Penwortham Post



National Support School designated by



National College for Teaching & Leadership

April 2016



Penwortham Girls' High School

A New Era for PGHS

uring March, we received the exciting news that PGHS has been officially designated a Teaching School.

National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

We will be joining together with an existing Teaching School, Bishop Rawstorne, to form the Red Rose Teaching School Alliance. Bishop Rawstorne has been a successful teaching school for a number of years and we hope to build on their excellent work by providing our own expertise and experience in the training and professional development of current teachers within Lancashire and of graduates wanting to join the profession. We will be supported in our work by a number of alliance schools from South Ribble, Chorley and Blackburn, collaboratively working on a range of innovative teaching and learning related programmes.

Teaching schools are outstanding schools that work with others to provide highquality training and development to new and experienced school staff. They are part of the Government's plan to give schools a central role in raising standards, through the sharing of innovation, creativity and talent.

We are exceptionally proud of being awarded Teaching School status as this position recognises our track record of excellence, both in achieving the very best outcomes for our pupils and through the support we have provided to other schools. Along with our National Support School status and the recent appointment of eight Specialist Leaders of Education, we are in a strong position to not only further develop our own staff, but to also support future teachers, other schools and aspiring leaders.

As a Teaching School we are required to take a leading role in a number of key areas. We'll be taking a more significant role in the Initial Teacher Training process, working in partnership with Bishop Rawstorne to provide a School Direct programme, enabling us to train and accredit the teachers of tomorrow. We will also be coordinating a wide ranging programme of training opportunities for teachers from across the alliance, from Newly Qualified Practitioners to experienced teachers looking to move to leadership positions. Additionally, we will be expanding our teacher-led research programme to ensure we remain at the cutting edge of best practice in teaching.

I will keep you informed of future developments,

Mr Ward, Director of Teaching School / Assistant Headteacher

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Penwortham Post

hree weeks ago I was informed that our application to be designated as a Teaching School had been successful. This is yet another tremendous achievement for PGHS, following our designation as a National Support School.

Teaching School status is only awarded to the very best schools following a rigorous application process.

In this new role we will be working in close partnership with an existing Teaching School, Bishop Rawstorne, to provide high-quality training and development to new and experienced school staff. Whilst this will bring new challenges it will also provide significant opportunities, especially for our own teaching staff. In turn, this will inevitably lead to improving even further outcomes for our pupils.

I will keep you updated about this exciting development through our weekly and termly newsletters.

In the meantime, on behalf of all staff and governors, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and peaceful Spring Break.



Art Department News

South Ribble Schools Art Exhibition

he following pieces of Year 11 art work were on display at the annual South Ribble Schools Art Exhibition in Leyland on Tuesday 15th March.

The Mayor of South Ribble awarded certificates to the following girls for their wonderful creative pieces; Melissa Gore, Niamh Carroll, Heather Needham, Isabella Robinson, Zulekha Selant, Famya Hussain, Daisy Campbell, Megan Corbett, Sarah Hanratty, Scarlett Mayer – Payne, Phoebe McDonald – Conlon, Charlotte Hough and Amna Farooq.

All South Ribble schools exhibited their best work and the overall standard was outstanding!

Mrs Staines, Art Department

















Computing and ICT Department News

Computing as a subject in schools has continued to develop quickly this year.

ith the national emphasis now on learning programming skills and 'computational' thinking, we are now teaching skills to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 we would have previously covered in years 10 and 11.

What's very pleasing to see is how willingly and enthusiastically pupils are taking on these new skills and producing their own code.

python



Other things that have happened this year:

On our first attempt in the competition we were runners-up in the NW Regional finals of the VEX IQ Challenge. With a wonderful team spirit demonstrated throughout, we celebrated with a pizza feast!

The project is continuing with 9 Year 8 girls now taking part in the CREST Bronze Award Scheme (Creativity in Science and Technology) where the focus will be on physical computing and robotics. They will be using the new BBC Micro: bit programming cards and Raspberry Pi mini computers.

This is our contribution to STEM subjects in school (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

And finally.....

After a long developmental delay, our BBC Micro:bit computing boards are due to arrive any day now. We can't wait to use these with Year 7 - who will be able to keep them if they want!



At the time of writing, it looks like the BBC will be sending additional units for us to keep. We've had many girls in other years asking if they can use them as well.

