

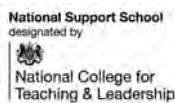
Penwortham Post



Penwortham Girls' High School



Winter 2023



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



A tribute to Karen Pomeroy from the PGHS Senior Leadership Team

Since her arrival as Headteacher in September 2011, Karen has transformed both our school and the lives of countless young women, through her inspiring and visionary leadership.

Karen has maintained a relentless and uncompromising focus on teaching and learning, working tirelessly to ensure that our girls receive world-class teaching in a first-class learning environment. Within three years of her arrival the school was judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted, and it is surely fitting that after nearly a decade of strong GCSE outcomes, this year's exceptional examination results ranked us as one of the top-performing school's both locally and nationally.

Of course, Karen's legacy is about far more than results. The school we work in today is a testament to her vision and ambition, and it is thanks to Karen's persistence and dogged determination that we can look forward to moving into a brand-new school. The broad and varied curriculum that we offer today has been shaped by Karen's investment in the school facilities, with GCSE Drama and Photography being just two of the courses that have been introduced during Karen's tenure.

From our point of view, Karen's legacy will be the impact she has had on all of us. We've been absolutely privileged to work alongside from Karen. Our careers have been carefully nurtured under Karen's leadership, and we have all benefited from Karen's wise counsel. We will miss her creativity, innovation and decisiveness, but mostly we will miss her sense of humour and her friendship.

Karen really is a PGHSuccess.

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Penwortham Post and my very last as headteacher.



During the past few weeks I've been reflecting on everything I'll miss when I retire, and this newsletter is definitely 'up there'!

For me, it represents so much of what makes PGHS such a special place to be – success, collaboration, celebration and enjoyment. Enjoy!

Finally, for the very last time, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and encouragement of everything we endeavour to achieve here. It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to lead such a fantastic school community during the past 12 years. On behalf of all the staff and governing body, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable holiday, and every success for the future.

**Mrs K Pomeroy,
Penwortham Girls' High School**



This is a moment of change for PGHS as we move to a new Headteacher and look forward to a new school building. It is also a moment of great reflection.

Governors were happy to announce the arrival of a new Headteacher 12 years ago when Mrs Pomeroy arrived, but we couldn't imagine just what success she would lead the school towards.

When governors have considered just how the school has changed over those 12 years, we find it hard to believe just how much has been achieved. The physical school building has changed enormously to include a welcoming entrance and music area, a drama studio, a dance studio, a languages area, revitalised science laboratories and sports facilities, the training suite, a fit for purpose staff area, a new library area, a humanities extension of three additional classrooms and a smart, welcoming, vibrant modern school in which to learn and to teach. I'm sure I have forgotten many things too! All the above have ensured a high quality environment for certain, but our school is so much more than that. Under Mrs Pomeroy's leadership, we have risen to a school outstanding in all areas, as judged by Ofsted. Simultaneously, teaching is outstanding, students learn effectively and with enjoyment and so results have now risen to the point where students achieve way above expectations, with progression rated in the top 3 in Lancashire and the top performing schools across the country. Mrs Pomeroy – that is some legacy, and we are

as proud as you must be at the changes made during your leadership. And honestly, I don't believe that actually does your tenure real justice!

So, what comes next? Well, for Mrs Pomeroy, it must be the freedom to spend time with her family and more time away travelling to far flung areas of the globe! She has many interests and hobbies so will certainly never sit still but here's hoping she discovers new ones too. We all wish you a happy, fulfilled and joyous retirement and that you come back to see us too!

For PGHS, we very much welcome Mrs Hall to her post in January and towards the new building project. We wish you as much success in your role also.

For our school community as a whole, I wish you, on behalf of the governing body, much enjoyment and relaxation during our school break and we look forward to seeing you refreshed and well in 2024.

Ms Lorimer Russell-Hayes, Chair of Governors

Christmas Tree Festival

On Friday 24th November, Members of the Student Leadership Team put up our entry in the St Leonard's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

We were tree number 8. Thank you to all who came to see the tree and voted. Well done to all those who created a decoration for it; the tree looks amazing!



Music Department

Winter Showcase

On Wednesday 13th December we hosted our very own 'Winter Showcase' with an eclectic mix of dance, drama and music.

The first half saw the choir, brass group, orchestra, woodwind, bells and ukulele group as well as both Y10 and 11 music classes. We were treated to music from Jingle Bells to Last Christmas and all the students who performed were absolutely fantastic.

We also had two brilliant dances from KS3 students dancing in both cheer and street styles. The second half of the concert was dedicated to Mrs Pomeroy who has been a massive supporter of the Performing Arts Department throughout her time here. The Performing Arts group gave a superb rendition of 'When I Grow Up' and 'Revoluting Children' from Matilda, which was followed by a dance to 'Better When I'm Dancing!' and a selection of songs from the musical Les Miserables by our KS4 vocalists who were tremendous. Students rounded off the evening with performances of 'You Raise Me Up' and a special version of One Direction's 'History'. The audience all left singing along to 'Merry Christmas Everybody'.

It was a superb evening and one which will live long in the memories of all involved. The Performing Arts team, staff and students, would like to thank Mrs Pomeroy from the bottom of their hearts for all her support and encouragement over the years and we wish her a happy retirement.

Mrs Cattnach, Associate Assistant Headteacher



continued overleaf

Performance, Sport & Health Faculty Department News

Music Department

Winter Showcase cont....



Music Department

LAMDA Exam Success

For those of you that are not aware every student in Year 8, as part of our essential knowledge programme, studies the LAMDA Grade 2 Speaking Verse and Prose course.

During these lessons, students focus on developing their ability to speak in front of an audience with correct posture, pace, projection and diction. As part of the course, all students build up to the final exam by performing in pairs, small groups, in front of the class and finally performing to one of our School Governors. Those students who wish to enter for the officially recognised exam then perform in front of a visiting LAMDA examiner where students are required to perform, from memory, a poem and a section of prose from a book of their choice.

20 Year 8 students took their LAMDA Grade 2 Speaking Verse and Prose exams at the end of the Summer term and returned to school in September to hear some fantastic news! Every single student passed with the vast majority gaining a distinction. An incredible achievement!

We are extremely proud of all of the students who took the exam. Well done!

Mrs Cattnach, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Music



Creative Careers

On Monday 13th November, 15 Year 9 students visited UCLAN to take part in a Creative Careers event and had a fantastic time.

They were able to listen to and ask questions of panelists including musicians, publishers and lecturers learning about their journeys into their respective careers. Following this, students had the opportunity to interact with students from Newman College who were leading a 'Make your own Music Festival' table task. Students had to create a name and then consider all the requirements of the festival including refreshments and camping! The students were a credit to the school and clearly enjoyed the opportunity.

Mrs Cattnach, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Music



Music Department



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Arts Mark Platinum Award

Penwortham Girls' High School receives prestigious Platinum Artsmark Award.

Students and staff at Penwortham Girls' High School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrates arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve their Artsmark Award, Penwortham Girls' had to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Penwortham Girls' were supported by Curious Minds in planning and developing their objectives. They worked alongside the school at various stages to support their Artsmark Award achievement.

The Artsmark assessor commended Penwortham Girls' High School on the Arts qualifications they offer including a wider range of Arts GCSEs, Bronze Arts Award for all Year 7s and LAMDA qualification for Year 8 students. They continue to offer an arts rich education to their students with ring fenced curriculum time for arts subjects taught in every year by subject specialists. Arts and culture are deployed strategically to develop creativity and enhance achievement. They impact positively on wellbeing and strengthen the setting's community.

