

UPTON

voice

UHS
meets
USA

10TH
EDITION

MACBETH
&
MATILDA

NETBALL
SUCCESS

Sustainable
Fashion Show



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Engage

Explore several different clubs across the school including STEM, Badminton, Eco Schools, DEI Action & Writers Workshop.

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Join our learners in the rehearsals for Matilda and Macbeth.

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More amazing sporting achievements from our learners this term. Well done to the PE department for delivering such an extensive programme.

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Trips and visits

There hasve been a variety of trips including; New York, Florida, Warner Bros, university trips and more!!

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School + Community

This issue shows our school community brought together through; sustainable fashion, creative exhibitions, Proms and Awards Evening.



ACTIVITY

Find these 6 hidden snowflakes

Front cover photography & design by Chloe B Year 13



Editor's note



As we wrap up the autumn term here at Upton-By-Chester High school, it is clear that it has been very rewarding! There have been exciting opportunities and achievements, from getting involved in preparation for our school productions of *Matilda* and *Macbeth* to our wide range of trips. Our 10th issue captures it all!

We hope you enjoy reading our showcase of trips and visits such as the Year 12 Conwy residential and the incredible opportunity to visit New York with Business, History and Politics. Daisy and Ethan reflect on their visit to Auschwitz, which offered an important insight into the history and reality of the Holocaust. We are really grateful for all the opportunities to explore new places and are so thankful to the staff for making these experiences possible!

Personally, a highlight for me has been watching this magazine progress from its first issue to its 10th. We have all learned more about design, developing our skills and explored so many experiences. As always, I'd like to thank Miss Seery for making the Upton Voice possible and giving it so much time and dedication! To the originals: Hannah and Grace, thanks for putting in the hard work and helping shape the magazine from the very beginning. I have loved working alongside the rest of the editorial team and cannot wait to see how their ideas grow and carry on to the next edition!

We hope you love our 10th edition and celebrate this achievement with us. We also post on social media, so make sure to follow us there! @upton_voice

*Annie H Yr13
& The Editorial Team*



WRITER'S WORKSHOP

A literary world of

your own

BY ALEK

I HAVE A Dream COMPETITION!

At this club we have recently worked on a new writing competition for 11-18 year-olds, with an interesting prompt for all poets- 'I Have a Dream'. Anything learners dreamed of has a chance of being published in a book organised by a company that has previously done so to our school's works.

We have experimented with various poetic structures and more recently we have written both historical fiction as well as short stories for a new horror/sci-fi competition- 'Stranger Sagas'. Be sure to visit M7 on Wednesday to experience an extraordinary opportunity to express your creativity- perhaps creating a 'Stranger Saga'?

It's your time to be an author.

**"Some possible prompts
could include..."**

I wish I could change...

In the future...

**My wish comes true...
and many more!"**

The current Writer's Workshop team in Miss Blumenthal's class.



SOME OF THE POWERFUL POEMS BY TALENTED YOUNG AUTHORS!

I had a dream
I dreamed of hugs and kisses
I dreamed of laughter and giggles
I dreamed of being loved and cared for
but all that crumbled to dust
my dreams never came true

I dreamed I was safe
I dreamed I was happy
I dreamed we had no secrets
I dreamed we were treated fairly
but that never happened those were all
poisonous lies

I now dream of nothing
because what i have been dreaming
has all now come
true.

Rusne, Year 9

I have a dream that one day animals won't be
broken down or overlooked.
I have a dream that those silent screams will
once be heard and filled with love instead.
I have a dream that cages with greed will stop
their feasting and instead grant food for them.
I have a dream that people will realise their
mistakes and that they are not ours to chain,
not ours to break, not ours to burn.
I have a dream that one day we will view their
perspectives of those who say millions with
their eyes.
I have a dream that one day those animals will
fly instead of fall.
Maybe then you'd realise pain has no species
That nature is crying but greed is too loud to
hear them.
I have a dream that one day those cries will
stop.

Alisha, Year 9

I have a dream that war will be a thing of the
past.

I have a dream that rulers of the world can
shake hands once and for all.

I have a dream that children don't have to
grow up to the sounds of bombing and
gunfire.

I have a dream that people don't have to live
in fear.

I have a dream that houses are built lasting
years and makeshift tents aren't a thing.

I have a dream where mothers and fathers
don't have to hold their children in their arms
without a beating heart,
and children don't have their parents dying
leaving them with nothing but sorrow.

I have a dream where the governments care
about the people,
where the rulers care about the people.
I have a dream when the blood marked
ground won't be from the innocent.

I have a dream where Palestine is free,
Sudan is free,
Yemen is free,
Syria is free.

I have a dream where people are free and the
sight of war is only seen in movies and books.

I have a dream but when will it happen?
When will have become had?

Shareen, Year 9

“Thanks to Miss Spencer and the STEM staff for organising these opportunities”

Wednesday
T3 & L12
Miss Fernando
and Miss Spencer



STEM CLUB

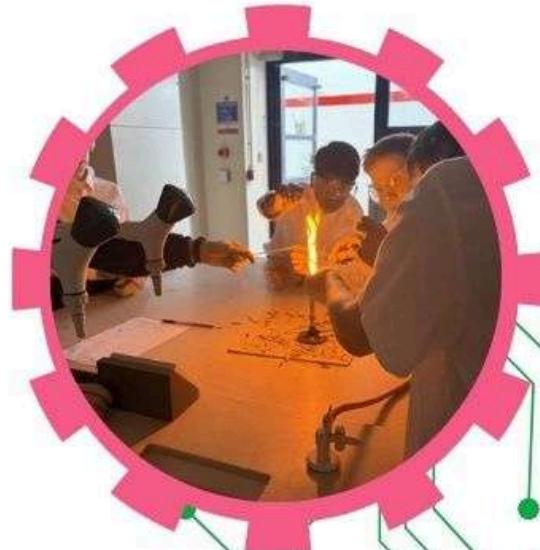
BY GRACE



STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It serves as an umbrella term for these interconnected fields that form the foundation of much of the world's innovation, problem-solving, and technology.

STEM Club here at Upton-by-Chester High School integrates these subjects with real-world applications, focusing on skills like logical thinking, collaboration, and critical analysis to prepare learners for a wide range of careers as well as having fun in the process.

This term's theme is SPACE, and to launch our learning (quite literally!) learners visited Jodrell Bank in October. The trip inspired our young scientists and engineers to explore the wonders of our universe through creative projects and experiments back at school.



Friday
Miss
Fernando
L12 & Farm
3.10-4.10

FARM CLUB!

BY PAIGE

Farm Club offers a variety of animal care tasks for the gecko, tortoise, giant African snails, axolotls, chickens, goats, and guinea pigs, such as the cleaning of their enclosures, refreshing the animals food & water, and instructions on how to handle them safely.



Sheldon the tortoise



"Farm club is a great opportunity to learn how to care for and handle animals"



Fred The Crested Gecko



DANCE CLUB

BY ESTHER AND RABIA

Wednesday
3.10 - 4.10
Miss Downs
Yr7- Yr11
Dance Studio



"Dance club gives me some great opportunities!"



Learners in dance club get to perform in a dance show every year!



"Dance club is really fun and is a great group of people!"



"Dance club lets me express myself and make some awesome friends!"



Year 10 learners practice leadership by choreographing dances for the younger learners. This allows learners to have people to look up to and gives the older learners a chance to develop key skills for their future.

BADMINTON CLUB



"Badminton club is the best part of my week I get to meet new people and play them at badminton."



Badminton club gives learners the opportunity to take responsibility as they set up their own courts and referee their own matches.



"Badminton club has really helped me connect with people and have something to do after school, I always look forward to badminton club!"



DEI ACTION GROUP

Thanks for donating £100.00 GBP to support Chester Pride

Your generosity will help a cause you care about.

Our DEI Action Group held an event in June to celebrate Pride month. It was a fantastic way to show the diversity and inclusivity of our school, with this being a core value where we welcome all learners! They sold sweets, pin badges, bracelets, scrunchies and had a photo booth and portraits.

The fantastic group raised £100 donation to Chester Pride. Thank you to our school community for supporting the event!

If any learners are interested there are weekly meetups and we would love you to come along!

Pride is a hugely important part of our school community and I am grateful for the opportunity to show our school's diversity! I really love the bracelets, scrunchies and the pin badges.

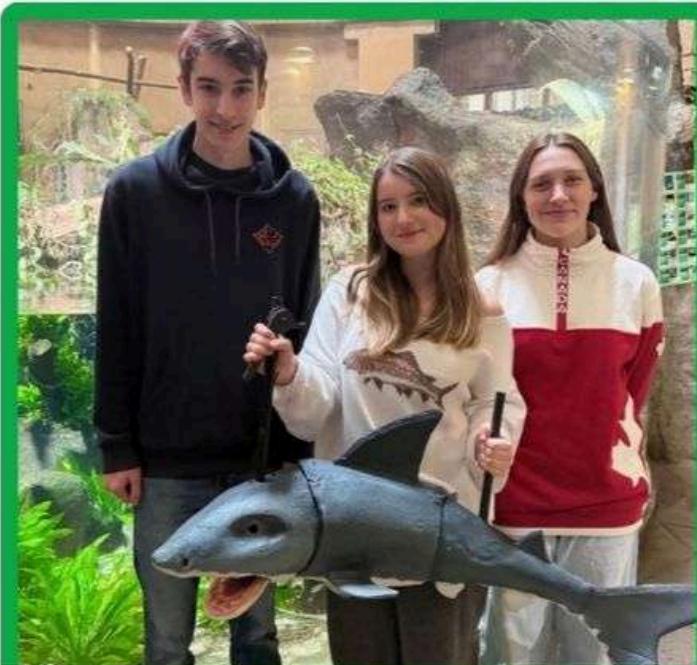


ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



ECO SCHOOLS

We are proud to have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation with distinction again this year! This is in recognition of the work led by the Eco Schools Action group and sustainability and environmental action.



