

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, which features many facets of the enriched school life our students receive. Please also try to follow us on social media as this keeps you in touch with daily news from school.

We were delighted to hand out achievement badges in the last week of term to reward all the students who work so hard on a daily basis and get involved in the incredible opportunities we offer beyond the school day. An amazing 837 students achieved at least a Bronze badge, over 50 achievement points, in the first term! This followed the celebration of Awards Evenings for last Year's 7-10 students, Sports Awards Evenings and the Annual Leavers Awards Evening.

Year 11 have now completed their PPEs (Pre Public Examinations) and Mrs Blease and Mrs Pritchard, Heads of Year 11, have said how proud they were of the year group and how they have prepared for and undertaken their examinations.

The last few weeks has highlighted the caring aspect of our community with over £800 raised for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, over 100 Shoe Boxes created for the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal, a third of a tonne of food donated to The Southport Food Bank and Christmas Hampers being delivered to a local care home. Thank you for supporting the PTA Christmas Market, which raised over £1300 and a special thank you to all parents and carers who were involved in organising it.

You will have seen in a recent Parentmail that we wish to make Hastings Road a 'Traffic Free Zone; to support the safety of our students and to encourage more students and parents to 'park and stride' to school from further away. Thank you to parents and carers who have supported this and helped keep Hastings Road clear.

Sefton is the Borough of Culture for 2020. To support this we are championing Christiana Hartley in vote for inspirational people from Sefton. Please support us by voting for her by following this [link](#) and viewing the video that has been created by Greenbank students.

Thank you to all students and parents/carers who support our high standards of uniform in preparing students for the world of work, to be dressed smartly as a member of a learning community and ensuring they are excellent ambassadors for our school in the community. If you are unsure about the standards expected, please follow this [link](#) to our website and the student dress code. It is essential no learning time is wasted in dealing with students who may contravene this policy. Please outline the expectations to your child before they return to school.

Please find the important dates for next term at the end of the newsletter. As you can see, it is a busy time especially with Parents Evenings for all year groups.

We would like to wish all our students, parents, carers and staff a Happy New Year for 2020.

Mr Raikes
Headteacher



Awards Evening



We were delighted to welcome back our leavers of 2019 on 28th November to celebrate their success. We presented a range of prizes including their GCSE certificates, Duke of Edinburgh Award Certificates and special prizes for achievement, effort, attendance and service to school. It was a pleasure to hear how well our alumni are progressing at their destinations.

Sports Awards Evening



On 14th November, we celebrated with over 200 students and their parents and carers at our annual Leavers Awards ceremony. Our guest of honour was Great Britain athlete, Emily Diamond, who spoke about her route to World Championship success and presented all medals to prize winners. Congratulations to all students who received awards.

Headteacher's Breakfast



Well done to all students who were invited to the Headteacher's Breakfast on 13th December for a wide range of reasons such as service to school to outstanding effort.

Strictly Christmas Show



Congratulations to all performers, over 100, at our Strictly Christmas dance and entertainment show on 12th December. The standard of performance was exceptional with so many Year 7 performers involved and supported by older students.

'Celebrate' Winter Music Concert



We were treated to an outstanding Winter Music concert on 19th December with a fantastic mix of solo, ensemble, choir and orchestral music. The amazing talent on display was a testimony to the hard work and practice of all students.

House News



Recently the hall was ringing with the sound of music – and laughter, bursting balloons and corny jokes. Of course I am happily talking about the House Talent Show which took place the first week in December. Fabulously compered by the maths department's own Mr Hunter and Mr Scott, who did canny impressions of Ant and Dec, they could have been winners themselves. They introduced a wide variety of acts this year, from acting to balloon modelling, singing and dancing to gymnastics, comedy routines and stand up to horse dressage - though for obvious reasons no horses were brought in to school and a video presentation was felt safer. Mr Hunter may need to watch himself as he had healthy competition on the joke front from a number of students.

Third place was awarded by the judges – Mrs Collins-Murphy, Miss Cullen and Mrs Russell – to Lily Hunter-Reilly in year 7 who rapped 'Hopeful' by Bars & Melody for Bronte House. Hepburn girls, Priya Wadwah, Martha Topping and Alex Hunter, also year 7, wrote and performed a modern day twist on Cinderella, which raised much laughter. However, overall winner and taking the trophy for Seacole, was Olivia Armstrong in year 11, who raised the rafters with a beautiful and poignant version of the 'The Power of Love' by Frankie Goes to Hollywood. These girls also gained prestigious casting in Mrs Collins-Murphy's dance show to perform in front of proud relatives.