On receiving the award, Karen Pomeroy, Headteacher, said:

"We're extremely proud of achieving our Platinum Artsmark Award; The highest possible accolade to be awarded by the Arts Council. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education here at Penwortham Girls' which will prepare our students for their future."

Dr Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

"I would like to congratulate Penwortham Girls' High School on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every student can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life".

About Artsmark Award

This year, the Artsmark Award celebrates its 20th anniversary as the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings. It can help unlock young people's potential, building their confidence, character, and resilience.

Artsmark's clear and flexible framework can be used to embed creativity across the whole curriculum, address school improvement priorities and ensure every young person can access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

Artsmark is open to primary, secondary, and special schools, pupil referral units, secure settings, youth offending teams, hospital schools and sixth form colleges. Artsmark is awarded at three levels; Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Visit artsmark.org.uk for more information.

Music Department

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.96 billion Culture Recovery Funds.

Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

Visit artscouncil.org.uk for more information.

Mrs Cattanch,
Associate Assistant Headteacher
& Curriculum Leader for Music



Arts Award

We are pleased to announce that following another successful moderation all students who completed their Arts Award last academic year have now officially passed and will receive their certificates in the Awards Assembly on the final day.

The moderator was incredibly impressed with their work noting in her feedback 'I was impressed by the range of Art Forms explored by the young people. All portfolios were beautifully presented, with a clear sense of sharing, creativity and personal reflection. The centre should be congratulated for the excellent work taking place.' Well done to everyone.

Mrs Cattanch
Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Music

PE Department



Year 7 South Ribble Football Champions!

On Thursday 9th November, our Year 7 Football team travelled to Leyland St Mary's High School to participate in the Year 7 Girls Football Competition.

They played 6 games, won 4, drew 2 and didn't concede a goal!

We were so impressed with their efforts, enthusiasm, skill and

determination on a very cold and wet November evening. They finished as winners – South Ribble Champions! A fantastic team effort from our PGHS lionesses! Well done to all our players – Seren, Hannah, Lani, Ellouise-May, Bella, Ella, Darcey, Lily and Tess. Shout-out to our goal scorers – Lani, Bella and Ellouise-May.

Mrs Tompson

PE Department



South Ribble Cross Country Championships

On Saturday 18th November, we took 4 girls to the South Ribble Cross Country Championships across the muddy fields of Hutton Grammar School!

Holly L (Y9) finished in 3rd place overall, Marianna N (Y9) placed 10th and Evie R finished with great determination over a tough course! Izzy E (Y7) finished 11th in her age group and deserves special commendation for finishing her race and doubling back straightaway to cheer her friends on who were still running!

Well done, girls!

Mrs Finnegan

PE Department



Year 8 & 9 South Ribble Football Tournament

Last Tuesday, our Y8/9 football team travelled to Leyland St Mary's High School to compete in the Y8/9 South Ribble Schools Tournament.

The girls performed exceptionally and played 6 matches in extremely cold conditions. They showed great skill, determination and sportsmanship throughout and put in a great team performance.

The results: We won 4 matches, drew 1 and lost 1, but lost by only 1 goal that was conceded very close to the end of the match. It really could have gone either way!

A very high standard of Football was played on the night from all schools. PGHS finished 3rd. A massive well done to the team, Phoebe B, Phoebe M, Daisy L, Sophia W, Jessica L, Georgia B, Chloe M, Isabelle M and Amelia M.

Mrs Tompson, PE Teacher





PGHS Christmas Card Competition

Students were invited to design our School Christmas Card for 2023 and came up with some wonderful designs.

Congratulations to our 4 winners:

Lily T (Year 9), Cherlotte Y (Year 8), Syeda H (Year 8) and Poppy W (Year 7) who designed these beautiful cards below.

These were professionally printed and sent to our school contacts and colleagues.

By Lily T



By Poppy W



By Syeda H



By Cherlotte Y



2023 GCSE Results Success!

We are already delighted with the academic achievement of the Class of 2023 but now that the DfE have published the results of all schools, we can announce that PGHS are ranked 249th nationally, which places us in the top 3.6% of schools in the country!

Our students achieved almost three quarters of a grade higher in all their subjects, and we can proudly state that we are the top-performing non-selective school in Lancashire for both attainment and progress this year. Impressively, two thirds of our students secured a Grade 4 or higher in subjects that make up the rigorous English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications. Perhaps most importantly, over 92% of our students achieved at least a Grade 4 in both English and maths, enabling them to take their next exciting step in their educational journey.

Securing academic results like these can't simply be attributed to being girls-only; it's the product of expert teaching by well-trained subject specialists, excellent attendance combined with a superb attitude to learning on the part of our students, and underpinned by parents providing vitally-needed support and encouragement.

Our Chair of Governors, Ms Russell-Hayes was overjoyed to receive the news of the achievements of the Class of 2023:

"On behalf of the governors, I would like to express my thanks for all the hard work of staff, students and parents that went into achieving these tremendous results. This level of progress does not happen over one year alone; it takes all five years of consistent hard work and dedicated effort by all concerned. I am always in awe of what we achieve as a school, consistently, year on year but I never think it can continue to improve. I am delighted to say that I have once again been proved wrong. Outstanding! Wow!"

pghSuccess
Since 1954



Art & Photography

This term, the Art and Design department are very proud of our Year 10 students who have made an excellent start on their GCSE coursework.

Most recently, we have been doing a series of workshops. Each workshop has given the students the opportunity to experiment and trial new techniques and processes. These have been combined to allow a 'mixed-media' effect and the students have enjoyed exploring and taking risks. Processes have included wax batik, resist media, hand-embroidery and machine-embroidery embellishments. Some of the results far exceed expectation at this point in the course and our students should be very proud of their achievements!

Mrs Gerrard, Art & Design



Computing

Creative Media

Working in the creative media industry isn't just about inspiration; it's a hands-on experience involving practical processes, skills, and techniques.

The industry demands professionals who can craft products that not only captivate their audience but are also aligned with a specific purpose. This is what year 11 have been trying to do as they have been working on their creative media assignment.

They have had the chance to specialise in one of three media sectors: audio/ moving image, print, or interactive design. Through lessons and workshops, they have honed their practical skills and techniques tailored to their chosen sector.

They then have begun to apply these skills to the entire spectrum of media production— from pre-production to production and post-production processes.

The ability to learn and apply new practical skills through experimentation, reflection, and refinement is a cornerstone of success in the creative industries.

Throughout this half term they have not only created media products but also reviewed their progress continually. We await the results of this component from the exam board.

Beyond the technical skills, they have also developed transferable skills such as teamwork, time management, and communication—crucial assets for their journey into further study and employment.

Well done, Year 11!

Mrs Honeyman, Associate Assistant Headteacher



Year 7 Computing

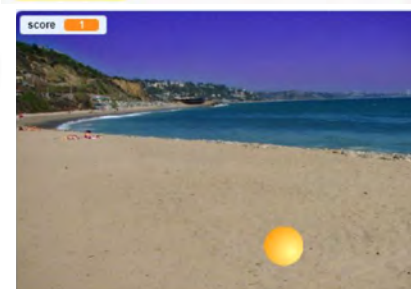
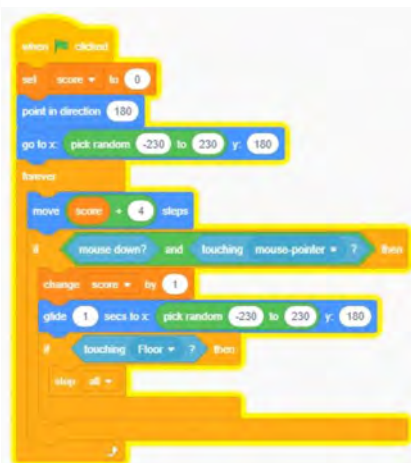
Year 7 have been looking at creating games by coding these in Scratch.

