

PENSBY HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



It has now been a while since we last had a newsletter, but as the Headteacher it has been lovely to read about all the events taking place this term; to see the photographs of students' work and activities, and to have the opportunity to share these with you at home. A special thank you to Mrs Dufton for putting this together and supporting the re-launch of our social media news feed post covid. Whilst I myself find social media somewhat baffling and I am very grateful that there are others that can do far more than I can.

Gratitude is really the theme for this short passage.

It has been a difficult few years for staff, students and parents, but when we have people pulling together, we continue to move forward. An example being attendance to school, which is lower than it was pre-covid at 92%, but this is higher than national, regional and local attendance, by quite a margin. I know that for some students and parents there have been and continue to be some struggles around attendance, but attendance matters not for GCSE, rather the day-to-day social interactions that your children have in school. Friendships will be made at school that will last into adulthood, friendships that become the bedrock of healthy relationships, strong mental health and well-being, and physical health. If the last few years and the current worries for the future have shown the school as a community anything, it is that resilience, determination and a willingness to work alongside others is the key to success. The ability to share a space, resources, time and a goal, have a profound effect on the progress we see in students, both academically and in being ready to take the step into adulthood as they leave this school.

The preconditions for a child's success when reflected in this way, come partly from school and I am thankful for the efforts of all the staff here, but in large part from you at home and the extended friends, and family. Attendance to school at this level has many benefits to your children, but essentially is down to a lot of hard work, in a myriad of ways from you at home and we find that you make a huge difference not just with attendance, but with everything that your children do.

The progress students made in the examinations in the summer of 2022 is again at the top of similar schools in the local authority and comfortably above the national average. Again, this is down to the same hard work, resilience, determination, and that willingness to work with, and for others; so much of which comes from you.

I want to thank all the students, all of the staff and you, because it has not been an easy few years and watching the news isn't cheering, but I know that when the vast majority of our community pull together, we beat the odds. I am not a teacher, because I love a subject; I am a teacher because I believe that education is the most important thing we can give as a society and I will be forever grateful that so many of our community, staff students and you, work towards securing a better outcome for our young people.

So, a huge thank you to everyone and I hope that you have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Kevin Flanagan

Head of Year 7 Mrs Hardwick:

What a fantastic first term year 7 have had, transitioning from their previous smallish primary schools to our large Pensby High School. They have overcome many barriers and challenges, integrated well, and made new friends. They have engaged with the variety of extra-curricular activities as well as learning and making progress in their subjects. As with year 8, some students are also part of the Brilliant Club and have already visited a university, a place many students will aspire to attend later on in their education.

Over the last 15 weeks members of the year group have:

- won a prize for achieving 100% attendance for the previous week
- been presented with a book of their choice through the school library
- received positive postcards for various reasons
- worked hard and earned Class Charts for a variety of reasons
- volunteered and are now representatives for subgroups in school (School Council, Eco Action Team, etc) showing early leadership skills
- been presented with a reward of a bar of chocolate
- represented the school football or netball team
- entered Maths, MFL, or library competitions.

Well done to all students for your excellent attitude to learning!

Head of Year 8 Mrs Sullivan:

Year 8 have had a fantastic term and there are many positives to celebrate. Some students have been part of The Brilliant Club working on an interesting science-based project, year 8 boys have had unbelievable wins in their football matches, some students have been rehearsing for the school production of Matilda Jnr and others have been resilient and worked hard in their lessons.

The top 5 boys with the highest Class Charts this term are; Corin 8STE, Olly and Jack 8MGR, Daniel 8RGR and Luca 8MWI. The top 5 girls with the highest Class Charts this term are; Nancy, Leigha and Maebelle 8AFR, Melissa 8JHA, and Rosheen 8MWI.

Well done to all students for your excellent attitude to learning!