Fundraising for house charities continues as always. Bronte held their sweet tombola, a very popular event and made over £300 for the Southport Offshore Life Boat. This is a very worthwhile and local cause and as an independent charity receives no funding from the RNLI at all. Every penny is welcomed to support these brave volunteers.

Hepburn House Captains have been attending awards evenings and the dance show selling raffle tickets to parents. Prizes consist of vouchers for Remedy (the popular venue on Lord Street and in Churchtown), a giant teddy bear and also two Christmas hampers put together with donations from Hepburn girls in Year 8. To date the raffle has raised over £265, with all money going to UNICEF.

Seacole had a Christmas cinema night with girls attending a jolly showing of the film 'Elf'. About 30 girls attended and were extremely well behaved whilst enjoying sweets, popcorn and hot chocolate. They also had faces festively painted on Christmas Jumper Day, with both events boosting funds for Help the Heroes and Liverpool Women's Neo-Natal Unit.

The New Year will I am sure, see more challenges, competitions and events to increase the house charities coffers, with the help and support of parents, students and staff alike.

Mrs Moran – House Co-ordinator

Mock General Election



Greenbank took to the polls on 12th December with students voting for the party and the manifestos of their choice. Labour won a landslide victory at Greenbank with 402 votes with a fairly even split between the other 3 parties, the Green Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives. The vote was communicated to the Hansard Society and the overall national vote for school children was a victory for Labour perhaps showing that children were getting behind the caring ethos of the Labour Party.

Maths Industry Day



Thank you to the following companies and staff who supported another successful Year 10 Maths Industry Day where students were able to put their learning into the context of the world of work.

Vinci Engineering - Chrissie Morrison
Atkins Engineering - Simon Fox
BAE Systems - Richard Hadji
EFT Systems - Jordan Duggan
Foodies - Neil Billingsley & Tony Camp
Harrison Drury Solicitors - Emily Leeming and colleagues (Jo Aughton)
Barron Financial - Alison O'Neill
FPC (Financial Planning) - Helen Thomas & Hayley Wake
Sefton Council (Town Planning) - Stephen Watson
Game Design (Southport College) - Katie Hedley
DSG Accountants - Alesha Meredith & Samuel Evans
Entrance Exams - Jo Edwards

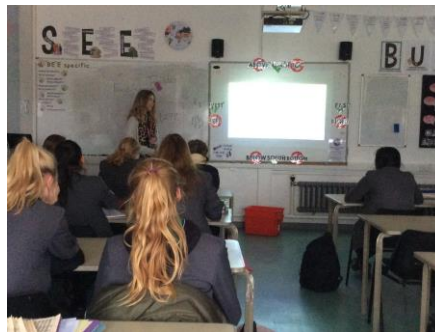
Geography 'World club'



This half term, Year 7 students have been keen to attend 'World club' hosted by Mr Riley. Students have explored various geographical mysteries including why avocados shouldn't exist, an Amazon rainforest murder mystery and most recently de-extinction and rewinding the mammoth strikes back.

If you are interested in exploring some geographical mysteries, pop into Room 31 on Wednesday lunchtimes.

Geography Revision Tips



It was lovely to welcome back a former Year 11, Mia Edmondson-Lloyd, who was eager to share her top tips for completing Geography revision to our current Year 11 cohort.

It was brilliant to see a number of Year 11 students listen to Mia's personal journey leading up to her summer examinations, during Geography support. She discussed the importance of revising little and often, seeking support when needed, but also taking care of yourself in the run up to examinations.

We hope you found Mia's advice beneficial.

Let's Get Cooking Club



Well done to our latest Year 7 cohort at Let's Get Cooking Club run by Mrs Woods. Their sausage rolls were amazing in the last week of term!

Playwright Visit



We had the playwright and author Chris Hill in recently to begin our participation in the National Theatre New Views playwriting competition. He is a published playwright and author who has had plays performed at the National.

He worked with the girls on developing an individual voice for their plays. He also explored ideas around characterisation & writing for actors.

He will return to school in February once the girls have submitted the first draft of their plays. He will offer them individual feedback and the girls will then go off to finalise their scripts. These plays will then be submitted to the National Theatre as part of the competition.

Public Speaking winners



Congratulations to our Senior Public Speaking Team, coached by Mrs Martland again, who won the local heats of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. They went up against Stanley, Christ the King and Birkdale which was a difficult job! They now join the Intermediate team in competing in the wider regional tournament in Wrexham in the New Year. Their topic was 'Should we be spending billions of pounds on space exploration whilst there are millions of people living in poverty?'

