratulations to winner Leah, runner-up Macy and Millie in third place.



## PRENTON TV – a round-up

The Prenton TV team has been busy working on the latest episode covering this term. It will be shown to assemblies at the end of term before it goes onto our website. The latest edition covers the extra-curricular activities our students experience in school and the Valentine's business enterprise day.

Those attending the 'Prenton's Got Talent!' evening saw some familiar faces when two of our star presenters compered the event.

Following the imminent 'retirement' of some of our older team members, the search is now amongst Year 8 students to join us. We look forward to welcoming some new faces next term!



## FRIDAY IS PI DAY

Thanks to the maths department who held a maths numeracy day - Pi Day - for our Key Stage 3 students. With many maths-based activities around school, Pi Day encouraged everyone to think about how we rely on mathematics in our daily lives. Different areas of school planned lessons that contained an element of numeracy, relating to how mathematics impacts on their subjects.

Coming first in the Year 7 mental arithmetic competition were Chantise, Poppy, Ellen and Abbey – three of whom are seen here with their apple 'pi' prizes!



## WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER

Well done to Year 8 and Year 9 maths students Rachel, Jaymi-Lea, Angel and Melissa who represented us in the regional final of the UK Maths Trust Team Maths Challenge.

They tackled a series of mathematical problems against the clock - including this sample question which you may wish to try:

A shop sells migs, mogs and mags. Five migs cost the same as six mags, and seven mogs cost the same as four migs. Write them in order with the cheapest first. Good luck!



## Meeting the UK Maths challenge

Thirty of our best Year 9 and Year 10 mathematical minds met the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge this term. Organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, the hour-long test comprised 25 maths problems. The challenge attracts entries from across the UK – and calculators and measuring instruments are strictly forbidden.

Congratulations to Bronze certificate winners Year 10 student Crystal (Best in Year, joint Best in School) and Year 9 student Sumayah (Best in Year, joint Best in School). Thanks to the ten other Year 9 students and thirteen other Year 10 students who represented our school in the competition.

To find out more about UKMT (and have a try yourself), click on the following link: [www.ukmt.org.uk/](http://www.ukmt.org.uk/)



## MFL



### SCRIPTING IT IN SPANISH

Some strange characters were seen around the MFL department recently. Year 7 students studying Spanish have been using their imagination by firstly creating a fictional character, putting together a collage - then describing the physical characteristics and the dress of their creations, all in perfect Spanish.

Abbey, Lauren, Esme and Amy are pictured here with their characters – a great way to learn a new language!



## Music & Performing Arts

### BUGSY'S ON HIS WAY!

The casting has been completed and the first rehearsal taken place for our summer production of Bugsy Malone. The production promises to be yet another Prenton spectacular and will run on Tuesday 30th June, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July. Keep a look out for when tickets come on sale during the summer term.

### GCSE MUSIC CONFERENCE

It was an informative trip to the GCSE Music conference in Birmingham for fifteen Year 10 and Year 11 students in January, thanks to Mrs Burns, organiser and Subject Leader of Music.

The conference was promoted as an 'out-of-the-classroom Music experience aimed at students of all examining boards' giving students a practical day to engage and enhance their knowledge of GCSE music with live music and performances, group activities, opportunities to take part on stage, together with key messages for their exams.

# Lucy wins Prenton's Got Talent!

Congratulations to Year 8 student Lucy, pictured here, after she had won the 2015 'Prenton's Got Talent' competition. Accompanying herself on the guitar, she sang Taylor Swift's 'White Horse', with a version that clearly impressed the judges – and the audience of family and friends.



As well as winning a certificate and trophy, Lucy now has the opportunity to visit the Cover Star Experiences professional recording studio in Liverpool, where she can record a song of her choice (to their backing track or to one of her own). Lucy will then receive a personalised 'vinyl style' CD of her recording.

Well done Lucy, it sounds great!

Mrs Burns, Subject Leader of Music, thanks all those students who auditioned for the 2015 Prenton's Got Talent competition. She and her fellow judges were really impressed with the quality of the acts they saw – they were left in no doubt that we have some amazing talent here at Prenton.