Mr I Riley, Head of ICT



English Department News

Study Plus

It has been a fantastic half term for the Year 10 Study Plus students.

They have been focusing on a range of non-fiction writing from the 19th – 21st Century and produced



some very high quality responses based on this. They have also used it to inspire some powerful writing. Alongside this, we have been focusing on developing confidence in communication skills and it has been great fun watching the girls prepare and present their vlogs. We've seen everything from personal presentations about growing up, to make up tutorials and even blindfold challenges! The girls have loved the experience and agreed that their confidence has grown as they have spoken at length to an audience.

Mrs McKeown, English Department

Of Mice and Men Theatre Trip

n 23rd March, 50 year 11 pupils went to Blackpool Grand Theatre to see a performance of our GCSE set text 'Of Mice and Men'.

It was great to see a performance of a book we knew so well on stage and as Blackpool Grand is

so small we all had a great view of the stage. The cast were amazing and everyone melted a little bit when a real dog came on stage too! The ending was as shocking and sad as ever and the music made it that little bit more poignant. Everyone agreed it was a brilliant night and that seeing it performed on stage helped in our understanding of the play too.

S Thackeray

English Department

DEAR time, Readathon and the Reading Challenge

or World Book Week this year, our Year 7 and 8 pupils have been enjoying a variety of activities based around reading for pleasure.

In our English lessons we have taken part in the Bumper Book Quiz and enjoyed DEAR time. DEAR stands for Drop Everything and Read and we have designated an English lesson for all key stage 3 pupils to snuggle up with their favourite book and immerse themselves in reading for an hour. Alongside this we have recently launched our annual Readathon Charity Appeal. This fantastic initiative raises funds for children who are terminally ill or in hospital to provide



those much needed toys and treats to make life more bearable. Last year we were proud to raise £1500 for this worthwhile cause through sponsorship but would love to beat this total in 2016. Girls in Years 7 and 8 have selected books and audio books they wish to read, they ask for small amounts of sponsorship then we dedicate some English lessons and English homework to reading. Many pupils raised even more funds by baking and selling cakes for us to munch on whilst enjoying a good book! As part of Readathon, Year 7 are being sponsored to complete either their bronze, silver or gold award in the Reading Challenge. By moving away from their usual and preferred reads, they will be engaging in something more challenging with some recommended key authors and even some literary classics.

Ms Snowdon, English Department

History Department News

History Trip to Belgium

n the 18th March 42 Year 10 students made the long coach journey to Ypres, Belgium, where they spent the weekend learning more about the British contribution during the First World War.

The students began their tour of the area with a visit to the German cemetery at Langemark, then continued their trip to a Canadian monument, the site of the first gas attack. The expert guide, Simon Louagie, demonstrated how soldiers were (inadequately) protected from this new horrific weapon. The group headed to the Sanctuary Wood Museum and the Passchendaele Museum where they learnt more about the horrors of trench warfare. The final visit of the day was Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest cemetery for commonwealth forces in the world. At 8pm the students attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Patrice Fisher-Akins, Olivia Christopher and Kervs Johnson laid a wreath on behalf of the school in what was a very moving ceremony. After filling the coach with chocolate from Hans de Groote's chocolate emporium students headed home having improved greatly their understanding and appreciation of the British contribution during the First World War.

Mr S Herbert, Head of History













Food Technology Department News

Year 7

his term, Year 7 have been making fruit crumbles using seasonal fruits.

They have also been making healthy chicken kebab skewers using the techniques of margination, grilling, baking and chargrill.



Year 8

his term, Year 8 pupils have been using the skills of whisking and simmering to produce varying thicknesses of a roux sauce.

Examples include a mornay cheese sauce with a pouring consistency for pasta and a crème fraiche.



Food Technology Department News

Year 9

his term, Year 9 have been making their own lower fat samosas by using a small amount of oil for the pastry and including a meat, chicken and vegetable filling.

Pupils have then baked the samosas for a healthier product. Some pupils made their own shortcrust pastry and used it to make a quiche or a savoury pie.

Year 9 have also been investigating the science of bread making and practised mixing, kneading and knocking back a dough. For their second bread practical they have developed the recipe to include flavours and fillings. Products produced have ranged from cinnamon swirls to plaited focaccia.