Spelling Bee



On 6th December, we hosted our Spelling Bee. The competition consisted of 26 spellings with a varying degree of difficulty. The Literacy Leaders from Year 9 hosted the event in the Learning Zone and marked the entries for the students with fabulous enthusiasm throughout! Congratulations to the winners. Congratulations to our winners Suzie from Year 7 and Lulu from Year 8.

MFL Club



Language Club run by Miss Griffiths have had a busy half term as we have made colourful masks in November to celebrate Mexican Day of the Dead, and we researched and learnt some French Christmas Carols in time for Christmas. We look forward to another busy, cultural term after the Christmas Holidays.

Language Leaders



On Wednesday December 18th, a group of pupils from Churchtown Primary School visited the Language Centre to learn how to become Language Leaders. This is a first for our leaders, training pupils of primary age and inspiring them to promote languages to others.

Swimming



Congratulations to our Junior Swimming Team, mentored by Mrs Hill, who competed in the National Finals of the English Schools Swimming Association Championship at the London Olympic Pool.

Football



Our after school football club proves to be as popular as ever with 60 students or more attending every Wednesday after school with Mr Wildman. Our Year 7 & 8 football team competed in the EFL U13 Girls Cup. The girls played exceptionally well and managed to get through to the quarter finals. We narrowly lost out to Holy Cross (2-3), who eventually went on to win the tournament. All of the girls were a credit to the school. The December Sefton Year 7 & 8 Football Festival was cancelled due to bad weather. This will be arranged in the New Year.

Badminton



Our Key Stage 3 and 4 Badminton teams both won the Southport and Formby Badminton Tournaments. Our Key Stage 3 consisted of 3 Year 7s and 1 Year 8 pupil, they played exceptionally well against Year 9 students from all of

the other schools, winning 10 games in total. Our KS4 A-team won 9 games and our B- team came 3rd, winning 4 games in total. Our KS3 and KS4 A- team now go on to compete in the Merseyside round.

Year 7 & 8 Indoor Athletics will start on Thursday 9th January. This will run for 4 weeks in preparation for the Competition on Monday 10th February. All students are welcome to try out. Our Year 9 Leaders will be officiating and leading all of the Secondary and Primary Indoor Athletics Competitions throughout February - March. Thursday night netball will resume on Thursday 13th February.

Spring Term Sporting Fixtures:

| DATE | SPORT | VENUE | YEAR GROUP | START TIME |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|------------|
| Monday 10 th Feb | Indoor Athletics | Greenbank | Y7 and 8 | 4pm |
| Thursday 27 th Feb | Netball Tournament | Range | Y9 a/b 10 | 1.45pm |
| Tuesday 3 rd March | Netball Tournament | Formby HS | Y7 a/b | 1.30pm |
| Tuesday 10 th March | Netball Tournament | Formby HS | Y8 a/b | 1.30pm |
| Thursday 12 th March | Football Tournament | Goals Crosby | Y7/8 a Y7/8 b Combined teams & 7 aside) Y9 (5 a side) Y10 (5 a side) | 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 18 th March | Merseyside Games schools Indoor athletics finals | If we win – will go through to this stage | Y7/8 | |
| Tuesday 24 th March | Basketball Tournament | Meols Cop | Y7-10 | 1.30pm |

Staff v Students Netball match



The staff played the Year 11 Netball Team in a game which raised over £100 for Children in Need. In a closely contested match, the Year 11's won!

Cambridge University Visit



At the start of half term, Year 9 and 10 pupils got the opportunity to go down to Cambridge University for an eye-opening trip into what university life may hold. The experience allowed us to look around one of the university's colleges and view what the students' lifestyles are like.

On the Thursday, we travelled down to Cambridge and when we arrived met up with two former Greenbank pupils, Harriet and Katy, before going punting along The River Cam. We got to see some beautiful sights, as well as some of the colleges of the university. On our punts were some current Cambridge University students, who told us what life was like and some historical information about Cambridge – including how the university was founded and the night climbers. Some of us even got the opportunity to have a go at punting ourselves: it wasn't easy and was very tiring! I really enjoyed the punting experience, as it is something I haven't done before and I got to learn and see a lot of new things.

"Punting was so different to what I thought it would be." – Ava 10H.

After punting, we were allowed independent time in groups to have a look around Cambridge and do some shopping. There were some very pretty shops and small businesses, that we all liked looking in, alongside understanding the busy atmosphere of Cambridge better. Then we all went for tea at Rockers Steakhouse and went to watch 'After The Wedding' at the cinema.