Well done to Lucy's fellow finalists: Mollie and Rebecca, Rhiannon, Molly (all Year 7), Erin, Niah, Lucy (all Year 8) and Year 11 contestants Shinelle and Beth, Courtney, Molly and Sophie, plus Sinead.



## PTA IS READY TO WELCOME YOU

Parents play a big part at Prenton. Our PTA is a team of parents who volunteer a bit of their time and expertise to help raise funds and provide support for so many different activities. It is true to say that all students benefit in some way or another, and staff always appreciate their help at school events. See our website for PTA meeting dates - new members are always welcome; perhaps you could help make a difference!

## ABBI'S GOOD 'AIR' DAY

Thanks to the PTA, we had a dedicated team of students and staff selling raffle tickets around school during the last few weeks of the autumn term. They had funded a raffle that was only open to students – strictly no staff allowed for this one – for a new Apple iPad. The raffle was drawn at the final assembly of the year with the winning ticket drawn by PTA representative, Mrs Blood. Many congratulations to Abbi, pictured here receiving her iPad Air from Assistant Headteacher Mr Taylor, with Mrs Blood in attendance.

All money the PTA raises goes back into supporting students, in a range of different ways – for example they have helped with the purchase of sports kits, camera lenses, and providing refreshments at many school events.

Thanks once again PTA and well done, Abbi!





## LOOKING FORWARD TO UNIVERSITY

Thanks to Personalised Learning Co-ordinator and teacher of science Ms Craven, we had a visit from Chris Baynes and Sarah Hanson from the University of Liverpool. In what will be the first of many talks about their future education, our Year 8 students were given a taste of university life and were encouraged to strongly consider going to university once they completed their GCSEs and A Levels.

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE HOPEFULS HEAD TO EVERTON

Everton Football Club, known to some older readers as the School of Science because of the scientific way they played football, hosted a more familiar group of scientists - and artists – this term. Goodison Park was taken over by members of the University of Cambridge who were encouraging students from around the North West to seriously consider Cambridge for their higher education studies. Thanks once again to Ms Craven who arranged for six of our students to attend a very informative day. We hope you were all inspired!

Physics Club, led by Teacher of Science Mr Morrish, has been busy this term. They covered a number of topics providing a lively and informative range of experiments.

## DISNEY FILM INSPIRES SUPER-COOL EXPERIMENTS

Helping to remind us just how cold January can be, Physics Club opened the year with the theme from the film 'Frozen' – and just like Elsa making instant ice.

Club members carried out an experiment to supercool water and Cola by cooling them to well below 0°C but avoiding freezing them to a solid state. Once the bottles were opened, bubbles formed, providing a 'seed' for ice to form – which it did, very quickly. Students found it difficult to manage with the water but were successful with three of the Cola bottles. The Cola froze as

it bubbled out of the bottle, creating a frozen fountain of Cola.

The after-school club's 'Frozen' theme continued afterwards, with students preparing some 'instant' vanilla ice cream to, as Mr Morrish claims, "a very special recipe".

Everyone tasted the ice cream and all remarked on just how tasty it was.



# IN THE PICTURE WITH PHYSICS CLUB

In this age of digital cameras it can be easy to overlook how the simple combination of a lens, light, and some silver oxide provided the first images, setting the scene for the invention of the 'camera obscura' almost 200 years ago.



Physics Club explored the invention of these first cameras in their March meeting. By using their knowledge of light - and some cardboard boxes - they constructed their own pin-hole cameras, at the same time learning how photography was done in the past.

## Why the properties of custard are different to tomato sauce

Have you ever wondered why it is so difficult to get tomato sauce out of the bottle?

In February Physics Club learned more about one of Newton's lesser-known discoveries – that some liquids become solid when you hit them and some become more liquid.

In a practical experiment, Club members found that whereas ketchup needs a shock to get it out of the bottle, custard is quite the opposite – and to prove it, Mr Morrish continuously 'trod water' in a giant bowl of custard. His feet stayed dry until he stopped – and then they just sank in!



## Sport



## VOLLEYBALL

Our volleyballers headed to Wirral Grammar School for Boys in March where they played in a 6 v 6 tournament.