Year 9 have researched the health benefits of spices and herbs like coriander and produced a curry information leaflet for other groups coming into Food Technology. They have modified basic curry recipes according to the needs of the target groups they have researched and their nutritional needs. They have compared their healthier curries to pre prepared korma and curry sauces. Using the nutritional analysis programme to explore food, pupils have designed their own food labels for their adapted products.

Mrs Khan, Food Technology Co-ordinator







Geography Department News

Volcano Competition

fter an absence of two years, the Geography Department Year 9 Volcano Competition returned this half term and the standard of entries was as high as ever!

There was a wide range of material used from papier-mâché to builders foam, modelling clay to cake – (a lot of cake!)

Merits, Head's Breakfast and Head's Commendations were awarded to a large number of entries. Our Year 11 Subject Leaders, Fatima and Sameera picked out their choices for awards, as did Mr Bowles and Mr Ward.

Head's Breakfast Awards to...

- Zaineb Afsar
- Maddie Edwards
- Samanta Razbadauskaite
- Charlotte Hamer
- Maarva Umeriee

Pupil Prizes

(awarded by Year 11 Subject Leaders)

- Lana Hindle, Kate Lund & Lily Rawlinson
- Pia Murray
- Jessica Turner
- Natalia Lukasik
- Myar Parekh

Mr Ward Awards

- Mvar Parekh
- Harriet Booth, Caitlin Fry & Sophie Harwood

Mr Bowles Awards

- Emilia Gorrell
- Amy Traynor

Mr G Bowles, Head of Geography

Well done to Jawharah Bodi in Year 9 who spotted that the last Where's Earthy? competition was Toronto, Canada. She chose a Yorkshire Dales OS map as her prize – happy rambling!





Volcano Facts!

The word "volcano" comes from the Roman name 'Vulcan' - the Roman god of fire.

350 million, or one in 20 people in the world live within 'danger range' of an active volcano

Lava can reach 1,250°C and has the potential to burn everything in its path! If you used a glass thermometer to take the temperature it would melt.

The world's largest active volcano is Mauna Loa in Hawaii standing at 4,169m!

About 1,900 volcanoes on Earth are considered active and are likely to erupt again.

Maths Department News

UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the annual UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge in February.

The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is taken in school under normal exam conditions. The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. There were several outstanding performances by PGHS pupils, with the following girls receiving certificates:

Charlotte Daley	Gold Certificate	
Amanda Hacking	Silver Certificate	
Lauren Hall	Silver Certificate	
Maya Darbyshire	Silver Certificate	
Abbey Goodeve	Silver Certificate	
Alice Robson	Silver Certificate	
Anna Boden	Bronze Certificate	
Cho Io Pun	Bronze Certificate	
Amy Whitehouse	Bronze Certificate	
Khadijah Hafeji	Bronze Certificate	
Amy Mawdsley	Bronze Certificate	
Zaineb Afsar	Bronze Certificate	
Hollie Reed	Bronze Certificate	

Special congratulations to Charlotte who was invited to sit the pink 'European Kangaroo' paper as a result of her outstanding performance. We await the results with great anticipation!

Mr R McVey Head of Maths

Runshaw Maths Challenge (Weds 9th March 2016)

Tour Year 10 pupils, Charlotte Daley, Hannah Thomas, Emily Wilding-Anthony and Anna Boden represented PGHS in March at the annual Runshaw College Maths Challenge.

They competed against 26 other Year 10 and 11 teams from local secondary schools, participating in various different rounds that tested their Mathematical problem solving skills. Whilst they didn't emerge victorious, they gave an excellent account of themselves and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Well done!

Torture Test Champions

ll girls undertook the 'Torture Test' Challenge to celebrate World Maths Day in March.

The challenge was a time trial to complete a grid of random multiplication tables. The fastest correct solutions in each year group won an Easter egg, a certificate and a fantastic PGHS Mathematics Department pen!



The five winners are shown right:

Left to right: Lauren Palmer (Year 7, 1 min 50 secs), Zainab Dawood (Year 8, 1 min 59 secs), Naomi Andrew (Year 9, 2 mins 1 sec), Anna Boden (Year 10, 2 mins 13 secs) and Famya Hussain (Year 11, 1 min 50 secs).