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATION

The learners working towards their environmental leadership qualification have been busy talking to visitors of Chester Zoo about important environmental issues, including fragile marine ecosystems and promoting the use of sustainable palm oil.



YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

BY GRACE

CORA'S REPORT OF THE DAY:

On 20th June 2025, selected Year 8 learners set off on an exciting art trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in West Bretton, Yorkshire. The sun was shining on a particularly hot day, adding to the energy and enthusiasm of the group.

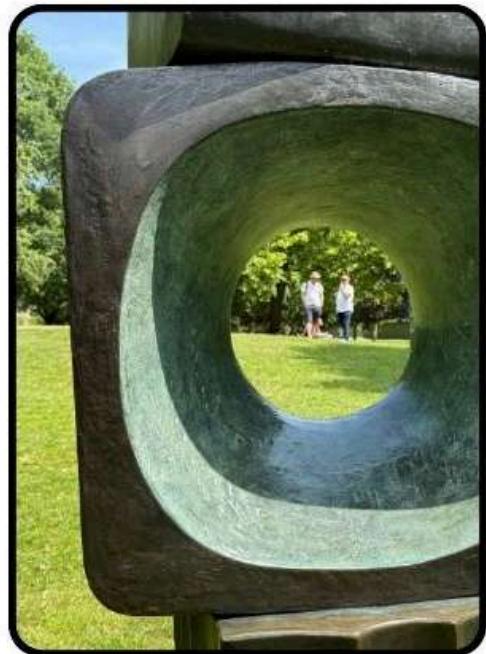
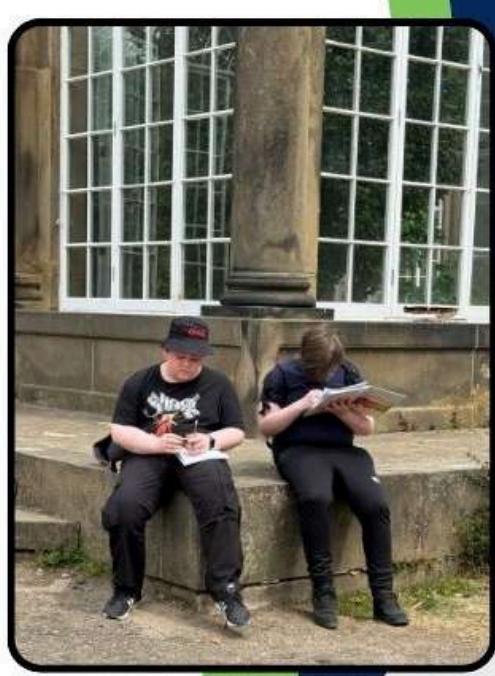
Upon arrival, we were provided with booklets and equipment to record our observations and thoughts. As we walked along the park's scenic trails, we carefully studied the sculptures and took photographs. We also filled our booklets with notes about the unique and abstract sculptures we encountered, such as Jordy Kerwick's "Hydra vs Bear" and Niki de Saint Phalle's "Buddha".

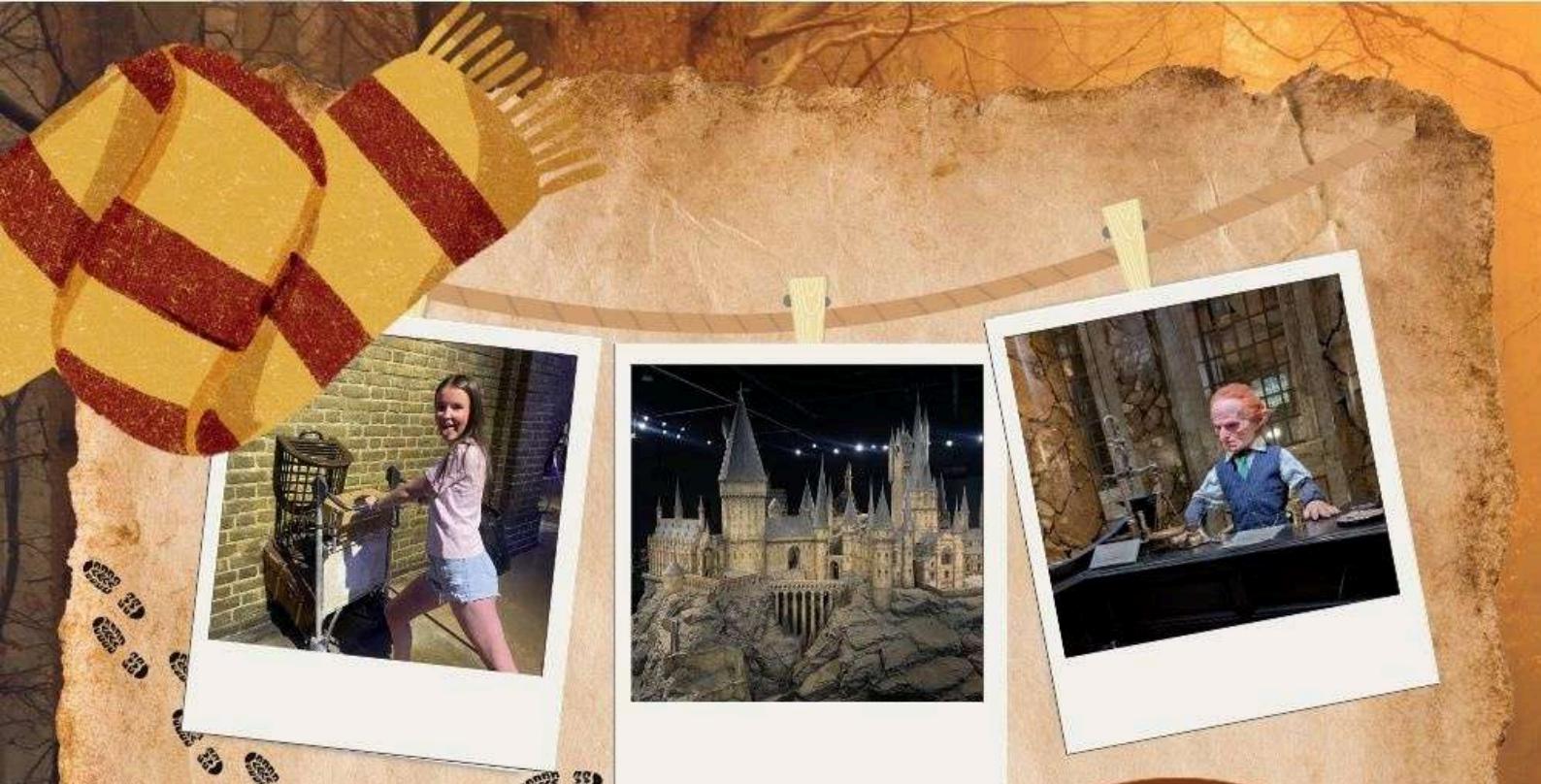
The Year 8 group explored together, pausing at each sculpture to discuss its shapes, textures, and meanings. The experience encouraged us to think about how art interacts with nature and how larger works can change the way people see outdoor spaces.

After a morning of exploration, everyone enjoyed a refreshing lunch outdoors, taking a well-deserved break in the summer heat. We also visited the gift shop, where learners browsed books, postcards and souvenirs that captured the spirit of the park.

The trip was both educational and enjoyable for everybody, giving us Year 8 learners the opportunity to experience art in a new way and unique setting, inspiring new ideas for our own creative projects.