Head of Year 9: Mr Woodward-Booth:

Year 9 have had an outstanding start to this academic year. They have knuckled down and produced some terrific work. By Easter they will be well over halfway through their time at Pensby High School. They will be selecting their options early in the New Year which will help to shape their future aspirations and goals.

It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the year group grow into confident, free thinking, problem solving, determined young adults. They have been keen to embrace new challenges and new experiences without fearing failure. This is an essential skill for life in general!

From the start of 2023 they will be entering the "engine room" phase of their secondary education. This will require the same determination and drive that they have shown this term. This next phase is where the "hard yards" are made, and future success is secured. I have complete confidence in every one of them.

Lastly.....a Merry Christmas to all!

Head of Year 10 Mr Booth

Year 10 have made a great start to their Key Stage 4 years. There have been a series of interesting speakers from outside, including Brook and the BBC twice, once to highlight careers in the creative industries and once as part of a national storytelling project. I was absolutely delighted to hear stories written by the students being read out either by themselves or the BBC presenters to the rest of the year group, an experience that was sometimes very moving as students shared quite difficult experiences with their peers. The careers theme was carried on at our highly successful careers fair, where students engaged really positively with visiting employers and providers after overcoming their initial shyness. The careers focus will carry on next term both with work experience week and a roll out of careers interviews with our specialist provider, Mploy, for every student in the year. And I shouldn't forget to say that the boys' football team have had some great successes, if not in absolutely every match.

Attendance has been hit hard by all the winter bugs this year, but I am really pleased that attendance in year 10 this term is still higher than the national average. I would like to thank all parents for their support in keeping attendance high, especially in this critical year where so much of the GCSE content will be taught. Behaviour by most students has been excellent, with about a quarter of students in the year avoiding even one negative during the term. I have really enjoyed sending emails home as part of our "Five on a Friday" scheme, where we pick five students each week who we want to say something particularly positive about and email home to say it. So far, I have emailed home for 50 students, and I look forward to doing the same for many more.

I hope all the students (and parents/carers!) have an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and come back in January refreshed and ready to learn.

Head of Year 11 Mrs O'Hare:

We're well into the final furlong for year 11 and their last autumn term at Pensby has been a success. The year 11 prefects are assisting well with the extra-curricular clubs and they were a great credit back in September when they assisted with open evening. They spoke confidently and enthusiastically to prospective parents and pupils, with many of the parents commenting on how helpful they were. They are also keen to assist with any duties and support asked of them.

Year 11 have also had the experience of a careers interview as well as the more recent careers event where they had the chance to talk to many college and apprenticeship providers. Again, the feedback from the colleges and businesses that attended was amazing; the general consensus being that the students were polite, focused and keen to explore life after Pensby.

Keep up the good work year 11!

English Department

We have had a busy first term in the department and we are delighted that most of our pupils have been working extremely hard.

Year 7 have all studied *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, year 8 *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece* and year 9 *Of Mice and Men*. These texts have been a springboard to explore the themes and issues that arise in the books.

Year 11 have been busy preparing for and sitting their mock examinations so they will welcome the performances of the texts they are studying: *A Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth* and *An Inspector Calls* when the acting company, Manacto, come into school.

Stars of the term are:

Year 7: Ben 7AMC and Latazia 7TMA

Year 8: Isla 8AFR and Corin 8STE

Year 9: Bradley 9EDU and Ellie 9KPL

Year 10: Maya 10JCO and James K. 10RJO

Year 11: Ben W. 11JTA and Dulcie 11HFO

BBC Share Our Story at Pensby High School

On Friday 14th October 2022, Pensby High School were lucky to be joined by a team from the BBC Share Your Story Tour which is celebrating 100 years of the BBC.

Presenter Robyn Richford, who works for BBC Radio 1, brought David North, a presenter and producer from BBC Radio Merseyside and Natasha Todd, a BBC audience intelligence analysis, to share their stories with our pupils. The messages they left us thinking about were: 'Believe in yourself', 'Follow your passion' and 'Never let anyone dull your sparkle'.

