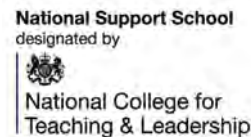
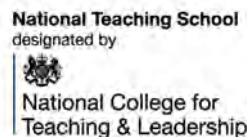


# Penwortham Post



December 2020



## Penwortham Girls' High School

### 'Class of 2020' A Celebration

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to hold our Class of 2020 GCSE Awards Evening. However, we still celebrated their success and awarded prizes for exceptional achievement, notable effort, determination and progress. All our leavers received a 'Class of 2020' Celebration booklet with messages from staff and the Head Girl, including photos of their time here at Penwortham Girls'.



Continued overleaf...

### Welcome to the end of term newsletter.



This has most definitely been the strangest term I have ever witnessed as headteacher of Penwortham Girls' !

However, despite its challenges, there have been many positives. Throughout the term, our students have continued to impress us with their fantastic behaviour, attitude and attendance. And, as this newsletter proves, there has still been lots to celebrate and enjoy.

Our school gates may have been 'closed' to the outside world during the past term, but we have still enjoyed a wide range of visitors and experiences, albeit remotely! When this is all over, there will be many positives to glean from this experience, including the innovative use of technology to enhance the quality of education for our students. Every cloud...

In the meantime, on behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable, peaceful and restful holiday. Here's to 2021!

Mrs K Pomeroy  
Penwortham Girls' High School



## 'Class of 2020' A Celebration

### To the class of 2020...

What a year it turned out to be! Words cannot express how upsetting it was to have you leave us in the most dramatic and strangest of circumstances.

We were hugely disappointed that you were unable to sit your exams, knowing how hard you had worked, and that you were also deprived of the traditional events calendared for our Year 11 leavers. I am so disappointed that I have not been able to deliver on the promise I made to you all about your Valedictory, Awards Evening and Leavers' Assembly. But who knew this dreadful virus would continue to dominate our lives for as long as it has? I do hope that the 'Class of 2020' Celebration book goes some way to compensating for everything you have had to sacrifice over the last few months.

As you embark on the next stage of your journey, I want you to know that it was an absolute pleasure to work with you and watch you develop as senior members of the school. I will never forget your last day in school, particularly the tremendous strength of spirit and support you showed for each other. I have never felt prouder of a year group! I shall also never forget the words of Susanna during your impromptu leavers' assembly, which resonated so much with me:

We have noticed that many pupils are beginning to refer to ourselves as 'The Corona Year', so I decided to research this suggestive label. According to Google, the word 'corona' can refer to an element of the sun and other stars, or the centre of a daffodil. Despite the variation, it is evident that we are an exceptional year group – illuminating and warming; blossoming and thriving... This unfortunate virus will no longer define our year but, instead, empower us as the resolute and spirited young women that we have proven to be.

I know, having spoken to a number of you, that you have a wide range of dreams and ambitions and I wish you all the very best as you strive to achieve them over the next few years.

Hopefully, despite the dramatic way in which you were forced to leave, you will take with you some wonderful memories of PGHS. Throughout your five years with us you will have made some great friends and achieved successes in a wide variety of areas, whether it be on the sports field, stage or in the classroom (I suspect a number of you will be appearing on our alumnae wall in years to come!)

So, don't forget us and please keep in touch. Believe it or not, we are always sad to see a year group leave and it gives us a lot of pleasure when past students return to let us know how they are getting on!

Good luck and all the very best for the future.

Mrs Pomeroy  
Headteacher



# 'Class of 2020' A Celebration - SUBJECT PRIZES

The following girls received subject prizes and special awards:

## ART & DESIGN

The Trophy for Artistic Excellence

**Susanna S**

An outstanding individual who excelled in all areas of the GCSE Art & Design. Hardworking, caring and passionate about Art, Susanna was consistently awarded top marks, securing a Grade 9 and on a par with an A-Level standard. We wish her every success in the future.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Phoebe H**

Phoebe showed a consistent desire to keep improving her art work throughout her GCSE Art and Design course, alongside a willingness to take risks and try new methods and materials, always 'thinking outside the box'. Phoebe was a pleasure to teach!

## COMPUTING

The Computing and ICT Award

**Rai P**

A consistently hardworking individual who had the desire and passion to succeed in Computer Science. Rai always wanted to improve and to understand how to improve. Rai was a pleasure to teach and I wish her all the success in the future.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Lauren P**

An amazing individual who has worked hard to achieve the grade 9, which was a well-deserved grade two grades above her target grade. A consistently hard working and caring student who wanted to excel in Computer Science. Lauren showed a clear passion for the subject. I wish her all the success in the future.

## ENGLISH

The Enid Eaton Memorial Trophy for English

**Carys B**

Carys didn't always find English easy. In fact, at the start of the GCSE course, she was terrified as she believed she was only good at Maths and Science. Carys did not let this become a barrier. Instead she worked relentlessly and ultimately produced work of grade 9 (and beyond) quality. Carys' presence in class was always so appreciated for her incredible insight and her willingness to share her ideas and opinions.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Jenny L**

Jenny was an exceptionally well-motivated student who always went above and beyond. She was an asset to the class and was a pleasure to teach, always making fantastic contributions in class. I was incredibly impressed by her continued commitment to her work even during school closure.

## GEOGRAPHY

The Dunscair Trophy for Achievement in Geography

**Bethan R**

Bethan was more than a GCSE Geography student, she is a Geographer at all times. She views the physical world through the inquisitive eyes of someone who understands the processes that shape the landscape, able to see the evidence of processes at work and link them together to get the big picture. She is equally comfortable with human geography, being able to understand and assess out interactions with the planet, both good and bad. Above all, she never stopped asking how and why things happen, and has an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Louisa T**

Louisa proved herself to be a fantastic student and passionate geographer. She was always very conscientious and had a strong desire to succeed. She always listened carefully to explanations and guidance in class and actively sought advice on how to improve her work further. Louisa's extensive revision, hard work and determination paid off and she ended up achieving an outstanding grade 8, three grades higher than her target. Louisa was an absolute pleasure to teach and I was delighted she achieved so highly in the end - it was well deserved!

## HISTORY

The Patricia Jones Cup for History

**Bethan R**

Bethan is an outstanding student with a superb attitude to learning and an unceasing desire to improve her historical knowledge and skills. Throughout her five years at PGHS, and particularly at GCSE level, Bethan always impressed the History Department with her enthusiasm for history and her ability to articulate her understanding in skilfully crafted written answers. It would be impossible to find a more hardworking, polite and diligent GCSE historian in the country. Bethan fully deserved her Grade 9 in history and is a fully deserved winner of the Patricia Jones Cup for History 2020. Well done!

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Ellie L**

Ellie was an absolute pleasure to teach in history. Her attitude to learning and effort was always first class and as a result she made excellent progress in the subject. Ellie worked hard to build and extend her historical knowledge and she made significant improvements to her written answers. A top student and a deserved winner of this award. Well done!

Continued overleaf...

# 'Class of 2020' A Celebration - SUBJECT PRIZES

## MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Cup

**Emily H-N**

Emily showed enthusiasm, commitment, and resilience throughout her mathematics studies. Her understanding of algebraic concepts was outstanding and she was able to apply this to a range of challenging questions successfully. Emily regularly attended grade 9 revision sessions where she thrived, completing A-Level standard maths.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Olivia C**

Throughout her time at Penwortham Girls, Olivia's attitude to learning was outstanding! She approached every lesson with infectious enthusiasm and never faltered in her determination to surpass her target grade. Olivia valued the importance of learning from her mistakes and would always be incredibly pro-active in seeking further guidance to help herself make the best possible progress. Not only did her resilience and positivity lead to her own superb success, she also helped to inspire her peers – frequently working collaboratively to understand and solve challenging higher problems. An absolute pleasure to teach and a valued member of her class. Well done, Olivia!

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Russell Family Cup for Languages

**Ellie G**

A superb dual linguist who gained a grade 9 in both French and German. An accurate writer in both languages and outstanding speaking skills. Ellie could not have been more diligent in lessons and with her homework. We wish her Viel Gluck and Bonne chance for all that she does in the future.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Bo T**

Bo worked extremely hard in German throughout Year 11, especially when it came to revising for her mock exams. Bo always participated in class and offered positive contributions to every lesson. Through her hard-work and outstanding attitude towards learning, Bo exceeded her target grade by a whole grade. Well done, Bo!

## MUSIC

The Emma MacDougall Trophy for Achievement in Music

**Carys B**

Carys always worked tirelessly in Music perfecting her compositions and developing her understanding of the set works in preparation for the listening exam. Her essay questions demonstrated a clear musical understanding and were always so eloquently written. Carys is an able performer who always performs with such empathy; it was a pleasure to perform with her on these. The Music Department wish Carys every success in the future.

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Elizabeth H**

Beth was an extremely committed musician throughout her time here at Penwortham Girls' and could always be relied upon to perform in concerts and assemblies both as a soloist and member of any ensemble. Her performances were always superb and enjoyed by everyone. Beth made fantastic progress in composition and listening work, and these were always supported with an incredible amount of hard work and dedication outside of the classroom. We wish Beth every success in the future.

## PERFORMANCE, SPORT AND HEALTH

The Hewetson Cup for Outstanding Contribution to School Sport

**Lois C (PE)**

Lois is a fantastic athlete who performs superbly in every sport she is involved in. Her contribution to extra-curricular and effort in practical lessons was exemplary. Lois always provided detailed answers and sporting examples in her theoretical work which together with her practical work, allowed her to achieve highly in GCSE PE. We wish you every success in the future Lois and as a PE department, know you will go on to achieve in whatever you choose to do.

**Freya J (Dance)**

Freya is a hard-working student who always attended any extra rehearsals she could. Her dance technique is fantastic and is a very talented choreographer. You thoroughly deserve your grade 9 in Dance Freya, and I hope you have continued with Dance at College.

**Sabha I (Health & Social Care)**

Sabha made an outstanding contribution to the subject. Her dedication and enthusiasm, alongside in-depth knowledge determined her success, with a fantastic result achieved. Sabha wants to continue this pathway in college and build her future career. Well done and good luck!

Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Katie B (PE)**

Katie is one of the most hard-working students I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Throughout her time in GCSE PE, she was always conscientious and diligent in both her practical and theory work. We wish you every success in the future Katie and as a PE department, know you will go on to achieve in whatever you choose to do.



# 'Class of 2020' A Celebration - SUBJECT PRIZES

## **Ruby I (Dance)**

Ruby has a fantastic talent for choreography and produced a stunning group choreography towards the end of Y11. Throughout the GCSE Dance course, I saw her confidence develop to the dancer she is today. Ruby worked so hard and was a pleasure to teach.

