



THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2021

Welcome to The Prescott School's Christmas Newsletter.

Each term, we will share with you many of the wonderful things that have been going on inside our building and out in the community.

It has certainly been a very busy term for all of us at The Prescott School. It seems like it was only yesterday when we welcomed our new Year 7 students. During those first days and weeks of term, there was a lot for them to take in and learn. Fast forward to December and it fills the staff with great pride to see them full of confidence and part of our Prescott School family.

As you will see in this newsletter, our students embrace the many opportunities they have at The Prescott School - from creative and engaging teaching and learning, to trips, visits, music and sports. I am so grateful to the staff who give much of their own time to ensure that students experience all that school life has to offer.

This has been a successful term for the school and I would like us to reflect on, and appreciate, the commitment of our students, staff and parents/carers in creating such a wonderful environment. The school continues to offer our students a holistic educational experience that enriches their lives in so many ways. Thank you so much for your overwhelming support and here's to an even better future ahead!

I would like to end by wishing our whole school community a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming staff and students back in the New Year.

Mrs G Cousineau
Head of School

WHAT'S INSIDE

PG 2: OFSTED
SUCCESS

PG 3: PARENT VIEW

PG 5: AROUND THE
SUBJECTS



"IMPROVEMENTS ARE CLEAR IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION" SAY OFSTED

The Prescott School has been praised by Ofsted for improvements that have been made across the school, during a visit from the education watchdog this term.

As part of their visit, inspectors reported that: "leaders, the chief executive officer (CEO) and governors are ambitious for all pupils. Together with staff, they are making a positive difference to many aspects of the school."

In other feedback inspectors found that "all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), study a broad range of subjects in key stage 3."

In addition, "leaders have made changes to the range of courses that pupils can choose in key stage 4. More pupils are studying a language to GCSE. Consequently, an increasing proportion of pupils are studying the suite of subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate...Almost all pupils move on to education, training or employment."

Inspectors went on to note that "the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum is well planned. Pupils have opportunities to learn about healthy relationships, mental health and British values. They are tolerant of differences between people.

Gina Cousineau, Head of School, said: "This is a significant milestone for our school and a key step on our journey to excellence.

"While we know there is always more that can be done, we are proud that inspectors have seen that The Prescott School is moving forwards on the right path and that we are absolutely determined to provide the very best for our students and our community."

Other highlights included:

- The CEO and governors know the school well. They have provided effective challenge and support to leaders.
- Leaders have raised their expectations of how pupils behave in school. Pupils' behaviour during breaktimes and when moving between lessons is generally calm.
- Leaders have taken action to improve the identification of the needs of pupils with SEND...[they] have recently provided teachers with more information and training on how to support these pupils more effectively.
- Leaders have recently improved the range of clubs and sports activities that pupils can attend after school.
- Staff enjoy working at the school. They feel that leaders are considerate of their workload.



Attendance Matters

Research carried out across the country shows that children who have excellent attendance are much more likely to achieve good grades at GCSE.

This term, we are delighted to celebrate students who have met The Prescott School's minimum expectation of 96%. This is a fantastic start to the school year, and we hope attendance improves further during the course of the year.

In a recent assembly, we were also pleased to present certificates to students who achieved 100% attendance for half term one.

What our parents / carers say...

We love receiving your comments and hearing your views on our school. Here are just some of the comments that have been made over the last few weeks. Thank you!

“

As soon as my daughter started The Prescott School in Year 7 she has grown in confidence and I feel this is due to the support she has received from school. Mrs Ness, SENDCo, the TA's, her Form Tutor and all her class teachers listen to her and understand her needs.

My daughter loves lunch club and the support she receives in and out of the classroom means she is happy and looks forward to coming to school every day.

As a parent, it is reassuring to know I can always contact school and speak to Mrs Ness/Mrs McTigue, if I need to.