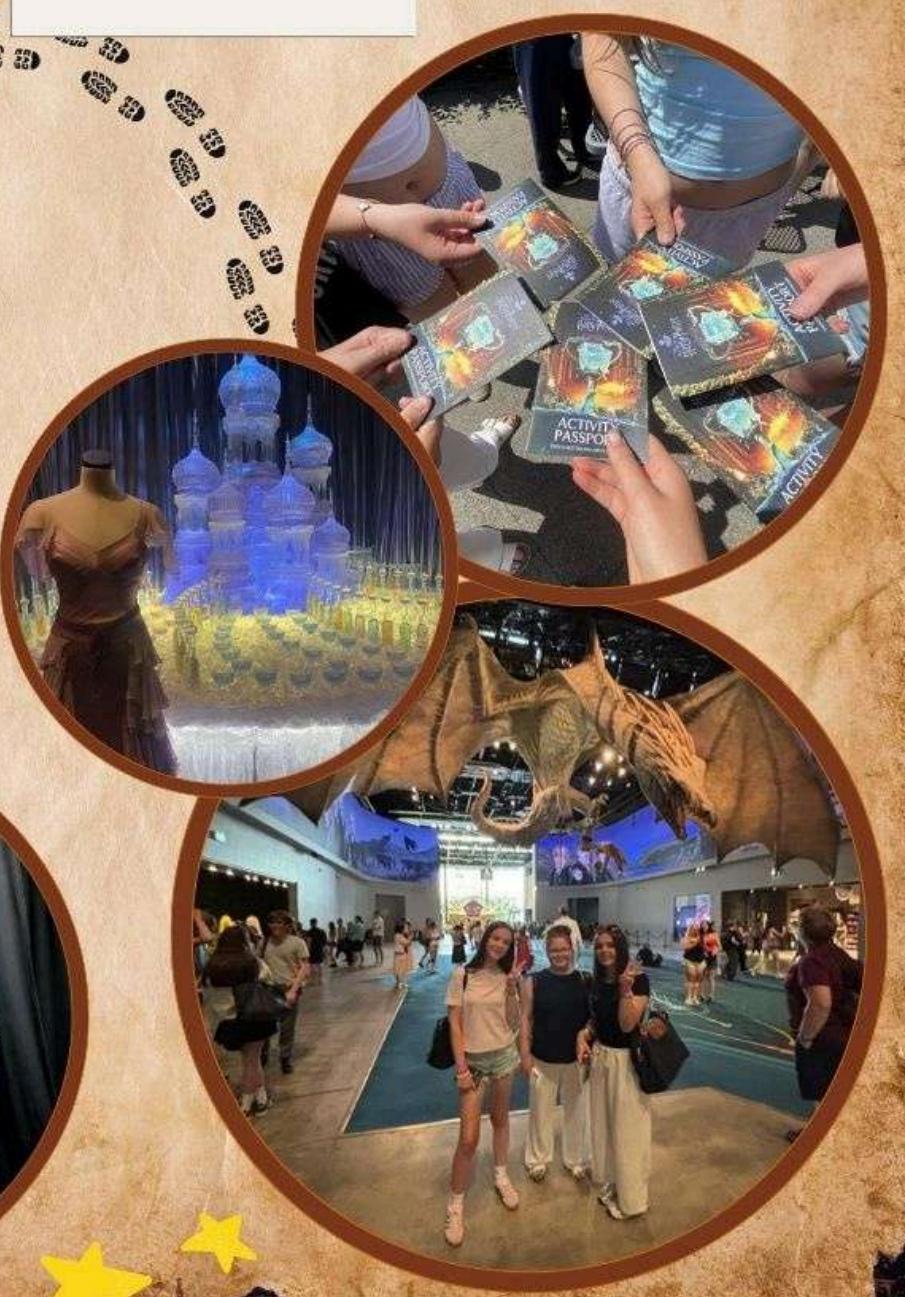






The Year 10 and 12 media learners had the magical opportunity to hop on the Hogwarts' Express (Carver's coaches) to spend the day at Warner Bros Harry Potter Studio tour in London.

Learners explored the vast other-worldly sets, and display cases full of film props. Some even tried the butterbeer!



WARNER BROS STUDIO TOUR MEDIA TRIP

BY NIAMH, EDITH, AYLA, IMMY & GRACE

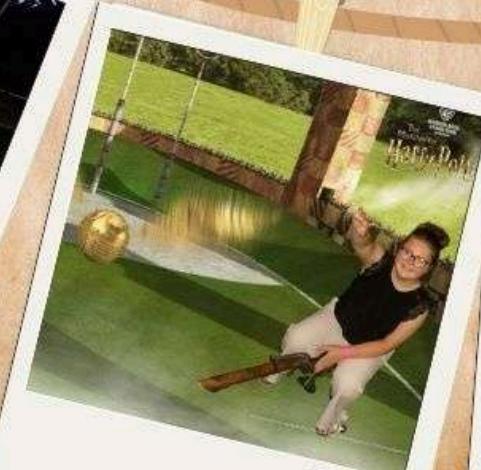
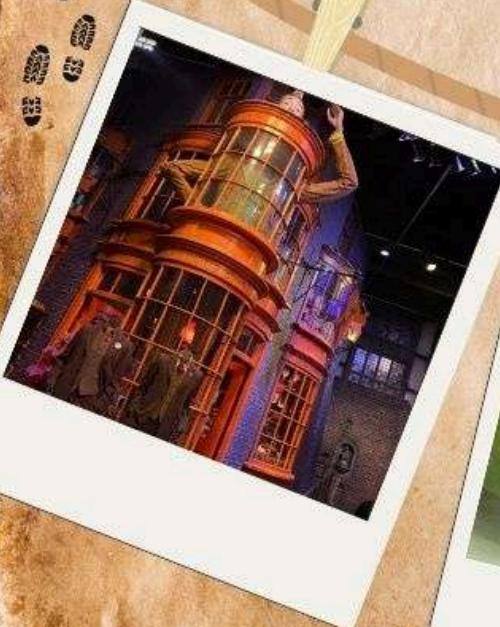
Learners were able to see how the spellbinding world of Harry Potter was crafted and brought to life, learning about the different techniques used on set.

For example, forced perspective to make the illusion of large and small characters.



"It was amazing to see how my favourite movies were created!"

-Grace H



FLORIDA

2025

BY LUCY, FRANKIE &
CONNIE

A group of 40 learners from Year 9 and 10 went on a magical trip to Florida in July 2025.



DAY 1-The learners spent their first day exploring NASA and learning about its origins. They first saw the Atlantis exhibition before taking a guided tour around the site, seeing launchpads, The Apollo centre and the vehicle assembly building.

I really enjoyed seeing the Atlantis exhibition and learning about how the rides worked behind the scenes!

- Leyla

DAY 2- After a remarkable day at NASA, the learners headed to the Magic Kingdom where they had an incredible time on the rides and exploring, to end it watching the first ever night parade and saw the famous Disney fireworks!



DAY 3: Was spent in Universal, heading first to islands of adventure where they were met with a guide who took them on a behind the scenes tour of the park. They got to experience Spiderman with and without the special effects. They then had free roam for the rest of the day where they got to go on rides like Velosicoaster, Hulk and Hagrids. They finished the day with a meal at Hard Rock Cafe.

My favourite ride was Velosicoaster and it was really cool to see the fireworks at Disney. What an honour!

- Dylan



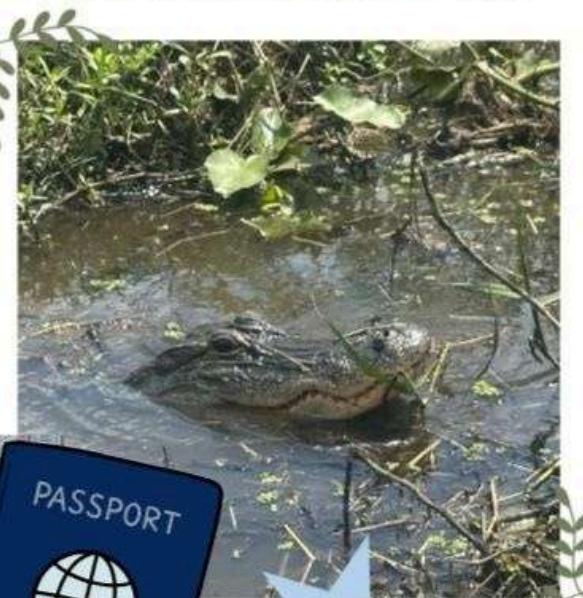
DAY 4- The group headed to universal studios for another round of rides, souvenir shopping at the gift shops and a relaxing time at the pool.



I had the best time at Universal with all my friends. My favourite ride was one fish two fish red fish blue fish!

