

## Ongoing Priorities

### Attendance Update

Attendance is an ongoing priority for us. All indicators point to the link between excellent attendance and excellent educational outcomes for our students. Here are our latest figures. A big thank you to all parents and carers for supporting our drive for outstanding school attendance.

Year 7-2019-2020	97.20%
Year 8-2019-2020	97%
Year 9-2019-2020	96.50%
Year 10-2019-2020	95.40%
Year 11-2019-2020	96.70%
Total 2019-2020	96.60%

As ever, we prioritise exemplary standards in the classroom. These are crucial factors that underpin outstanding academic achievement. Staff are always mindful of the following:

1. High expectations of our students (including appearance, organisation and conduct);
2. Respect - self, peer & adults. Take every opportunity to promote respect across school;
3. Reward and recognise the correct behaviours;
4. Zero Tolerance to low level disruption in the classroom: what we permit, we promote;
5. Plan for positive behaviour in the classroom: simply sanctioning students will not change negative behaviour. However, building deep and meaningful relationships will help to promote a culture of positive learning

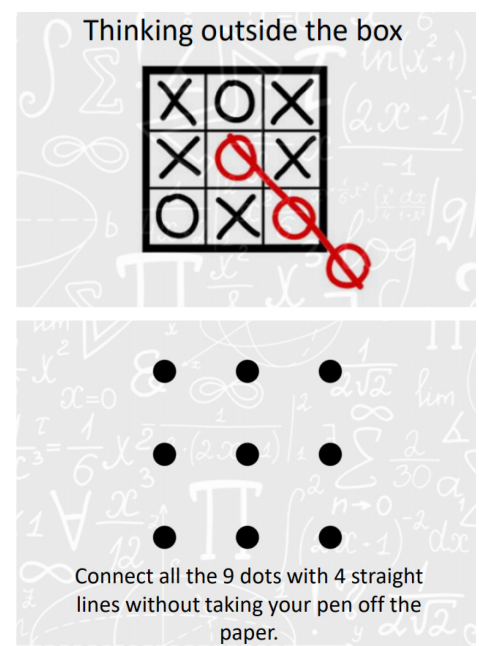
## Whole School News

### Numeracy in the Real World

We are running Personal Tutor Time activities for numeracy in Years 7-9 which are going great. These weekly puzzles are designed to engage our students in developing problem solving skills and include a link to SMSC across the curriculum.

We are always mindful that numeracy covers a whole range of skills needed in real life, from number sense, time, measurement and understanding statistics in the news, to developing reasoning and problem-solving strategies.

Have a go yourselves!



## Literacy for Life

Each week we publish 'Bling My Life Skills' which is referred to throughout the week. This focuses primarily on Literacy & Numeracy and always includes a challenging 'Word of the Week.' This week it's 'Umbradge.'

**Bling my LIFE skills**

This week's **THOUGHT** for the **WEEK** is focused on the **LOVE**.

**SUFFIXES**

Suffix = group of letters we fix to the end of a word. Suffixes change the meaning or purpose of the word.

Suffix - cian

General meaning - person with a skill

Examples - musician, electrician

Can you think of any other words with the suffix 'cian'?

**NUMERACY CHALLENGE**

Thinking outside the box

The term is thought to derive from management consultants in the 1970s and 1980s challenging their clients to solve the 'nine dots' puzzle, whose solution requires some lateral thinking.

Connect all the 9 dots with 4 straight lines without taking your pen off the paper.

**Umbrage: WORD of the WEEK**

feeling of anger or annoyance caused by something offensive.

*World Book Day is fast approaching (Thursday 5th March)*

*This year's theme is 'Share a Million Stories'.*

Coincidentally, The World Health Organisation has declared 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, in honour of the bicentenary of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. Our aim is for our students to be exposed to different texts (fiction and non-fiction) looking at the influences of nurses and midwives on literature/ writing/ research etc.

Reading leaders in each department will work with teams to resource this which we know that students will enjoy.



## SMSC

We had an outstanding SMSC Day recently with so much going on. The girls v boys 'iron off' was particularly entertaining plus the fantastic Well Being Fair in the main hall for all year groups was appreciated by everyone. Supporters included:

Cancer Support Centre  
Got Your Back: for victims of crime  
School Health  
Child Bereavement UK  
Young Carers  
Young Addaction  
Kooth: emotional wellbeing

Our work promoting students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is now incorporated into our curriculum lessons at key points in the academic year. Mr Hewitt & Miss McKeown have been doing some great work with their maths class with students working in groups to solve fraction problems relating to real life situations and contexts. Students' names even formed part of each of the problems which made them even more relatable and personal. Great work!



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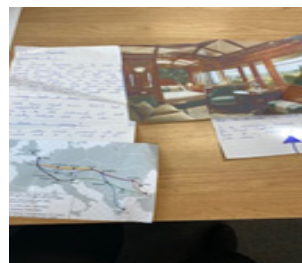
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## Let's Get Creative!

Year 8 are clearly on a roll with their creative homeworks!

Miss Griffith's class have been researching Murder on the Orient Express and have presented their work really imaginatively. We are so impressed!



## Comic Club Commences



Mr Tutty is up and running now with his Comic Club which is so popular already that we think he may need to get a bigger venue! All students in Years 7-9 more than welcome.