All pupils in years 7-10 wrote a story for their English homework about a time when they had shown resilience or had faced a challenge. The English department chose stories from their classes to be read when the BBC came to Pensby, then Mrs Foster and Mrs Davies chose the finalists who would share their stories with their year group and the BBC.

Some of our pupils bravely shared their stories on the stage; others had theirs read aloud by the presenters. Proud doesn't cover it: to be able to share a personal story with staff, peers and outsiders is so brave. We have been lucky to hear these stories.



On Thursday 8th December we were lucky to welcome back the BBC for their second 'Share My Story' event which focused on careers in the BBC and in the media industry. Years 9,10,11 had a great time learning about a variety of different roles and experiences. It was especially nice to welcome back to school ex-pupil Karina Molby who now runs her own successful fashion label.

Maths Department



In November, Year 7 and 8 took part in a competition for Maths Week England. The competition was a Yohaku, which was quite difficult to do. We had a lot of people take part; the winners were:

First prize: Sonny and Corbyn 7TCO

Second Prize: Azize and Saja 8JHA

Well done to the winners and everyone who took part!

Have a try:



Y	O	
H	A	
K	U	

Years 7 and up.

Here are some yohaku puzzles to celebrate Maths Week in England. To solve yohaku puzzles you must fill in the empty cells such that they give the sum or product shown in each row and column. The numbers in the cells must also satisfy the given conditions below each puzzle.

			99
			20
			273
154	18	195	×

Use 9 prime numbers.

			14
			33
			61
55	37	16	+

Use nine different prime numbers.

Congratulations to the Sparx champions for term 1 who have all won gift vouchers for Apple/Google Play store! Sparx is the online homework platform, with tailored tasks to match the needs of the pupils. Opportunities to complete XP boost tasks and target questions. Pupils also practice times tables using interactive games.

Year 7: Oliver 7AMC and Nathan 7TCO

Year 8: Leigha and Alfie 8AFR

Year 9: Kaan 9KSA AND Faith 9KPL

Year 10: Mason 10MWR and Emily 10 BHA

Year 11: James 11JTA and Jack 11LMI

Music and Drama Department

Pensby's Got Talent auditions took place on Wednesday 7th December and 10 acts were chosen to compete in the final on Tuesday 20th December. Lots of amazing talent was seen and heard from comedians to singers to dancers. The newly formed year 7 Samba Band entered and got through to the final. This will be their first performance in front of a live audience!

StageEd came into school Thursday 8th December and ran a Blood Brothers Workshop with year 10 drama students, staging some of the key scenes from the play.



The cast of **Matilda** have been working extremely hard on bringing our school production together. Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, Matilda is a joyous musical with students involved from all year groups.

Matilda follows the story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have you rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson.

Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence... and special powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children or "maggots" as she likes to call them. She just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules.... including the demolition of an entire chocolate cake (that doesn't sound like such a bad punishment to me!)

But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts and could be the school pupils' saving grace.

Come along and watch our school production of 'Matilda Jnr The Musical' on 15th and 16th February and be a part of the rebellion revolution!

See you there,
Miss Hazlehurst (Director)



Spanish Department

In Key Stage 4 speaking club this year we have a keen band of GCSE students who come every week to speak Spanish and practise for the speaking exam. We have played games such as Spanish Trivial Pursuit and No Snakes, No Ladders to practise for the mock oral exam. We have also done some general "chatting" in Spanish. The students who have come to this club have become much more confident and their mock oral exam results were among the best of the whole cohort this year!

¡Qué guay!



¡Enhorabuena y muchas gracias chicas!

Well done to two of our Language Leaders: Megan and Isabel who organised Spanish film club for year 7 students on Tuesday lunchtimes this last half term in A6.

This half term's film was Disney's "Coco" and year 7 were even treated to some homemade Candy Floss for free!



