



TARPORLEY NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM MR DEAKIN:

As we come to the end of a busy term, we have enjoyed a number of events. Last week we held our Key Stage 4 and 5 Awards Evening. It was a pleasure to issue the students with their awards and also listen to a speech given by Rhiannon Price one of our former students. Hearing speeches given by the staff about the achievements of some of our students was also inspiring. This week we held our Carol Concert in St Helen's Church – another lovely evening. Many thanks to the staff for organising and supporting these events as well as the many other things that they do to ensure our students have a diverse range of opportunities in school and beyond, some of which you can read in this edition of our newsletter.

Year 13 Psychology students visit to Shrewsbury Prison

Whilst visiting the prison students had the opportunity to partake in a 'closed cell' experience, which involved entering cells and having the doors closed behind them, to fully experience what it would be like for a prisoner.

Students also participated in an escape room activity called 'The Hole' where they had bags over their heads as they entered the small cell and were handcuffed together. They were given the task to find their way out of the cell. The point of this task was for students to feel a sense of de-individualization, something that we looked at in Year 12 in the Social Influence topic and again in the Year 13 Forensic Psychology topic.



Year 7 Humanities visit to Tarporley High Street

Our new Year 7 cohort have all spent a morning looking at the local area to the high school with their Humanities subjects. The aim is for students to have a knowledge and understanding of the local area and community. The students carried out some Geography fieldwork. This involved gathering data on whether Tarporley is an important settlement in Cheshire.

They also examined the local historical features within Tarporley. They examined different types of architecture and how the purposes of buildings have changed over time. Finally, they visited two of Tarporley's churches. St. Helens and St. Thomas Becket's Catholic church. The aim is for the students to know there is diversity within Christianity and how this manifests itself in the buildings. They also had the chance to ask questions of the local clergy and explore the work of the churches in the local community. Overall, a worthwhile trip which forms an important building block in the student's knowledge and skills in their Humanities subjects.



Berlin Visit: November 2023

In mid-November, our Year 11 and Year 13 students travelled to Berlin with the History department.

GCSE students spent the weekend analysing how their studies of Weimar and Nazi Germany and the Cold War link to the city, visiting Topography of Terror (a museum built on the former Gestapo Headquarters) and Sachsenhausen concentration camp. A level students looked to further their studies on the German Democratic Republic by visiting a museum on life in the GDR and on the Stasi. By travelling by train and by foot, students navigated the underground and saw the city up close. They also saw the city from above by visiting the TV tower observation deck and the Reichstag. Overall, students gained a lot from the trip, were fully engaged in the entire weekend, and were excellent representatives of the school.



On Friday 3rd November, members of our KS5 cohort attended the Aesthetica Film Festival in the beautiful city of York. Media Studies, Art, Textiles and Photography students had the opportunity to attend a variety of screenings in numerous arthouses and creative centres throughout the city, including entry to the museums, galleries, and universities. Our Media Studies cohort enjoyed a masterclass with Tom Knights who delivered a lecture on interactive gaming design within the industry. Knights worked on the Assassin's Creed franchise and is the senior narrative designer at Ubisoft. Towards the end of our day, we traversed the historical spots and took photographs for our coursework projects. What a lovely day and incredible cohort to share this important learning experience with.



Year 13 Artists exhibit at Chester Cathedral

This term saw our talented Year 13 artists; Dylan, Cameron, Karis, Emma, Carys, Emily, Florence, Lara and Martha be successful in exhibiting their artwork at Chester Cathedral as part of the Sovereign Art Prize. It is wonderful to see investment being put into the arts and SAF recognising the central role art plays in society and the lives of young people. It was an honour for our students to exhibit their work in Chester cathedral as exhibiting artists and for Emma to be a successful recipient of the Public Choice award as a tremendous accolade and reflection of her creative talent. Emma was the recipient of £400 and the Art department received £1000. The prize money will make a significant contribution towards developing our art department as we look to purchase a kiln.



Congratulations to Elma, Charlotte, Connie, Jess, Sophie, Emily, Noah and Indigo who have completed their Bronze Arts Award. Students were recently presented with their certificates and commended by the moderators for their work. We were delighted with the dedication of the students throughout the process and the creativity of their portfolios representing their arts journey.

The Arts Award is an exciting, nationally recognised qualification which helps students develop as an artist. It has been an extremely rewarding experience which has enabled students to excel in an area of the arts which they find interesting and exciting. Students have developed their independence, confidence and leadership skills and show that they can take responsibility for their own learning in the portfolios they created. If you are interested in pursuing the Arts Award, please contact Mr Williams in the music department for more details.