## **Ellie M (Health & Social Care)**

Outstanding effort and determination to succeed demonstrated in every lesson. She set her aim high and showed enthusiasm to achieve. Well done, Ellie!

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Exceptional Achievement in Religious Education Trophy

### **Louisa T**

Louisa's passion and dedication for the subject led her to make exceptional progress in RE. Louisa did not see her target as a limit and was determined to achieve remarkable things. Achieving grade 6's at the start of year 10, Louisa was consistently achieving grade 8's and 9's by the end of year 11. Some of her last essays were some of the best I've ever read. With this kind of resilience, Louisa is destined for success.

## **Outstanding Progress and Effort**

### **Olivia W**

Olivia had a record-breaking number of Grade 9's throughout the two years. On so many occasions, Olivia scored full marks on her assessments. Olivia worked exceptionally hard to achieve so many impressive grades. Despite having a near perfect record, she always sought guidance on how to improve further. Olivia has a very bright future ahead of her and I wish her every success.

## **SCIENCE**

The Angela Ball Award for Science

### **Alyssa A**

Alyssa was hard-working and had a determination and resilience to understand all aspects of Science. Alyssa gave 100% in all her assessments and consistently exceeded her target grade making excellent progress in Science. She fully deserved her grade of 88 in Science, which was three grades higher than her target.

Outstanding Progress and Effort in Science Combined

### **Jenny L**

Jenny's attitude towards all aspects of her Science dramatically improved in Year 11. She put in maximum effort into her assessments and showed a determination to learn from her mistakes, always wanting to know how to improve. Jenny exceeded her target grade in Combined Science, a fitting reward for an exceptional year.

The Dame Sue Ion Physics Award

### **Lauren P**

Lauren is an exceptional and natural Physicist. She was the Physicist of the year. She showed a quiet and faultless determination in lessons and had a wider interest in Physics beyond the classroom. Her mathematical ability in Physics was phenomenal and I cannot wait to see what she does with Physics in the future. Watch this space!

Outstanding Progress and Effort in Physics

### **Amara P**

Amara had consistent approach to her studies. Her mathematical ability in Physics went from strength to strength throughout the course and she was always keen to know how she could maximise her marks. She was always happy to take on challenges and showed real resilience over the two years.

The Dame Nancy Rothwell Biology Award

### **Misbah B**

Misbah has an innate ability for Biology and has consistently worked to a high level. Her Grade 9 is no surprise as she always strived to succeed in the shooting for 9 questions and was keen to expand her knowledge. She has shown great resilience throughout, taking her time and working with a quiet determination. A truly gifted Biologist.

Outstanding Progress and Effort in Biology

### **Katie P**

Katie shows a real passion for Biology and a deep determination to exceed her target grade which she did with ease. She always goes the extra mile in class seeking further explanation and advice about ways to improve her knowledge and skills at home. I am confident that she will go on to excel in the subject after GCSE.

The Dorothy Hodgkin Chemistry Award

### **Sarah F**

Sarah is undoubtedly a talented chemist, but the excellent result she achieved was a result of her fantastic work ethic. As well as being able to understand, retain and recall content, Sarah's written answers were precise and showed real clarity of thought. Sarah has the potential to really excel in this subject.

Outstanding Progress and Effort in Chemistry

### **Tallulah N-G**

There were times during the GCSE course when Tallulah found chemistry a real challenge. Her response was to work harder and make use of the help available. As a result of Tallulah's resilience and increasingly positive attitude towards the subject she made significant progress over the two years of the course, becoming a more able and more confident chemist. Well done, Tallulah!

Continued overleaf...

# 'Class of 2020' A Celebration - SUBJECT PRIZES

The following girls received subject prizes and special awards:

## TECHNOLOGY

The University of Central Lancashire Trophy for Technology

**Ava W (Technology)**

Ava was an outstanding student; whose dedication and ability were clear from start to finish. Her attention to detail and creative thinking allowed her to progress in all areas of D&T, securing her a Grade 9, which was well deserved. Ava was a pleasure to teach and a joy to watch develop and progress throughout the two years. I wish you all the luck for the future Ava!

**Darcey J (Food Technology)**

An amazing individual who has worked hard to achieve the Grade 9. A consistently hard working and caring student who wanted to excel and showed a clear passion for the subject.

Design Technology: Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Alyssa A**

Alyssa worked hard throughout the two years on the course. A consistently hard working and caring student who wanted to excel in Design and Technology and showed a clear passion for the subject. I wish her all the success in the future.

Food Technology: Outstanding Progress and Effort

**Rebecca S**

A consistently hardworking individual who had the desire and passion to succeed. Rebecca was always wanting to improve and she was justly rewarded with an excellent grade in Food Preparation and Nutrition.



## SPECIAL AWARDS

Headteacher Award for Resilience and Endeavour

**Nikola B**

Nikola worked incredibly hard during her time at Penwortham Girls' and was rewarded for her efforts with an amazing set of results that reflected the considerable progress she had made from her starting point. A fantastic achievement!

The Prize for Outstanding Achievement

**Lauren P**

Lauren managed the incredible feat of achieving a straight of Grade 9's - truly commendable and well earned.

The Award for Service to School

**Susanna S**

Susanna demonstrated superb leadership skills as Head Girl and was so supportive and caring towards her peers. Her inspirational and Leavers' Assembly speech will live long in our memories.

The Governors' Cup for Excellent Attendance

**Lydia A and Olivia W**

Two worthy winners this year. Two students who managed the heroic feat of never missing a single day of school throughout their time at PGHS.

The Joan Fitz-Gibbon Award for Outstanding Effort

**Sabha I**

Sabha was an incredibly diligent and enthusiastic member of the year group. She is incredibly driven too and searched for every opportunity to develop her skills and qualities. Her efforts were amply rewarded this summer.

The Joanne Sanderson Memorial Trophy

**Emily H-N**

Emily overcame considerable obstacles to keep herself in school and her cheerful resilience throughout was remarkable and truly commendable.

The Melissa Smith Memorial Trophy

**Lois C**

Everyone knows what Lois' qualities are and why she got this award. Always cheerful, friendly, assured and supportive to her friends. In many ways, a mascot for the Class of 2020!

Community Champion (Soroptimist Award)

**Sumayya L**

Sumayya's incredible fund-raising efforts through the Soroptimists make her a worthy winner.



### PGHS Hits the Mark! | Penwortham Girls High School

**P**enwortham Girls' High School was delighted to receive official recognition from the Lancashire Careers Hub for recently achieving all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks.

The benchmarks recognise the work of schools in providing effective careers guidance to their students and form part of the Ofsted criteria for inspecting schools. 'Hitting all eight benchmarks has required a real team effort', said John Ramsdale, Senior Assistant Headteacher and Careers Leader at the school. 'I get fantastic support from my Enterprise Coordinator and we are building exciting partnerships with local employers including DXC Technology.'

The school also employs a Careers Adviser who provides one-to-one guidance and support with college and apprenticeship applications. Despite the current restrictions, ambitious plans are already in place to keep improving Careers provision, including mock Zoom interviews and virtual work experience.



**Do you need  
careers  
advice?**



**Independent Careers Adviser: Mrs Khan**

**Available for 1:1 Careers Appointments & Drop**

**In sessions in The Careers Room**

**(Situating first floor next to the ICT Suite)**

**Drop In sessions Times:**

**Morning : 8.15am to 9.00am**

**Lunchtime : 1.00pm to 1.40pm**

#### **Careers Adviser Dates:**

<b>January</b>	Wednesday 6th January 2021 Wednesday 13th January 2021 Wednesday 20th January 2021 Wednesday 27th January 2021
<b>February</b>	Wednesday 3rd February 2021 Wednesday 10th February 2021 Wednesday 24th February 2021
<b>March</b>	Wednesday 3rd March 2021 Wednesday 10th March 2021 Wednesday 17th March 2021 Wednesday 24th March 2021

If you would like a 1:1 appointment, please email  
[careers@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:careers@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)

Registered Professional Careers Practitioner/Member





## ‘Christmas Star’

Throughout December we have been encouraging all our students to be a Penwortham Girls’ ‘Christmas Star’ by **Spreading Tremendous hAppiness aRound** and we have to admit that they have exceeded all of our expectations yet again.

Students were asked to support a number of charitable causes, which included bringing in a donation for the Penwortham Food Bank or a gift for the Rock FM Mission Christmas Appeal.

Each year group has had a Christmas tree in their zone with boxes placed under the tree. The girls have been amazing, bringing in both gifts and food, so much so, we have had to empty the boxes on a number of occasions.

Girls have also been collecting empty crisp packets which will be made into ‘survival blankets’. These will then be given to those in need to help keep them warm. The girls have also been extremely generous in purchasing the Derian House teddies which sold out in the first few lunchtimes. In addition to all of this, students in Year 7 have been spending their rainy break and lunchtimes creating colourful cards and pictures to send to local care homes.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who has contributed to the Christmas Star initiative and truly believe that by working together we have been able to **Spread Tremendous hAppiness aRound**.





**W**e were delighted to be awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools 'School Mental Health Award' – Bronze Status.

Since September 2019, a range of staff across school have been working hard to develop our provision for both students and staff. This has included training a team of Mental Health First Aiders, creating tracking systems, developing links with external agencies and ensuring that staff wellbeing is always a top priority. Staff reported high levels of wellbeing and satisfaction in the most recent staff survey, despite the circumstances we find ourselves in currently.

Quote from the assessing team:

***"We are delighted for the school and hope that we will be able to stay in touch with you and celebrate the great work you are doing for your pupils and staff. Congratulations again on your successful completion of the School Mental Health Award."***

Professor Damien Page, Dean Johnstone, Rachel Bostwick and the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Team

Our aim is to develop our provision even further and we intend to secure Silver Status in the future.

Mr Ramsdale  
Senior Assistant Headteacher



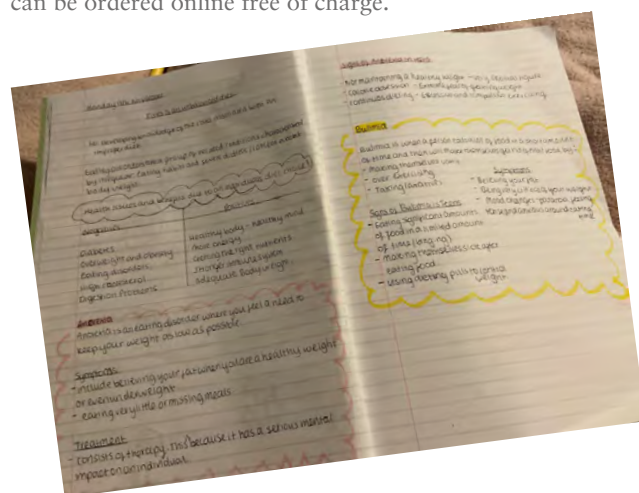
## Life Skills

**A**fter starting the term with a reflection on lockdown and focusing on positive thinking, Life Skills lessons went ahead as planned, if not a little different for KS4.