”

"Our children are both well supported and as parents we feel that their needs are being met and we can approach school at any time to seek advice and ask for support. Both children have excellent relationships with staff in school and enjoy accessing lunch club."

“

As a parent of three children who have attended the Prescott School - one still does, the others have gone on to study at university and one has just gained a bachelor degree with honours- I can honestly say I would happily send more children there if I had any. Some of the teaching staff are second to none, and are always happy to help.

”

Lest We Forget

Each year as a school community, we come together to mark Remembrance Day on 11th November.

This year the school's tributes were led by Miss Nolan and involved members of Year 10 and 11.

This included decorating the public areas of the school building with poppies and asking each form to decorate their individual form rooms. In addition, students across the school were asked to remember a fallen soldier from World War One who was a member of the Lancashire Regiment.

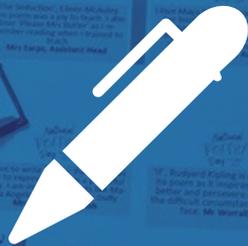
Staff and student representatives also joined members of the community at the town's annual Remembrance Service held at Prescott Cemetery.



National Poetry Day

To mark this year's National Poetry Day, we shared some of our favourite poems with students.

The event, called 'Prescot School Poetry Appreciation' saw students exploring poems originating from a range of cultures and contexts across history.



Big Help Project

We are so proud of our Year 8 students who have been working with the Big Help Project and the Trussell Trust, pledging food and essential items for the most vulnerable in our community.

The contributions made will make a huge difference to the lives of many families.



Debate Mate

The Prescot School is pleased to be participating in Debate Mate, a national initiative that powers social change through world-class communication training.

Students from across the school recently attended this year's regional launch event in Liverpool and are now attending after school debate clubs run by Debate Mate mentors. Students will then put their new skills to the test in two of the largest debating competitions in the UK.

Art, Textiles and Photography

Well done to all the Year 10 pupils who in Art, Textiles and Photography have been producing some fantastic high-quality work within their specialist areas.

In Art, students have been using portraits to experiment with a range of exciting media and techniques.

In Textiles, students have been learning hand and machine embroidery techniques, including texturing, ruffles and gathers. Students have also been creating beautiful artwork based on the theme of natural forms and researching a variety of artists and designers to link to our work. While, in Photography students have been learning all the basic skills and elements needed to begin their compositions.



Business Studies

Year 10 Business Studies students are currently looking at the world of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs. Some students have taken this opportunity to look at local businesses to ascertain what is involved in the running of a small business and what it takes to be a business owner.

Here is an example of just a few of the opening paragraphs from a Year 10 student:

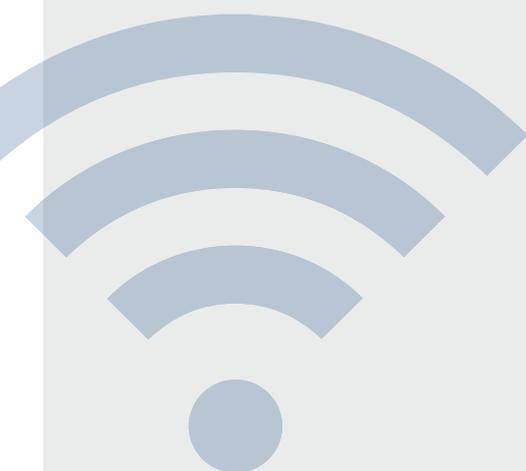
"Pinion is a restaurant that is owned by Gary Usher who also owns other Bistros such as Sticky Walnut, Hispi, Wreckfish, Kala, Burnt Truffle and its approximate size is 83m.sq. Pinion Bistro has offered jobs to around 12 employees who are mentioned as offering amazing customer service in the restaurant's public reviews.

"His aims with his 5th restaurant Pinion Bistro were to gain profits from a busy location while trying to maintain a social responsibility... Pinion has successfully retained customers by giving people who donated to the crowd fund meals of equal price to their donations. Pinion started off with a huge customer base that donated £50,000 in an hour and by the end of 24 hours they had donated £84,000!"

