

HOLYHEAD SCHOOL PRESENTS

PULSE

Teach What Matters



www.holyheadschool.org.uk

Foreword



As we bring another school year to a close, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the extraordinary achievements, resilience, and spirit of our Holyhead community. These Spring and Summer terms, and therefore this edition of our Pulse Magazine have been a celebration of everything that makes our school exceptional - our students' ambition, our staff's dedication, and the unwavering support of our families and wider community.

In this edition, you won't read about the Ofsted Inspection and Report that was published only a few weeks ago about the school (Pulse is about students and experiences) but the report and the process itself highlighted our strong culture and community spirit, best summed up by the word "family" being used repeatedly by so many and being central to the report. This reflects the supportive, inclusive environment we've built together, and provides the platform for so many of the opportunities and experiences you will read about in this edition.

From the academic brilliance of our Axiom Maths Mentors and the creativity of our budding linguists, to the courage shown on the ski slopes of Piancavallo and the innovation displayed in national competitions like Micro-Tyco and the Morgan Stanley Sustainability Project - our students have truly embodied our ethos: Teach What Matters.

This term has also been a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion and community. Whether it was Year 7's heartfelt food bank initiative, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors spreading kindness during visits to care homes and fire stations, our students have shown that leadership is as much about empathy as it is about excellence.

Our sporting achievements have been nothing short of phenomenal this season! From league titles in football and basketball to gold medals in handball and rounders across inter-Trust and Birmingham schools events, our students have demonstrated teamwork, perseverance, and pride in representing Holyhead. This year's Presentation Evening, celebrating 30 years of excellence, was a fitting tribute to the talent and dedication that runs through every corner of our school.

The arts continue to flourish as demonstrated best on stage at Birmingham Town Hall at Presentation Evening, but also through our sell-out production of Sister Act reminding us of the power of performance to uplift and unite. The entries to the first annual CRST Arts Awards this year were awe-inspiring and award winning too (You can see them on the homepage of the website - well worth a look!).

This year we've welcomed inspiring guests and visited the high and mighty - from authors and athletes to royalty - we were reminded that our students are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but already making their mark today.

We send a heartfelt thank you to all the staff whose dedication and creativity make these experiences possible. We also bid a fond farewell to Mrs Armitage and Mrs Leek as they move on to new opportunities beyond Holyhead.

We hope you enjoy reading about these experiences, largely shared in the words of our students. Have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing staff and students back in September for more activities and adventures!

Warm regards to you all and extra special best wishes as well to our students awaiting exam results this summer!

Mr D Knox | Principal

Contents

Ski Trip **14**



46
Micro-Tyco



22
Presentation Evening

37

Messages from our Year 13s

A heartfelt goodbye from our amazing Year 13 students.

10

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to our Silver DofE Award winners!

45

Morgan Stanley

Another successful Social Sustainability project.



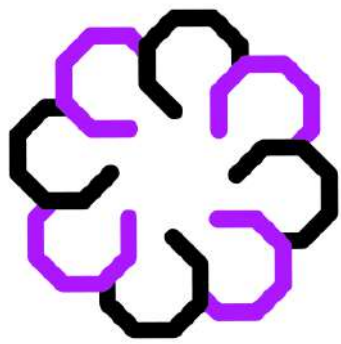
40
Sister Act



18
World Book Day



32
A Royal Visit



AXIOM MATHS

As an Axiom Mentor, I have the unique opportunity to work with some of the highest achieving students in Year 7, helping them develop the skills needed to guarantee a Grade 9 in GCSE Maths by the time these students get into Year 11. Axiom is not just about solving equations—it's about thinking differently, tackling abstract problems, and speaking the language of mathematics with confidence, it's also about taking on challenges, thinking critically, and communicating ideas effectively.

In my mentoring sessions, we explore challenging and unconventional questions that aren't usually explored within the classroom (which sometimes even confuse me!). My role as an Axiom Mentor is to guide these students in honing their problem-solving techniques, becoming more articulate in their mathematical reasoning, and embracing an adventurous approach to difficult concepts.

Being selected as the sole Axiom Mentor by Mr Tayub — having achieved a Grade 9 in GCSE Maths myself — has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Watching students push their limits and develop a deeper appreciation for mathematics is inspiring. It has also furthered my love for maths and pushed me to want to study mathematics further at University. Through this role, I hope to not only improve their skills but also instill a love for the subject that will stay with them throughout their academic journey.

Saima 12A | Junior Axiom Mentor

"Axiom maths circles first made me nervous. I was thinking that it was very hard and it was a waste of time, but going to these interventions made me change my mind. I think that axiom is very adventurous and it makes us articulate and accept our answers. Mr Tayub helps us when we are stuck and don't know what to do, that's why I think axiom is worth it."

