

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

## WELCOME TO THE PRESCOT SCHOOL'S SUMMER EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER.

As we come to the end of another academic year, it is only natural to reflect on the further progress which has been made in school over the last ten months. All aspects of school life have developed tremendously well and we are proud of all we have achieved.

I am so grateful that we have such a wonderful staff, student and parent / carer body. In addition to this, we have unwavering support from our Local Governing Body members who help to ensure we continue to make rapid progress. They give their time freely and generously for the greater good of the community.

We have been very busy preparing for our new cohort of Year 7 students who will be the largest intake the school has ever admitted. Again, testament to the positive reputation of The Prescot School within the community.

This term's newsletter gives a great flavour of all the wonderful things that have been going on, both in and out of school over the last 12 weeks. I hope that you find it as impressive as I do!

**I wish all our students, staff and families a safe and pleasant summer holiday and look forward to the new academic year ahead.**

**G Cousineau  
Head of School**

# ENGLISH

## Year 7 English

It has been an exciting time in English as we delve into our last, Shakespeare-inspired module. Due to the strong connection Prescot has with the Bard, we feel it is especially important that all our students experience the magic of this literary genius.

As a result, all students study a Shakespeare play during the last term. This means that during Key Stage 3 students will experience the three genres: history, comedy, and tragedy. Students draw on their knowledge of language and themes developed over the year to support them in their study. Year 7 are rising to the challenge of discovering rhetoric and leadership in Henry V. They have impressed us with their analysis of the play and their mature reflections of leadership - perhaps there are some future politicians in our midst!

To aid their study we have some exciting trips planned. Keep an eye on our Twitter account for updates on forthcoming visits to Shakespeare North to experience enrichment workshops, and the theatrical performance of Henry V coming into school before the end of term.



## Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

The opportunities do not stop at the classroom door! Last half term, we welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair. This gives our students an opportunity to browse the latest books and purchase books to read for pleasure - 35 lucky students received an £8 voucher to celebrate their hard work this year. Research by The Reading Agency shows that "reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing, aids in building social connections and relationships with others and is associated with a range of factors that help increase the chances of social mobility." We certainly work hard to develop a 'read to succeed' culture in the English department.



# MATHS

## Year 8 Mathematics

After completing their end of term assessments before the Easter Break, Year 8 students are finishing the year by completing units on the Four Rules of Fractions, Straight Line Graphs and Converting between Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

### Support

As part of the unit on Fractions, the Support students are focussing on adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator and finding a fraction of a quantity. Coordinates and drawing Straight Line graphs from a table of values becomes a focus for the second unit and students are learning the common conversions.

### Core

Students are learning how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators, as well as how we convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. Along with plotting coordinates and completing a table of values, they are also generating the points needed to plot a Straight Line graph. When converting between fractions, decimals and percentages they are using the common conversions, but are also taught the methods needed to complete the conversions.

### Depth

Reasoning and problem solving questions play a large part of this unit on Fractions. A quick check on plotting coordinates leads onto plotting graphs from a table of values and generating the points needed to plot a Straight Line graph, which students can then read values from. When converting between fractions, decimals and percentages they are using the common conversions and are being taught the methods needed to complete the conversions and use these to solve problems.

## Clubs

A special thanks to Miss Gillon and Miss Crangle who have run our Debate Mate and Lit Club aimed at Key Stage 3.

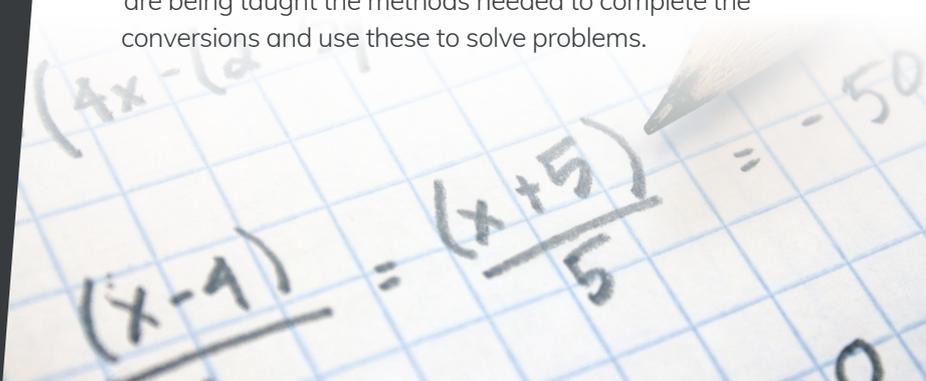
During this term, our Debate Mate team has been busy preparing for the Debate Mate cup. On Wednesday 26th April 2023 we took them to John Moore's University to enter the Debate Mate competition and treated them to some lunch to reward them for their hard work.