On the Friday, after having breakfast at the hotel we went to Magdalene College for the day. We went into one of the lecture halls and did a series of activities as a whole group: what our 'stereotypical' student is like in a college vs. an Oxbridge college student, what A-levels you require to do certain degrees at college and what colleges look for in applications besides A-levels.

We then got to go on a walk around Magdalene College, including accommodation for the students, the library and the formal hall where they can eat 6 times a week – it reminded a lot of us of Hogwarts and Harry Potter! A lot of us were surprised at the size of the college and how it was split into two separate buildings, a 5 minute walk away from one another in the city. Then, we had lunch and got to eat the same meals provided to the students by the university, in the dining hall with other students of Magdalene College. Groups of Greenbank students spoke to some of them and got a further understanding into what life at Cambridge University is like, as well as their honest opinions on it – all of them said how much they enjoy and how grateful they are for such amazing resources and opportunities.

"I found our day at Magdalene College really interesting and helpful, as not only did we get to see the college but also got to find out students' thoughts on university life." – Jess 9C.

After we had lunch, we went back into the lecture and had the opportunity to have a look at some university questions. Our instinct was to instantly try to find an answer to the question; however, we were taught to think like university students and to look at the bigger picture of the question. My group chose to look at the question 'what would become the most dominant species on earth if humans were to become extinct?', whilst another group looked at the question 'what makes something a piece of artwork?', amongst other questions. To finish off our trip, we asked some further questions to both a lecturer and a current Cambridge student before leaving for home.

The trip was an amazing experience and I really enjoyed every moment of it. It showed me the amount of opportunities available to me after high school and college and motivated me to achieve highly.

Charlotte – Year 10

Year 7 Healthy Eating Enterprise Challenge



Year 7 recently undertook a Healthy Eating Enterprise Challenge. During the day, the students formed mini businesses developing business plans including a marketing strategy for their own school catering service. There were some real budding entrepreneurs!

Rotary Cooking Competition

Three Year 10 pupils from Greenbank took part in the Rotary Cooking competition held in the professional kitchens at Southport College on 15th November. They had 1hr 30 minutes to produce a healthy meal - main meal and dessert. Amelia Gillinder, Lucy Monahan and Holly Carr produced a range of dishes that impressed the judges resulting in Holly achieving the runner up prize with her dish of mussels in a white wine sauce served with homemade olive bread and dessert of homemade strawberry cheesecake. Their class teacher Miss Parry was extremely proud of the results they achieved and congratulates them for taking the opportunity to experience cooking in a professional environment.

Congratulations to...



Isabelle Mahoney who was Highly Commended at the Sefton Shining Stars Awards



Kerry Dewhurst who is Woodvale Badminton Club U16's Ladies Singles Winner 2019.



Sofie Taylor who competed at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool in the Ballroom British Nationals Championships.
Sofie and her partner are now ranked 9th in the UK in the under 12 division.

Florence Bewley who swam 64 lengths non-stop to raise money for NSPCC and The Salvation Army.

If you would like your child's achievements outside school celebrated and brought to the attention of our school community please email us at enquiries@greenbankhigh.co.uk for the attention of Mr Raikes.

Important Dates for your Diary

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| 6 th January 2020 | School starts for all |
| 15 th January | Yr. 10 Drama pupils Theatre trip 'An Inspector Calls' |
| 17 th January | Yr. 9 Drama students Theatre trip 'An inspector Calls' |
| 23 rd January | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| 31 st January | Year 10 Science Live Visit to Bridgewater Hall Manchester |
| 3 rd February | Enrichment Day 3 |
| 6 th February | 6pm - Parents Meeting for Amsterdam Music Tour |
| 10 th -12 th February | School Production – Animal Farm |
| 12 th February | Yr. 11 students and staff to Ghana |
| 13 th February | Year 7 Parents' Evening |
| 14 th February | Professional Development Day for Staff (Students not in school) |
| 17 th – 21 st February | Half Term |
| 24 th February | Term starts for all |
| 24 th – 28 th February | Year 8 Options Taster Week |
| 4 th March | Year 10 Parents' Evening |
| 7 th March | Amsterdam Tour Play Day |
| 18 th March | Year 8 Parents' and Options Evening |
| 27 th March | Non-uniform Day in Aid of Diabetes UK |
| 31 st March | Year 9 Parents' Evening |
| 1 st – 7 th April | Amsterdam Music Tour |
| 1 st April | Enrichment Day No 4 |
| 2 nd April | Year 8 Disco PTA |
| 3 rd April | End of Term at 12.30pm (normal lessons in the morning periods 1-3) |
| 20 th April | Term starts for all |