The students coded a sprite which could have been a ball, a monkey or any object they like using 'jigsaw pieces'. They have been looking at the what each colour of the jigsaw pieces represent and how they affect their sprite:

Motion – Blue
Sensing – Aqua
Operators – Green
Variables – Orange

Students then used these jigsaw pieces to put them together to control their sprite and make it do what they want to. Below is a piece of code that controls a ball, which bounces about and when clicked, increases the score. If the ball hits the floor, the game ends.

Mr Cafferkey



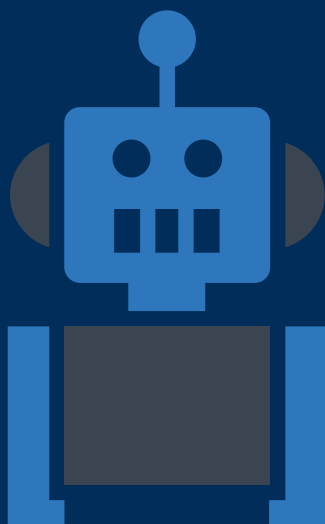
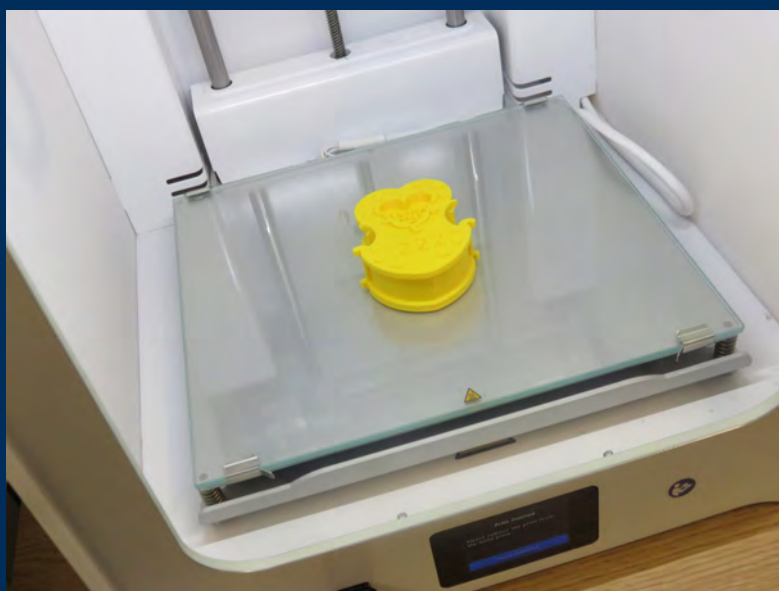
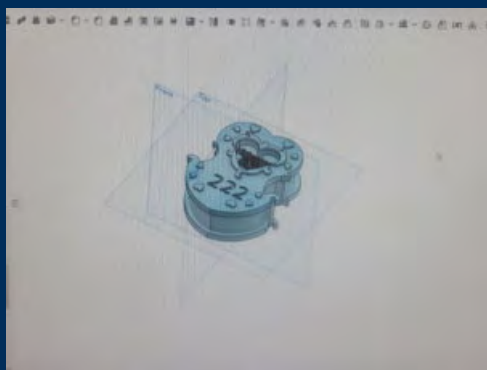
Technology

Design Technology

As we come to the end of the first full term of the school year, we would like to reflect on some of the exciting work that has been taking place in the Design and Technology department.

Jessica B in Year 9 has been showing great skills in designing products for creation using the 3D printer. This came about due to an inspirational workshop run in school by 'CREATE EDUCATION', a company trying to encourage the use of 3D printer technology in schools with a view to encouraging a love for all things STEM.

Jessica has really enjoyed exploring this project further by extending her knowledge of the software ONSHAPE to design further products to be made using the 3D printer. You can see the results in the pictures. Jessica hopes to be able to explore this even further and we will be looking for future projects and competitions that she may be able to take part in using her skills.



Technology

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Baking Club

Baking Club has been extremely popular this year. To allow all students wishing to attend, students have been given one term each throughout the year. You will have received a parent mail letter stating when your child will attend and this is then sent out again nearer the time to remind students.

In the baking club, we have made and decorated cupcakes, pancakes (and practised flipping them) flapjacks, brownies and gingerbread ready for Christmas celebrations.

Here is a snapshot of some of the projects that KS3 complete in Food and Nutrition:

Year 7

Students throughout year 7 are introduced to health and safety in the kitchen. They learn the importance of cleaning both equipment and surfaces, and storing and cooking food safely. Year 7 learn The Eatwell Guide (nutritional needs through life stages) and then apply these principles when planning and making meals. Year 7 cook a repertoire of predominantly savoury dishes such as pizza toast and pasta salad so that they are able to feed themselves and others a healthy and varied diet.

Students become competent in a range of cooking techniques, such as selecting and preparing ingredients, measuring and weighing, how to use various utensils (knives, spoons, spatulas) and electrical equipment (whisks). They also learn to apply heat in different ways (oven, grill, hob) and develop an awareness of taste, texture and smell to decide how to season dishes and combine ingredients.

Year 8

Students in year 8 are introduced to health and safety in the kitchen, bacterial contamination and the importance of controlling cross contamination in the kitchen. They conduct a food science investigation on raising agents and learn the functional and chemical properties of ingredients in bread making. Linking to the festival theme throughout the technology subjects, Year 8 plan and make festival-style hand held food, such as pizzas and burgers.

Year 9

Year 9 students are introduced to health and safety in the kitchen, along with an in-depth knowledge into microorganisms and avoiding food spoilage. Throughout the technology, the Year 9 theme is 'eco warriors' and in Food and Nutrition, students learn about consumer choices and how this can have an impact on farming, looking in particular at intensive egg farming. Students also learn about buying locally produced seasonal ingredients and the benefits of this. Then, using seasonal vegetables, students plan and make a seasonal soup and vegetable curry.

Miss Scott, Food Preparation and Nutrition



Bringing the Theatre to the Classroom

In the English Department, we believe that the experience of seeing live theatre is a magical experience that every student should enjoy.

Sadly, we are not able to take every student to see a play or musical live, so this year we have been looking for ways to bring the theatre experience into PGHS!

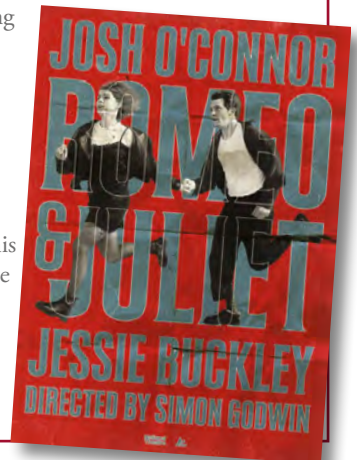
Earlier this year, Y11 gathered in the hall to watch the National Theatre's recent production of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Simon Godwin. The play took a more modern spin on some of the characters – even switching the roles of Lord and Lady Capulet! The English teachers even took on the task of learning how to use a popcorn machine, in order to provide tasty treats to all students.