Maths Easter Brain Teaser

shepherds were watching over their flocks and they were commenting on how many sheep they each had.

If Alan had three more sheep, then he'd have one less sheep than Brian. Dave has the same number as the other three shepherds put together. If Charles had three less sheep, he'd have exactly treble the number of Alan. If they were evenly distributed they'd each have eleven sheep.

How man sheep does Alan have? (Answer: On back page)

MFL Department News

Modern Foreign Languages

anguages Week 2016 saw different opportunities for our pupils to experience the culture of France and Germany and gave some pupils the opportunity to develop their teaching skills and their memory!

Year 7 French and Year 8 German pupils learned new vocabulary which our Year 11 Subject Prefects had chosen for spelling bee competitions in each class. In Year 8 French, pupils showcased ballet and cancan dances, drew work of French artists, made up class competitions to practice the language and others sang and some even made a recording of their favourite songs in French! It was lovely to see pupils making the effort to engage with the theme 'PGHS a du talent'.

Year 9 pupils led by the Year 9 Language Leaders, taught French vocabulary on the theme of cafes to our Year 5 visitors during the same week. They had worked hard to get ready for this and were excellent ambassadors for the school. In total, we were visited by 115 pupils from Ashbridge, St. Leonard's and Frenchwood primary schools. Pupils took part in interactive language games using the I-pads and smartboard, role-plays at a café and a group shopping card game.

Many thanks to the following Year 9 girls who made the day such a success; Khadjah Hafeji, Aaliyah Patel, Sophie Wilson, Honor Barnes, Alice Robson, Christina Skiggs, Naya McClure, Jessica Turner, Larissa Cantzler, Mia Kelly, Emily Broadbent, Ami Clement, Maisie Saul, Erin Burke-Mackey and also Mr Pye and Mr Ball for their help in supervising practices and for their help on the day.











MFL Department News



Year 10 and Year 11 watched a French and German film in their lessons and Year 10 also had visiting lecturers from Cardinal Newman who came into PGHS to teach 'A' level lessons. We would like to thank our school catering staff who once again provided French and German food at break and at lunch. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 also made great progress in preparation for controlled assessments this term. Year 11 finished their





final writing piece on the theme of Healthy Lifestyle and Year 10 made a huge effort to prepare for their first GCSE speaking assessment on the theme of 'Town'.

Years 7, 8 and 9 continued to make excellent progress on their translation skills and are busy using grammar and understanding how this works so they can develop all the skills needed for effective progression in learning languages. We wish Year 11 GOOD LUCK in their revision for their final GCSE listening and reading papers next term.







Music Department News

Little Shop of Horrors

n 24th and 25th February, Penwortham Girls' High School was home to Mushnik's Skid Row Florist Shop, when pupils performed 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Floral assistant Seymour Krelborn (played by Scarlet Maver-Pavne) stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his co-worker (played by Jaime-Lee Holmes). The plant (made by our own ICT Manager) promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn, as long as he keeps feeding it - BLOOD. Over time though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination. However, this it is not until it has already eaten Audrey's boyfriend Orin (played by Kira Lines) and shop owner Mushnik (played by Holly McIlwain). The show was thoroughly enjoyed by audiences on Wednesday and Thursday evening with all pupils giving outstanding performances.

Mrs A Cattanach, Head of Music



Congratulations

o a number of girls who have recently been working hard to pass their Music Examinations. Very well done to you all.

Eden Hesketh (gold), Eleanor Drew and Emily Stimson (silver) have all passed their Music Medals on the keyboard.

Successes have been achieved in graded instrumental examinations, namely, Rose Creer – Grade 1 saxophone, Hannah Robertson – Grade 4 clarinet and Rachel Nguyen - Grade 1 piano.



The following girls have been awarded grades in singing: Ellie White - Grade 3, Faye Bond - Grade 2, Niamh Henderson - Grade 1, Rebecca Spencer - Grade 1, Jennie Sutton - Grade 1, Carys Bourne - Grade 1, Elizabeth Houghton - Grade 1, Tiffany Xavier - Grade 1, Emma Biltcliffe - Grade 1, Anna Boden - Grade 5, Katerina Hough - Grade 5 and Hannah Thomas - Grade 4.