Congratulations to George 9GB for achieving a distinction in his recent Grade 8 Drum Kit examination. This is a fantastic achievement which requires hard work, dedication and resilience. Grade 8 is the highest Grade on the drum kit and George can now look forward to the possibility of moving on to Diploma level in his playing.

Year 9 Art Residential

A selection of Year 9 Art & Design pupils recently took part in the annual Art residential at the Conway Centre, Anglesey. This was an exciting opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in a weekend of creativity and get a feel for GCSE Art.

The students spent the weekend working alongside Miss Roberts, Mrs Brownrigg and Miss Hough with Mr Bowland teaching them sculpture and model making inspired by the medieval tale of the Mandrake Root.

As always our pupils astound with their endless talents and exceptional work ethic. To work alongside older students from other schools is an intimidating prospect but our group of artists conduct themselves with self-assurance and integrity and always rise to the highest of challenges. We could not be prouder of what our young artists have produced and cannot wait to see how their artistic talents mature.'



The wonderful Year 7s of creative writing club are starting to send off their submissions for the Young Writers' competition 'The Glitch'. With the help of sixth formers Lola and Freya, the students have produced some really amazing alternate reality stories to be published in the Young Writers book. They even have the chance to win £50 for their story! Here's an excerpt from two great stories...

Daisy- "Welcome, weary traveller," he called. "Your path may be obscured, but within this light's embrace, find solace. For every voyage carries secrets. Yet the harbour always awaits the courageous."

Poppy- 'There was a pernicious darkness surrounding them: something wasn't right. In the middle of this town, there was nothing but silence and hopelessness from the once deafening sound of voices.'



Our Year 7 and 8 Spanish and French classes took part in the Spelling Bee and Translation Bee respectively this half term. Well done to all students who participated, and a huge congratulations to our winners!



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It's been a busy first term in the Library, with students both old and new enjoying the space, the books, the displays and our events! As the library is spread across two rooms, students are able to use the main library for quiet reading or study during breaks and lunches, whilst our smaller room is set up with board games for students to use with their friends.

Library Displays

We're very fortunate to have Mrs Brownrigg, our Assistant Librarian, in charge of our library displays – she's a very talented artist and both staff and students love to check out her new displays every month. October brought the celebration of Black History Month with information and relevant books shared with students in the Library. The end of October also saw a few spooky book displays created to celebrate Halloween!

In November, Mrs Brownrigg sought the help from some of our students to create a beautiful Remembrance Day display. Students were given paper poppies to write their personal messages of thanks to honour family members and those who gave their lives in service and sacrifice.

December brings the celebrations of Christmas and the Jewish Hanukkah festivities, with students making decorations for the library, completing wordsearches and quizzes to round off the term!

Events

In October, students were given the opportunity to sign-up to participate in the Cheshire Book Award. This award is run by the Cheshire Education Library Service, whom with the help of librarians, teachers and students, select their favourite ten books published the previous year. Students are encouraged to read as many as possible from now until May, where they can cast their vote for their favourite, and attend an event to meet some of the authors.

The Cheshire Book Award Launch event was held on the 11th October, with participating students and staff attending to listen to Josh Silver, author of the most anticipated Young Adult Debut of 2023: Happy Head. The ten shortlisted books were also announced on the night, two of which have been chosen for our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 weekly Book Clubs.

The Scholastic Book Fair was held from 30th November – 6th December in the Library. All Year 7s and 8s were brought during their English lesson to view the Fair, and it was lovely to see so much excitement around the books! With your help, we raised £220 to be spent on new books for the library. Thank you to all parents who supported the cause, and if there was a particular book that your child missed out on, they should also be available to borrow from the Library.



...giving All Children the Opportunity to Read Novels.

We are delighted to announce the launch of the ACORN Reading Project this term! ACORN is our tutor-led reading programme that takes place at least once a week during form time. Every student in Year 7 and 8 has been provided with a novel to read along with their tutor. We have chosen stories that are exciting and inspiring, and that address issues such as inequality, cyber safety and self-esteem. These books have been specifically selected to compliment our PSHE programme. We know, from extensive research, that reading regularly in secondary school can help students to improve their concentration, vocabulary and writing. However, the benefits of regular reading also include improved mental health and world understanding; ultimately helping them to build resilience and prepare for adult life. Our tutors are excited to be taking their forms on these fabulous literary journeys throughout the year, and we hope that the students will gain an enormous amount from this truly significant project. You can help support ACORN by asking your child what they have been reading and for updates on the story so far – you might even find your want to get a copy yourself... our library is open to the public on Monday and Thursday afternoons until 7pm!