All students involved behaved impeccably and represented the school well. Miss Gillon was so impressed with their confidence to debate controversial topics such as: strike action, students attending university and cosmetic surgery.

Ade in Y7 was commended for his impeccable debating skills and was told that they have never seen a Y7 get such high scores! Do we have a budding champion debater?

Patrick in Y10 graduated from the programme this year and he will be sorely missed - he even had his own fan club at the competition!

**We are already looking forward to next year and hopefully we can bring the cup home!**



# ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

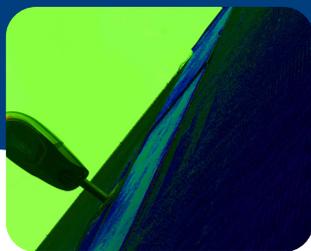
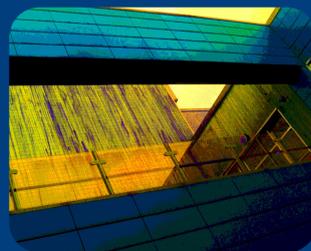
## Year 7 Art

Year 7 Art students have just completed their mixed media 'under the sea' project. The students researched the environmental impact of pollution on our oceans. They worked in a variety of materials including resist, collage and washes.



## Year 7 Photography

Our photography students have been using the fantastic lines and light of the school building to produce work inspired by the photographer Catherine Yass, known for her distinctive photographic and film-based work that, typically, overlays the negative and positive from her photographs and is realised as a lightbox, print or film.



# MFL

## Year 10 Modern Foreign Languages

Students in Year 10 have been working well throughout the year and have shown a positive attitude towards their studies.

In Spanish, students have studied topics such as free time, sports, media, entertainment and role models. Students studying French have studied the topics of leisure, technology and school.

### Mock exams

All students sat their first mock oral exam and a number of students performed extremely well under exam conditions. The results of the mock exams were encouraging and students continue to make excellent progress.

### Bon voyage! ¡Buen viaje!

More exciting news comes in the forthcoming trips with groups of Year 9 and Year 10 students who will visit Barcelona and its many sights in July, whilst the Paris trip will take place in November 2023. Students (and staff) are obviously very excited!

# PE & DANCE

## Year 9 PE and Dance

Year 9 are thriving within PE and Dance this term!

Students are enjoying taking part in a range of activities. In Dance, students are developing a routine influenced by 'The Lion King'. In PE, students are enjoying summer sports such as athletics, handball, softball and rounders. The students are making excellent progress and we look forward to welcoming many of them to examination PE and Dance courses from September!



# MUSIC

## Year 7 Music

This term in Music we have been studying fanfares - short melodies played by brass instruments to announce the start of something, or the arrival of someone important. We have used our listening skills to identify the musical features that separate fanfares from other types of music. Students started with stylistic performances of the Universal Fanfare to work on accuracy of pitch and are now building confidence working in pairs to perform two parts at the same time. Recently, students have enjoyed using their new knowledge of texture and harmony to compose a fanfare of their own.

**Year 7 are really engaging with the topic and their fanfares are sounding fantastic!**



# HUMANITIES

## Year 8 Humanities

This term, students have studied a variety of topics in the Humanities department.

### History

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In History, students looked at the fight for female suffrage and equality in the early twentieth century. They immersed themselves in the sad and shocking story of the Suffragette, Emily Davison, writing thoughtful and mature extended answers about her death. For the rest of this term, students are learning about the key events of WWI and its impact on the world.