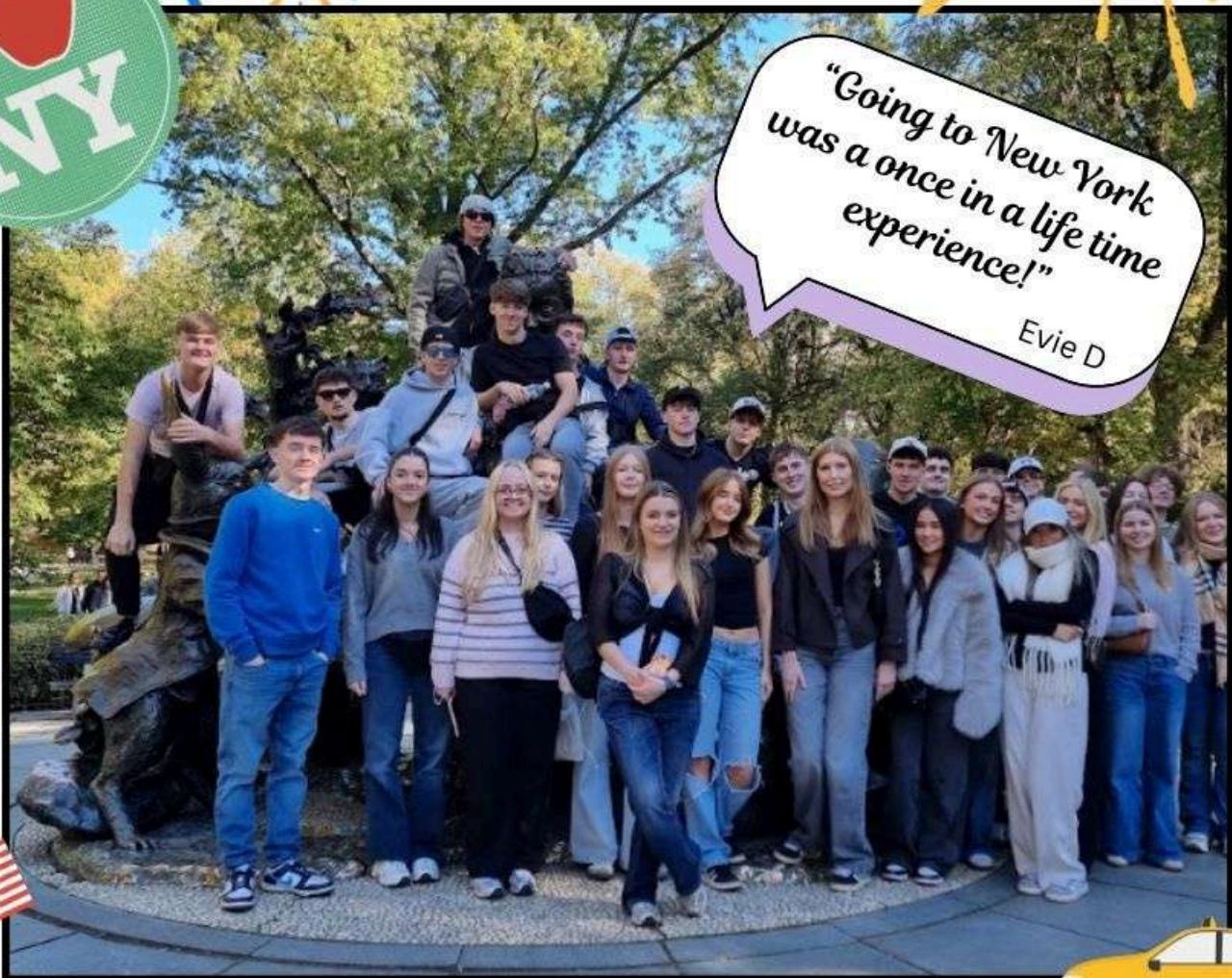
- Will

DAY 5 -The learners spent their last day at The Everglades where they were spotting alligators on an airboat. They then spent the rest of the afternoon at the shopping mall before heading to the airport to board the flight home.



NEW YORK CITY

BY PHOEBE



"Going to New York
was a once in a life time
experience!"

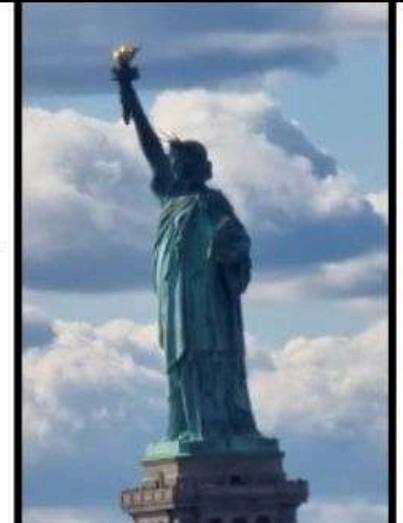
Evie D





The trip to New York offered a unique chance to see places and landmarks that link to our studies. For example, the trip to the UN Headquarters was great for my politics and geography, as it allowed me to turn abstract discussions in lessons into something more real. In addition, our visit to Trump Tower and experiencing the protest across the street was useful in giving an insight into the reception of the President in different areas across America, which was also beneficial for politics. Visiting the 9/11 Memorial Gardens was very moving, especially because of the peacefulness in such a huge, busy city. Just having the opportunity to see a different culture was incredible, and we got a real sense of the city. Doing all of this with friends made the trip really special, as some of us may never be able to do something like it again.

by Edward D, Yr 13



The Year 10s set off to Prestatyn, Wales to conduct their physical geography research. Specifically, the Year 10s said they enjoyed having an ice cream the most and monitoring the long shore drift! The trip was a perfectly timed, the sun was out and everyone had an amazing time. As always a big thank you to the Geography Department for making the trip so successful!

“The trip to Prestatyn was a hit around! This will be particularly beneficial for the learners when they do their Geography paper 3 as well as the great memories made!”

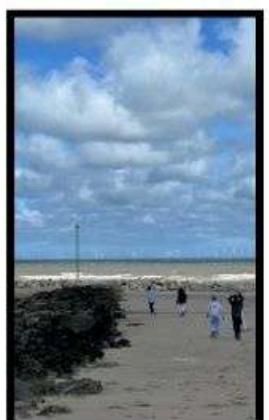
- Miss Liggett

“I really enjoyed the trip. The weather was really nice for us and we had lots of fun conducting our human geography environmental quality survey”

- Learner Y10

“The geography trip was so valuable for my personal growth and my education. I learnt a lot including the real life application of geographical theories and had loads of fun”

- Learner Y10



YEAR 10 PRESTATYN TRIP

BY SOFIA



geography

To help with their upcoming GCSE examinations, Year 10 visited Prestatyn town and beach to conduct some field work.

As always, the trip was a hit! Luckily, the weather was sunny and the sky was blue making for a lovely day.



YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHY TRIP AT BIFoR

BY AMELIE



Year 13 Geographers spent the day at Birmingham Institute of Forest Research, having a guided tour of the Free-Air Carbon Enrichment FACE site in the morning followed by an informative session on Climate change creating digital trees to add to BiFor's presentation at COP30 in Brazil in November.

Built in 2016, BiFor's unique Free-Air Carbon Enrichment (FACE) facility exposes patches of 180-year-old oak woodland to elevated CO₂ concentrations (approximately 550ppm). BiFor-FACE provides data to challenge and constrain climate projection models and is the world's only place to study, by direct experiment, how the vast northern temperate forests will respond to future increases in atmospheric CO₂.

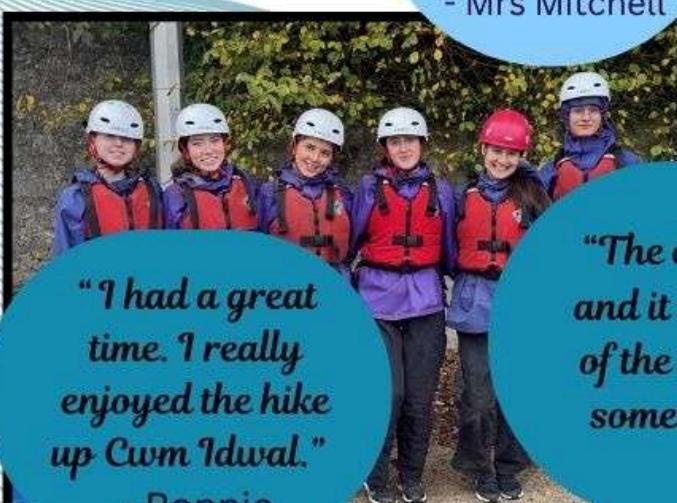


YEAR 12 CONWY CENTRE GEOGRAPHY RESIDENTIAL

BY LILY



"A fantastic trip with a brilliant group of Year 12 learners"
- Mrs Mitchell



"I had a great time. I really enjoyed the hike up Cwm Idwal."
- Ronnie

The Year 12 Geography trip included a two day residential to the Conwy Centre. The first day included human geography data collection then canoeing for the water sports activity. On the second day, Year 12 visited Cwm Idwal and Nant Ffrancon then collected physical geography data.

DAY ONE:

- HUMAN GEOGRAPHY DATA COLLECTION
- CANOEING



DAY TWO:

- VISIT TO CWM IDWAL AND NANT FFRANCON
- COLLECTION OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY DATA

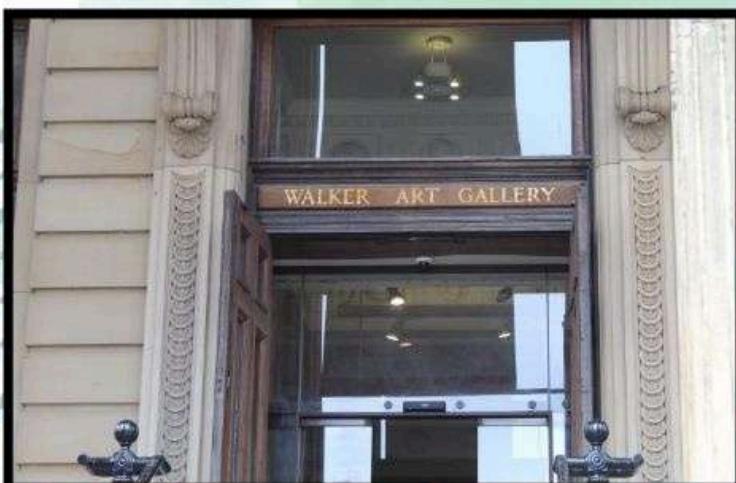


"The canoeing was fun and it was nice to be out of the classroom, doing something different."

- Ben

YEAR 12 ART TRIP

BY BETH



"It was amazing to see all the different pieces of art"

-Archie Y12

On 15th October 2025, our Year 12 and 13 Graphics, Photography and Art learners headed to Liverpool for an exciting day packed with creativity, inspiration and hands-on exploration. Gallery visits are an essential part of the A-Level Creative curriculum, and this trip offered learners a fantastic opportunity to gather first-hand research and spark new ideas for their own projects. The learners began at the Open Eye gallery located on the docks. Here learners experienced 'Firehawk', a captivating photography exhibition by Stephen King which explores the behaviour of an Australian bird that spreads bushfires by dropping burning sticks to flush out its prey. King wanted to draw connections between humans and the hawk.