This Christmas, we have looked for ways to bring a musical experience to every KS3 student. As Year 7 have recently been studying 'Myths and Monsters', they will be watching the brand-new musical *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, which explores the extraordinary world of a sorcerer and his rebellious daughter, as she discovers the explosive possibilities of her newfound magical powers.

Year 8 and 9 students are going to enjoy the exciting and inspirational *Billy Elliot*. This musical will build on knowledge they have gained studying the 'Coming of Age' genre in Year 8, and will also be excellent preparation for their study of *Blood Brothers* in Year 10.

We hope that all our students enjoy their theatre experience!

Miss Starkie, English Department



Year 8 Visit the Land of Oz at Liverpool Empire

On Thursday 14th December, Mrs Snowdon took 30 Year 8 students to Liverpool to see the West End musical 'The Wizard of Oz' starring Aston Merrygold as The Tin Man and The Vivienne as The Wicked Witch of the West.



Students were treated to the coming of age tale of Dorothy as she learns she had the power and strength to get home; she just had to learn it for herself. This spectacular production was truly a magical experience enjoyed by all.

Mrs Snowdon
Curriculum Leader for English

Lower School Geography

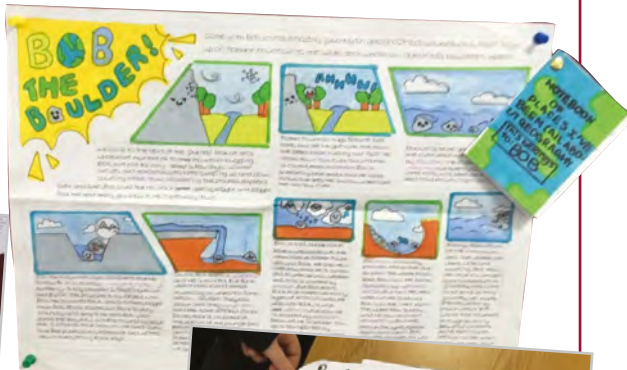
As we draw towards the end of a long but productive term, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the fantastic work completed by our young Geographers.



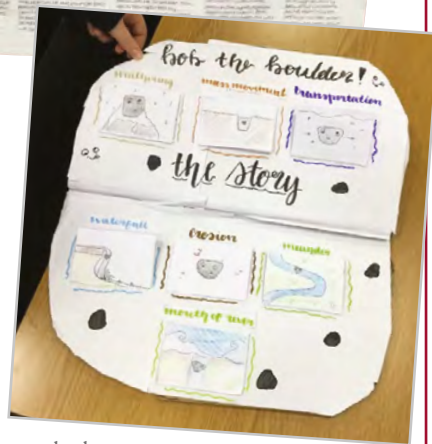
In Year 7, students went all high tech recently and had a go at delivering a weather forecast (which they wrote themselves) using the green screen. Looks like fun!



Year 8 have produced some fantastic Bob the Boulder storyboards, giving them an overview of the process, landforms and changes that we see in rivers as they flow from source to mouth. Bob has had some wild adventures!



The Geography Club have been having fun with cartopareidolia recently, which is the phenomenon of seeing faces, people and animals in the shapes of maps. My favourite has to be how the map of Venice in Italy looks like Patrick the Starfish (if you squint your eyes a bit!)



GCSE Geography

A particular well done to our Year 11 GCSE Geographers! It has been a long term with a period of Mock exams at the start of November.

The Geography Mock results were pleasing overall, and we have done some detailed performance analysis with classes. Year 11 are on their second to last topic from the syllabus content, meaning we will be able to embark on an extended period of revision, exam practise and preparation. Keep your eyes on the prize, Year 11!

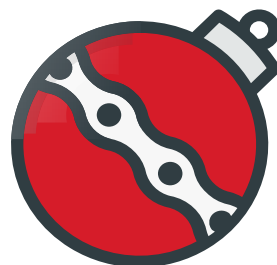
Some Christmas Geography

Below are a couple of interesting maps that I have found.

One details some of the more unusual Christmas traditions around the world and the other shows some of the place names around the UK with Christmas links.



Where's Earthy?



A Christmas gift of a Where's Earthy this time round – easy peasy! Usual rules apply – email your answer to g.bowles@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk. You will have to be very specific with your answer...



Have a great holiday and if you are celebrating Christmas, don't forget to ask Santa for a new up-to-date atlas of your very own and make sure you recycle all that packaging.

Merry Christmas from Mr Bowles, Mr Ward and Miss Lee.
Ho! Ho! Ho



Mr Bowles

History Department News

Year 11 History Trip to France and Belgium

"The 2023 France and Belgium trip was a huge success and every student got to experience life changing monuments and experiences. From exploring preserved trenches and World War cemeteries, watching the military bands performing at the last post and playing games of pool at the Munchenhof Hostel, we all had an amazing time while also displaying interest and curiosity on the historical tours of places like Theipval Memorial and the Sanctuary Wood Museum in Ypres. Before going on the trip, I was really looking forward to experiencing all of these historically significant sites and I wanted to learn more about the individual experiences of the soldiers who bravely fought during both World Wars. This is exactly what we did. I found this trip moving and I feel that I now fully understand the importance of Remembrance Day to celebrate the bravery of the soldiers who passed while serving their country."

India



"There were so many Belgium chocolate shops in Bruges and I tried a real Belgium waffle with chocolate which was really good. I also got a Bruges snow globe that I'm now obsessed with! Later, we went to the medieval torture museum which was really interesting, but some of them made my skin crawl."

Hannah



"During our visit to Bruges, we went shopping in the town centre. It was very beautiful and full of tourists. We also went to visit a Medieval Torture Museum with replicas of many of the torture devices used. This was very interesting to learn about and to see."

Aiza

"Visiting Sanctuary Wood and the Hill 62 Museum was incredibly impactful. I felt like I was living how the soldiers were living in those times. Even though we talk about it in class and look at pictures, it's not the same as being there in the moment and standing where the late soldiers stood. I feel like Sanctuary Wood and the museum was one of my favourite places as it gave me a greater insight, especially all the old stereograph pictures."

Bismah

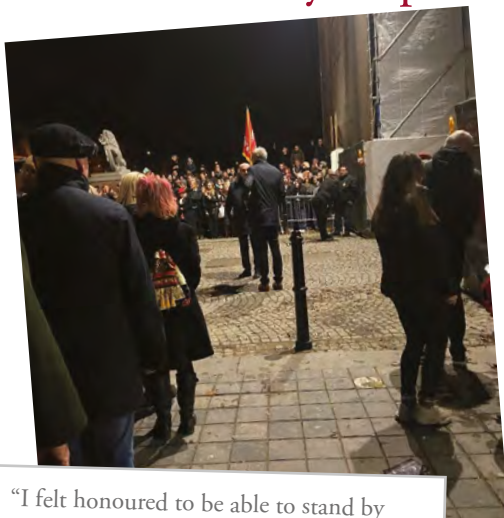
"Sanctuary Wood was a unique and fascinating experience. It was great to visit such a well-preserved WWI trench and be given the ability to put into perspective the lives that many soldiers had during 1914-1918. The museum attached showed well-kept pictures and artefacts found and used during the war. Overall, it created a great sense of empathy and sadness towards the people involved in the war and it was amazing to be able to visit on Remembrance Day."