### Religious Studies

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In Religious Studies, students have been studying 'The Island' - they imagine they are living on a previously uninhabited island, and they must set up a new community. Students learn about morality, leadership, rites of passage and the code of law which help to create the new community.

### Geography

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In Geography, students have been learning about river flooding, comparing Boscastle flooding with flooding in Bangladesh. They have also studied how flooding is managed and how people respond to floods and looking at the environmental impact of flooding.



# DRAMA

## Year 7 Drama

This term in Drama, students have been studying and performing a playscript entitled 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty', which is a brilliant play exploring the consequences of bullying.

Students are absorbed by themes such as peer pressure, friendship and loyalty. The Year 7 students are really engaging with the text and responding with sensitivity and maturity to the issues the script raises. We have been building confidence with regards to performing and students have enjoyed spontaneous improvisation and hot seating activities.

As well as performing scenes from the script and exploring characterisation through performance, students will have the opportunity to explore the more technical aspects of theatre such as costume design and set design to support their knowledge of the play.



YEAR 7 STUDENTS EXPLORING THE OPENING SCENE TO THE PLAY THROUGH A 'STILL IMAGE'.

# SEN

## Spelling Intervention

In December 2022, we began delivering spelling support to identified students as part of our wider intervention offering.

Each spelling intervention session consists of a starter activity, usually involving a recap on spellings covered in previous sessions, followed by collaborative work relating to a new topic on the whiteboards and on worksheets. These sessions are designed to complement the work that students already do in their lessons and other interventions, helping to improve students' overall literacy skills as well as build their confidence with spelling.



HERE ARE SOME OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVING ONE-TO-ONE SPELLING INTERVENTION.

# SCIENCE

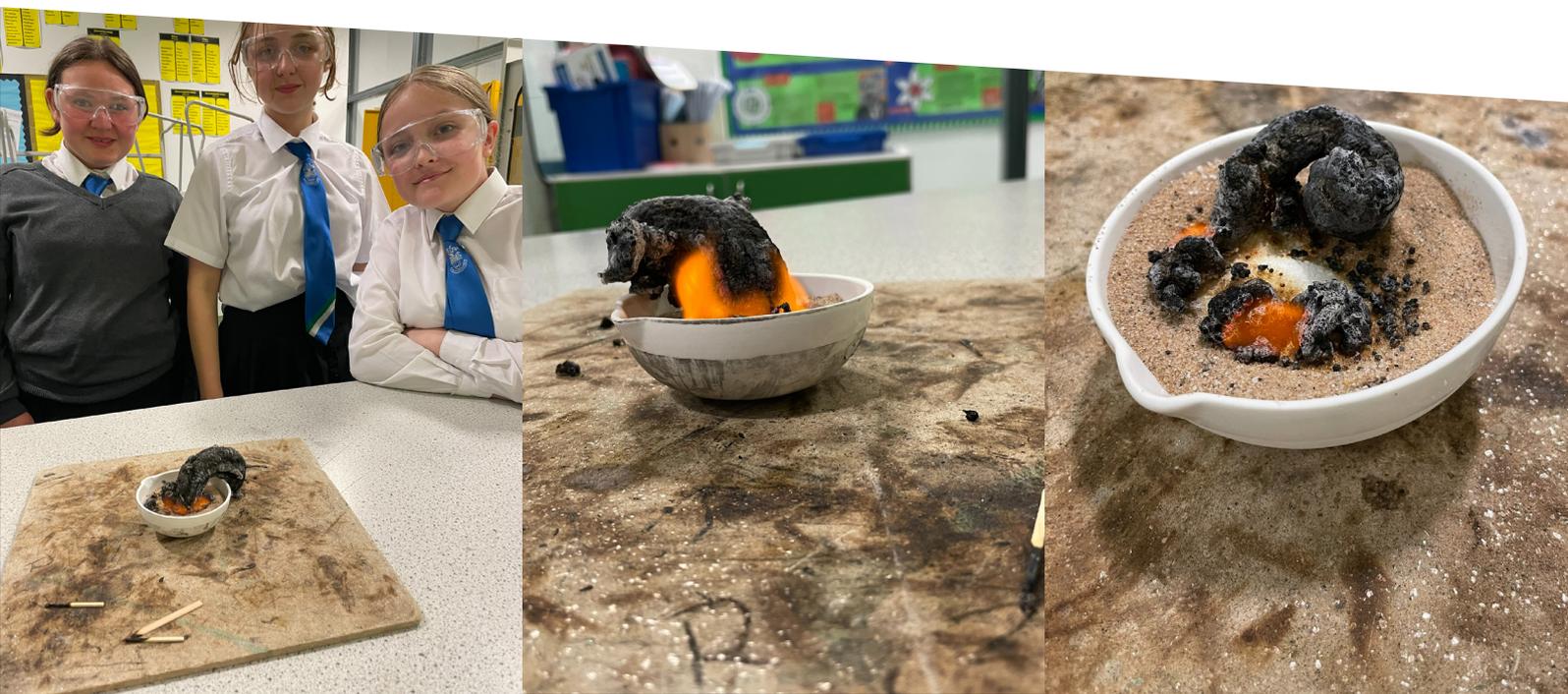
It's been a term of exciting scientific exploration at The Prescot School.