Year 7 have recently been focusing on body changes, including the changes that occur during puberty and the importance of a good diet, sleep and personal hygiene. Each student received a pack from 'ALWAYS' containing some sample towels and an advice booklet for both themselves and parents so that they could discuss this at home if necessary. The students approached this topic with maturity and asked some intelligent and important questions. They also looked at how to deal with challenging circumstances that can happen during this time of change.

Year 8 have been looking at positive relationships, online safety, racism and discrimination. They have had some great discussions and enjoyed the lessons on online safety, especially the rap that Miss Hollier used in her lesson!

Year 9 have been extremely mature and resilient in their recent lessons on healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, including the sensitive topics of self-harm and eating disorders. Students have been sign posted to areas of support if needed for this topic, such as 'Young Minds' and the Rainbow Journal that can be ordered online free of charge.



## Life Skills

Years 10 and 11 have been making the most of the extended time for Life Skills. Year 11 have been focusing on college applications before moving on to the topic of Sexuality and Year 10 have been looking at intimate relationships and consent. Again, they have been signposted to places of support such as 'BROOK'.

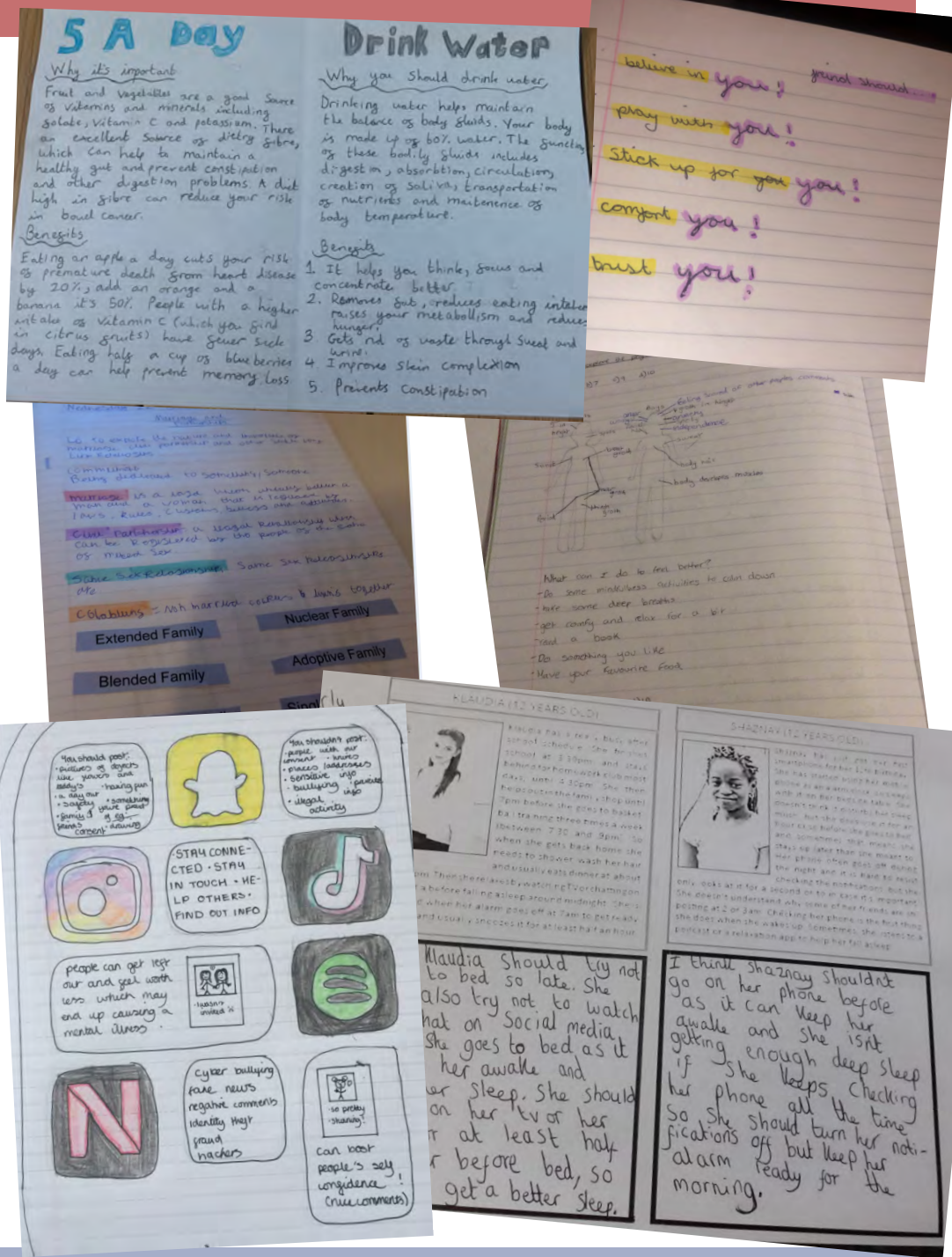
Life Skills is an area of the curriculum that is constantly being reviewed and adapted to meet the needs of the students. In October, parents were invited to attend the parent council meeting to discuss the Sex Education Policy at PGHS and also share their views and ask any questions. This was very successful and I would like to expand this parental group in the future. As you are already aware, RSE and Health Education is statutory. As part of this process, we have started a parental consultation on this. The next step is for parents and governors to view a draft copy of a new policy for this and complete a parental questionnaire. Please look out for this in the new year.

There will also be a weekly newsletter article starting in January. This is to keep parents aware of the topics that are being covered at all key stages and signpost any areas of support or help for discussing sensitive topics further at home. This is in addition to the school website. It is also an opportunity to share some of the great work that students do in these lessons.

I look forward to working with parents in the new year and sharing the work that students complete throughout the next term. Here is some of this terms recent work:

Mrs R Cahill.

Life Skills Co-ordinator and Teacher of Science





## Art

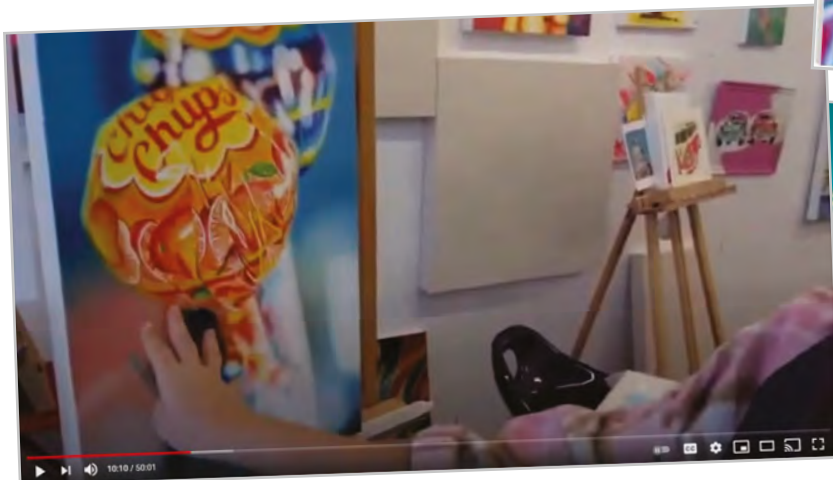
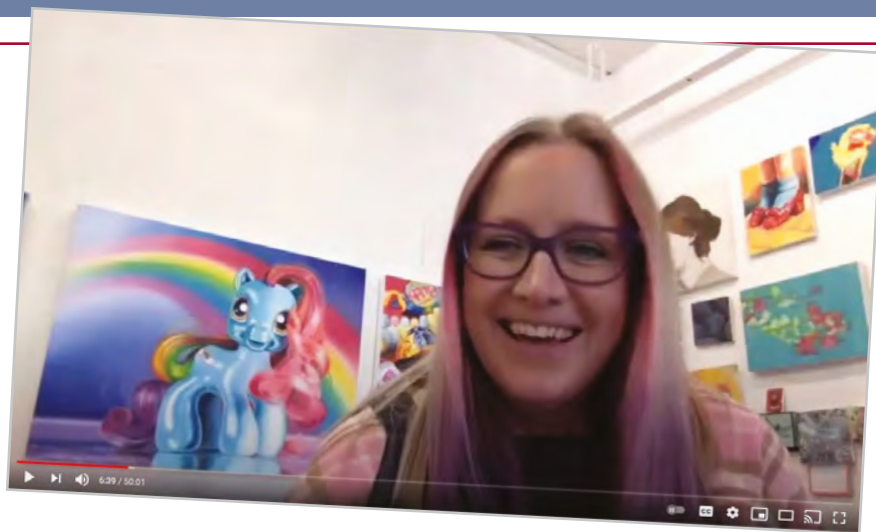
### Year 7 Art Students Take Part in Sarah Graham Virtual Visit

This November, a class of Year 7 pupils were able to 'virtually' meet British Photorealist Painter, Sarah Graham, through a live Zoom Meeting.

Sarah had kindly arranged to discuss her own working practice and took our Year 7s round a virtual tour of her studio workshop. We learned about what it takes to become a professional artist and saw some of the inspiring nostalgic objects that Sarah paints from.

Our pupils were keen to ask Sarah about her experiences, famous commissions and what she enjoys most about being a successful painter. Our students were truly inspired by the event, which was later broadcast to all Year 7 classes. A special thanks to Sarah for running this session for us.

Miss Morris  
Lead Teacher of Art and Photography





## Art



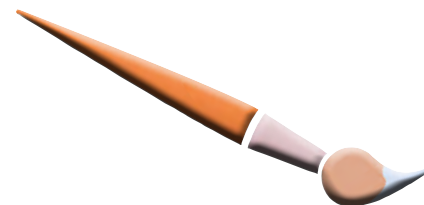
### Year 10 Art Students Take Part in John Whalley Virtual Visit

This winter term, our Year 10 Art students played 'virtual hosts' to the internally renowned American Photorealist, John Whalley.

Though a live Zoom meeting and a 5-hour time difference, John Whalley took our students round a virtual tour of his studio, showed examples of his work, delivered an inspiring graphite workshop and answered a series of questions posed by students.

The calibre of John Whalley's work is truly exceptional and the experience was memorable for all involved. As a special treat, John kindly donated one of his recent publications to the Art and Photography Department. A special thanks to John and his wife for running this session for us.

Miss Morris  
Lead Teacher of Art and Photography



## Art

### Newman College COVID-Friendly Art & Textiles Workshop

In November, Penwortham Girls' Arts Team and Newman College collaborated to deliver a Zoom meeting with a difference.

Normally, a small group of students would visit Newman College, however this year in light of COVID-19, we were able to broadcast live to the Textiles room at Cardinal Newman's Art department.