Computer Science

In Computer Science, our Year 10s have been busy exploring the inner workings of the modern computer, delving into the innovations by Jon von Neumann and comparing technological advancement using Moore's Law.

We have also been comparing and contrasting storage media, allowing students to make informed suggestions as to the best possible solution for a particular scenario. At present, the students are excited to be starting the unit focussing on cyber security, building and applying their working knowledge when addressing various threats that could affect their lives.



Careers

Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is part of every student's entitlement at The Prescott School, and we are committed to using a variety of learning experiences to help young people manage the key decision points in their lives.

This term, we have been spending time individually with each Y11 student to go through their next steps and guide them in their applications.

It is important that every student makes sure they attend their choice of college open events because it is the best way that they can really get a feel for the place, and see that it suits them.

We are not expecting students to just limit themselves to these colleges though! They can use the internet to search for other colleges and apprenticeship opportunities and keep checking as dates change constantly.

For those interested in Apprenticeships, the best place to start is with the Government website:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

We haven't forgotten the rest of the students either...

We would like to set the following tasks for other year groups as there will be important careers activities coming up for them as well:

- Year 7: Find the careers area in school and introduce yourself to Mrs Robinson!
- Year 8: Investigate careers - ask at home, friends and other people you know about their jobs, their parents' jobs etc.. and see what interesting information you can gain!
- Year 9: You will be making option choices next year, start to ask your teachers about jobs that link to their subject area.
- Year 10: Why not get ahead of the game and attend some of the college open events to start to make those important decisions early?



Dance

This term, Year 7 dance students have been looking at the foundations of dance and how choreography is created. Understanding basic choreographic devices and dance actions have been the core of the lessons, with students required to work together in small groups to create pieces of movement that include the lesson content and demonstrate their understanding.

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Fagan teach the Year 7s for their dance lessons and have been blown away with the hard work and commitment from them this term. Students have shown excellent team working skills and cooperation and performed their pieces to a very high standard to the group.

"The 7Y dance groups have really demonstrated a solid understanding of the content and have shown a fantastic level of creativity. My student of the term for Dance is Bobby Q as he has shown true leadership qualities within the lesson, with a flair for choreography" - Mrs Robinson

"The 7X dance groups have really demonstrated a solid understanding of the content and have shown a fantastic level of creativity and commitment to the subject. Well done year 7!! My student of the term from 7x1 Dance is Jade U for showing great leadership qualities and excellent creativity within the lesson with such a flair for choreography" - Mrs Fagan

Well done Year 7 – you've made a fantastic start to your journey at The Prescott School!



Drama

This half term in Drama, Year 9 students have been focussing on performing monologues and duologues. This is allowing the pupils freedom to script and perform their own personal pieces, and create their own character.

We have been building confidence with regards to performing and pupils have enjoyed spontaneous improvisation and hot seating activities. This will culminate in a final performance of their own work.

It takes great confidence to perform on your own, and the Year 9 students are embracing the challenge and wowing us with their maturity and talent.



Modern Foreign Languages

This half term in Modern Foreign Languages, students studying French have covered the topic of local area as well as learning how to understand and give directions, while students studying Spanish have found out more about the topic of Holiday and Travel, with a focus on the city of Barcelona.

Film club has also started for students in Year 9 and will run every Monday lunchtime in Mr. Jones' room (F17 in Homebase 3). All welcome!

DT

The Year 10 Engineering group are delighted to be back in the workshop after Covid restrictions impacted on practical lessons last year.

They are developing their practical skills and working safely using a variety of tools, machines and equipment to manufacture decorative wooden boxes. They are also developing their computer skills using a computer aided design package to present their drawings in 3D.