Year 10 students delved into the world of chemical reactions, taking on the challenge of neutralizing Copper Oxide and Sulphuric Acid and combining the two substances to produce stunning Copper Sulphate Crystals. Through careful observation and precise measurements, the students witnessed the transformative power of chemistry first-hand, as vibrant blue crystals emerged from the reaction.



Meanwhile, the budding scientists of Year 7 had their own fiery experiment at STEM Club.

With a mixture of sugar and bicarbonate of soda in their hands, they ignited the concoction and watched as it ignited into fascinating "snakes" that grew and writhed before their eyes. The controlled burn provided an exciting opportunity for the students to witness chemical reactions in action and further their understanding of the properties and behaviour of substances.





# ATTENDANCE

Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for students to learn and reach their potential. School can also provide extra-curricular activities to help students learn about themselves and develop and use their skills and knowledge in different contexts.

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term will miss 15 lessons in total.

Another way your child can reach their potential is being on time to school. Students need to be on the school premises and at line up by 8.40am. It is really important that students are on time to school - they won't miss out on learning opportunities, it allows them to develop routines that they can take into the world of work and it shows commitment.

**If you would like to talk to someone in school about your child's attendance, please contact us on [attendance@prescotschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@prescotschool.org.uk)**

# BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

## Year 10 Experience Trip

This term, Year 10 students went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for their experience trip. Students had an enjoyable time and other users in the park commented on how well behaved our students were.

**Well done, Year 10!**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

This term, all Year 10 students undertook a week's work experience. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to find out more about themselves, find out what inspires them, discover their strengths and values and come up with some career ideas. As they go through school, students sketch a picture of what they want to do in the future in their minds. Work experience colours that picture in.

Working alongside employers and gaining first-hand experience has helped expand their exploration of work and enhanced the students' skills in order to prepare for Year 11, college and apprenticeships. Reflecting on their experiences will help students with the preparation of their electronic portfolio (CV) recording and future choices. It was also an excellent way to create meaningful links with employers.

**These are some of the places that our Year 10s experienced working in:**

- LIVV Housing
- Northwest Trucks
- JB Leitch Solicitors
- Boss Heating
- Volair Service
- Knotty Ash Upholstery
- Smithy's Auto
- Parker Financial Services
- Radio City
- Pets at home
- Willow Brook Hospice
- Station Coffee House
- Jam Studios
- Yada
- Max Speilman
- Imaginarium
- Albion Bake house
- Health Watch
- Steven Gerrard Academy
- Kaiza Travel
- Gloss Studio
- Noodles Nursery

We have an extensive list of employers offering our students work experience, giving labour market information (LMI) and good quality intelligence about jobs, apprenticeships and future career paths.

**Well done to all of our Year 10 students who took part in work experience.**

# HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARDS



**April 26th**

**Ollie, Year 7.**

Ollie is the Year 7 football team captain and a brilliant role model to those around him. He is always kind and polite. He was recently away in Portugal representing Blackburn Rovers. He returned at midday on Monday and still arrived at school, in full uniform, to represent the school in a football fixture, where he scored 6 goals. Congratulations, Ollie!