Taha 7C | Axiom Mentee

"When I first got into Axiom maths, I was very ecstatic. Over the months, I learnt about parity, problem solving and differential mathematical skills plus techniques. I learnt to be articulate and adventurous by coming out of my comfort zone and answering hard questions. Overall, I am really happy and I think that Axiom Maths is a really wonderful experience for the students and the teachers."

Anisa 7E | Axiom Mentee

CoppaFeel! breast cancer awareness

Holyhead were delighted to welcome Emma, a volunteer from breast cancer awareness charity CoppaFeel! Emma, a breast cancer survivor, spoke to the whole of year 10 about the importance of knowing your normal and regularly checking your chests. She spoke about the importance of this for both biological males and biological females, and Year 10 watched a video on how this should be done. The assembly was a success, with year 10 asking some good questions and enjoying the free gifts from CoppaFeel! after the talk.

Miss B Dore | PSHE Curriculum Lead



Boosting Maths Confidence: The Grade 7-9 Maths Booster Club

Since the beginning of the autumn term, students from Year 10 and 11 have been attending the Grade 7 to 9 Maths booster club, held every Thursday lunchtime and led by Mrs. Sabin-Simpson, supported by Mrs Anwar. The club, which is designed to support students in their journey toward mastering key GCSE topics, is not only helping to build essential maths skills but also providing a space where students can tackle challenging problems, engage in mathematical discussions, and boost their confidence in a fun and supportive environment.

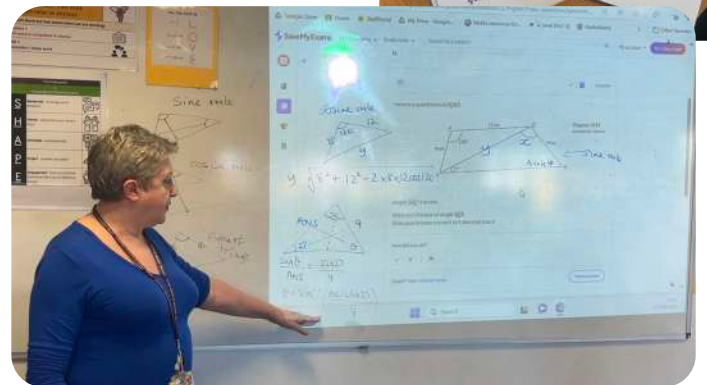
What is the Grade 7-9 Maths Booster Club?

The Grade 7-9 Maths Booster Club is an initiative aimed at helping students reinforce their understanding of GCSE maths topics while introducing them to more complex problem-solving techniques. Mrs. Sabin-Simpson, who has a wealth of experience in teaching maths, runs the club during lunchtime, providing a relaxed yet focused atmosphere where students can come together to improve their skills and approach maths challenges with confidence.

Each session focuses on key topics from the Grade 7-9 GCSE curriculum, covering everything from algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, to probability, statistics, and problem-solving strategies. The club also challenges students with high-level questions that encourage them to think critically, solve problems creatively, and develop a deeper understanding of the subject.

The club will be running again in the Summer term and we look forward to seeing all aspiring mathematicians there. Below is a snippet from one of our Year 11 students Rohan 11E who has been attending the club:

“The Maths Booster sessions helped me tackle challenging topics, like vectors, by working through tricky exam-style questions with guided support from Mrs Sabin-Simpson. This ultimately made me comfortable with common exam-style problems and the extra practice reinforced my understanding. The club also provided me with a motivating environment where I could push myself and learn with ambitious peers who are also striving for the best outcome in our GCSEs.”



STUDENT LIBRARY ASSISTANTS: Teamwork and creativity in Action

This term, a dedicated group of students have made a fantastic contribution as Library Assistants. They've helped create colourful bunting for themed events in the library and across the school, bringing creativity and energy to each occasion.

Alongside their artistic efforts, they've supported with organising books, learning key library skills like cataloguing and shelving, and working together to keep the library a welcoming and well-run space. Their teamwork, reliability, and positive attitude have made a real difference.

A massive thank you to **Maryam 10H, Nethra 10B, Amima 7C, Vijayakshmi 7D, Shahan Fordi 7E, Fatoumatta 7A and Raja 8E** for their time, effort and enthusiasm — you've been brilliant!

Epiphany

On Tuesday 14th of January, Year 10A with Mrs Grego celebrated the cultural French epiphany event. We ate the 'galette'.