English

During half term one, Year 8 students worked incredibly hard on Gothic Horror. They have explored gothic archetypes in heritage works such as: The Red Room, The Oval Portrait, The Tell-Tale Heart and Frankenstein. This culminated in students applying their knowledge and creating their own gothic stories presenting the sublime.

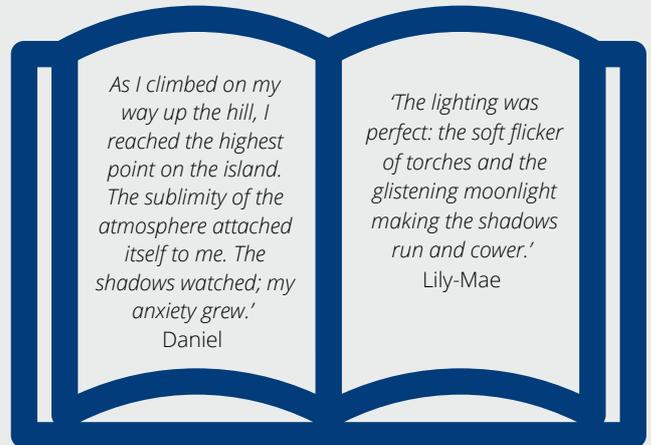
Since half term, students have been working on war poetry. Analysis of Owen, Pope and Brooke is well underway with some using these poems as inspiration for their own poetry.

*When I went over the top,
Bullets flying over my head,
Side to side, soldiers dying,
Blood in the air; no birds flying.*
Ion Y8

As Year 10 embark on their GCSE English journey they have shown appreciation for the crafting of literature. They have explored the characters, themes, and methods of local playwright Willy Russell and have been introduced to the skill of GCSE critical essay writing - they have relished in the challenge of conducting deep analysis. All the challenging work they have done will stand them in good stead for their mocks.

'Russell deftly creates sympathy for Mrs Lyons by alluding to her infertility. We can assume that Mrs Lyons' social group consists of women who have all had babies which makes her the black sheep of the group. This is evident in the fact she discusses her difficulties with Mrs Johnstone 'the help' not a friend. When disclosing her difficulties, she uses broken speech: 'Actually Mrs J, we bought such a... a large house for the - for the children - we thought children would come along.' This shows she struggles to talk about her difficulties based on this stutter. Later in the play Mrs L insists that Mrs J gives up her baby by *gaslighting her and threatening her with the 'welfare' who will 'take away her children.'* *It is here we lose sympathy for Mrs Lyons.*
Dylan

Here are a few of their best bits...



As I climbed on my way up the hill, I reached the highest point on the island. The sublimity of the atmosphere attached itself to me. The shadows watched; my anxiety grew.'
Daniel

'The lighting was perfect: the soft flicker of torches and the glistening moonlight making the shadows run and cower.'
Lily-Mae

Science

The focus for Year 11 students this term has been topics including Earth and the Atmosphere, Forces in Motion, Disease and Structure and Bonding.

Tassomai has been a great benefit to all Year 11 students, allowing them to practice exam questions and recall information needed in their exams.

Our top scorers this term are Zach B, Josh and Kevin from 11X2 and 11X1. We would also like to congratulate Year 11 on their conduct during their mock exams. They have worked hard towards their mocks by attending after school revision and making full use of the revision resources provided.