Erin



History Department News

Year 11 History Trip to France and Belgium



"Our battlefields trip to Belgium and France was enjoyed by students and teachers alike, as the whole group visited numerous sites and were educated about the trials and triumphs of the First World War. In Belgium, we had the opportunity to pay our respects to the fallen soldiers of all nationalities at Tyne Cot, Langemark, and the Menin Gate. Some of our classmates took part in the honour of laying a wreath in remembrance. We were also given the opportunity to explore the cultural centres of Bruges and Ypres, where we shopped, visited monuments and ate the local cuisine! The success and enjoyment of the trip was entirely due to the efforts of the teachers who accompanied us, and the trip has created long-lasting memories for the whole group."

Libby

"I felt honoured to be able to stand by such well respected veterans of the armed forces and first responders from all over the world on such a monumental day. It was awe-inspiring to see people from every walk of life and people from all over the world celebrate those who fought so bravely and sacrificed so much for the freedom of others. The ceremony at the Menin Gate will forever hold a special place in my heart as both a commemoration and a time of mourning for those we lost and for that I will forever be thankful."

Alex



"The wreath laying at the Menin Gate was really enjoyable because I have never experienced it before and it was a big honour for me personally. I had a great time watching all the bands marching through. Seeing the support from my friends and people around me, made it even more enjoyable."

Sai

"Sanctuary Wood was a very special part of the trip because it showed preserved trenches from the war and it reflected how the soldiers on the front line were living. Walking in the trenches showed how much they fought for us in the war. We also observed a 2-minute silence during our visit to the Sanctuary Wood and we conveyed our respects to the soldiers at the front line."

Mariyah

"The German cemetery was a key experience because it showed the different layout and the approach they chose to take. The difference between the Tyne Cot cemetery is how they have gravestones in the shape of a square and laid flat. They had a statue of 4 men which was very moving and there are 30,000 people buried in a pit."

Maisie



Mr Herbert, Curriculum Leader for History

NRICH Mathematics Games to Promote Conditional Knowledge

Here are a few simple mathematics games that can be played at home or in class to improve students' mathematical thinking and reasoning strategies.

These two games come from a website called NRICH.

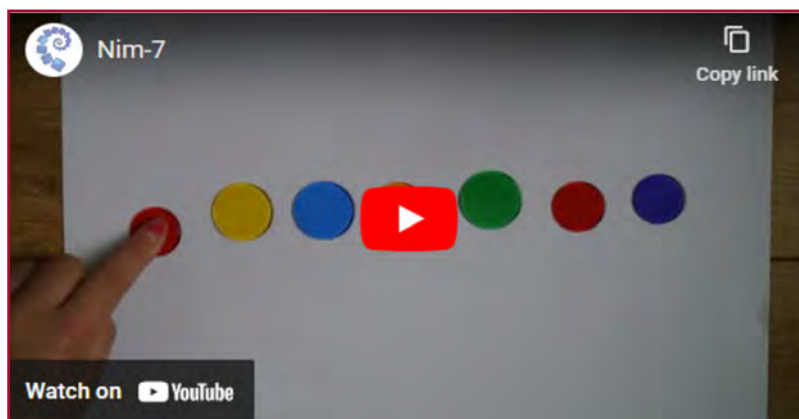
NRICH believe that successful mathematicians understand curriculum concepts and are fluent in mathematical skills and procedures. They also believe that they can solve problems, explain and justify their thinking, and have a positive attitude towards mathematics and to themselves as learners of mathematics.

With this in mind, NRICH mathematical activities aim to nurture curious, resourceful and confident learners of mathematics.

Game 1: You will need seven counters.

Nim-7

1. Place seven counters in a line and decide who will go first. (In the next game, the other player will have the first turn.)
2. Each player takes it in turns to take away either one counter or two counters.
3. The player who takes the last counter (or counters) wins.
4. Play several times so that you get a good 'feel' for the game.



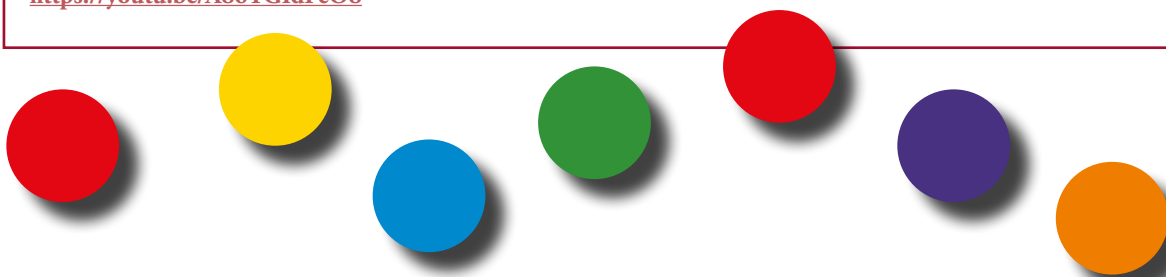
Are there any points in the game, before the end, when you know who the winner is going to be? How do you know?

Can you find a way to play so that you are sure you will win right from the start?

Does it matter who has the first turn? Why or why not?

Once you are an expert at this game, you may like to try playing Daisy, which is another Nim-like game.

<https://youtu.be/A86TGIdPeO8>



Maths Department News

NRICH Mathematics Games to Promote Conditional Knowledge *continued*

Game 2:

Got-it

Got It is an adding game for two players. You can play against the computer or with a friend. It is a version of a well-known game called Nim.

Start with the Got It target 23.

1. The first player chooses a whole number from 1 to 4.
2. Players take turns to add a whole number from 1 to 4 to the running total.
3. The player who hits the target of 23 wins the game.

Play the game several times.

Can you find a winning strategy?

Can you always win?

Does your strategy depend on whether or not you go first?

This can also be played on-line. _

To change the game, choose a new Got It target or a new range of numbers to add on.

Test out the strategy you found earlier. Does it need adapting?

Can you work out a winning strategy for any target?

Can you work out a winning strategy for any range of numbers?

Is it best to start the game? Always?

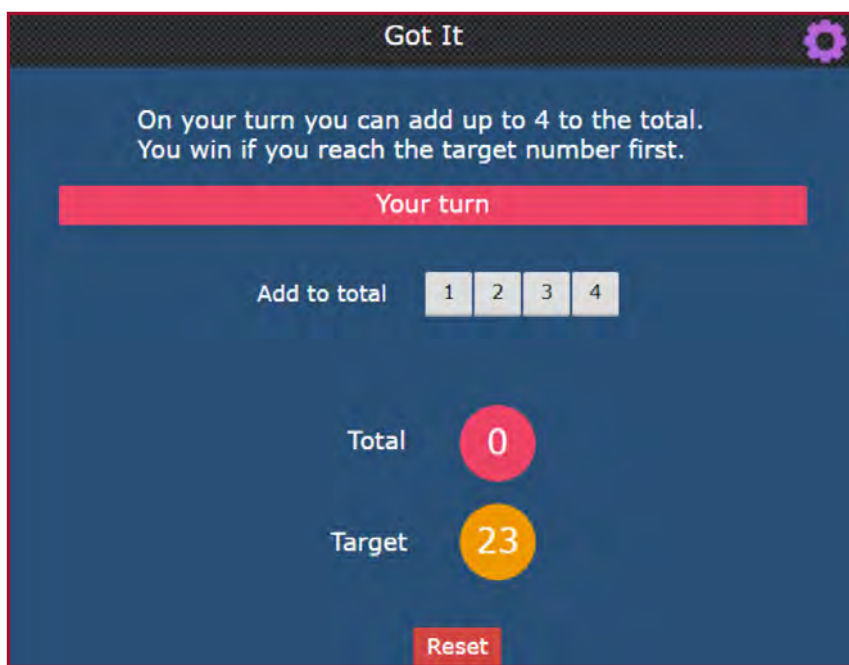
Away from the computer, challenge your friends:

One of you names the target and range and lets the other player start.