The 6th of January is 'l'Epiphanie' or 'la journée des rois' and commemorates the visit of the three Wise Men to baby Jesus. It's traditional in France to eat 'la Galette des Rois'. French people will go to the bakery to buy this king's cake or make it themselves.



The 'galette' or Three Kings Cake, is usually made of puff pastry filled with frangipane. It's also traditional to hide a small charm ('fève') in the cake. The person who finds the 'fève' in their slice is the King or Queen for the day. The lucky person will wear a crown for the rest of the day.

*Guess who found the 'fève'? It was..... **Preety** who found it! Well done Preety for finding the charm.*

Vive la Reine!



Here is Grace who picked the crown from Preety while she was not looking.

Recipe for La Galette Des Rois

You could try this very easy, delicious and inexpensive recipe for a traditional French traditional King's cake.

Ingredients

- 2 ready-made sheets of puff pastry
- 125g ground almonds
- 125g granulated sugar
- 125g softened butter
- 2 eggs + a yolk
- 1 earthenware small figure for the lucky charm

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220.
2. Mix the butter and sugar until the mixture is fluffy.
3. Add the ground almonds and the two eggs. Mix well.
4. Unroll one of the sheets on an oven-proof tray, keeping the baking sheet underneath.
5. Spread the frangipane, drop the charm in then cover with the other sheet of puff pastry. Seal the edges by pressing them together.
6. Glaze the top with egg yolk then scar the pastry.
7. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes until golden on top.

Bon appétit!



Year 7 MFL students have enjoyed making masks in their French lessons. The enthusiasm among students was palpable as they eagerly designed the masks. They also included a description of the masks in French. We would like to congratulate the students who went above and beyond and showed their excellent oracy skills when confidently presenting their masks to staff including Mr Knox! This was a huge success! We cannot wait to continue to work with the Art department and make new masks next year. Watch this space!

Bravo to all Year 7 students who have designed lovely masks and have described them in French.

C'est trop cool!

Catwalk

Stay up to date on fashion trends with French and Spanish year 9 students!

In February, 9A and 9B ran a 'défilé de mode' and 9D, G and H ran a 'desfile de moda'. They confidently did a catwalk on the red carpet and facing the audience, described their favourite outfit in French or Spanish!



Congratulations to the best performers!



3rd

Ayaan



Oliver, Ekamjot
& Dawid

2nd

Zainab

Iasmina

1st

Angelo

Gaganpreet

Here is a challenge for you!

What is the French word for 'shop'? Can you name a Spanish fashion brand?

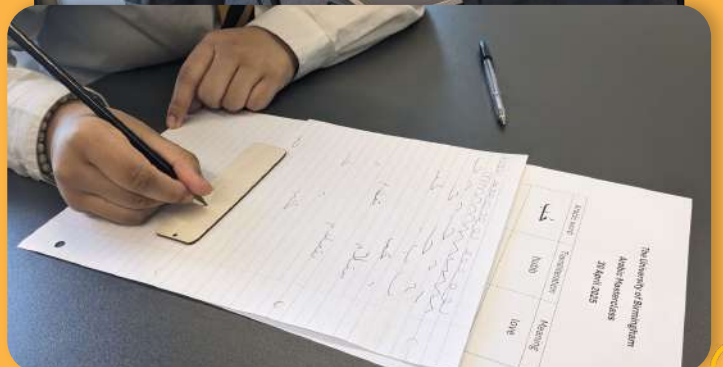
Language Masterclass



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Years 10 and 12s promising linguists attended a Language Masterclass event at Birmingham University. They were introduced to new languages such as Arabic and Japanese and worked on improving their language skills. The event was led by university tutors and students got interactive insights into what it is like to study a language at a Russell Group University.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day and sparked some fantastic conversations about careers in languages and going to University!





March was a month of excitement and discovery at Holyhead School as students celebrated British Science Week. Holyhead school became a hub of engineering innovation, with students designing, building and testing bridges and catapults. Once all was made, students competed with one another to see whose design was best!

In addition to engineering projects, students at Holyhead School also explored the wonders of biology by engaging in hands-on activities to grow their own plants. They learned about the life cycle of plants, the importance of sunlight, water, and nutrients, and even experimented with different growing conditions to observe their effects on plant growth. This practical experience not only deepened their understanding of plant biology but also fostered a sense of responsibility and care for living organisms.

A highlight of the week was the annual CRST KS3 Science Quiz, held at Holyhead School on March 13th, 2025. The event brought together bright minds from schools across the trust. The competition was fierce, with each student showcasing their knowledge and passion for science.