Teams could be mixed and the age categories were from Year 9 to Lower 6th. Our mixed team of Year 9 and Year 10 students came third in their section behind Wigan and Wirral Grammar School for Girls (to whom they lost by just 3 points). Well played!

## Basketball

Our new outdoor basketball court is soon to be marked out, ready for the summer term. For the latest times of basketball club, see the Sports Department noticeboard

## CRICKETERS REACH CHESHIRE FINALS

Congratulations to our Under 13 and Under 15 cricket teams who have been in action this term, with both teams reaching the last stages of the Cheshire competition. Both teams reached the finals of their respective tournaments but regrettably both lost in spite of their brave performances.

Our Under 13 team lost to Altrincham Grammar School and the Under 15 team lost to Bramhall High School, Stockport.

'Well done' to our Under 15 'B' team who beat Upton Hall in their Wirral Tournament match.



**Under 13 Cricket Team**

## Olympic coach forms a Prenton pyramid

The PE department was delighted to welcome British Gymnastics coach Gary Kirby into school this term.

Gary holds an International Performance Coaches licence and is a qualified tutor and assessor with British Gymnastics. He was also the coach to Olympic medal winner Beth Tweddle before and during the 2012 Olympic Games held in London. A well-respected figure in the gymnastic world, we were fortunate to have him spend the day working alongside our PE staff - fitting in time to encourage some keen Year 7 gymnasts to 'aim high' – as can be seen here with their human pyramid!



## FIRST FOOTBALL OF 2015

Our Year 8 and Year 7 teams welcomed teams from Liverpool College earlier this term. In their first match after the winter break, our Year 8 team played an intensely fought game, losing 3-5. Congratulations to our Man of the Match, Leoni (seen here chasing to win the ball back from her Liverpool College opponent) who once again got on the score sheet.

In the same tournament, our Year 7 team played in their first competitive game. Although they narrowly lost 0-1, it was a very encouraging start and a very good team performance.



# SCALING THE HEIGHTS

As part of their GCSE course in which students need to learn about and engage in four sports, twelve PE students headed for Awesome Walls in Liverpool in March where they participated in the world of climbing.

# WELLBEING

It is not just students who have been keeping fit this term - thanks to Ms Robertson, Subject Leader of PE, staff have been introduced to weekly fitness sessions running after school. Firstly they were introduced to the manic world of Insanity and, after half term, yoga.

## NETBALL

Our Year 9 and year 10 netball teams took part in the Wirral tournament this term. Congratulations to the Year 9 team who were placed third out of fourteen teams. They then went on to represent the school in the regional round, playing a number of teams from Liverpool. Ms Robertson, Subject Leader of PE, said: "It was a great experience for our girls to get so far in the competition."

The girls also have their last three Ladies League netball matches coming up soon – good luck everyone!

Our Year 7 and Year 8 netballers competed in the Wirral Tournament in March. Well done to the Year 7s who came third and to our Year 8 team who came fourth.

## ACTIVE PLAYGROUND RETURNS

Now that spring is in the air, our active playground is back in action, helping our students keep active during lunchtimes. Here are Ellie and Rebecca enjoying some springtime activity.



## GOOD LUCK FOOTBALLERS



We wish good luck to our Under 12 football team when they play Weatherhead High School in the final at the end of term.

# 2015

## 2015 DIARY



### Summer term 2015

School opens	Monday 20 April
Staff Development Day	Friday 1 May
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May
Open Evening	Wednesday 6 May 6pm - 8.30pm
Open Day	Friday 8 May
PTA meeting	Wednesday 13 May
School closes	Friday 22 May

### Half term Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

School opens	Monday 1 June
School Show	Tuesday 30 June, Wednesday 1 July, and Thursday 2 July
Year 7 Induction Evening	Monday 6 July
Year 7 Induction Day	Wednesday 8 July
School Prom	Thursday 9 July
School closes	Friday 17 July

### 2015 Summer holiday Monday 20 July – Tuesday 1 September

GCSE Results Day	Thursday 20 August
Staff Development Day	Tuesday 1 September
School opens for Year 7 students	Wednesday 2 September
School opens for Year all students	Thursday 3 September

Please keep in touch via our website as some dates may change



*Making a Difference*