After this learners made their way to the Bluecoat, located in the heart of the city. The surroundings provided the perfect setting for the photography challenge set by Mr Prest which encouraged learners to capture architectural shots while experimenting with new camera settings and techniques.

After lunch the learners moved on to the Walker Art Gallery - home to the John Moores painting prize. Learners explored a range of painting styles from across the UK and produced observational drawings of selected works in their sketchbooks. They also had the chance to explore the a Vivienne Westwood exhibition, Renaissance and Baroque collections as well as many more, creating a truly enriching experience.

'The learners represented Upton-by-Chester High School exceptionally well through out the day and were a real credit to trip leaders Mr Prest and Mrs Halgarth' - Mr Prest, Art and Graphic design



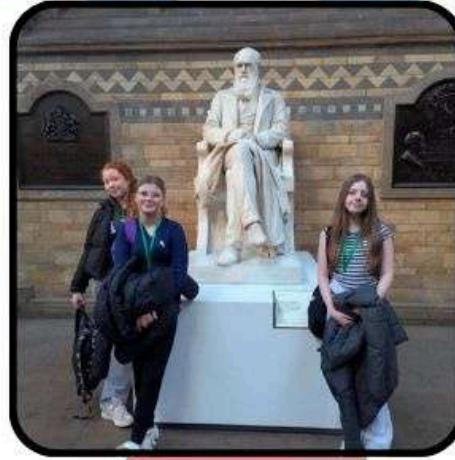


STEM TRIPS



Learners have enjoyed a couple of fabulous trips recently in the name of STEM, to locations such as The Natural History Museum, and The Science Museum in London.

So much fun to be had taking in the sights on the River Thames, taking a spin around the London Eye, and watching the amazing Back To The Future performance. In the evening they marveled at the Christmas lights in Central London, enjoyed food at Honest Burger and Pizza Express, and explored the shops in Covent Garden.





"This trip was packed with loads of fun experiences and we were very educated after!!"



JODRELL BANK

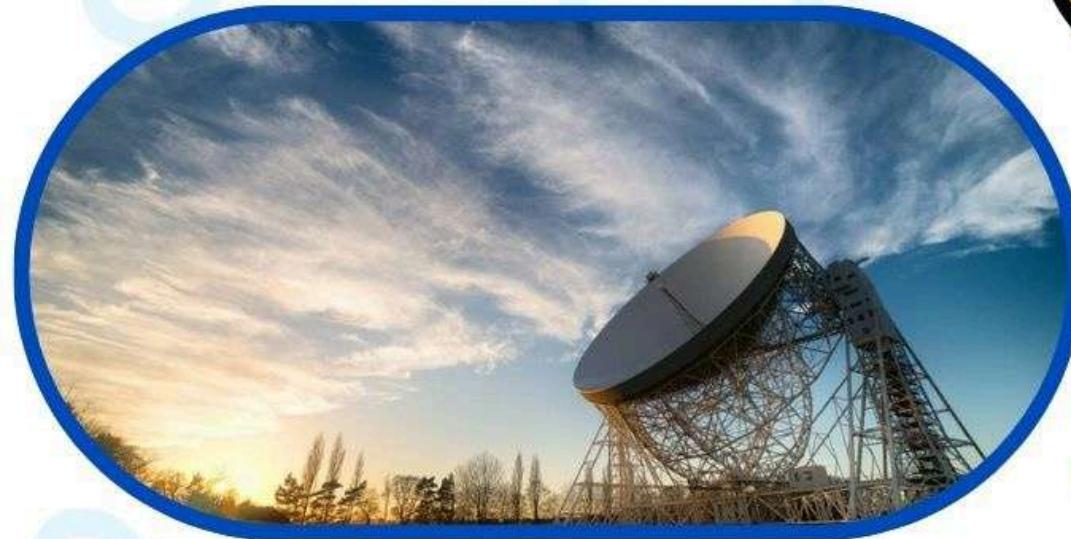
On the 9th October KS3 STEM Club visited Jodrell Bank to celebrate the start of Space Week. All the learners thoroughly enjoyed the day and we will definitely be visiting again in the future!



THE WINNERS OF THE £15 AMAZON VOUCHERS...

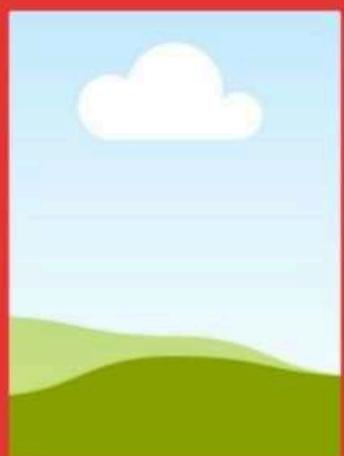


WELL DONE FOR SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETING THE CHALLENGE!



PGL YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL

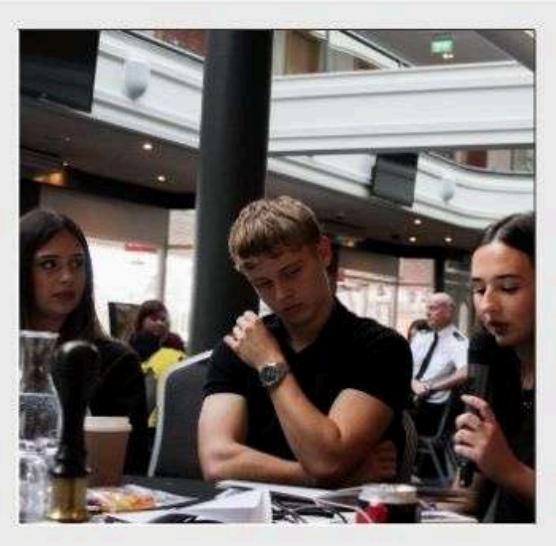
In July 2025 Year 8 learners visited Winmarligh Hall in Lancashire for their Year 8 Residential. The learners enjoyed a packed week of raft building, rope swings and obstacle courses.



YEAR 12 POLITICS TRIP

BY OLIVIA

Our Year 12 Politics learners recently had the opportunity to present a talk about local issues at the Chester Residents Conference 2025, hosted at the racecourse. Present in the audience of over one hundred were local businesses, charities, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Sherin Akhtar) and students from across the area. The conference, organised by CRAG (Chester Residents Association Group), aimed to give a voice to all residents of Chester, and highlighted how we can guide the city to a more inclusive and prosperous future. There was a particular focus on the "One City Plan" - a 45 point blueprint for a "fairer, stronger and greener city by 2045", according to the Cheshire West and Chester council. Each group of learners from Upton chose a topic to present to the audience:



Maria, Fin and Lexi discussed the prevalence of E-bikes and the issues of legality that surround them.



Tilly, Emily, Lucy and Isabella spoke about youth employment and how we can ensure that young people are educated on their employment rights.



Grace, Eva and Sophia highlighted the lack of accessible public transport in the city and how we can improve its and affordability for all.



AUSCHWITZ TRIP

BY DAISY AND ETHAN

MANCHESTER VISIT

On the 19th of October, four Year 12 learners attended an Orientation Seminar at the Pendulum Hotel in Manchester organised by The Holocaust Educational Trust. The day consisted of a series of talks and discussions covering topics such as, pre-war Jewish life, what life was like during the Holocaust and how to prepare for a Holocaust related site visit. We also heard an in person testimony from Janine Webber. She spoke about her childhood in Lvov Poland, the tragic deaths of her close family members and her life after the Holocaust. Her testimony was captivating and emotional, giving the learners more personal insight into the Jewish experience during WWII.

VISITING AUSCHWITZ

After an early start, we landed in Poland at 12:00 CEST and took an hour-long coach journey to Auschwitz 1. The visit consisted of a tour around the site, involving further talks and history of events that took place there. We also heard from two Rabbis, Rabbi Epstein and Rabbi Lebrett, who gave additional insight throughout the day. The tour included museum exhibits, including the Book of Names and artefacts from the Holocaust. After we reached the end of the tour we took a coach journey to Auschwitz 2, the largest of the sites. As well as the tour, members of our group read out poetry written by people affected by the Holocaust and Rabbi Lebrett read out a prayer in Hebrew and played the Jewish horn (the shofar). We took our time to pay our respects looking at both the site and the memorial dedicated to the victims and those affected by the Holocaust. After a long day we headed back to the airport and arrived in Manchester at approximately 10:00.