Extensions:

Can you play without writing anything down?

Consider playing the game where a player CANNOT add the same number as that used previously by the opponent.



Mrs Bennett, Mathematics Department

Mr McVey’s Mysterious Maths - Christmas 2023 Edition

Seasons Greetings! If you’re at a loose end over the Christmas break, why not have a go at one or both of the following festive codebreaker activities.

As ever, any student who can provide me with the correct solutions either by email or in person, will earn themselves a coveted Head’s Breakfast in January 2024! Merry Christmas and good luck!



CHRISTMAS CODE CRACKER

Crack the Christmas code to work out the hidden festive message below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
3 x 9	4 x 2	10 x 4	2 x 9	2 x 7	4 x 8	6 x 7	4 x 6	5 x 3	6 x 5	2 x 11	6 x 8	7 x 3

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
4 x 5	3 x 3	7 x 7	6 x 9	9 x 4	7 x 4	4 x 3	8 x 8	2 x 5	9 x 9	4 x 4	2 x 3	4 x 11



24	27	10	14	27



30	9	48	48	6

40	24	36	15	28	12	21	27	28



22

www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk

CHRISTMAS PICTURE CODE BREAKER



Work out the value of each of the images by looking at the coded calculations below.



x



= 108



-



= 38



+



= 70



+



= 70



-



= 35



+



= 47



+



= 85



-



= 38



x



= 81



+



= 73

Once you have cracked the code and worked out the value of each of the images, answer the coded calculation below.



+



+

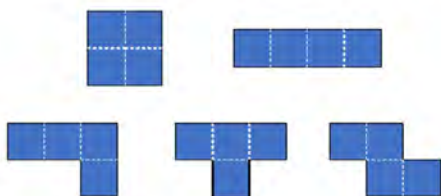




MESME Maths Circle - More than just a maths club!

Would you enjoy tackling these problems?

These five shapes are each made of four squares.



Can you fit them into this 4 by 5 rectangle without any overlapping?

The sum below is correct.

$$24 + 21 + 20 + 12 + 11 + 10 + 2 = 100$$

Which $+$ signs should be changed to $-$ signs to make the result equal to 50?

Would you enjoy...

- Grappling with challenging yet satisfying problems?
- Improving your problem-solving and reasoning skills whilst also having fun?
- Making new friends?
- Sharing and debating your ideas with others?



Come to a taster session

What is a taster session?

A fun sample session of what MESME Maths circles are like

Where will the taster session be?

Lancaster University School of Maths

When will the taster session be?

Every Wednesday, 16:30 – 17:20, from 17th January 2024.



Maths Department News

What other students have said about MESME maths circles

"It's fun to see people think and good to see other peoples' perspectives. It's also good to get problem solving skills" – Ark Acton

"I enjoy the conversations and fun maths problems which we work on. I enjoy the different debates we have" – Ark Soane Academy

"It's fun working as a team with my best friend" – Barnsley Academy

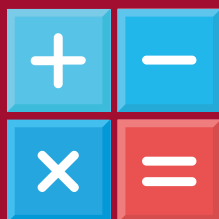
"It is interesting maths problems you get to solve in groups" – Glenmore and Winton Academies

"This is a way of me improving my maths and showing off my maths skills" – Ark Isaac Newton Academy

Please contact Mrs Bennett (Maths) if you are interested.

Sparx Maths

Since September, we have answered over 773,741 questions correctly in 7,659 hours across 800 students. This is a tremendous achievement from the students this year on Sparx Maths and we are on track to smash the records that they achieved last year.



SPARX XP BOOST COMPETITION

The Maths department are currently running a Sparx Maths XP Boost competition that will finish on 15th December. All students are able to gain bonus XP on Sparx maths during this time by completing the mini games and XP Boost tasks each week.

Each Maths class are competing against each other, along with students competing for the XP Crown.

Currently the top 3 Maths classes are:

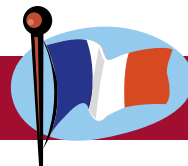
Position	Class	Average XP
1st	9 Set 2	7871
2nd	8 Set 1	5922
3rd	8 Set 4	4553

The top 3 pupils in each year are:

Position	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1st	Lucy B	Cherlotte Y	Naomi S	Iyla K	Molly T
2nd	Ellie B	Esther I	Poppy M	Cassie-Faye B	Victoria K
3rd	Fatima R	Micah T	Emily W	Linah A	Jemima B

Keep up the fantastic work! Everything is still to play for as there are still a few days to go until the competition closes. Good luck!

Mr Cafferkey, Mathematics Department



What a busy first term it has been here in the MFL department and 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.

Year 7 have worked on learning how to introduce themselves, Year 8 Germanists have learned how to describe their past holidays and learned our new favourite word 'Kakerlaken' and Year 8 French students have learned how to introduce themselves, give personal information and opinions. Year 9 pupils have also been working hard and have produced some lovely letters and cards to send over to France and Germany. A huge well done to Year 11 for working through a really busy term and mock exams, pushing towards our goals next year and taking on the new challenges as we prepare for our mock speaking exams in January. 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, all!

Blooket winners this half term Frau Gill

Mrs Gill's Year 7 class have been in strong competition to see who can be the best at Blooket.

Blooket is a great quiz game where students can learn and practise their German vocabulary in a series of games to see who can triumph. This term following students have consistently proved there are the Blooket Queens. Well done, all!

1. Eva W
2. Samara B
3. Yasmin C
4. Esther C
5. Mollie S



Nikolaustag

The Christmas celebrations started early in Germany last Wednesday, 6th December as this day marks der Nikolaustag for many families across German speaking countries and children prepare for the visit of St Nikolaus.

To prepare for the visit, children should tidy their rooms and clean their toys. Shoes should be polished, and set out by the door or on a windowsill. (Some children even leave a bit of hay or straw for St. Nikolaus's Donkey).

They leave them outside in they hope if they've been good enough, Nikolaus will fill it with all kinds of sweet treats and toys. Rumour has it that if you have not been good, Nikolaus will leave you some twigs and sticks instead!



Our KS3 classes tested this out last week when we made our German boots and set them out ready – I wonder who ended up with treats and who ended up with twigs? Here is a video that our KS3 classes will be watching this week, explaining all about the traditional story of Nikolaustag:

<https://kinder.wdr.de/tv/die-sendung-mit-der-maus/av/video-lachgeschichte-nikolaus-100.html>

Modern Foreign Languages News

MFL Baking Competition

Friday 20 October 2023

As promised previously, the winners of the MFL baking competition are as follows:

Y11 Aiza and Afeefah - Pakistan

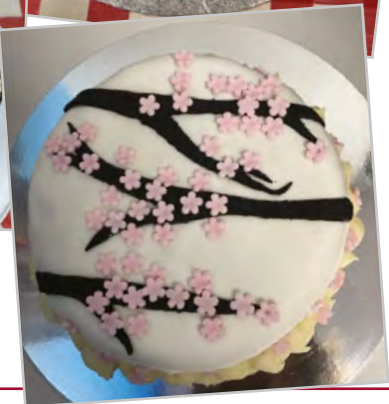
Y10 Ruby and Hattie - Texas

Y9 Lily Taylor - Japan

Y8 Hannah and Kissah - Greece

Y7 Keita Strautina – Latvia

Well done to everyone who participated - it was a delicious way to end the first half-term.