TARPORLEY NEWS

Sixth Form News

UCAS

72 students have now sent off their UCAS applications and 19 now have all their university offers. 4 students have received unconditional offers, which are very rare indeed nowadays and two students are awaiting offers (hopefully) after their University of Cambridge Interviews. Mr Deakin and Mrs McMillan, Mrs Henry and Mrs Chapman have done many practice interviews and Mr Bowland has offered invaluable assistance with portfolios. It is a very busy time but also so exciting to watch the offers role in. Students have applied to so many institutions and destinations – from Edinburgh to Brighton! Having a part in this process is nothing short of a privilege!

SABLE COTTAGE CARE HOME

For the third year, students are busy drawing and creating beautiful Christmas cards for residents of Sable Cottage Care Home. This initiative started during lockdown and students love addressing the cards to residents by name and making their artwork really special, with personalised messages. We also have good links with the Care Home and our students do voluntary work there, liaising with residents and offering company and affection. A wonderful project!

TARVIN NATIVITY PRIMARY HELPERS

Sixth Form students have been helping with the Nativity Play in Tarvin Primary last week – herding sheep around, managing the tech and doing whatever they can to help the play run smoothly. This is a wonderful experience for aspiring teachers, members of the caring professions and just a lovely community outreach activity! Many Sixth Formers are working with Primary staff to plan after-school clubs, using their specialisms (whether it is art and crafts or dance) to inspire younger children. Great leadership skills and great role models.

READING BUDDIES

Our Sixth Formers are continuing to read with Year 7 students to boost their literacy skills – so important for those young people. Our students are loving the weekly contact with students and seeing the progress they are making week by week.

SIXTH FORM CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Every achievement / helpful act / enrichment activity / qualification / involvement in a Sixth Form event is recorded by Sixth Form tutors then collated by the Sixth Form Team. These tutor points are hotly contested and the victorious tutor group will be revealed before the Christmas Break. This is a fun way to recognise real achievement and add some fun to A Level study which is incredibly challenging!

GRESHAM COLLEGE ORACY AND ENTER THE TOWER POETRY COMPETITION, CHRISTCHURCH COLLEGE OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Six of our students entered Gresham College's prestigious competition which involves preparing a speech and presentation on an academic topic, then recording it. It is a chance to research a challenging issue, engage with primary and secondary research and use rhetorical devices to construct a compelling argument. The A Level English Year 12 Class are currently crafting poems on the theme of 'Mirrors' for this renowned competition with some big money prizes and real academic prowess. We eagerly await results!



Twitter:

@tarporleyhigh

@tarporley6th



TARPORLEY NEWS

The enrichment of Year 12 students has got off to a great start this term with a plethora of events, clubs and activities being engaged with. Some which require a special mention are the Kelsall Wellbeing Hub trip and the Bar Mock Trial. In November, the third generation of year 12 students formed a participation group to support the Kelsall Wellbeing Hub. They visited the hub, did a short workshop, and presented some ideas for activities and engagement for the hub. The next phase will be for these students to offer their services to implement these and hopefully help it thrive even more than it is now, especially for young people. In December, our aspiring lawyers participated in the prestigious Bar Mock Trial competition at Chester Crown Court. This was a fabulous opportunity to experience being in real courtrooms and act out a pre-rehearsed trial against other schools and in front of sitting Judges. Our students worked exceptionally hard for this competition and performed brilliantly well, winning all three of their cases (including returning two not guilty verdicts).

Year 13 non university students have been engaging in plenty of exciting events this term including careers events in the local area and researching newly advertised apprenticeships. They have all been perfecting their CVs and we had 16 students participate in an online cycle of CV 1-2-1s with Colas employees. These students have also applied for the Chester Pledge's Mock assessment centre event which is taking place in February 2024. Good luck to all of these students as they apply and interview for apprenticeships over the next few months.

Two students in year 13, Charlotte and Connie had the incredible experience of participating in the Lesson's from Auschwitz project, run by the Holocaust Education Trust. This consisted of two days of seminars and an emotionally draining day trip from Manchester to Krakow and back, incorporating a trip to the Auschwitz museum and concentration camps. Charlotte and Connie described this as highly emotive and moving but thoroughly appreciated the opportunity. They are now Tarpорley High School's holocaust ambassadors and will be leading events and assemblies during the 2024 Holocaust Memorial Day.



Year 10 GCSE Drawing in Delamere

This term saw our new GCSE cohort of artists embrace the natural environment and explore a range of approaches to drawing inspired by the work of contemporary landscape artists.

Accompanied by Mrs Jones, Mr Bowland, Mrs Lightfoot and Mrs Lillis, pupils spent the day at Delamere forest (in the pouring rain) responding to both the rolling hills, trees and crisp autumn leaves.

Despite the rain; pupils persevered and produced some beautiful studies.

Pupils will use their initial studies to inspire a range of creative outcomes back in the art studios.