Ms Harper, Lead Teacher of Art and Textiles, talked pupils through the process of heat transfer printing. Using a variety of collage and colour techniques, students were able to generate a series of colourful designs inspired by the work of John Whalley.

Miss Morris  
Lead Teacher of Art and Photography



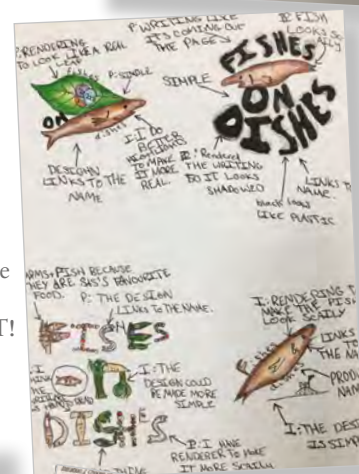
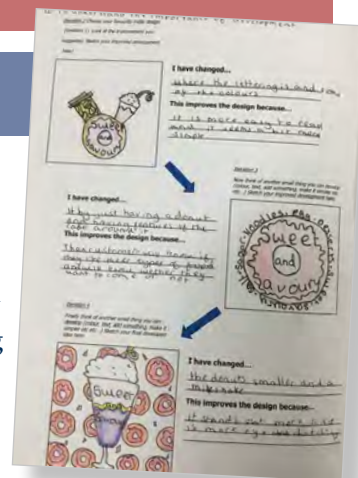
## Technology

### Year 7 Takeaway Café Menu Designs

In KS3 Design and Technology students have been developing graphic designs for a takeaway menu.

The Year 7 students have done some fantastic work producing logos for their brand and have worked hard to develop and improve their designs. Their final logos will now be used on their 3D food packaging and menus. They will then be able to make dishes at home in the New Year that will appeal to a chosen target market and client which they have researched and interviewed. Well done Year 7, a great start to D&T!

Mrs Gornall  
Technology Department





## Technology

### Practical Work in Year 9

In Design and Technology this half term, Year 9 students have been able to start using the practical equipment, machinery and laser cutter in the workshop in small groups.

The students have been creating either one off hand made Christmas decorations and/or laser cut creations using the CAD package 2D Design and materials such as plywood and acrylic. It has been great to see them building confidence by using the machines, tools and equipment!

Mrs Gornall  
Technology Department



### Crisp Packet Project

In Design and Technology lessons, Year 8 students have been collecting and making blankets for the homeless community by using recycled crisp packets and plastic sheeting.

Following a Zoom call from the founder of the charity, every Year 8 form has started creating the blankets which will be taken to the Foxton centre in Preston to be distributed to those most in need.

Thank you for all your hard work collecting the materials and making the blankets!

Mrs Gornall  
Technology Department





## Computing

### Key Stage 3 Computing

**K**ey Stage 3 Computing have started this academic year with Year 7 students learning about different aspects of online safety including cyber-bullying, social networking and how to stay safe using this media.

They will be learning about viruses and other dangers to technology and learning about the digital footprint. This learning will end with the girls completing a presentation to demonstrate their learning. The students will have to choose an aspect of online safety themselves and then create a number of products to make young people aware of the dangers.

The teaching of online safety is crucial with young people. It isn't to tell them not to use social media and different technologies but to make them aware and give them the skills to be able to keep both themselves and others safe, whether that be younger siblings or even older. It is designed to give the students the knowledge about privacy settings and private accounts and to make them aware of where they can go for help and support.

Year 8 students have been learning about internet searching techniques and looking into a variety of research including primary and secondary research, with the girls conducting their own primary research around the topic of aliens. The girls will be analysing their findings and then producing an information leaflet about aliens using a variety of sources.

Year 9 students are learning about website skills. They have looked at a variety of websites and analysed the design of these looking at a range of features the websites have included. They have developed a detailed plan for their own website, created a logo to include and created a variety of assets.

### DXC Technologies

**Y**ear 9 are currently completing a number of workshops hosted by local business, DXC Technologies.

The workshop is all about Digital Transformation. The students worked in pairs, looking at a problem that could be digitally transformed. They completed some market research and created a prototype of the product. They will present these ideas to DXC Technologies in the new year to see who the winner is.

### BTEC Creative Media Production

**T**he year 11 students have completed the final assessment piece

They have either re-imaged an existing magazine front cover and double page spread or an existing homepage for a website. They have had to adapt it to make sure it is suitable for a teenage audience. We are now preparing for their final practical exam.

### GCSE Computer Science

**Y**ear 11 have now completed all the theory for the course and we are now looking at how to answer and tackle the 2 different exam papers.

We are revising the harder units and building confidence with the exam questions.

The year 10 girls have had a fantastic term and have been learning the theory behind computers. They are starting to understand how the components of computers all work together. The girls have completed some assessments and there have been some incredible results! Keep up the hard work!

Mrs Bennett - Curriculum Leader for the C.A.T. Faculty

This half term, the GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition class have started to demonstrate their amazing technical skills through a range of different dishes.

Well done, girls!

Mrs Freer  
Technology Department



A small group of Year 8 students have been selected by their STEM teachers to receive some exciting training in order for them to become mini-STEM ambassadors on behalf of PGHS.

The session will be hosted by a STEM ambassador and is based around a series of stories from a book called 'Engineering Fairy Tales'. It uses traditional fairy tales to teach students all about engineering.

Once students have completed their training, we hope to allow our new 'mini' STEM ambassadors to represent PGHS with our local primary schools to deliver some exciting STEM activities.

Mrs Freer, Technology Department



### Virtual Theatre Week: If we cannot go to the theatre, then we will bring the theatre to PGHS!

**B**y this point in the academic year, we would usually have made a number of theatre visits with our students, including a trip to the West End in London.

However, in our determination to not let current circumstances spoil our love for the arts, we have embraced the opportunities being offered to us by the National Theatre. In the final week of term, the English department went to the theatre (virtually speaking). Each year group took their seats and experienced a performance selected especially for them by their English teacher. As part of theatre week, students will then follow up their visit by either becoming a theatre critic or exploring different aspects of the performance such as characterisation or the staging of the performance.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be able to experience first class theatre performances and also embrace drama as part of the curriculum again. This will be particularly useful for our year 9 students who are considering Drama GCSE as an option subject but also a welcome return to drama in the classroom for KS3; hopefully it will whet their appetite for the return of drama lessons in the Spring term!

In addition to this, we have been really lucky to 'zoom' in an up and coming West End star. Phoebe Williams, will deliver a workshop with Miss Garlick's Drama GCSE group on monologues and also give our students in Year 9 an insight into where GCSE drama might lead to, should they be considering that as an option subject.



### Christmas Reading with a 2020 Twist

We have been working really hard with our students to build a culture of reading in PGHS.

Apart from the educational benefits, reading provides a much needed escape to another world – and we all need that right now!

All of our students in KS3 have been issued with a reading passport and many are already half way round the globe on their virtual world reading tour – I wonder how many will get to Lapland in time to see Father Christmas?

Traditionally, stories are read and shared at Christmas time with friends, family and loved ones and while we might not be able to get together in reality to share those stories, why not organise a Zoom Christmas read?

Ask each member of your family to choose their favourite Christmas story and re-tell it to the whole family while you all gather round your own Christmas trees with a hot chocolate and mince pie.

Mrs Snowden



## The importance of reading

To begin with, I wanted to talk about the importance of reading and how it benefits everyday life

I know that some people think that reading is just another thing to worry about or that it may feel like an unnecessary chore, however this is not the case.

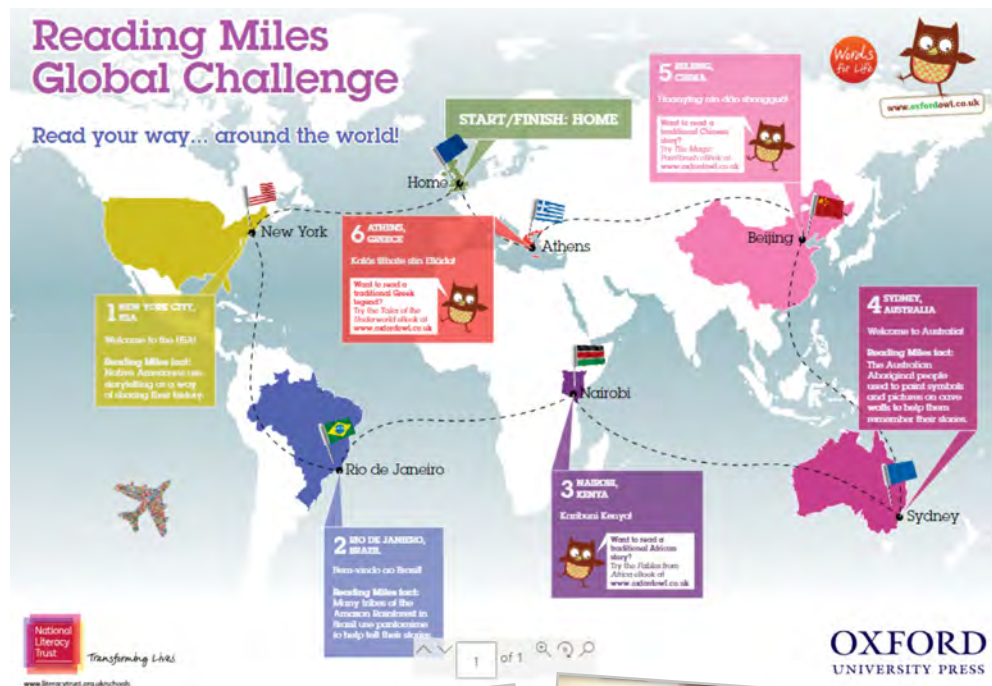
I was once told, "If you don't like reading, then you haven't found the right book yet." I honestly think that in books and stories, there is something for everyone. You can learn about a gruesome past, a distant future that needs help saving or an enchanting fairy-tale. Books (like people) are incredibly diverse and you can read about anything and everything.

Reading is a way to immerse yourself in a great story and travel to a new place when unable to go out. You meet new people (in the form of characters) and feel as if you are truly there watching the events unfold.

Reading helps benefit:

- Imagination
- Vocabulary
- Stress Levels
- Concentration Skills
- Knowledge of the world around you

In class, we have decided to take part in a reading journey "around the world". Without leaving our homes, we have found a new and exciting way to take a trip all over Earth. For every ten minutes of reading we do, it accounts to 500 miles (one step) closer to our different destinations.



It has helped us realise how much reading we do and enables us to take time to relax and spend time doing something away from technology.

Along with our passports, we are creating fun and imaginative time lapse videos of ourselves reading which will be made into an entertaining montage. We have all been thinking of unusual ways to make them exciting, such as dressing up, reading in unusual places or with our beloved pets!