Year 8 French

Year 8 have made a brilliant start in French which they started studying in September.

Last lesson, we had 7 journalists equipped with microphones (special thanks to Mrs Williams for the loan) who went around the classroom and interviewed their classmates in French. Each journalist had a different question. At the end, we also had a “celebrity” in the hot seat answering all seven questions as quickly as they could. Mahnoor, Sophie and Esther were particularly cool under pressure. Well done, Y8!

Madame Raine



Year 9 and Year 10 French pen pals

Year 9 French have received their first letter this week from our latest partner school in the Loire Valley in France. We were very impressed with their art skills.

Year 10 French also posted their replies to their new pen pals last week and it seems our students are equally gifted. They were able to write with detail and accuracy and put a lot of effort into their letters.

Writing to pen pals is not only a great way for students to use their foreign language skills for a real purpose but is also an opportunity to revisit everything they have studied and get an insight into a different culture. Students are also encouraged to show curiosity and compassion (some of our school values) by asking their pen pals questions about cultural life in their country.

Our latest school is near "Château de Chambord" in the Loire Valley which looks such a wonderful place on have on your doorstep! I am not at all jealous!

Madame Raine



A level visit from Runshaw

Our Year 11 students had a great morning this half term with a visit from Paul Wyton, a German teacher from Runshaw College who spoke to our students about life at Runshaw College and A level German, what to expect and the topics they cover.

Our students really enjoyed the talk and gained a lot from it with lots of interesting questions at the end of the session. A huge thanks to Paul for coming in to take the time to talk to our students. Paul will be back in after Christmas to do some exam preparation sessions with our German students which we are really looking forward to.



Herr Briscoe Year 8 Penpals

My Year 8 classes have initiated a Pen Pal scheme with students from the Sickingen-Gymnasium in the German city of Landstuhl.

This has enabled the students to use both the present and perfect tenses to discuss themselves and a recent holiday they've experienced. Additionally, it provides the students with an opportunity to engage in conversations with native speakers of the language and exchange perspectives on their own experiences, as well as those of their Pen Pals living in the United Kingdom and Germany.



Mrs Gill, Curriculum Leader for MFL



Neetal Parekh-festival of Diwali

As part of the Year 8 enrichment offer, on Thursday 16th November, we were delighted to welcome Neetal Parekh into school to lead a year 8 assembly.

Neetal is an Education Liaison officer from Lancashire County Council. She spoke to the students about the festival of Diwali which recently took place.

The students really enjoyed listening to her speak as shown in the below quotes from the year 8 students.

"I liked hearing Neetal talk about the festival of Diwali. She was really enthusiastic and I liked listening to her."

"One thing that stood out to me was how Hindu Dharma is the preferred term over Hinduism. This is because dharma refers to a way of life."

"It was fascinating to hear the Hindu speaker talk about her faith. She talked about good beating evil in the story of Rama and Sita and how this is the reason why Hindu's use lights during Diwali. The lights symbolise goodness beating the darkness (evil)."

The Ramayana – The story of Rama and Sita is the reason behind the festival of Diwali. It is first studied in year 7 and then revisited with students in year 8 and 11 (core RE).

What is the story about?

"Dashratha, King of Ayodhya, has four sons by three different wives: Rama (who was the eldest), Lakshman and Satrugna (who were twins) and Bharat (the youngest). Rama has married Sita and Dashratha wishes to pass the throne to his eldest son. But the mother of Dashratha's youngest son, Bharat, is jealous and wants her child to be king. She forces Dashratha to exile Rama, Sita and Lakshman to the forest for 14 years. In the forest the evil demon Ravana seizes Sita and takes her to his island home of Lanka. Rama follows a trail of Sita's jewellery and then meets Hanuman, the monkey-king. Hanuman uses his magic power of flight to discover where Sita is and then, with Rama, they raise an army of animals and march on Lanka. Rama kills Ravana with a magic arrow and then, their exile over, he returns to Ayodhya with Sita and Lakshman. The people light their way home with little lamps left outside their homes." (BBC Bitesize)

If you'd like to know more about the story follow the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-festivals-diwali-rama-and-sita/zc84cmn>

Miss Hollier, RE Department



Year 7 Spirited Arts

In Year 7 RE, students explore the theme of “where do we belong?”.

The first topic focused on what it means to belong to a religion. As part of this topic students have learnt about core features that can be found in most religions from God/gods, rules and leaders to common ways of worshipping. After exploring their own sacred items, students focused on how we can promote respect for all religions. The Year 7s were then given the homework task of creating their own symbol that they think will promote respect for all religions. Take a look at some of the brilliant symbols they created...

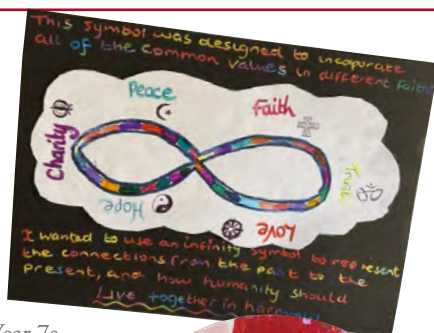
1st place- Olivia AB 7A

2nd place- Isabelle C 7G

3rd place- Mollie S 7G

Congratulations!

Miss Buckle, RE Department



Edinburgh Trip

As half term approached and storm Babet hit the UK, 47 Year 8 students and staff set off to Edinburgh.

The stormy weather did not stop us and we had a smooth journey down. There was a quick dash from the coach in the wind and rain into the museum on our arrival. Students took time to explore each floor looking at the amazing scientific and technological advances through time including Dolly the Sheep and the amazing animal display.

After checking in to the Edinburgh Youth hostel, we ate our evening meal and then had a quiz night, delivered by the wonderful quiz master, Ms Byard. Students were very competitive for the final prize. It was very close!

The next day, we headed to Edinburgh zoo. The rain had eased and the students were lucky enough to see the UK's only giant pandas, Yang Guang and Tian Tian. They will be leaving the zoo in December to return to China as part of conservation work as they are at the end of a 10-year program here. The students enjoyed the experience and bought lots of gifts in the gift shop for themselves and their families – many a cuddly animal teddy too, I may add!

An afternoon of shopping followed in St James quarter which saw more purchases from students eager to show us their “haul”, once back at the youth hostel. We had an evening meal that proved popular due to the brownies and then a trip tenpin bowling. Students and staff competed in teams and even the staff got involved. Some strong skills seen and lots of strikes. There were some intense games of air hockey going on too!

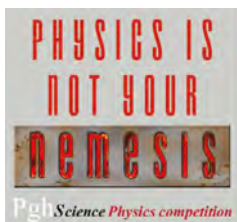
The final morning consisted of a swift tidy up and checking out of rooms. We then headed to Edinburgh castle. It was a beautiful sunny, but chilly day with no signs of storm Babet remaining. This meant that the views from the top of the castle were stunning. Students had a look at some of the castle and entered the crown room which contains the Honours of Scotland and are the oldest Crown jewels in Britain. They were also used in the Coronation of King Charles III earlier in the year.

Overall, the whole experience was really enjoyable to students and both staff. There were some wonderful memories made and they were a credit to both the school and their parents.