Spanish ICT Club - run by Ms. Saladin was also a great success this term. Well done to all those who attended! The club will continue after Christmas with Mrs Hall in E7. All year groups welcome!

Science Department

In Science, year 9s who have entered the Bronze Crest Award have been investigating bath bombs this half term! They are exploring what makes the most appealing bath bombs including scent, texture, colour and fizziness. The award, which can be used towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award, allows students to improve their investigative skills using student surveys, independent research, and planning, completing, and evaluating their own experiments. Many of them are hoping to move onto the Silver Award in Year 10. Look out for their final results sometime in the New Year.



In November, Eureka! Science + Discovery opened its doors at Seacombe Ferry Terminal. Eureka! is designed for children and young people up to 14 years to discover how science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) influence and shape their lives. Mrs Taylor, science subject leader at Pensby, was invited to the launch evening and was interviewed by Granada Reports about how valuable the resource is to the young people in the local area.



Year 9 science have been investigating the hair-raising effect of static electricity. Year 8 have been investigating density and were given a mixture of fluids of different densities and made predictions about whether they would float or sink. Year 7 learning about the chemistry behind the combustion of Christmas puddings!

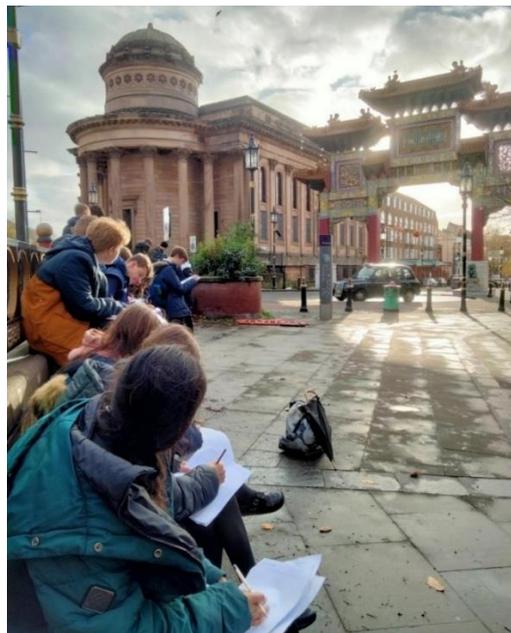


Humanities Department

Humanities have had another great international start to the academic year. The geography department successfully took 51 students to Iceland in October, and surprisingly it was not as cold as it is now! A fast few days, ending with some relaxation time in the Blue Lagoon, a highlight for many on the trip.



In November year 11 geography students had a successful fieldtrip in Liverpool, despite the very wet weather in the morning. Lots of walking, but a good overview of how the city is evolving.



The history department have finished the term with a trip to Berlin. The year 11 students will be flying out for the last few days of term to visit a range of sites to support their GCSE history, including The Brandenburg Gate, The German Parliament Building (Reichstag) and the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. It will not be all work, as they will also visit a few Christmas markets to get them ready for the holidays!

PE Department

We have had a great term in the PE department! The term started off with a fresh new look with both Mr Hall and Miss Waring joining the team. Both have made a great contribution to the department so far and are enjoying teaching the brilliant pupils at Pensby. We also introduced some new topics into the curriculum including fitness and dance. Our year 7 pupils danced a street dance to 'One Kiss' and our year 8 pupils did a fantastic rendition of Matilda's 'Revolting Children'.

The term has also seen a few challenges, most recently with the cold weather spell but as usual the pupils at Pensby have tackled this head on and continued to display excellent resilience by being adaptable and understanding when we have to work with the weather.

Our extracurricular programme is as popular as ever with high numbers of participants at football, rugby, and netball club. We are looking forward to seeing everyone attending again in term 2.

Highlights:

Some highlights have been the brilliant year 8 boys football team who have won their last four games against high quality Liverpool schools, winning dramatically on penalties and in awful weather conditions. They have a Merseyside Cup quarter final to look forward to in the new year. The star being the captain Leighton who is a great leader!