If you don't enjoy reading, keep looking for the perfect book for you and take note of how often you read. Remember that reading is fun and something to enjoy!

Hattie C – 7H



# Geography Department News



**A**nother hugely impressive term is coming to a close, with students across all years demonstrating their Geographical knowledge, skills, dedication to the subject and their amazing resilience during what has been an unprecedented time at Penwortham Girls. We have missed trips and 'out of classroom activities which often bring our subject to life and inspire our young Geographers.

I would like to start by taking the opportunity to say well done and keep up the hard work to our GCSE Geographers in both Years 10 and Year 11. Both year groups have had a challenging time since September to say the very least, with the Year 10 students getting their heads around the jump in intensity and pace of lessons. Year 11 have completed a tough but I'm sure ultimately successful programme of Progress Check exams, the results of which very encouraging indeed. A well-deserved rest on the way! I would also like to mention the GCSE students who have had to isolate at home and have worked really hard to keep up. Some lessons have been broadcast live via Microsoft Teams and we appreciate students getting involved (and their patience while we struggle with the tech!)

Lower school year groups have also been hard at it, tackling big issues like our energy needs and the resources we take from underground in Year 8 and 9 respectively. Look out for an energy audit of your home by members of Year 9 – you might be able to cut your carbon footprint AND your bills! Year 7 students have completed wonderful work on Ordnance Survey maps and we have some skilled cartographers of the future it would seem!

They are currently learning about wild weather, both in the UK and in the tropics and are building up to an assessed piece on an ex-hurricane hitting Preston! This will be a piece of journalism and will be done with advice from the English Department.

We are missing our lovely Geography classrooms and our fantastic Geography Christmas tree but there will be Christmas Geostar tasks set across all lower school year groups - details will be on Class Charts. If you complete one, please ensure that you pass it on to your teacher (via email might be best) so we can award Medals and Head's Commendations.



Finally, we have had some excellent 'Where's Earthy?' responses recently, with the speed of replies getting very impressive (is there some creative cheating going on!?)

Mr Bowles, Curriculum Leader for Geography



## Where's Earthy?



### Governors thank students, staff, and parents:

**A**fter some challenging months both in school and out of school, it makes a lovely change when there are positive aspects of life to tell you about.

The focus of the governing board since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak has been twofold – to promote as near normal learning and teaching, which in turn helps to maintain a stable and reassuring base, and to protect and promote mental health and wellbeing in these times of uncertainty and anxiety. Both priorities have focussed our minds, our discussions, and our decisions.

Of course, none of our deliberations would be possible without an outstanding staff body and we, as governors, wish to express our thanks for all the extra hard work on their part to go the extra mile. Parents and carers have been supportive of the staff efforts and we thank you for all your positive messages. The girls continue to be a credit to the school and this term's BBC visits displayed all those positive aspects of the school. Thank you, everyone!

Governors, as mentioned, have looked at various aspects of wellbeing of staff and of students this term. We were happy to see that, despite all the issues faced, the Year 7 students settled in well. For this year and the previous three years, over 90% of Year 7 students feel they settled in well and over 95% said they made friends easily. Over 90% feel happy and well organised. 99% of students felt Covid safe in school, no doubt helped by 95% of the students feeling that staff are friendly and helpful.

Throughout all the turmoil, school has remained a positive and happy learning space and the school overall has exceeded national attendance percentages during this time, which supports these results. It is unfortunate that some of their activities have had to be clipped but Year 7 students, as other year groups, have shown some amazing resilience this term.

Of course, a positive staff is key; staff have certainly been challenged this term, as last, but the headteacher and her leadership team have supported them throughout this time and the governing board has, in turn, supported the headteacher. Despite the year we are having, the staff voice is more positive than ever!

100% of staff agree or strongly agree that they are proud to be part of the school. 95% of staff believe leaders do all they can to ensure a motivated, respected, and effective staff. 97% of staff feel well supported and staff feel that leaders are considerate of their wellbeing.

**Their positive replies lay testament to this and include:**

- **'Particularly in these more turbulent times, it has felt that leaders of the school have their staff wellbeing and safety as a priority.'**
- **'The approach to Covid has been outstanding.'**
- **'I feel that senior leaders go above and beyond.'**
- **'Even during a pandemic, the expectations were clear and the atmosphere was calm.'**
- **'The leadership team is approachable, professional and caring.'**
- **'The school is very proactive; problems are often identified in advance and dealt with before they happen.'**

We, as governors, draw our evidence from a variety of sources and listening to the voices of our staff, students, families, and community is just a part – but a very telling part. As I read this newsletter, as you will, we will have more evidence of what a successful, motivated, and outstanding school we have.



Stay safe over the break!

Ms L Russell-Hayes  
Chair of Governors



## Mock US Presidential Election

Students across PGHS recently took part in a mock US Presidential Election, organised by the History Department.



### Mock US Presidential Elections

Tuesday November 3rd 2020

There was already a lot of interest in the election but few students (like many British adults), understood the complexities of the US electoral system, particularly the workings of the Electoral College. In our mock election, PGHS was made the unofficial 51st state, with 12 electoral college votes based on a population of 7.7 million people (we have 775 students on roll!).

Having heard and discussed the policies of both the Democratic and Republican parties, each class took part in a secret ballot and cast their votes. 731 students voted and the results were as follows:

**Joe Biden - Democratic Party - 723 votes**  
**Donald Trump - Republican Party - 8 votes**

An emphatic landslide victory for Joe Biden and the Democratic Party!

Of course, the real excitement came when it appeared that the election was going to be a very close-run thing; several students stayed up to watch the results coming in live, wondering whether the 12 electoral college votes from PGHS would prove to be the deciding factor.

What was most impressive for us, was seeing the enthusiasm and engagement in politics. From Year 7 through to Year 11, many students spoke passionately and eloquently about the two parties and their policies.

Mr Ramsdale, Senior Assistant Headteacher

## Remembrance 2020

Wednesday 11th November marked the 102nd anniversary of the end of the First World War.



Head Girl, Darcy and Deputy Head Girl, Tegan represented the school at Penwortham War Memorial at 11am and took part in the remembrance ceremony.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the pupils and staff of the school. The students who remained in school observed a 2 minute silence, which followed a recital of the Last Post by Mrs Little on the trumpet.

This year was particularly poignant because it was the 100th anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

On 11 November 1920, the body of one of the tens of thousands of British war dead was carried from Victoria station, where he had arrived from France and taken through the London streets to be “buried among Kings” in the Abbey. It involved teams of soldiers returning to several battlefield sites in northern France and Belgium to exhume a number of bodies. Although the exact number of bodies exhumed is unknown, most historians believe it was either four or six. Those bodies were secretly taken to a chapel at a British base near the French town of Arras, where the Commanding Officer chose which one of them would represent all those who had been recorded as missing in action, presumed dead, without a grave or a proper funeral. He was not told which unit had exhumed which body, nor which battlefield they had died in. No official record of how the Brigadier made his choice was ever released.

Officials at Westminster Abbey had to lift the stone flags to be able to dig the grave and it was the first time soil at the site had been disturbed since the Abbey was built in the 11th Century. When the coffin arrived at the Cenotaph just before 11am, it was met by King George, who placed flowers on it and a personally written note.

Mr Herbert, Curriculum Leader for History

## History Department News

The poet laureate, Simon Armitage, has written a poem to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior. It is entitled 'The Bed'.

You can listen to Simon Armitage reading his poem in Westminster Abbey here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4y395mc>



video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFav8-49XNo>

or visit the Westminster Abbey website here: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/unknown-warrior>.

Mr Herbert,  
Curriculum Leader for History

## 'The Bed'

by Simon Armitage

*Sharp winds scissor and scythe those plains.  
And because you are broken and sleeping rough  
in a dirt grave, we exchange the crude wooden cross  
for the hilt and blade of a proven sword;  
to back through the knotted dark of the next world,  
yes, but to lean on as well at a stile or gate  
looking out over fens or wealds or fells or wolds.  
That sword, drawn from a king's sheath,  
fits a commoner's hand, and is yours to keep.  
And because frost plucks at the threads  
of your nerves, and your bones stew in the rain,  
bedclothes of zinc and oak are trimmed  
and tailored to fit. Sandbags are drafted in,  
for bolstering limbs and pillowing dreams,  
and we throw in a fistful of battlefield soil:  
an inch of the earth, your share of the spoils.  
The heavy sheet of stone is Belgian marble  
buffed to a high black gloss, the blanket  
a flag that served as an altar cloth. Darkness  
files past, through until morning, its head bowed.  
Molten bullets embroider incised words.  
Among drowsing poets and dozing saints  
the tall white candles are vigilant sentries  
presenting arms with stiff yellow flames;  
so nobody treads on the counterpane,  
but tiptoeing royal brides in satin slippers  
will dress and crown you with luminous flowers.  
All this for a soul  
without name or rank or age or home, because you  
are the son we lost, and your rest is ours.*

## A Farewell to Mrs Walsh

It is with great sadness that the school, the Mathematics department and myself will find ourselves saying goodbye to Mrs Walsh at the end of this term as she returns to All Hallows to further her career as a teacher of Mathematics.

Mrs Walsh came to the school as the Curriculum Leader for Mathematics two and a half years ago. She arrived during a time of transition for the Mathematics department and immediately set about putting her own mark on what was already a successful department. New initiatives and reworkings of practices were brought in and the department developed a new found focus on its core intents, the implementation of ideas and a greater understanding of the impact that the department can have on pupil progress.

Both in and out of the classroom, Mrs Walsh has demonstrated a kindness and concerns for others that will forever do her credit. Her willingness to listen and engage with pupils and staff, remaining positive and constructive is an example for us all. Her ability to encourage pupils lacking in confidence in Mathematics and the number of pupils who would spend their lunchtimes during the week doing extra Mathematics practice because of her influence, should remind everybody of what we do as a school and why it is so important that we do it as well as we can.

During the recent restrictions, Mrs Walsh set herself the important goal of 'enriching' the school learning experience for pupils. The pupils have already had a number of experiences this term, such as Zoom calls from the Bank of England and an investigation into online fraud in association with Natwest Bank. There are many more activities to come in the upcoming terms thanks to Mrs Walsh, which will be of great benefit to the pupils involved.

Finally, on behalf of the school, the pupils, the department and myself, I would like to thank Mrs Walsh once again for everything she has contributed. She was always a whirlwind in the department, always on the move, whether it was working with pupils or improving the department but would always find time for individuals. The care she has for others is, and I'm sure always will be, evident in her career in schools and the Mathematics departments will do its best to live up to the example set.

Farewell Mrs Walsh, the "heart of the Mathematics department" - know that you will be missed.