NEXT STEPS

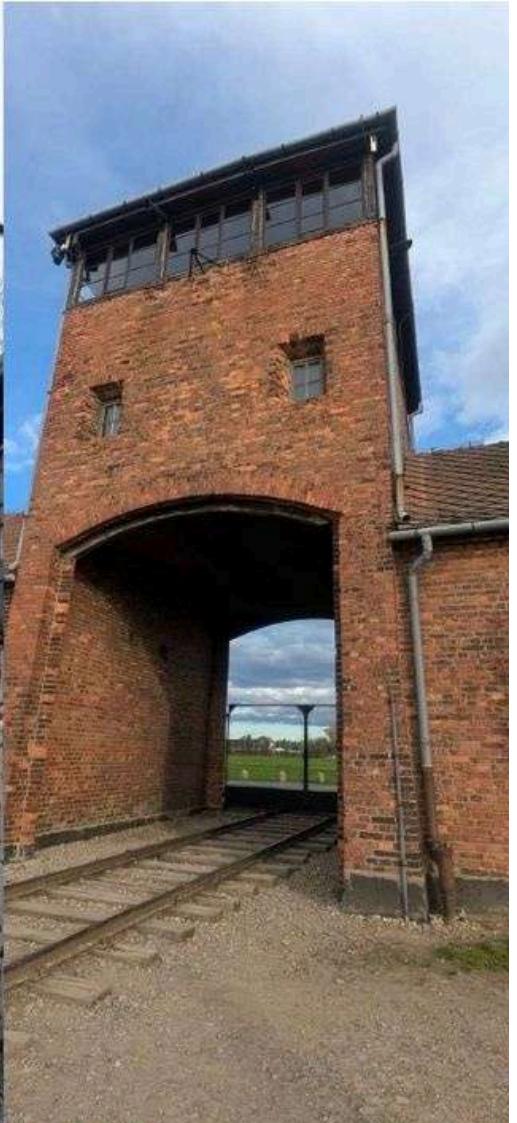
A few weeks later on the 3rd November, we attended an online follow up seminar organised by the trust. This included reflecting on the visit, discussing different thoughts and feelings about the trip. We also discussed post-trip projects that learners were planning on completing in order to become an ambassador, which involves: educating others, speaking at events, writing about the experience and much more.



Janine Webber delivering her testimony



Rabbi Epstein speaking at an event.



GO **GO** **EXPEDITION**





LLANWRST

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition began in Llanrwst, in very rainy conditions. After a 5 hour walk through the hills of Snowdonia, the campers had the difficult task of putting their tents up in the rain!



GARTH FARM CAMP SITE

Putting tents up proved to be a difficult task, with the wind and rain almost blowing the tents away. We did have a beautiful rainbow across the campsite at tea-time.

The next morning the participants were packed up and on their way by 10am. They had a beautiful day walking through the countryside and had some gorgeous views of rivers and lakes. Our campsite was at Garth Farm perched above the Llynna Mymbyr. This is a working farm so we had to accommodate all the sheep as well as the other campers.

W'DON / DDFA

It was a misty morning on the third day. All groups had an early start and were off camp by 9am. They had a gruelling walk on this day with their longest and hilliest walk so far. They were elated to finally reach the campsite but the promised 'completed brand new shower block' was still in the building stages. They all decided to brave a dip in the river instead.



The final day arrived and the teams set off for their final uphill trek. The sun was shining on the last day and all groups made it to the finish line in Trefriw.

Well done to all the Gold teams this year. Another successful expedition!

TREFRIW



DOL-GAM CAMP SITE



TAN AELDROCH FARM CAMP



MACBETH

REHEARSALS

"Rehearsals are going very well. We are excited for you to see the production!" - Olivia

BY OLYMPIA, EVIE, SILVIO, FIN,
LUCY AND LILLIE



The Macbeth cast has seen great interest from all years! Casting was announced in September with an amazing cast of Year 7s to 12s.

Tech crew meets every Tuesday and the first meeting is 2nd Term back

Macbeth rehearsals started on the 22th September and are expected to finish on the 1st February.

Everyone involved says that they have really enjoyed rehearsals and are trying their best to learn the lines in order to give us a great show in February.

If you're interested in watching the play, tickets are on Scopay from December 1st.



TUESDAY 3RD TO THURSDAY 5TH
FEBRUARY 2026. 6PM IN
SCHOOL HALL.

Cast List



“O, Full of scorpions
is my mind, dear
wife!”

*“I’m so glad to be playing Macbeth,
this is a wonderful opportunity and
everyone’s worked so hard to bring
the script to life.”*

-Max

MACBETH

Played By- Max

LADY MACBETH

Played By- Martha

DUNCAN

Played By- Adam

BANQUO

Played By- Maya

MACDUFF

Played By- Olivia



TICKETS ON
SCOPAY FROM
DECEMBER
1ST





UPTON HIGH-SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF

MATILDA

"I like working with new people and the musical has allowed me to do this"

Flora L

Upton by Chester high school's February musical is going to be Matilda The Musical with amazing, talented learners from all across year groups from Year 7s to Year 13s. Running alongside the schools play Macbeth being performed the week after Matilda. Many learners across the school have been working hard in rehearsal blocking scenes, learning songs, memorising lines and choreography, getting ready to perform in February. It will be performed on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of February. Auditions were held in early September with rehearsals starting shortly after on the 30th of September.

Talented learners across the school have been working extremely hard to produce a great show as well as staff like Miss Thompson and Miss Sutton working hard setting scenes and assisting learners with songs and choreography. Some characters in the show are double cast, for example Matilda is being played by both Flora and Megan and they will alternate days playing the Lead role of Matilda each having their time in the spotlight.

CAST LIST

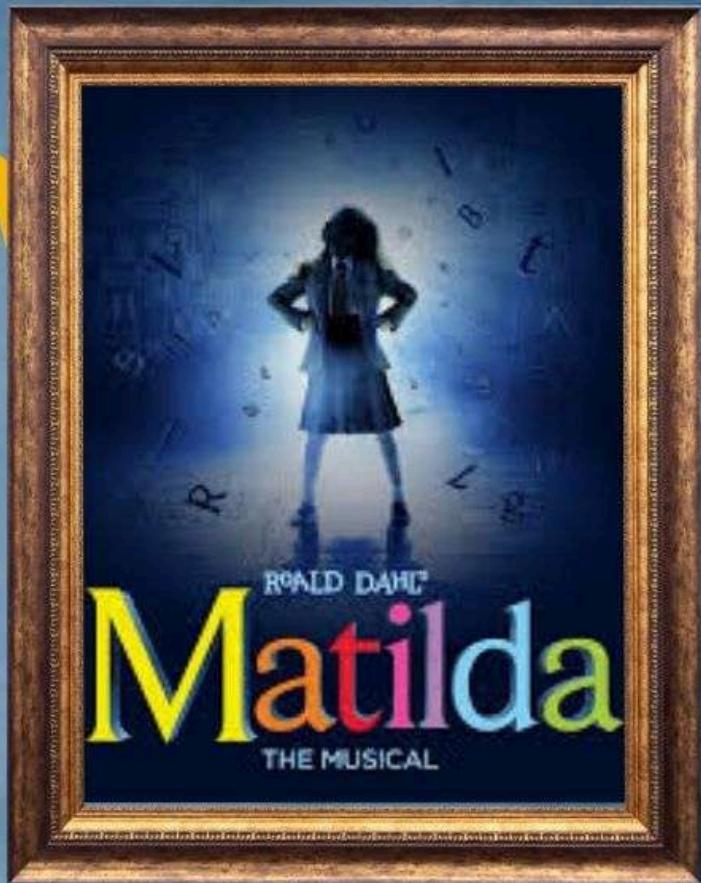
Matilda – Flora and Megan
Miss Honey – Olivia and Nell
Agatha Trunchbull – Sam
Mrs Phelps – Evie
Bruce - Barnaby
Eric – Zach
Tommy – Reese
Alice – Ava
Hortensia – Evie
Nigel – Jacob
Lavender – Isabella
Mr Wormwood – Oliver
Mrs Wormwood – Rosie



"I really enjoy the rehearsal process and I really like making new friends"

Flora D

"Matilda is going to be an amazing show. The talent that the cast has is outstanding"
Sam C



UK MATHS TRUST CHALLENGE



Congratulations to Our UKMT Champions!

A big congratulations to all the learners who recently took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge! This prestigious national competition, run by the UK Mathematics Trust, is designed to challenge and inspire the brightest young mathematical minds across the country.

A special mention goes to Temi, Jerry and Rhys, who achieved Gold Awards—an outstanding accomplishment. These top performers have qualified for the next round: the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo, which is an invitation-only follow-up challenge for the highest scorers.

Well done to all who took part—we're proud of your hard work and mathematical talent!



UK Maths Trust

PLASTIPAK MAKE IT COMPETITION

Promoting sustainability and passion for business

During July 2025, Mr Jones from the Business Department accompanied a group of Year 9 learners to represent Upton High School in a business design competition, funded by Plastipak – a global leader in sustainable packaging and recycling solutions based in Wrexham.

The learners were divided into two teams and given a design brief: to create an environmentally friendly product. They then worked collaboratively to develop their idea and later presented their pitch to a professional panel of judges.

Team 1 designed set of four healthy, fruit-based juices under the brand name 'Daily Dose'. The bottles were intended to be recycled using advanced technology bins located across the country. Customers would earn reward points and prizes for recycling the bottles, encouraging positive sustainable behaviour. The team delivered an excellent presentation, and the panel were extremely impressed with their concept.



One learner later reflected on the experience, stating:

"It was an eye-opening insight into the real business world and overall, I had a great time."

Although neither of the Upton teams won the overall competition, they both did an amazing job. The judges also selected two individual competitors across the entire event who stood out for their performance. We are very proud that Upton learner Sophia Mangan was chosen as one of these two winners for her leadership skills, public speaking, and creativity.

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE chester marathon

BY LUCY AND RABIA

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025



BAG PACKING:

A group of 47 learners had the opportunity to volunteer for the Chester Marathon Bag Pack, where they packed 10,000 goodie bags given to the runners on Sunday!



"I felt like I really strengthened physically but most importantly mentally"

-Diego



CHESTER MBNA MARATHON

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025



On Sunday, the day of the marathon, another group of learners took time out of their morning to help with things like handing out water, organising medals, and giving out bags. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers!