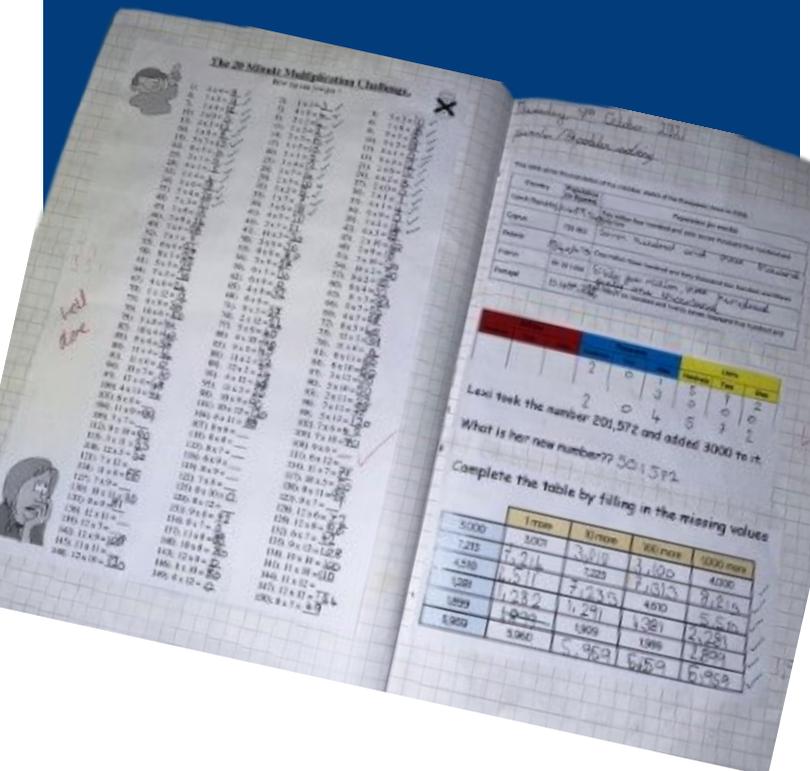
Maths

The Maths department have been very pleased with the quality and quantity of work Year 7 have produced this term and this has been reflected in the number of class chart points awarded to the year group so far. As of now, Year 7 have been awarded 5,677 positive points – an incredible achievement.

Here are just some of the highlights of the work they have been completing:

Year 7 began the term working on improving their numeracy skills. They followed this by studying number, data and they have also been introduced to algebra. Other topics have included how to calculate the mean, median, mode and range; drawing and interpreting statistical diagrams as well as simplifying expressions writing simple expressions and formulae and substituting into an expression or a formula to calculate the answer.

Having recalled on their learning from primary school, students have already begun to excel in the KS3 curriculum. Many students are working at a level higher than expected due to the hard work and effort they put into lessons and homework. Well done Year 7!



Humanities

Half term one was a busy time for the Humanities department and its extra-curricular activities for Key Stage 4.

Firstly, 30 History students visited an exhibition in Chester on the History of Medicine, which also included a tour of the historic city walls to examine the remains of the Roman fortress built in 1AD.

16 students also visited the newly appointed Vicar at Prescott Church to ask her views on Christianity - continuing to forge the relationship between the school and the community as well as get valuable first-hand information for their Christianity module in RS.

Our GCSE Geography students also took part in their river fieldwork studies. Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the GCSE Geography curriculum and in non-covid years students would complete two fieldworks which they would then be expected to explain the process that they went through during their final exam. This year, pupils will not be expected to write about their own fieldwork, but instead they must be able to explain how to complete a fieldwork project. So, the focus of this year's fieldwork has been on following the Bradshaw Model (which explains how the characteristics of a river change from source to mouth), by completing a series of investigations on river depth, velocity and rock size.

'We travelled by minibus to River Alyn in Loggerheads in Denbighshire, Wales. When we arrived we got all the equipment we needed for the fieldwork, we then walked down the river to start. We measured the depth and width of the river. This really helped me understand the process of how to measure the river. We also measured the size of the rocks and choose on a scale of 1 – 6 [roundness index power scale] to decide the roundness of the rock. After we repeated the task at another section of the river, then went back to eat our lunch at the café.'

Key Stage 4 Geography student

It was clear to see that a great day was had by all students on all three trips and that they were outstanding ambassadors for the school, with some fantastic positive comments from members of the public about the conduct of our students.

PE

Year 7 students have thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to PE at The Prescott School.