Mr Cheal

Assistant Head of Mathematics, on behalf of the Mathematics Department.

I would like to say on behalf of the whole school community, good luck and farewell to Mrs Walsh. She has been a dedicated Curriculum Leader for Maths and a great colleague. As a school, we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Mrs Hall  
Deputy Headteacher

## Maths Enrichment 2020

**Enrichment:** The action of improving or enhancing the quality or value of something.

**Prepare students for future success in their next steps.**

P

### **Year 11 Bank of England Talk and 'EconoME' Workshop**

In November, Sian Jones, a representative from the Bank of England, delivered a live Zoom webinar with all our Year 11 students. She led an inspiring discussion about the role of the bank, the production of money and the storage of gold. Students were captivated and asked many questions about the changes in the economy both past, present and in the very uncertain future. It was a fantastic experience for all students; encouraging discussion about future careers and their next steps.

After the webinar, teachers led an 'EconoME' workshop, planned by the bank. The workshop gave students an opportunity to reflect on the important decisions that they need to make in the immediate future and then again throughout different stages of their adult lives. We are incredibly grateful to Sian and look forward to working with her and the Bank of England again in the future.



**G**uide students to develop and discover their interests and talents.

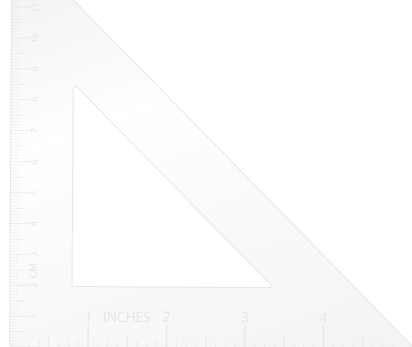
## Online Enrichment

After the success of home learning during lockdown, we have launched a variety of online opportunities for further mathematics enrichment online. These are regularly updated with new, engaging problems and tasks. Students are invited to email pictures of any work they complete to:

**[mathsenrichment@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mathsenrichment@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)**

Recently, we have uploaded tasks created as part of the Numeracy Confidence Week Campaign. These tasks encourage students to use maths to support other interests, including exercise, cooking and more.

To access our online resources, simply visit the Maths curriculum area on the school website and select the tab for 'maths enrichment'.



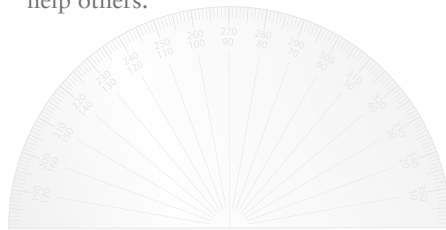
**H**elp students become respectful, responsible, active citizens who contribute positively to society

## Natwest's Make a Difference Campaign

In the final week of term, Year 9 students will be completing a workshop led by Natwest Bank, called 'Make a difference'.

During the workshop, students will learn about the purpose of social enterprise and will then work together to create a business plan to raise money and awareness for a local project. As part of the workshop, students will gain an understanding of how money can be reinvested to benefit the wider community.

In 2021, we have more exciting opportunities planned for students to make a positive contribution to society through Pi Day projects and the NSPCC World Maths Day. We have no doubt that our girls will continue to excel in their mission to help others.



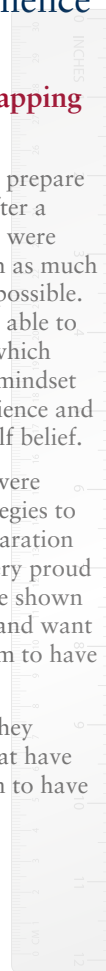
**S**upport students to develop their character – including their resilience and confidence.

## Resilience and Mind Mapping Workshop

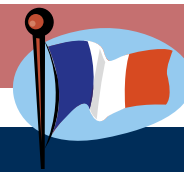
In October, Year 11 began to prepare for their progress reviews. After a very difficult few months, we were keen to provide students with as much support and re-assurance as possible. We were very fortunate to be able to offer an external workshop which focused on applying growth mindset techniques to help build resilience and promote a greater sense of self belief.

In addition to this, students were taught effective revision strategies to help build confidence in preparation for the year ahead. We are very proud of the resilience our girls have shown in this very challenging year and want to continue to encourage them to have faith in their own abilities.

With continued hard work, they will overcome the barriers that have accompanied 2020 and go on to have great success in 2021!



Mrs S Walsh  
Curriculum Leader for Mathematics



## What a busy first term it has been here in the MFL department!

As the term draws to a close, I would like to thank all our students for working so hard in their French and German lessons and giving their all.

Despite not being able to do all our usual group, paired and extra-curricular activities all of the time, we have still managed to keep the lessons busy, fun and engaging. A huge well done to Year 11 for working through a really busy term, pushing towards our goals next year and taking on the new challenges. A big cheer for our Year 10 students embarking on their first term of GCSE French and German and producing some outstanding results in their recent Module 1 assessments alongside a brilliant attitude. Well done, girls!

## French delicacies

During this half term Year 9 have enjoyed the “French Pâtisserie” challenge: to follow a step-by-step recipe in French to create a delicious typical French dessert.

The girls had 5 recipes to choose from but the 3 recipes they favoured were “Tarte aux pommes”, “Truffes au chocolat” and “Mousse au chocolat”. I think the word “chocolat” might have caught their eye! We look forward to lots more cooking and baking challenges in the new year to sample some French and German delicacies.

## eTwinning

The MFL team have embarked on a very special adventure this last few weeks, led by Madame Raine and we are taking our first steps into eTwinning.

This is a fantastic online project that enables schools in Europe to participate and work together on projects within a secure platform. The MFL department is developing links with various schools in France and Germany. The aim is for our girls to use their language skills for “real” and of course enrich their cultural awareness and make friends along the way.

## Tag der Deutschen Einheit

We celebrated ‘Tag der Deutschen Einheit’ on the 3rd October and this year, we joined our German friends in celebrating by learning about what the day entails and why it is so important to Germany.

KS3 spent the day learning about the events that led to the Berlin wall being built, what effect this had on the nation, how the East Germans felt and what life was like behind the Berlin Wall. We watched films and short video

clips and we particularly enjoyed learning about all the ways that the East Germans tried to escape over the Berlin wall. We acted out the scenarios in our classroom, as our teachers divided us up into West and East Berlin and imagined how the German citizens would have felt. As a school, we designed our posters in the form of handprints on blue and yellow paper to depict the artist’s impression after the Berlin wall came down. We filled our handprints with famous quotes and German vocabulary to depict the freedom they felt – die Freiheit, die Toleranz, die Gleichheit und die Mauer. Here are some of the wonderful Berlin walls that we drew with our handprints to signify freedom.



# Modern Foreign Languages News

## European Day of Languages

Our first half term kicked off with all our students celebrating the European Day of Languages and what a celebration that was!

Every year on the 26th September, the European day of Languages is celebrated. This is a day where people in Europe can celebrate all the diverse languages and cultures across the world. It is a day to celebrate all the languages that we can learn and to enjoy listening to and speaking them. As well as a quiz, we learnt new ways to greet people, played some games to celebrate our different cultures and languages and launched our cultural poster competition which proved to be highly popular. We divided the winners into year groups and our winners and runners up enjoyed receiving their goody boxes of prizes. A huge thank you to everyone that entered, the standard was very high.



## Year 7 German

Last week, Year 7 German were very busy making Christmas cards for Year 7 students from Landstuhl, Germany.

Our students wrote Christmas greetings and about themselves in German. They also helped our German pen pals develop their reading skills by writing in English about Christmas celebrations here. We are very excited as we have sent 155 cards to their school that are now on their way to Germany! Take a look at their website and you will see PGHS got a mention: <https://sickingengymnasium.de/home/archiv/2020/christmas-cards>

We are also very excited to be receiving their Christmas cards before we break up for our own festivities. Year 7 German cannot wait to open them!

We were also contacted by a Year 5 school teacher in Emmendingen, near the Black Forest looking for pen pals. We were inundated with volunteers from our Year 7 classes and the Year 5 students in the German school will also get a Christmas card from us. We are aiming to impress them with our posters about pets too.



We have also partnered with a school in Lille, in the North East of France and joined a project called "Let's share Christmas joy". Year 9 students studying French have been practising their letter writing skills and have prepared cards to be sent to students from "Collège Saint-Pierre". Our girls wrote in French about Christmas celebrations (Madame Raine even managed to find a way to get them to practise their future tense!) and are also helping our French pen pals develop their reading skills by sending them authentic Christmas dessert recipes.

We are hoping to foster these links further so watch this space for future projects!



## French and German Christmas

In our final week of term, we have learnt about how our French and German friends celebrate the Christmas festive period and that kicks off a little earlier in Germany with Nikolaustag on the 6th December. We learnt about how the German children leave their boots out for St Nikolaus to come and hopefully leave us treats, if we are good enough! We are looking forward to recreating our own Christmas markets, given we cannot visit them ourselves this year and sampling some Christmas delicacies.

Hopefully in the spring term, we will have the opportunity to launch our French and German breakfasts and have the chance to start our film club to enjoy some French and German films. We have lots planned over the next year and despite certain things having to be put on hold, there are still lots of activities and events that can take place that we can all enjoy together to share our love of languages and their cultures. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all my new students over the last term and I am excited to see all the superb work that they can produce over this coming year.

We wish you all a wonderful, safe and relaxing Christmas and look forward to sharing our language joy in the new year and further out links with our new German and French schools.

Mrs K Gill, Curriculum Leader for MFL



## Music Department

We hope by now you have had the opportunity to watch the Music Department's Virtual Christmas Concert.



**T**he girls worked extremely hard on all of the performances and we are extremely proud of them.

For many of the Year 7 students, it was their first experience of playing the hand chimes and whilst they made it look incredibly easy, playing your chime at the exact moment required is a skill in itself! Well done, all of you! The brass group are missing performing together on a Monday lunchtime and so when the opportunity came to perform together virtually, they were the first to say that they would. The final result is fantastic - I'm sure you'll agree! Well done to all the girls and Mr Crane. There were also a number of fantastic soloists who took the opportunity to record their pieces on their own. Well done to each and every one of you! Hopefully, next year, we will be back to normal and we will be able to look forward to enjoying 'live' music again.

Mrs Cattnach, Curriculum Leader for Music



## PE Department

### Marissa King Virtual Athlete:

**O**n Friday 11th of December, Year 8 had the opportunity to meet a professional athlete – virtually of course!

The girls had the privilege of meeting and speaking to Marissa King who is a professional gymnast. Marissa represented Great Britain in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing at just 17 years of age. She was offered a full scholarship to the University of Florida in America where she continued to compete and pursue her career as a professional gymnast. Recently, Marissa was selected to perform for the prestigious Cirque de Soleil company. The students enjoyed listening to Marissa explain how she became a professional gymnast, watched her demonstrate a double back somersault and asked her questions about her life. The girls loved the opportunity and we hope Marissa may join us in the future at PGHS to inspire more of our students.