Results: 2-2 V sacred heart won on Penalties
 6-0 V Litherland
 6-0 V Notre Dame
 4-1 V Liverpool college school



The year 10 boys football team has had success beating Blacon in the Cheshire Cup and a brilliant penalty shoot-out win against St Mary's in the Merseyside Cup with Shay scoring 4 goals!

The year 10/11 girls football team played their first ever national cup game against Woodchurch putting in a determined display with Lilly scoring!

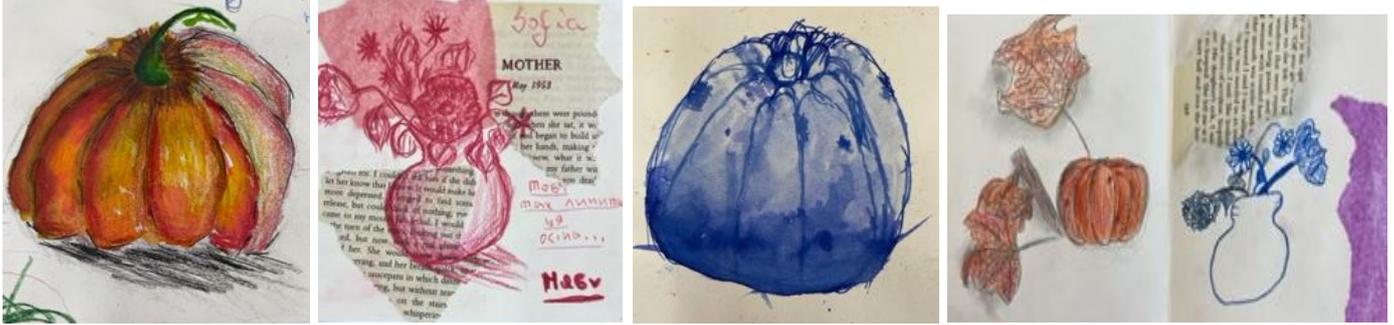


The year 10 boys rugby team played away at Woodchurch and put in a spirited performance.

We look forward to competing in more competitions in the new year!

Art Department

Year 7 have been making mini sketchbooks based on natural forms using different materials such as coloured pencil, oil pastel and paint.



Year 8 have been working on art of different cultures and have produced some amazing oil pastel masks; they have taken their designs into cardboard relief masks. Pupils have researched art of different cultures and presented their work in the form of PowerPoints, posters and cakes. One group of boys even wrote and performed a song for their presentation. Harris made a cake based on Sudan and Christopher made a cake in the style of a Celtic knot. The most entertaining presentation was by Luke who told us all about Greek mythology, food and architecture:



Year 9 have been studying Gaudi and architecture this term; for homework they researched the artist and presented the information to the rest of the class. Some did PowerPoints, posters and booklets and some made cakes. Stars were Alex, Grace, Katie and Ruby. Well done everyone!



At open evening year 6 pupils made drawings of bees which went into our Pensby Hive:



Computer Science Department

The Computer Science department is very proud of the effort that the students have made in their mock papers. As result, we are looking to reward the students by choosing the best 8 to10 students in overall effort and take them on a trip to VRHere in Liverpool. Places are limited but it will be an experience they won't forget regardless of whether they have played such games at home. They will get to learn about the industry, play the VR games directly with friends in the virtual worlds and hopefully appreciate what their own world could encounter if they were to take up a career in gaming – a £6.8 billion UK market size. Further details will come in the new year. Well done year 11!



Design and Technology Department

On 25th November our pupils competed against other Wirral schools in a STEM challenge. They were up against several local schools, including Upton Hall and St Anselm's. There were three categories: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 & Key Stage 5. We only entered Key Stage 3 teams and we won our category!