Mrs R Cahill, Science Department



Science Department News



Rollercoaster Competition

This term all of our year 10 Physicists have been studying the unit of Energy, so it's time for our annual Physics competition!

Every year 10 Physicist has taken part in our annual rollercoaster competition. Each student was tasked with designing their own rollercoaster with accompanying calculations.

All the entries were amazing and the science department has been blown away by the creativity of year 10. Here are our winners:

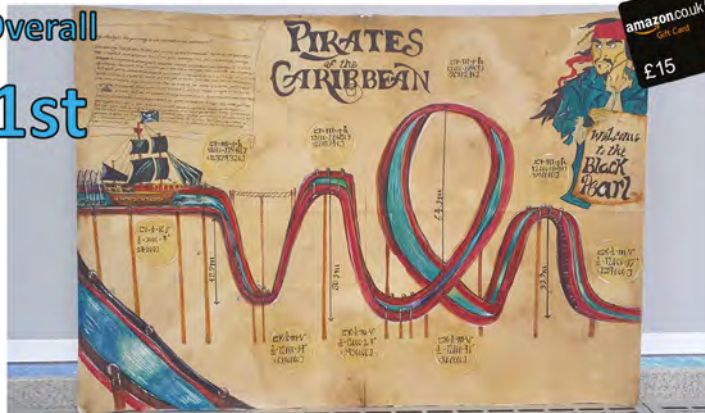
- £15 amazon voucher: **Zaakirah M**
- £10 amazon voucher: **Ruby C**
- £5 amazon voucher: **Anmol A, Ava R, Eden F, Jasmine S, Leah C, Emma C & Jenna K**
- Chocolate: **Alisha A, Carly W, Aysha M, Grace R, Cassie-Faye B, Katie T & Bella T**
- Heads breakfast: **Lydia W, Dhriti S, Eliza S, Esme H, Mollie O, Natalie U & Olivia T**
- Heads commendation: **Eva M, Cheuk Y, Tammie K, Zara H, Emerson W, Kelsie M & Caleb P**

Congratulations to everyone!

Miss Forrest, Teacher of Science

10a/Sc1 – Zaakirah M

Overall
1st



10a/Sc3 – Ruby C

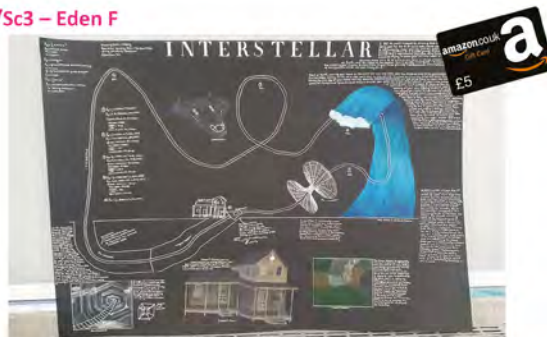
Overall
2nd



10a/Sc4 – Jasmine S



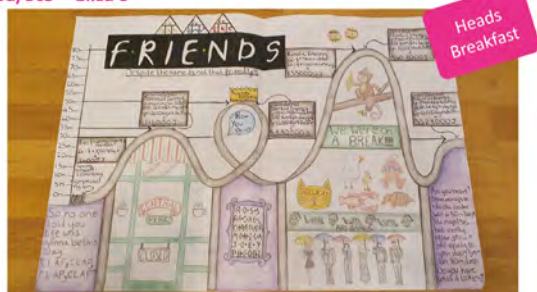
10a/Sc3 – Eden F



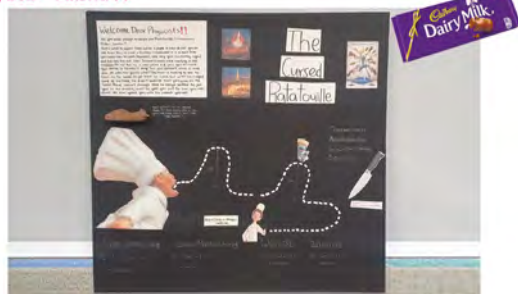
10a/Sc5 – Emerson W



10a/Sc3 – Eliza S



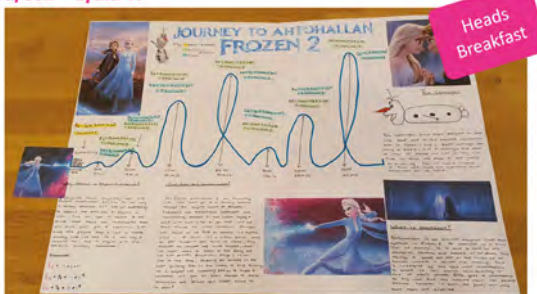
10a/Sc1 – Alisha A



10a/Sc1 – Anmol A



10a/Sc1 – Lydia W



Science Club

As Science club comes to an end for 2023, it's time to reflect on the journey of exploration and discovery that our budding scientists have embarked upon.



Chromatography Butterflies: Unveiling the Spectrum of Colours.

One of the highlights was our captivating chromatography butterfly's activity. Witnessing the magic of colours separating and creating stunning patterns.



Halloween Slime: A Spooky Twist to Science.

As Halloween approached, our science club embraced the spooky spirit with a thrilling concoction of Halloween slime. Mixing, stretching and squishing their way through the slimy experiment, students discovered the science of non-Newtonian fluids.



Flame Tests: Fireworks.

Igniting curiosity, our flame tests experiment brought the excitement of colours to a whole new level. Students observed the mesmerizing dance of flames, each colour indicating the presence of specific elements, linking it to how fireworks have their amazing colours



Traffic Lights: Illuminating the Path to Understanding.

Our traffic lights activity brought the principles of chemical reactions to life. Students explored the transformative powers of acids and bases, creating a vivid display of colour changes resembling the familiar traffic light sequence.



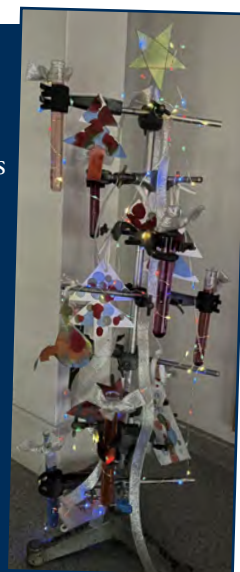
The Chemistree: Celebrating a Merry Chemistry Christmas.

Wrapping up the year on a festive note, our Chemistree activity combined the joy of the holiday season with the wonders of chemistry. Students adorned a "Chemistree" with colourful reactions, creating a visual representation of the diverse aspects of chemistry that they explored throughout the year. It was a delightful way to celebrate the spirit of science during the holiday season.

Here's to a term well-spent and the countless scientific adventures that lie ahead!

Stay curious, stay inspired! ★★

Mrs R Cahill, (Science teacher)



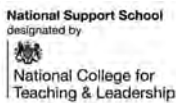
Learning Support Department News

SEND cinema trip

On Wednesday 13th December some of the Learning Support Department team took a group of girls to the Vue Cinema in Preston to get in the festive spirit and watch the film 'Elf'.

The girls have worked so hard this term and settled in so well to Years 7 and 8 that we wanted to treat them and say "well done" for all their hard work. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the film and laughed lots all the way through. Well done, girls for a great first term!

Mrs Lucas



Penwortham Girls'
High School

Cop Lane Penwortham Preston PR1 0SR

Telephone: 01772 743399 Fax: 01772 752475

Email: enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk

Website: www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk

Follow us on twitter [@PenworthamGH](https://twitter.com/PenworthamGH)