We started with a unit on baselining, where staff assessed students' abilities in a range of activities before moving onto Cross Country, Fitness, Basketball and Netball. Students are really getting stuck into the lessons. Staff have been incredibly impressed with the progress so far:

“The class that we share are exceptional at practical PE. They are eager to get started and adapt to the activities we have been doing. They are a pleasure to teach. Our student of the term is Wisdom for his efforts during all lessons, but specifically when doing cross country” - Mr Biernacki

“We have been busy working on touch rugby and working out in the gym. We have completed our induction and the girls are eager to get themselves fighting fit! Eleanor, you have really impressed me this term. Well done!” - Miss van Putten

“This is a relatively small class; however, the personalities of the group make them exciting to teach. They try hard in their lessons and work well as a small group. My student of the term so far is Antonia due to her efforts both in the practical lessons, but also within the theory understanding of the subject. She is clearly using her SKOs to self-quiz.” - Mrs Robinson

This term's PE Fixtures:

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 girls football team played in their first Knowsley round-robin tournament. The first game being a 3-3 thriller, with a last-minute penalty to gain us a draw. The following two games unfortunately ended in defeat, but the girls persisted to try and play some great football. The girls will play our second round of fixtures soon and are hungry for success, with many more students keen to participate and get involved in the team. Prescott's player of the tournament was Layla who not only scored a hat-trick but also had a great game in goal.

Year 8 Football

This term, the Year 8 football team played their first ever fixture together for The Prescott School. In a tough competition against All Saints, although the score line wasn't great the team kept battling until the final whistle. A special mention goes out to Megan who put in a great performance in the boys' team, being the only female on the pitch. Year 7 student, Roman, was another stand out performer who stepped up last minute to help us out and was awarded as our player of the match.



PE

Year 9 Football

Our Year 9 football team participated in the Knowsley School Sport Partnership tournament in November. Taking into consideration that the last time the team played together was two years ago, the team performance was exceptional from start to finish. The first game against Kirkby High School was a dominant display for the full twenty minutes, the boys were on the front foot from the start and created chance after chance, and winning 1-0 overall. The second game against All Saints Catholic High School saw the opposition taking a lot of possession in the game, however, our team was excellent on the counterattack and managed to secure a 2-1 victory. A special mention to Harvey for his clinical display and for scoring all our goals on the day.

Year 10/11 Netball

The Year 10/11 Netball Team entered the Knowsley School Sports Partnership tournament in October, facing off against students from all schools across the Knowsley borough. They hadn't practised properly together since before covid 19 but in true Prescott style, they went, focused and didn't lose a game during the whole tournament. With the students demonstrating their determination and ability on the borough-wide stage, their ability was evident with them coming 2nd out of seven schools. Well done to the entire team and Mrs Robinson's player of the tournament, Runo from Year 11.

Unity Netball Club

Amelia and Chelsea from Year 9 have recently joined a Netball club outside of school and have started playing in the Merseyside Juniors Netball League. They have really flourished under their coach who speaks highly of them and the efforts they put in. Bravo girls...you're both really doing well!

Liverpool Basketball Club

We have a large cohort of students who are now part of Liverpool Basketball Club. These students dedicate their time to training throughout the week, with games on most weekends.

In Year 7 we have Sam, in Year 8 we have Sinoch and Year 11 students Vaughan, Will, Harry and Lee are all members of Liverpool Basketball Club. They have recently seen big wins and are significantly developing their skills. Well done!



Music

Our Year 8 singers continue their musical journey with their weekly lessons with Ms. Hughes.

Following the group's performance back in the summer term for the Year 10 BTEC concert, pupils Kieran, Terence, Ryan, Alexis, Chelsy, Isla, Libby and Eva, have gone on to perform in this year's Christmas Showcase. Rubie and Libby are also shining soloists in our new singing group 'Prescot Pop Singers.'

Year 8 students have also been exploring music from the past this half term, focussing on the beginnings of Popular Music - The Blues! This has allowed students to revisit their History topic of Slavery, but this time through a musical lens in order to understand how the The Blues inspired so many people. From playing the 12-bar Blues, to writing their own Blues inspired lyrics, we are incredibly proud of the maturity demonstrated when studying such an important topic.