The winning team were: Neave and Seth 9JBE, AJ 9KPL and Hayden 9KSA. Very proud teacher moment!



Back in October the year 11 3D-Design GCSE group went on a trip to Liverpool. They visited lots of art galleries and museums and walked around Liverpool taking lots of photographs for their Art Deco Clock project. We had such a fun day, and the students got a lot of essential primary images and research for their coursework. We even managed to get an ice cream at the Albert Dock too! The students were great and really enjoyed their day out. The students never even considered to look up when walking around Liverpool (try it next time you're there as you might see some hidden beauties in the buildings!)



SEND Department

Understanding special needs:

There are students in the school who have additional needs. Some have a diagnosis of ADHD, ASD, dyslexia, have had traumatic upbringings or life events, have difficult home lives, struggle with anxiety and depression, or may simply be behind in their learning. They have additional support such as someone in the classroom to help, intervention in the Student Support Centre, mentoring or counselling, or different coloured paper or overlays to use in class. Some students have outside agencies (social workers, Educational Psychologists, CAMHS) who work with them and school. They have this extra support/help to give them the same chances as their peers. It's almost like they need a boost to catch up/be in line with everyone else. They are not getting extra. They are being helped so they can be the same as everyone else and have the same opportunities as their peers. Being inclusive is important.

SEND Champions:

We have put together a SEND student working party to improve the outcomes for students with SEND.

Our SEND working party for students are known as our SEND Champions.

The SEND champions meet with Mrs Price (SENCo) on a regular basis. Mrs Price wants the voice of the young person/student to be heard. We are keen to continue improving the outcomes of the students with SEND and want everyone to have the opportunity to be listened to, and to contribute.

Our SEND champions do not necessarily have additional or special needs. They have the skills to be able to listen to others and impart the views of others in an effective manner. They are also respectful, caring, and compassionate.

Students wrote a letter of application to Mrs Price to become a SEND champion, and after recently appointing our new Year 7 SEND Champions, we now have a working party of thirteen students across the year groups who will work alongside Mrs Price and our teaching staff to build on our good SEND provision currently in place.

Ruth Miskin 'Fresh Start' - Phonics programme

Some students have been identified to receive the new Fresh Start phonics programme which now been underway since October. The Fresh Start programme is proven to be extremely effective in helping young people access the curriculum with the resources and approach being more age appropriate for secondary aged students to develop their reading and spelling skills. The programme has been recommended by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) who support teachers and senior leaders by providing evidence-based resources designed to improve practice and boost learning. The programme takes pupils back to basics in order to familiarise themselves with letter sounds and blending. Once they can effectively identify and blend the sounds, they can use those skills to decode unfamiliar or unknown words as they progress. Students progress through various reading module booklets and return to unfamiliar sounds as required each session to embed these skills. The students are assessed regularly and can advance through the modules at a carefully monitored pace. The programme will enable these students to grasp the fundamental basics of reading and allow them to progress in their learning in line with their peers. After a positive start, we are keen to see the impact of the programme and the confidence grow in our students.

The Library (One Year On!)

Our school library reopened on 1st September 2021 with new Librarian Mrs Dufton. As well as borrowing books for in and out of school use, pupils have access to computers, can join after school clubs, and should see the library as a comfortable and supportive place where they can read for pleasure and study.

The library is open to students at break, lunch and after school until 4:30pm. Students may borrow books for two weeks with the option to renew them if they haven't finished at that point. Students are not fined for late books we just ask that they are returned so that other students have a chance to borrow them.

Library lessons: Students in years 7, 8, and 9 have an hour reading lesson in the library once a fortnight. Year 10 and 11 are given opportunities to change books twice per half term. For the first half of the lesson students are encouraged to read for pleasure while the English teacher and librarian keep track of what books students are reading, help them select books that they will enjoy and are appropriate for their age and level, and also check that they understand what they are reading. The second half of the lesson the English teacher or librarian will read a text to the class connected to their main lessons which we also discuss.