RE Department News



PE Department News

he end of the netball season is now upon us and it's time to look forward to the summer activities and hopefully some nice weather.

Before doing so, it would be appropriate to celebrate another successful netball season. The results of the South Ribble Central Venue Netball Competition were as follows:-

Year Group	Played	Won	Lost	Draw
Year 11	4	3	1	0
Year 10	7	7	0	0
Year 9	6	3	1	2
Year 8	8	8	0	0
Year 7 'A'	5	3	2	0
Year 7 'B'	7	2	3	2

The South Ribble Netball Knock Out Cup has successfully run again this year, with the finals night being hosted at PGHS on Monday 21st March 2016.

The results of this year were as follows:-

YEAR GROUP	
Year 11	Winners
Year 10	Winners
Year 9	Semi finalist
Year 8	Winners
Year 7	Quarter finalist

A big thank you must go to every single girl who have trained and played in what has been some atrocious conditions this season. Also, thank you to the parents who have continued to support at matches and to brave the weather as well.

Following on from the South Ribble Cross Country Championships in November we have had several girls go on the represent South Ribble Borough and in further competitions. Scarlett Sutton, winner of South Ribble, represented the district and came 7th overall in the Year 7 girls section. Freya Darbyshire came 27th in the Lancashire Championships. Alissa Darbyshire won the Lancashire

Championships and represented Lancashire in the British Inter Counties Cross Country Championships, in Birmingham, finishing a fantastic 131/328.

Our Year 8 Sportshall Athletics team won the South Ribble round and finished a respectable 5th place in the Lancashire finals.

Our partnerships within the community still grow from strength to strength. We have had 4 key stage 3 pupils attend the Basketball Gifted and Talented Workshops run by Newman College (Alice, Robson, Kianna White, Khadejah Hafeji and Grace Thomson).

Hockey continues to go from strength to strength with Becky from Garstang Hockey Club as our resident coach now. Through this we have had several girls go on to now play in clubs outside of school and to represent borough and county sides.





Working with Mark Cookson from Lancashire Cricket has enabled more girls to access cricket both within the curriculum and as an extra-curricular programme. Now being able to enter the competitions has given us another pathway and the girls are reaping the rewards of their hard work and continued commitment. The U'13 indoor cricket team finished 3rd in the county competition.

Primary liaison also remains a big part of our programme. The dance leaders led a 2 day Indian Dance Workshop, in partnership with the RE department. We were also asked to support Middleforth Primary School with their WRIST performance, which involved pupils from the primary school being taught a routine by our dance leaders and then performing in their concert. We have some very big events coming up in the summer term for the Sports and Dance Leaders Festivals,

not forgetting the amazing dance performances that have taken place in the Senior Citizens Party, the Christmas Concert and the school production of Little Shop of Horrors.

After the Easter break our extra-curricular programme changes from winter sports and we move on to Rounders and Athletics and hopefully some sunny days.

Mrs N Burns, Head of PE

Farewell to Pia

▼his term we are sad to be losing one of Year 9 pupils Pia Murray who has been a fantastic ambassador for the school during her time here. We wish Pia every success for the future and hope that she keeps in touch.

I'm happy to say I have been given the opportunity of a scholarship at one of the leading boarding schools in the country. I have been selected to take part in their national swimming programme. Being one of the top ranked clubs in the country,

I hope to develop my swimming skills and better my future swimming career with dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer. I'm excited to begin my adventure a person being here. I can apply at Ellesmere College with being part of the swimming programme it will be a lot easier to balance

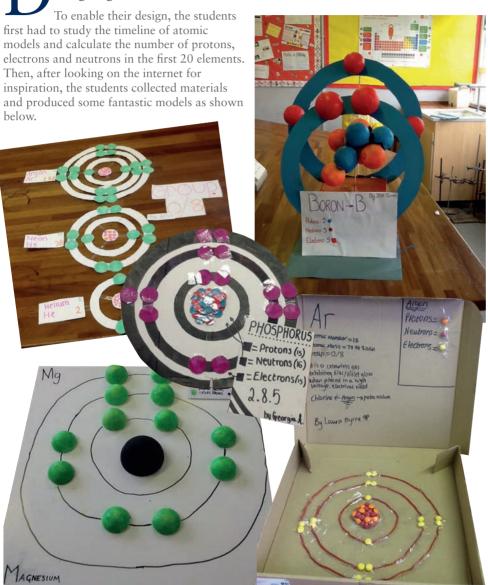
my school work and swimming. I'm looking forward to joining the school and I thank PGHS for all the qualities I have learnt as the things I have learnt here in my later career and education. By Pia Murray



Science Department News

Atomic models

uring British Science week, Year 9 students were given the task of designing their own atomic model.