**May 9th**

**Becks, Year 8.**

Becks is polite, inquisitive, helpful and has a great work ethos. Well done, Becks!



**May 15th**

**Kody, Year 9.**

Kody is a hard working, well mannered, polite and funny student, always keen to help out. An inspiring short story writer, he is also working hard in the "Getting Ready for GCSE Y9" scheme. Congratulations, Kody!



**May 25th**

**Amy, Year 10.**

Amy always tries her best. She attends lunch/break club and is a valued asset to the group. Amy always considers others and is kind and respectful at all times. Well done, Amy!



**June 21st**

**Reagan, Year 8.**

Reagan always works to the best of his ability, even attending parents evening alone to better understand how to increase his achievements. That's dedication - well done, Reagan!



**June 26th**

**Paul, Year 7**

Paul shows resilience and ambition by having 100% attendance, overcomes adversity, has beautiful manners and works extremely hard. Congratulations, Paul!



**July 3rd**

**Dan, Year 9**

Staff are impressed by his unwavering commitment to his learning - especially in French. Always polite and hardworking, Dan goes out of his way to be helpful. Well done, Dan!



# SPOTLIGHT ON...

## Lucy, Year 11 – Gymnast for Great Britain

"I have been doing gymnastics since I was 4. I attend HPL Gymnastics, and I have been selected to represent Great Britain in 2023 World Gymnastrada in Amsterdam. Currently, I train three times a week, and I also coach young gymnasts from the age of four. I help them develop the fundamentals of gymnastics and teach them new skills, encouraging them to reach their full potential. I perform in shows and competitions all over the country, showcasing different skills and routines."



## Zara, Year 11 – Lioness (U17)

Zara in Year 11 has been representing her country as a Lioness, playing for England in the Women's Under 17 UEFA European Finals in Estonia. Zara played in every match and the team made it to the semi-finals before conceding defeat to Spain. Zara and her fellow U17 Lionesses were commended for their hard work, dedication and commitment to their football, education and the general way in which they have approached all of the hurdles they have overcome this season, both on and off the pitch.

**Congratulations on being such wonderful role models for your school and your country, Lucy and Zara!**



# SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

During the past term, our school council has been working hard to raise money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital Charity. We held events such as a cake sale and 'throw the sponge at the teacher' challenges and are proud to have raised over £200 in total.

Our new charity for this term is The Lee Cooper Foundation provides free mental health support to young people aged 11-24 in Knowsley through 1-1 support, group support, workshops and more.

Representatives from the charity have been into school to speak about what they do and why, and we are excited to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

In other news, the School Council is also working towards improving the school lunch menu as well as organising more reward trips.



## SPORTS DAY

On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th July, all students took part in our annual Sports Day.

Each year, Sports Day is an opportunity for us as a school to celebrate sport and give students the opportunities to explore different activities to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

The PE department ensure that we have something for everybody, with students having the opportunity to take part in 17 different events, some competitive and others just for enjoyment.

**A great time was had by all!**



SOME MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

# CAREERS INFORMATION

The Summer term is always a busy one for the Careers Department.

## Year 9

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As part of our Key Stage 3 Careers Programme, all students from Year 9 were invited to attend an Aim Higher trip to Edge Hill University on Wednesday 3rd May. The day was organised in partnership with Shaping Futures and was designed to provide students with an insight into university life. During the day, the students took part in a campus tour, discussions, and activities with current university students.

## Year 10

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We are extremely impressed with the ambition and resilience of our Year 10s this term. They have all been working hard to secure their work experience placements and get paperwork and documents signed off. We hope they enjoyed their week in the world of work and gain valuable experience and life skills from the opportunities available to them. They came back full of stories!

Before they departed for work experience, they also got the chance to spend the day at Cronton College. Students experienced a 'Taster Day' which gave them a flavour of what college life and post-16 courses are like.

**Wow, lots to take in for our Year 10s!**

## Year 11

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We have been working very closely with our Year 11 students this term to ensure that they are fully equipped and ready for their next steps. We wish them all the best in their post-16 endeavours and look forward to seeing them on results day to help them enrol. **Good luck in the future Year 11!**





## THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

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