"It feels amazing knowing that I've helped out the community even a little bit."

- Cora



"There can't be a better way to spend a Sunday morning! Thousands of runners, of all abilities, streaming through the city streets for the 2025 MBNA Chester marathon & Metric Marathon, is a stirring sight to behold."

- Callum Shields, Race Director





STREETDOCTORS



BY ALONA &
HAZEL

Year 12 and 13 learners interested in a medical or emergency services pathway took part in an informative and impactful session on how to respond to a bleed injury such as a knife wound. The session was led by Matthew, an A&E doctor who volunteers with the Street Doctors charity. Learners found the session valuable and engaging.

'The Street Doctors session was brilliant. Interactive throughout and contained invaluable information on how to stay safe and how to potentially save a life. Matthew's humorous and knowledgeable approach had learners engaged throughout.'

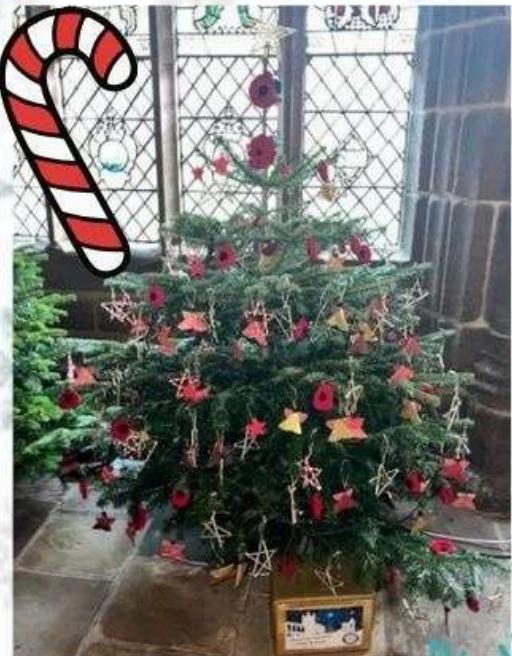
—Miss Welch, Head of PSHE

It was a very engaging and informative discussion about how to react to knife crime and how to keep yourself safe. I now feel much more equipped when dealing with these high stress situations. It was an incredible opportunity to learn more and was really enjoyable!

—Amelie Y13



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



The learners from Army Youth Club have been busy making Christmas tree decorations, for a tree that will be on display in Chester Cathedral. The tree is in honour of their parents/carers who are in the Armed Forces. The Christmas Tree Festival runs from 28th Nov-4th Jan.



Shoebox Appeal:

Thank you to all learners, staff, and parents/carers who donated to the Shoebox Appeal this year. We had a final total: **113 Shoeboxes!**

Donations were incredible, and a huge well done to all the learners who helped promote, pack and deliver shoeboxes.

Special shout outs to:

7Y3YO for delivering boxes to reception, Ayla and other learners who helped deliver boxes.

Year 12 Shoebox Elves: Benjamin, Weronika, Maria, Rohan, Rhys, Sherine, Dorothy, Amelia, Daria and Beth.

SUSTAINABLE

FASHION SHOW

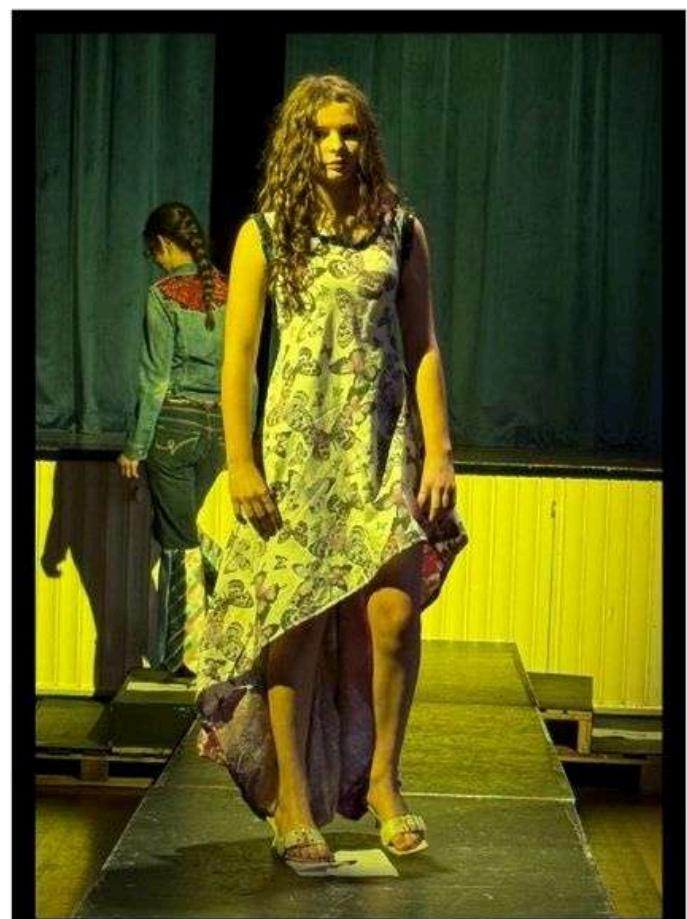
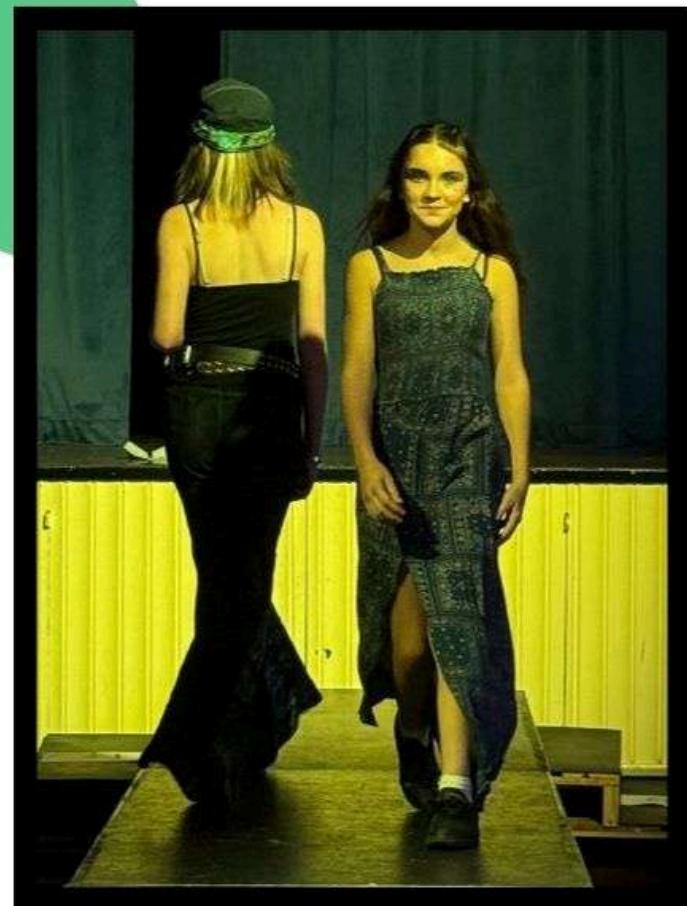
BY SOPHIA & CHLOE

“The learners displayed fabulous confidence and put on an amazing show. The Women at Chifundo UK are so talented!

- Audience member **”**

“Learners dazzled in their upcycled attire raising money for a charity supporting women in Malawi **”**

- Mr Iqbal





Here we have one of the designed tote bags created by one of our learners



Tell us a little about your design:
I wanted to know how creative you can be with just the Free Trade logo!

WHAT HAPPENED?

On October 1st 2025, learners took part in an environmentally friendly fashion show, to not only praise sustainability, highlighting the fun and creativity which comes from repurposing old clothes, but to raise money for Chifundo UK.

The outfits, which were crafted by each learner, allowed for their individuality to shine. We had outfits ranging from the newly trending capris to staple shirts and dresses, and every learner who walked looked incredible.

The learners raised £548.30. The proceeds went towards Chifundo UK and enhancing Upton by Chester High School's Design & Technology Department.

Congratulations to the winner of T shirt competition- Niamh M, Year 8

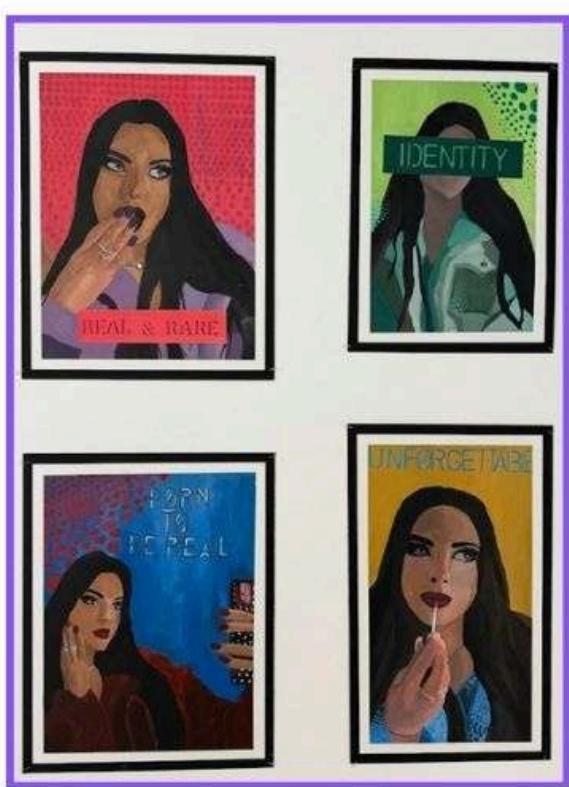
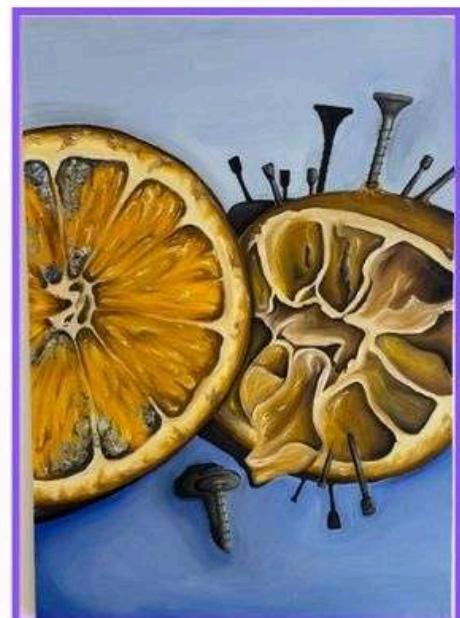
Below are our amazing DT learners with their bags promoting sustainability and conservation. Well done all!