Library Clubs: We have several after school clubs running in the library.
[Please note that students are still welcome to use the library for study even if they are not taking part in the club].

Tuesday – Student Librarian Club

Wednesday – Book Awards & Competitions Club

Thursday – M.I.C. (Manga, Illustrations & Comic Club)



Book Club are currently reviewing 'Kith and Kin' for Penguin UK Books and The Reading Agency!



Competitions: Something for everyone to participate and excel in!

National Poetry Day 2022 Competition on 'Environment' winners:



Spooky Reading Challenge winners:



World Cup Competition winners:



Daily Advent and Christmas Book Design Competition (some of the winners):



Scholastic Book Fair

In November we held a book fair in the library and managed to raise over £1000 which meant that we received books worth £600!



Booktrust Bookbuzz

In December every year 7 is gifted a new book. They have a choice of 17 titles to choose from ranging from non-fiction to graphic novels. We hope that choosing and owning a book will encourage them to continue to read for pleasure over the break and beyond!



PSHE

This year we have changed our approach to PSHE and it is being delivered by Form Tutors to their own tutor groups. This has been very well received by pupils and staff in surveys done this year. Some of the comments were:

“I really like being with my form for PSHE as I feel more comfortable discussing more personal topics.”

“The new form timetable is working really well, we really enjoy the whole class debates.”

We have joined a new organisation called Smart School Council. The aim is to develop student leadership skills by giving all students a chance to be part of how we run our school community. We are still in the early stages of growing the SSC and we hope it will grow over time.

It is made up of three parts: the communications team who lead the way, class meetings which take place in form time and allow debate, discussion and voting on questions that may be local, national or specific to our community. From this, there is an opportunity to form Action Teams who want to do something about a specific issue. So far, we have an Eco Team and a Charities Team. Watch this space for more information!



We have had several visiting speakers including PC Phil Byron who has delivered sessions on Cybercrime during PSHE. Also 'Bronnie', a young local Indie/rock artist came and did a performance of her songs and talked about how she overcame struggles and about self-confidence and pride in being yourself. Students loved the concert and there was a queue for selfies at the end of each session!



CRI programme

We are continuing to develop our CRI values programme at Pensby. Our motto is Care, Respect, Inspire (CRI) and there are six values that we aim to develop over the five years when students are studying here. These are: Attitude, Resilience, Independence, Confidence, Pride and Aspiration. Each half term we have a year assembly about the focus for the half term and there are classroom posters put up every half term to remind staff and students of the value of the half term.

This half term we were focusing on Resilience which tied in with the BBC Share Our Story event - we are so proud of how the students embody our CRI values!

We have renewed the signage in the entrance hall this term too to reflect our Pensby motto and we have lots of posters around the corridors to remind students of our values as they move around the school.



CRI points

At our recent award ceremony, we were proud to have our first Key Stage 3 winner of the CRI award for the student who most embodied our CRI values during their time in Key Stage 3. The deserving winner of this award was Milo, a student who is an inspiring example of Care, Respect, Inspire. Well done Milo - we are so proud of you!

Following on from this, we now have a weekly well-done email circulated to all forms for those students who have been awarded the most CRI points in the previous week. These are awarded by staff for students who go above and beyond our expectations. That may be through kindness or a thoughtful act, courage and bravery in a difficult situation, consistent effort and being well-prepared, consistently good attitude to learning and organisation, going beyond what is asked for in learning and homework, demonstrating independence in their actions, and many other things that fall under one of our values. We seek to inspire our students to be the best version of themselves in all they do and to live out our motto of Care, Respect and Inspire.

This year to date we have awarded 10,220 points for our six values among almost every student in the school – what a brilliant group of students we have – that is 10,220 individual little kindnesses, examples of effort and resilience in the last three months. Wow!