PSHE

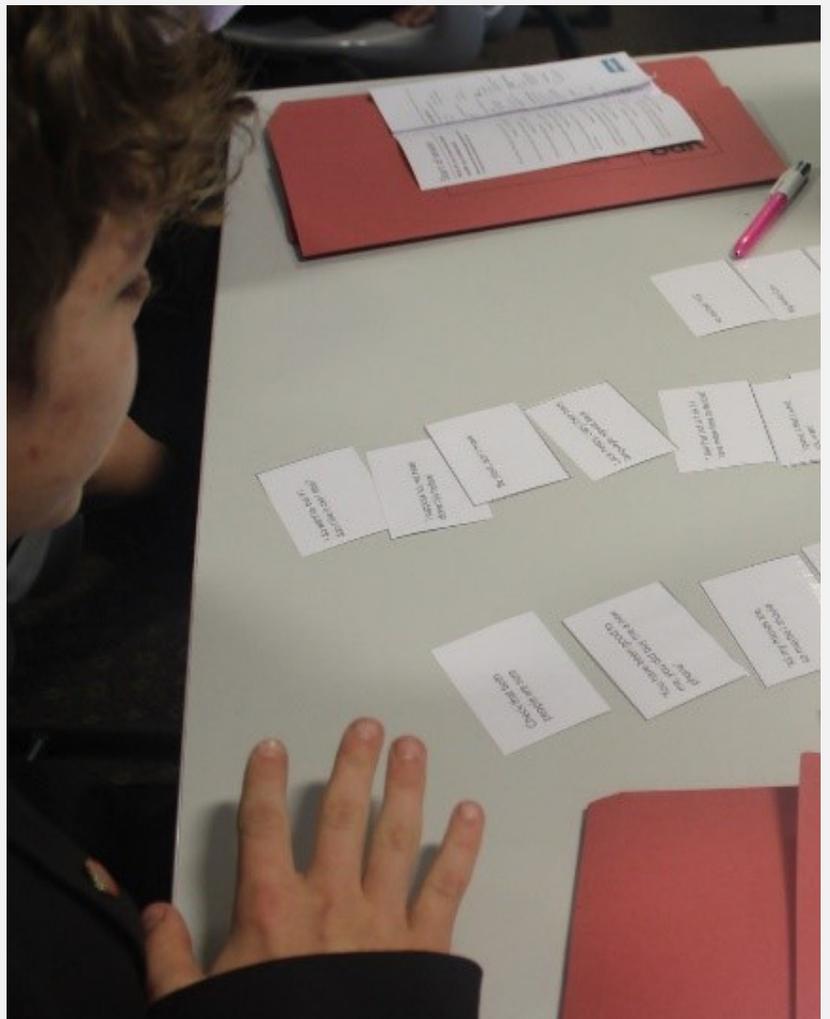
As part of our PSHE curriculum, students across every year group took part in a full day of activities based upon the theme, 'Healthy Lives'.

They all really enjoyed having the chance to take part in sessions that were a change from their normal timetable and loved having the opportunity to work with their form group all day.

Some of the sessions covered included:

- Mental health
- Emotions
- Mindfulness art activity
- Nutrition and exercise
- Smoking and vaping
- Cosmetic surgery
- Coercive control

Years 7 and 8 also got the chance to take part in a Brook Advisory session all about Consent.



Extra-Curricular Calendar

January 2022

We have lots planned to ensure our students can take part in unrivalled activities next term.