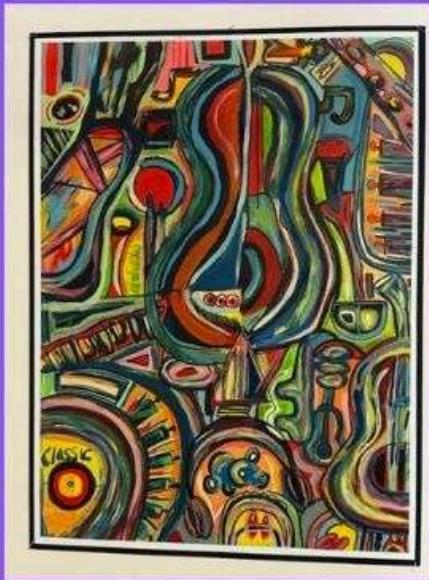
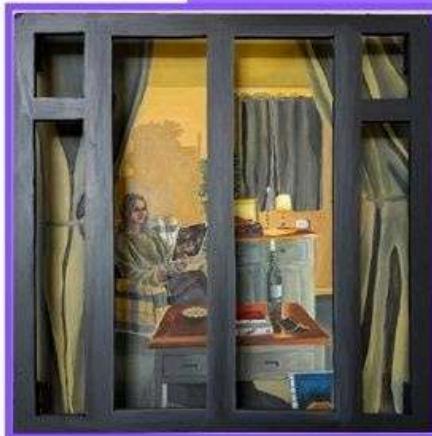
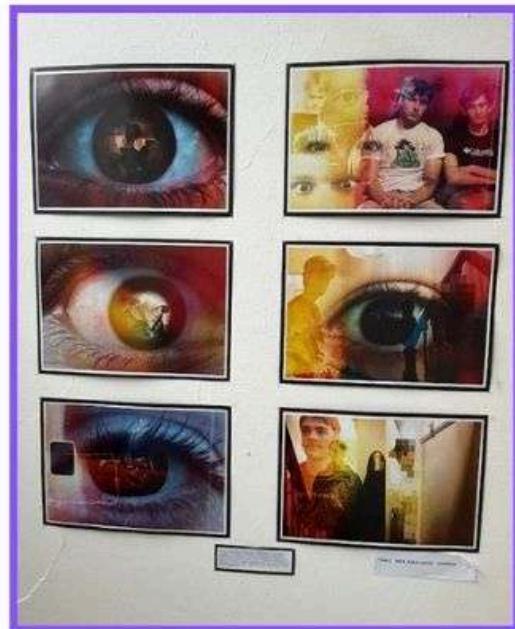


Art Exhibition

“Class of 2025 worked very hard and created a stunning set of coursework and exam pieces in a range of materials, covering painting, textiles, sculpture and mixed media.

~ Miss Wynn





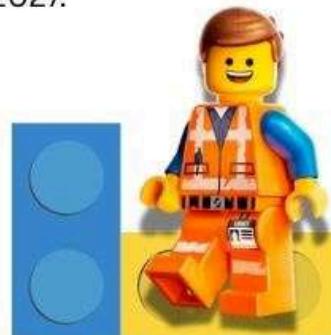
The new BUCO

Construction has started for our new school building. The proposed design reflects the schools commitment to creating an inspiring and functional environment for teaching and learning while preserving elements of the current site, such as the Hub area, which will be repurposed into a dedicated Sixth Form Area.



The proposed layout of the new school.

The new build started construction during the half term and is planned to be completed in the summer of 2027.



Awards Evening

On Monday 6th October 2025 at 6:30pm, a school awards evening was held at Storyhouse in Chester. A variety of awards were received by many learners across all year groups at our school, ranging from outstanding behavior and attitude to learning in all subjects from English and Maths to Art and PE. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, with a speech from notable alumni, Tom Munday. Well done to all the learners who received an award!



The celebration at the Storyhouse is a welcome change from our school hall. The showcase of dance talent was sensational and I enjoyed hearing about all the successes in different departments.

-Miss Seery

It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to celebrate the achievements of so many of our talented learners from the last academic year. To celebrate this in the community in such an amazing venue as Storyhouse is a joy.

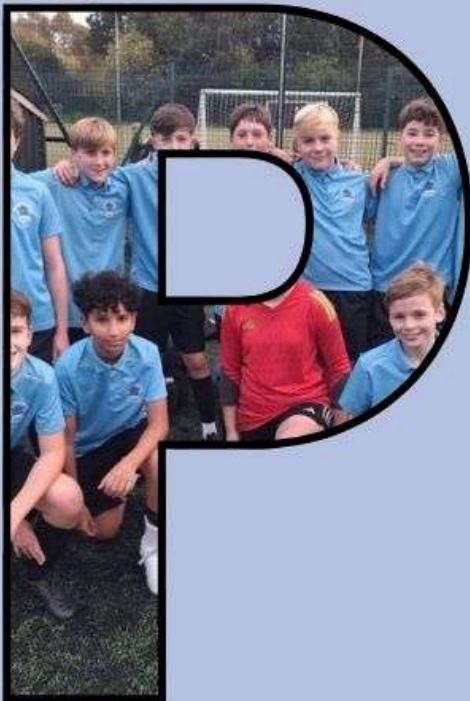
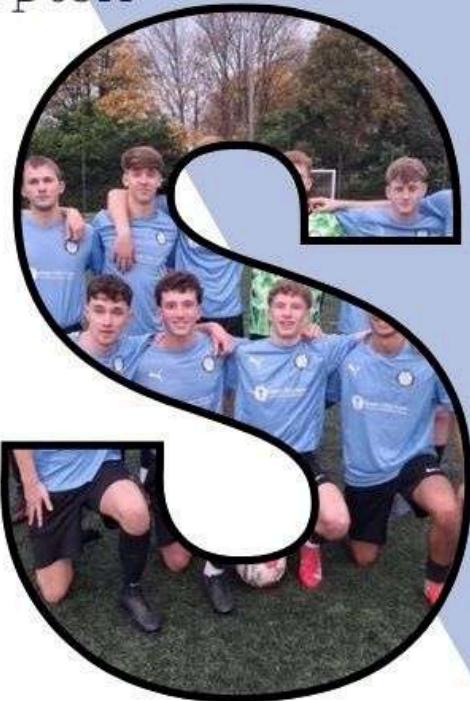
-Mr Cummins

The dance team



It was lovely to see everyone get awarded for all their hardwork throughout this school year. I'm so proud of everyone!

-Phoebe



Year 8 football won 5-4 in the County Cup



Year 10 won penalties in the cup



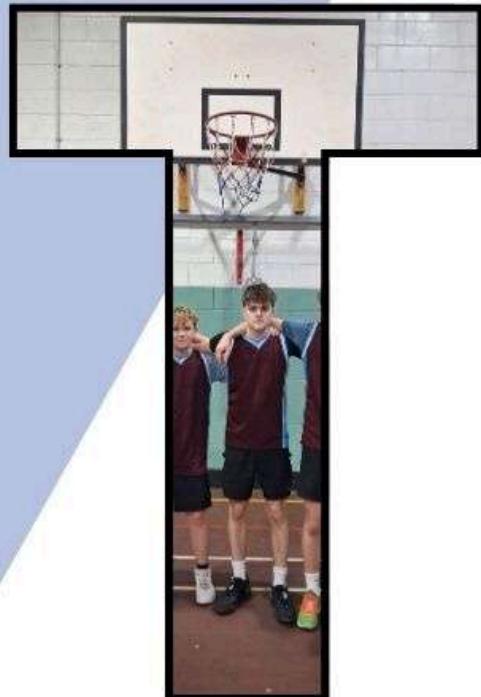
Year 8/9 girls won 2:0 in the Football National Cup



U19 netball won bronze in the Cheshire round of the National School Netball championships



Year 10 won 5:2 vs. Helsby in the National Cup



6th form came joint first in the Cheshire & District basketball competition

U18s won 8:1 vs. Queens Park in the District Cup.

Year 8 won 8:1 vs. St Peter & Paul in the County Cup



Year 11s won 5-3 in the National Cup



Year 7 won 2:0 vs. Bishops