Clubs

Chess Club:

Pensby is excited to announce that Chess Club is back up and running. We are open to all abilities and year groups, and everyone is welcome. This free club includes access to our high-quality chess equipment, and you will have the opportunity to improve your skills in problem solving, teamwork and even attempt to check-mate the teacher! Whether you are putting your skills to the test or simply observing and learning some exciting new strategies, everyone can take part. Each week there will be plenty of friendly games going on, End Game strategy tests, coaching to improve your skills and many more surprises to come!



Science Club:

Year 7 and 8 science club have made rafts with the help of some year 11s - the object was to float as many glue sticks as possible!



History Fiction and Film Club:

Year 7 were given book recommendations on topics we cover in History lessons this term, and they have been reading about the Normans or Anglo-Saxon England. Our prefects have been helping them by discussing ideas and themes, creating posters, shields, or coats of arms in the style of Anglo-Saxon or Norman warriors, and playing on-line games about constructing an Anglo-Saxon or Norman strong hold. Years 7-9 welcome every Wednesday in E2.



The Brilliant Club

This term 14 of our year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in The Scholars Programme, run by The Brilliant Club.

This is a programme designed to support students to develop skills and knowledge to make ambitious and successful applications to universities, should that be what they decide they want to do. At the same time, students will be developing great academic skills to support their schoolwork day to day. Students enrolled on The Scholars Programme work with a PhD researcher on a university style module, based on the researcher's world-leading expertise. This term's module has a STEM focus on Molecular and Infectious Diseases.

The programmes are pitched at a Key Stage above where students are currently studying and are designed to develop students' written and verbal communication, critical thinking, and metacognition, through exciting, supra-curricular content. Students taking on the programme this term are:

Year 7:

Poppy and Corbyn 7TCO, Savannah and Kyle 7AMO, Sam and Alex 7SGA, and Joshua 7DHO

Year 8:

Harry A and Leigha 8AFR, Oliver and Chloe 8MGR, Callum 8ESI, Luke 8JHA, and Freya 8MWI

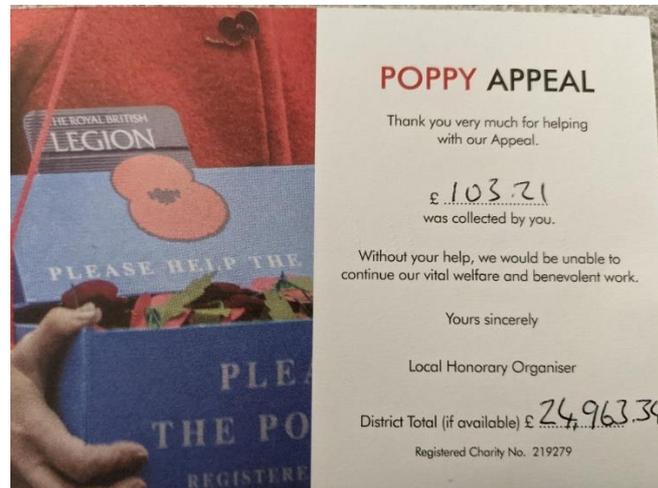
On 3rd November these students attended the launch event at the University of Manchester. They had lectures on critical thinking, university study, and study skills, as well as having a campus tour and experiencing life as a student there.



Charity Action Group:

Elizabeth in year 9, a member of the student council, has set up a charity action group. This group consists of five year 9s; Elizabeth, Lucy, Jayden, Ruby and Alesha and their aim is to help local and national charities, throughout the year. They have already raised £103.21 for the Poppy Appeal, £31.48 for the National Aids Trust and have been collecting new toys, from staff, for the Mission Christmas, Cash for Kids Appeal.

The members of the action group would like to thank those who have donated so far.



Santa Dash:

On Sunday 4th December 'The Pensby Santas' had a blast at the Liverpool Santa Dash and managed to raise £240 to support Claire House Children's Hospice.