Activity	Year(s)	Day	Time	Location
Homework Club	7 - 11	Monday -Thursday	2.45— 3.45pm	Library
Media, Enterprise, IT	11	Monday	2.40— 3.40pm	S20
GCSE PE Revision	11	Monday	2.45— 4.00pm	G08
Higher Level German	11	Monday	2.45— 3.45pm	F10
Photography, Art, Textiles	10 & 11	Monday	2.45— 3.45pm	Art Dept
Science Revision	11	Monday	2.45 – 3.30pm	Lab 1
Child Development Catering	11	Monday	2.45— 3.45pm	LRC
Indoor Tennis	7 - 11	Monday	2.45— 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Football	9	Monday	2.45— 4.00pm	PE/Outdoor
Gym	7 - 11	Monday	2.45— 4.00pm	Fitness Suite
GCSE Maths Revision	11	Tuesday	2.45— 3:30pm	S02-S19
French Revision	10	Tuesday	2.45—3.45pm	F18
Junior Drama Club (KS3)	7 - 9	Tuesday	2.45— 3:30pm	G12
Dance	7 - 9	Tuesday	2.40— 3.40pm	Dance Studio
Gym	7 - 11	Tuesday	2.45— 4.00pm	Fitness Suite
Girls Netball	9 - 11	Tuesday	2.45— 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Reading Club	7 & 8	Tuesday	2.40— 3.30pm	English rooms
Keyboard Club	7 - 9	Tuesday (Week 2)	2.40— 3.40pm	F04
Memory Monsters	7 & 8	Tuesday	Lunchtime	SEN Hub
Rock band	11	Tuesday	2.45— 3.45pm	Practice Room
GCSE English Revision	10 & 11	Wednesday	2.40— 3.30pm	S29, S38
History Revision	11	Wednesday (Week 2)	2.40— 3.20pm	F56 & F55
Geography Revision	11	Wednesday (Week 2)	2.45— 3.45pm	F54
Drama Study support	10 & 11	Wednesday	2.45— 4.00pm	G09
Photography, Art, Textiles	10 & 11	Wednesday	2.45—3.45pm	Art Dept
Prescot Pop Singers	7 - 11	Wednesday	2.50— 3.50pm	F04
Football	7 & 8	Wednesday	2.45— 4.00pm	PE/Outdoor
Dance	10 & 11	Wednesday	2.40— 3.40pm	Dance Studio
Netball	7 & 8	Wednesday	2.45— 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Gym	7 - 11	Wednesday	2.45— 3.45pm	Fitness Suite
Science Club (STEM)	7 & 8	Wednesday	2.40— 3.40pm	Lab 2
Debate Mate	7-10	Wednesday	2.45 — 3.45pm	S37
GCSE English Revision	11	Thursday	2.40—3.30pm	S37, S38
Dance Intervention	11	Thursday	2.40— 3.40pm	Dance Studio
Foundation Level German	11	Thursday	2.45— 3.45pm	F10
Football	10 & 11	Thursday	2.45— 4.00pm	PE/Outdoor
Badminton	7 - 11	Thursday	2.45—4.00pm	Sports Hall
Gym	7 - 11	Thursday	2.45—4.00pm	Fitness Suite
Band Night	9 & 11	Thursday	2.45—3.45pm	Practice rooms
GCSE English Revision	10	Friday	2.40— 3.30pm	S29
Geography Revision	11	Friday (Week 1)	2.45— 3.45pm	F54
French Revision	11	Friday	2.45— 3.45pm	F18
Basketball	7 - 11	Friday	2.45— 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Maths Revision	11X2	Friday	2.45--3.30pm	S19
Gym	7 - 11	Friday	2.45— 3.45pm	Fitness Suite
Dance Company Rehearsal	7 - 11	Friday	2.40— 3.40pm	Dance Studio



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 21st December 2021 at 12.10pm – Term ends

Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Covid testing day

Thursday 6th January 2022 - New Term begins

Thursday 13th January 2022 – Yr10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 20th January 2022 – Yr11 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 15th of February - Yr11 Exam Preparation

Evening

Friday 18th February 2022 at 2.40pm – Half Term ends

Monday 28th February 2022 – New Half Term begins

Wishing you
all a very
Merry
Christmas!

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