### Miss Owen Farewell:

The faculty of Performance, Sport and Health would like to wish Miss Owen good luck in her new adventure. Unfortunately, Miss Owen will be leaving PGHS after the Christmas holidays and will certainly be missed. Miss Shahi and I would like to thank Miss Owen for all her hard work whilst at PGHS and wish her the best of luck in the future.



## PE Department

### Virtual Interform competition:

**T**his half term, the Performance, Sport and Health faculty have launched our very first 'Virtual Interform Competition'.

Students have been given 6 challenges to take part in over the half term. It has been fantastic to see so many of you being active throughout lockdown 2 and completing some of the Virtual Interform Challenges. We have had some fantastic performances and I know lots of the forms are becoming very competitive to win the exclusive Christmas hamper prize. Don't forget, you must ensure your score/time is given to your form's sports captain who will keep a record. There will be prizes for the winner of each challenge in every year group and there will also be a form prize. The form in each year group that participates in the most challenges as a collective, will win a Christmas hamper to enjoy on the last day of term.

The challenges are:

#### Challenge 1:

How quickly can you walk/run a 5k?



#### Challenge 2:

How long can you hold a plank position for?



#### Challenge 3:

How many sit ups can you complete consecutively?



#### Challenge 4:

How many star jumps can you complete in 1 minute?



#### Challenge 5:

How many times can you bat a tennis ball into the air using a tennis racket without it falling to the ground?



#### Challenge 6:

How many jump squats can you complete consecutively?



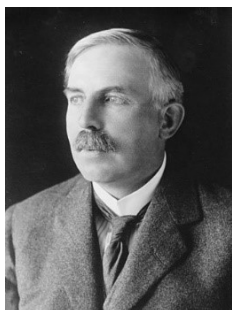
Mrs Naylor, Curriculum Leader for the Performance, Sport and Health Faculty



## On this day in Science

**January 03:** New Zealand physicist and chemist Ernest Rutherford succeeded in penetrating the nucleus on this day in 1919.

Upon bombarding nitrogen atoms with alpha particles, he observed the release of a proton. Patrick Blackett later discovered that this was a transmutation of nitrogen to oxygen.



**January 04:** American chemical industrialist Herbert Dow used electrolysis to extract bromine from seawater on this day in 1891.

This new method of electrolysis greatly simplified the process for isolating bromine (Br<sub>2</sub>). Dow became the founder of Dow Chemical Company

and was a pivotal figure in developing America's chemical industry.

**January 07:** American chemist William M. Burton patented the process of thermal cracking on this day in 1913.

This process involves breaking down large hydrocarbon molecules into smaller ones, which increases the amount of gasoline that refineries can produce from a barrel of crude oil.



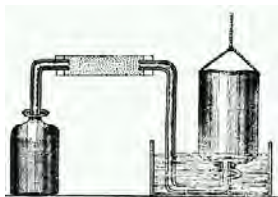
**January 11:** Leonard Thompson agreed to the first trials of insulin treatment on this day in 1922.

On the verge of death, the 14 year old diabetic agreed to the trial. Insulin was first discovered by Banting, Best and Macleod in 1921 but it was Collip's work on the purification of insulin that enabled it to be used clinically.



**January 15:** British scientist Henry Cavendish announced the composition of water to the Royal Society on this day in 1784.

He revealed that water was a compound of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O), which was known at the time as "dephlogistonated air". He later discovered the composition of air and made the first calculations of the Earth's mass.



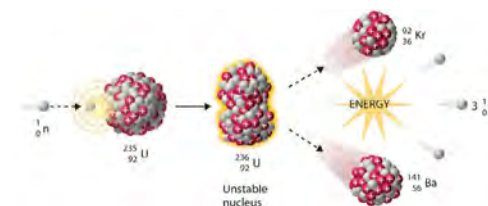
**January 21:** The commercial production of magnesium first began on this day in 1941.



Magnesium (Mg) was first extracted from seawater through an electrolytic process. It is the lightest of all structural elements, one-third less dense than aluminium and is used in flares, pyrotechnics, incendiary bombs, aeroplane and missile construction.

**January 25:** Anglo-Irish chemist Robert Boyle was born on this day in 1627.

He famously discovered that the volume of a gas is inversely proportional to its pressure (Boyle's Law) and together with Robert Hooke, invented the vacuum chamber. Boyle was also a founding member of the Royal Society.



**January 26:** The discovery of nuclear fission was reported to the Fifth Washington Conference of Theoretical Physics on this day in 1939.

The discovery was made by Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann and was interpreted by Lise Meitner and Otto Frish. Danish physicist Niels Bohr then reported the discovery of nuclear fission at the Washington Conference.

**January 29:** German chemist Fritz Haber died on this day in 1934.

He was awarded the 1918 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his method of creating ammonia from nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) and hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>). This discovery is not only important for fertilisers but also explosives. He has since been described as the father of chemical warfare.



by Mrs Goodwill

## Year 9 Science Models

**Y**ear 9 have been studying cells and atomic structure. To help them better understand these concepts, they have been making cell models and atomic models.

Year 9 made examples of spatial models which are used to show data in three dimensions. Both their cell models and atomic models included key features of cells and atoms and showed how these features within cells and atoms connect with each other. Models are useful learning tools in Science especially when providing visual representations. However, models cannot explain everything as they have limitations. For instance, on an atom model, if we were to make an atom to scale and the nucleus was the size of a marble, then the atom would be about the size of a football stadium! Mrs Goodwill

Here are a few pictures showing the fantastic models made:



## Rock Cycle

**Y**ear 8 have just come to the end of studying the topic of 'Earth' in Science. During this topic, students have learnt about different types of rocks and how these rocks are formed.

Each type of rock can be transformed into another type of rock under certain conditions, which is called the rock cycle. 8S have made some wonderful posters to display their knowledge of the rock cycle.

Do you know what the three types of rock are?

Miss Forrest  
Science Department





## COVID:19 Vaccine on the Horizon

Recent reports have suggested that there may be light at the end of the tunnel in relation to the misery caused by the COVID:19 pandemic, as initial trials have shown encouraging results.

Vaccination is an emotive issue and many of the talking points associated with vaccination programmes will be covered by Year 10 students after Christmas as they study the AQA Biology/Trilogy Unit 3 'Infection and Response'.

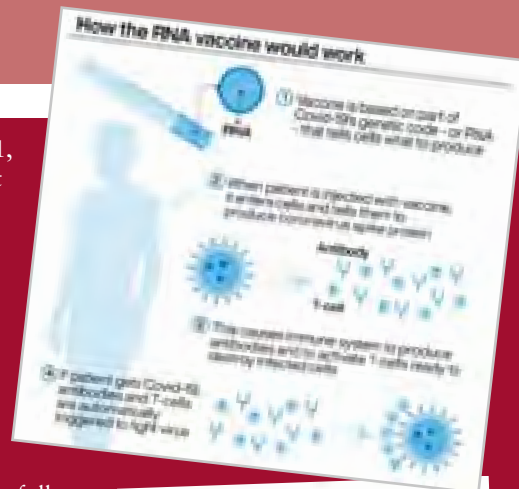
The girls will learn how vaccinations contain modified pathogens or synthetic versions of the antigens on the surface of the pathogen to stimulate the immune response to produce antibodies specific to the pathogen. The girls learn about the presence of the 'memory' white blood cells which provide continued immunity. Vaccination programmes are studied and the pupils learn how they can establish 'herd immunity' within the community. The girls also learn about the process for developing new drugs, learning about the pre-clinical and clinical stages of drug development designed to test for 'T.E.D' (toxicity, efficacy and dosage). These are terms being routinely used in news reports.

News of the Pfiza/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines being mRNA vaccines is of interest to year 11 students currently studying AQA Biology/Trilogy, unit 6 'Inheritance, Variation and Evolution.' During this topic, the girls learn how the sequence of DNA bases within our genes determine the shape and function of the proteins synthesised by our body cells. These new mRNA vaccines use the genetic code of COVID:19 to allow human body cells to synthesise COVID's antigen protein that then stimulates the body's immune response.

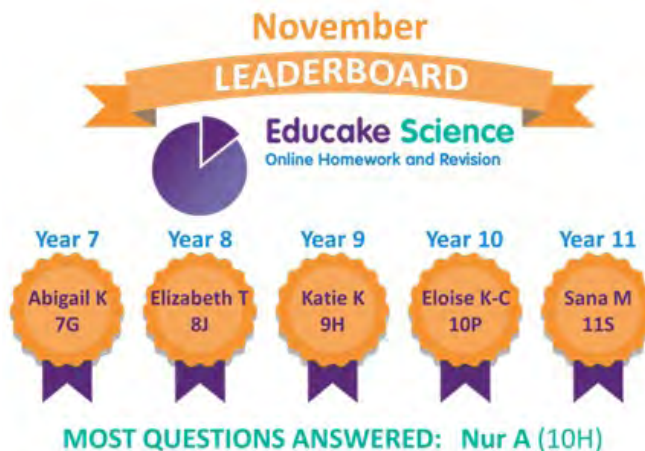


As we move into 2021, we can only hope that the newly developed vaccines and other newly developed treatments will bring the COVID:19 pandemic to an end, whilst also showing the girls the relevance of the science curriculum. Such developments will hopefully spark the girls' interest, inspiring them to considering studying science beyond PGHS and contribute towards exciting discoveries throughout their future careers.

Mr Knee



## Educake Leaderboard



Miss Forrest, Science Department



## 'Baking In Space – Bake to the Future'

**Y**ear 7 students were invited to take part in an exciting free online event. This was part of Science week from 8th – 15th November 2020.

'Baking In Space – Bake to the Future' explored our planet in lockdown and how we have learned to adapt and the parallels between living in space and living during COVID-19.