## Published Authors



Well done to Mrs Webster and her Year 8 class. Taking the 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2' film as their inspiration, every student crafted a story involving characters that mirrored the food – animal hybrids from the movie which Mr Booth has now published for them in their very own anthologies. They were thrilled!

# School Successes and Celebrations

## DofE Celebration

We had a wonderful night celebrating the many achievements of our Bronze & Silver DofE students with entertainment provided by Ella Busow and Year 8 & 10 dancers – brilliant. It is easy to see why we are a Centre of Excellence for DofE and so much credit for our successes must go to Mr Burns and all staff who help out and give so much of their time voluntarily. Fantastic!

We have 2 expeditions coming up for Bronze students in March and May. We have 80 participants this year up 20 from last year. The expeditions are taking place in Cheshire, camping under the shadows of Beeston Castle.



Key Dates:

*21st – 22nd March: Bronze Practice*

*16th – 17th May: Bronze Assessment*

## Got to Dance Spectacular ( and it was! )



Many of you who attended our Got to Dance shows will understand just how amazing these nights were – unbelievable talent and dedication and a wonderful team ethos. This is an event that we look forward to so much with so much work and commitment behind the scenes. Well done everyone!



## First Tech Challenge Success



Our Prometheus Robotics Team were the winning Alliance in the Skystone Robotics Tournament of the STEM First Tech Challenge recently and as a North West Regional Finalist they also gained a place at the National Finals of this global competition which takes place in London during March. We wish the team well for the National Final!

## Our School Rocked!



Our Performance students rocked the free world with 2 fantastic performances of School of Rock: The Next Generation. Again, to create wonderful events like this takes hours and hours of work, both on the stage and behind the scenes. It was so good to see students of all abilities having their moment on the big stage which helped to create something memorable. Well done to everyone involved.



## Students Out & About

Our Performance Faculty took 40 music students to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to watch the Halle Orchestra perform some of the GCSE set works. What a fantastic experience for everyone involved!

Drama and Performing Arts students also enjoyed a trip to watch Woman in Black at The Playhouse theatre in Liverpool. Terrifying!



## Chinese New Year



We celebrated Chinese New Year with a themed menu in the restaurant accompanied by suitably oriental music. Mrs Holland, plus our Art Team, Art Student Leaders and our International Team also put together an awesome display under the stairs and we rounded our celebration off with fortune cookies for all students. Time will tell if they heed the advice given!



## Rebecca Rocks Fundraising

Our Year 7 bake sale was a huge success - over 2 days we raised £191.11 for Rebecca Rocks. Once again, a massive thank you to Maddie, Ezra, Olivia, Laura, Amy and Rhianna for organising and running both days. This communicates so much about our students, don't you think?





## Commendation for Our Young Hero



We are so proud of Ellis Hulme in Year 7 whose bravery helped to prevent disaster at Spike island recently. With 5 of his chums, Ellis braved the freezing water to rescue a mum and baby after the pram that the child was in had toppled into the canal. Ellis has been formally recognised at a ceremony at Widnes Police Station for 'displaying bravery and community spirit.' Fantastic and well done Ellis from us all!

## Building our Links with Widnes Hall



How wonderful it was to spend the morning with our friends at Widnes Hall Care Home. Our Community Team are now working closely with residents with a range of activities. On our recent visit we were helping to choreograph a dance routine that the home wishes to record and send to families. Thanks to Lily, Olivia, Robyn and Annabel, we are nearly there!

## Getting to the Heart of the Matter



Mrs Evans' Year 9s have really been getting to The Heart of the Matter with their very first dissections. Talk about hands on experience! But they are clearly enjoying the learning and that's what counts!



## Success on the Sportsfield

Both our Year 8 Rugby League team and our Year 10 footballers are riding high at the moment. Our rugby lads are still in the frame for a place in the North West Counties Cup Final with a thrilling 28 – 28 drawn against current champions Great Sankey. Replay to follow. Our Y10 footballers have now reached the last 8 of the National Cup for the first time in our school's history following an unbelievably exciting win against a strong Clitheroe side. 500+ teams compete in this tournament which truly puts the achievement into perspective. Well done everyone!



## Table Tennis Success

Our U13 girls competed in Blackburn recently in the Regional Table Tennis Finals beating 3 other schools in the process: a brilliant achievement. They travel now to Hinckley on 14th March to compete in the National Finals and, of course, we wish the girls all the luck in the world.

Our U16 girls travelled to Grantham and were runners up in their Regional Final. They will have to wait now until next year to see if they can win back their national title and we're sure they will!

We have also enjoyed great individual successes with Niamh Scarborough becoming the U16 Champion with Jess Morris lifting the U13 title. Fantastic!





## Karate Success

A huge well done also to Ava and Esmé McCann who both competed in the FEKO National Karate Championships recently. Esmé came back with a gold, a silver and a bronze and Ava achieved a gold. Fantastic achievements

## Romance is in the Air!



Those of you who follow us on Twitter and Instagram will be aware of our school teddy that the kids absolutely adore. We incorporate him into every themed display under the stairs. For Valentine's Day he was sat at the table on his own, but thankfully his date turned up just in the nick of time. Watch this space for his next adventure!