Easter Bunnies

s part of British Science week Year 10 looked at natural selection and extinction due to changes in environment.

The students were given plasticine at the start of the lesson and asked to make an Easter bunny. Unaware of their inevitable fate the students made some very cute bunnies and gave them each a pet name. The bunnies were then brought to the front of the room and the learning objective was achieved. First the bunnies succumb to a new predator, only the well camouflaged fast running bunnies survived and all the others met their demise by being squished. Then came a weather change and finally a disease. Only two bunnies survived to reproduce and pass their genes onto their offspring. The students were able to see survival of the fittest, natural selection and animal endangerment in action.



Science Department News

Moon Rocks

uring British Science week, PGHS were given the opportunity to showcase a selection of meteorite and asteroid fragments that have been found on different parts of planet Earth.

Other rocks also on display included those that were molten and solidified after the impact of asteroids hitting earth such as those found in the Libyan Desert and in parts of Australia in 1931. Other



samples included those collected by NASA during Apollo 15, 16 and 17 landing sites. The collection was truly magnificent and highly effective in creating discussion in class.

Primary visit to Whitefield Primary School

s part of British Science Week, Dr Plummer and Ms Halloran took the 'combustion show' to a local primary school to give the year 5 pupils a taste of chemistry in action.

We had a competition to see who could keep a splint alight the longest, set chemicals alight to show how rapid combustion can be and carried out a carefully controlled mini explosion with methanol which went with a bang. The year 5 pupils participated cautiously in all of the activities and loved every minute of it. It would be fair to say that it was a booming success!!

Bridge Building

ear 7 pupils used time constructively during British Science Week. Working in teams, they have designed, built and tested model bridges using materials such as paper, straws, rubber bands and wooden splints.



Pupils had to work to a budget, but they put on their engineering hard hats and really engaged with the challenge. Staff witnessed a very impressive range of designs, some of which were capable of holding well over a kilogram of mass. Well done Year 7, maybe the next big architect is sitting among you right now?!

Mrs H Goodwill, Science Department

Parachutes

ne of the activities which Year 8 undertook as part of British Science Week was to design a parachute which was a maximum of 25cm square and could carry a mass of 10g for the longest time.



After looking at some of the more unusual parachutes which can be used, Year 8 came up with a range of excellent designs, some of which actually worked. They were dropped from the ceiling and the time it took for them to reach the ground was recorded. It was an excellent activity which was enjoyed by all of the groups and gave them an insight into both gravity and air resistance.

Technology Department News











Y7 Pop-up book project

tudents are designing and creating fantastic pop-up books to encourage children to read.

They have learnt different types of paper engineering mechanisms within the project and applied these to their designs to create movement. There have been some outstanding creative designs showing some real flair! Well done!











Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)

irls from Year 9 took part in a Futures Engineering day at UCLAN during March.

This involved them using the CAD systems and producing designs using the Universities suite of 3D printers.





Technology Department News



Space

Year 7 have been looking at Human Rights in SPACE (Social, Personal and Citizenship Education) this term, with a particular focus on the Rights of Children.

Representatives of 7H and 7G re-enacted a drama they had been working on in their lessons, highlighting ways in which children can be denied their rights around the world.

Molly Sharples (7H) said: "We don't realise how lucky we are in this country, there are kids the same age as we are who cannot go to school and are forced to work and do jobs that we would never dream of doing."

Katie Perry (7S) played the role of a slavemaster: "When we were doing our play it was just a bit of fun and we were messing around, but when we actually started to act it out we realised that it is no joke, children are being sold as slaves because their parents cannot afford to look after them."

Amara Pandya and Charlotte Roberts played the role of slaves with Molly for the picture. Amara said: "We have so many rights in this country and still want more. We should be complaining about the lack of rights other children have rather than demanding more for ourselves."





Maths Solution: Answer: Alan has 3 sheep



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