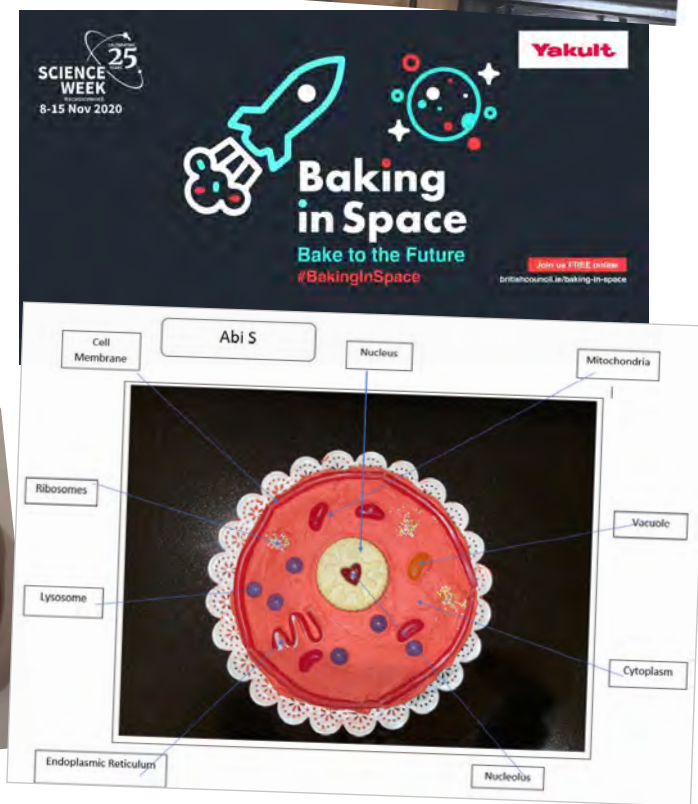
Andrew Smyth, aerospace engineer and Great British Bake-Off finalist, and Dr Niamh Shaw, scientist, performer and space explorer, presented four virtual shows. These took us on a journey from Earth to the Moon and back, with demos and bakes – all from your kitchen!

It was encouraging to see so many of our students get involved.

To coincide with this, we also invited the students to bake their own cell cake to demonstrate their knowledge of the topic of the cells that they are doing at the moment. Here are just some of the amazing uploads.

The only downside being that we didn't get to taste them in school this year.

Mrs R Cahill.



# Science Department News

## Reading

“If we want our children to thrive, teaching them to read is not enough – they must learn to enjoy it.”

Reading is of such vital importance to young children. It forms the basis and foundations for some much higher order tasks. If a student is unable to read a text or a question, they are unable to access the curriculum and so are unable to fulfil their full potential. Many students feel anxious when presented with a text and an extended answer question, simply deciding to leave it blank. In Science, we have been modelling good reading and providing students with some strategies to answer these extended answer questions.

In year 7, we have been learning about cells. The students were presented with a piece of text and an extended answer question. They first skim-read the text, to gain a gist of the information. We then discussed any previous knowledge they may have, that would help then understand the text. The teacher then models good reading and reads the text to the class. Students can then re-read the text, highlighting

any words they are unsure off. These are then discussed as a class in a no pressure setting, allowing every student a chance to ask for some clarity. Finally, we use a strategy to answer the extended answer question. We used CUBE to help us answer the question:

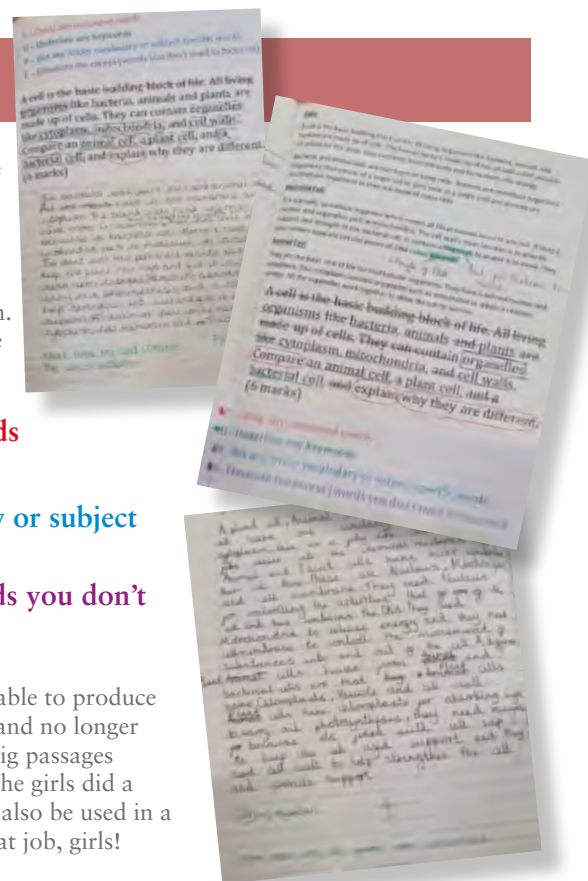
**C – Circle any command words**

**U – underline any keywords**

**B – Box any tricky vocabulary or subject specific words**

**E – Eliminate the excess (words you don't need to focus on).**

By using this strategy, everyone was able to produce excellent answers, enjoying the task and no longer feeling as anxious when faced with big passages of text. Some examples are below. The girls did a really good job and this strategy can also be used in a variety of other subjects as well. Great job, girls!



## Quizlet

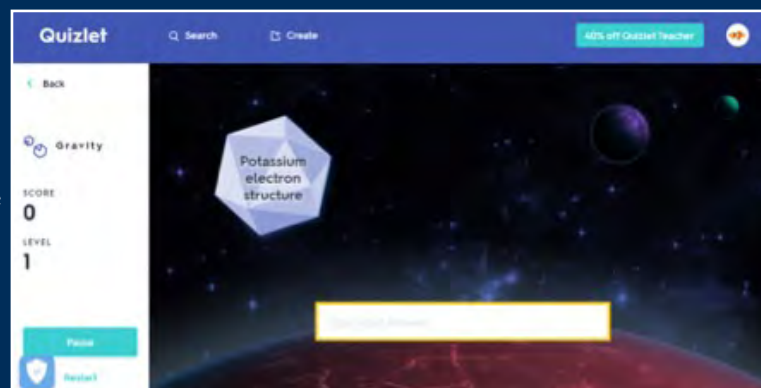
In previous years, we have used Quizlet in school for whole class GCSE revision.

It's a fantastic, interactive way of revising and we're looking forward to getting the iPads back out and using it in class once the situation allows.

Students preparing for GCSE's or mock exams can still use the Quizlet website as a revision aid. Once signed up (which is free), pupils can select their subject and exam board. They then choose from a wide range of pre-prepared flash cards. Once they think they have memorised the information, they can test themselves or their friends. Quizlet provides a number of ways for pupils to revise, including the gravity game, where pupils need to answer the questions before the asteroid collides with the planet.

Revision can be a time-consuming and monotonous task if not done properly. Flash cards are an effective revision technique that also provides some variety to help keep students motivated.

Mr Coogan





## Girls into Engineering

**O**n Wednesday 25th November, all of year 10 took part in a virtual careers event organised by STEMFirst.

The aim of the event was to allow all of our students to hear from multiple female STEM ambassadors about their careers. This opportunity allowed students to hear from a variety of women in the field of engineering and have all of their questions answered. The STEM ambassadors who joined the event were from BAE systems, Sellafield, Orsted and James Fisher Nuclear.

Year 10 were incredibly positive about the event and it was lovely to hear such great feedback. Here are some of their comments:

*"It was inspirational to hear from all the female STEM ambassadors and it has inspired me look into the different engineering opportunities available to me."*

*"I feel more interested in STEM now because the ambassadors were amazing. They gave such amazing advice and made the session so engaging. I was thinking of studying English or Psychology but now I am considering Engineering because it actually seems really cool!"*

### Did you know:

- Only 10% of engineers worldwide are female.
- We need 1.5 million more engineers before 2026.
- 60% of young people will be doing a job in the future which currently does not exist.

Miss Forrest, Science Department



## Meet the future you!

Have you ever wondered what your skills or passions could lead to in the future?

Take this short quiz at [www.mtfy.org.uk](http://www.mtfy.org.uk)





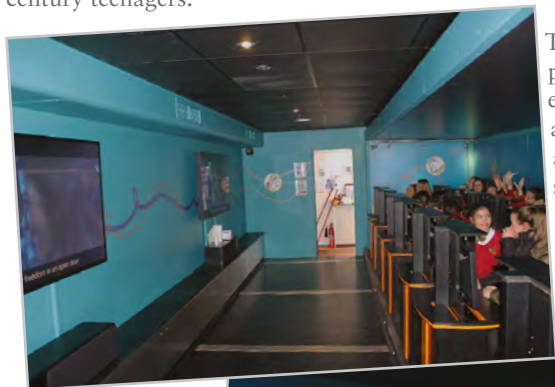


# Religious Education and Community Studies Department News

## GSUS Live!

**D**riving past Penwortham Girls last week, you might have noticed a surprisingly large lorry which was taking up half of our car park.

The Year 9s enjoyed an exciting day in the interactive lorry provided by GSUS Live. The activities brought Christianity to life for 21st century teenagers.



The students particularly enjoyed singing and dancing along to a pop song, providing advice to teenagers through an interactive text

message service and asking any of their burning questions about Christianity to a Christian.

Attached is a link to the song which the students loved so much:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsJEmLkphrI>



## Christmas This Year

**C**hristmas this year may feel slightly different to past Christmases but here at Penwortham Girls' we like to spread the cheer!

We are so proud of the efforts our students have made this year to give to others without expecting anything in return. They have made such a big difference to the members of their local community who need support this Christmas. These 'gifts' under the tree will mean so much more than the latest iPhone or designer handbag to the people who receive them.





Here is a poem which we hope will make you smile when thinking about Christmas this year.

## T'was a Month Before Christmas 2020

*T'was a month before Christmas,  
And all through the town,  
People wore masks,  
That covered their frown.  
The frown had begun,  
Way back in the Spring,  
When a global pandemic,  
Changed everything.  
They called it Corona,  
But unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times,  
It didn't bring cheer.  
Contagious and deadly,  
This virus spread fast,  
Like a wildfire that starts,  
When fuelled by gas.  
Airplanes were grounded,  
Travel was banned.  
Borders were closed,  
Across air, sea and land.  
As the world entered lockdown.  
To flatten the curve,*

*The economy halted,  
And folks lost their verve.  
From March to July,  
We rode the first wave,  
People stayed home,  
They tried to behave.  
When summer emerged,  
The lockdown was lifted,  
But away from caution,  
Many folks drifted.  
Now it's November,  
And cases are spiking,  
Wave two has arrived,  
Much to our disliking.  
Frontline workers,  
Doctors and nurses,  
Try to save people,  
From riding in hearses.  
This virus is awful,  
This COVID-19.  
There isn't a cure.  
It's true that this year,  
Has had sadness a plenty,*

*We'll never forget,  
The year 2020.  
And just 'round the corner -  
The holiday season,  
But why be merry?  
Is there even one reason?  
To decorate the house,  
And put up the tree,  
When no one will see it,  
No-one but me.  
But outside my window,  
The snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself,  
Let's deck the halls!  
So, I gather the ribbon,  
The garland and bows,  
As I play those old carols,  
My happiness grows.  
Christmas ain't cancelled,  
And neither is hope.  
If we lean on each other,  
I know we can cope.*

Miss Brooks, RE Department



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