The event was a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of all participants. Holyhead School students served as outstanding ambassadors, displaying enthusiasm and camaraderie throughout the quiz. The experience was unforgettable, and everyone is eagerly anticipating next year's competition.



Our Year 12 physics students were given the opportunity to explore the science of roller coasters at Alton Towers theme park. Students were able to experience massive g-forces whilst swirling on The Smiler, feel the rapid acceleration on Rita and take on gravity whilst falling 180 feet on Oblivion. On top of this students had the opportunity to explore how these feats of engineering were masterminded, and look at potential opportunities for them to be involved in this industry. From these experiences students were not only able to apply what they have been learning in the classroom, but were able to overcome their fears and build their confidence. The trip on the whole was an exciting and rewarding experience for all, and the students were great ambassadors for the school.

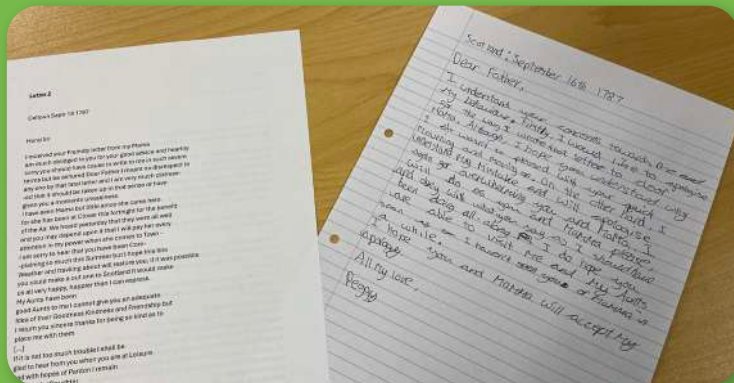


'A Time for Letters' workshop



Students were provided with samples of authentic letters written by James Watt to his daughter. The aim of the workshop was to determine how information could be selected and inferred from the details given. Students read the letters and discussed their ideas and opinions. Later, they took inspiration from these to write a personal response in a similar style to that of Watts. They had fun being creative with their word choices and shared ideas with Emma at the end.

Miss K Johal | English KS3 Lead/MHFA



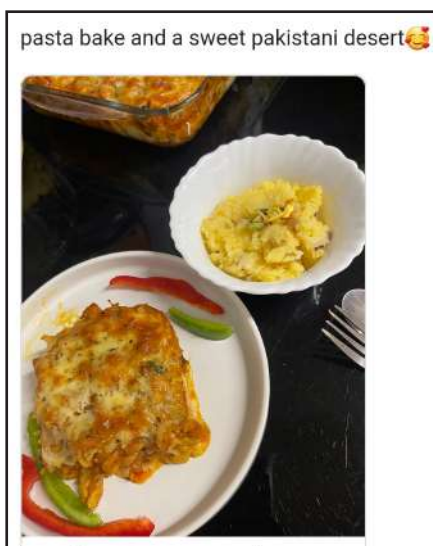
"In my experience in this workshop I think it was very interesting since i had to respond to my "father" who was stressed about me using a huge amount of money and that i had to write back what his daughter would. It was interesting when we had to write in a way that seemed like it was from the 1800s. This was a very fun and unique experience. I would recommend this for people who have the opportunity to come."

Zainab

The Conscious Sociology Eaters!

Last term within the Year 13 tutor programme, students had been learning about how the food we eat affects not only our physical health but mental health also. Students had been researching the impact our food and nutrition has on our memory, our concentration levels and our general mood.

Year 13 Sociologists have decided to take part in termly food challenges. In the last issue of the Pulse we detailed the outcome of the first challenge we completed which was Pescatarian Week. This term we completed Ultra Processed Free Week.



What is Ultra Processed Food?

Ultra-processed foods are foods that have been highly altered and contain many added ingredients, such as sugar, fat, salt, and chemical additives.

Students commented on feeling more energetic and less lethargic when UPF Free week came to an end. They also found themselves being less hungry in between meals which reduced snacking. They also enjoyed cooking everything from scratch and making an effort to study the labels of ingredients before purchasing them to ensure they were UPF Free compliant! Tune in for next month's challenge!

Ms Gordon | Sociology/Head of Year 13



Holyhead School has always taken great pride in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, encouraging students to challenge themselves and develop valuable life skills.

This year, we have 23 Year 9 and 10 students preparing to undertake their Bronze assessment at the Longmynd Adventure Camp in Shropshire. Alongside them, seven Year 10 students are working towards their Silver Award, having successfully completed their Bronze Award last year. Their decision to progress to the next level is a testament to how much they enjoyed their previous experience!

We are also thrilled to announce that the following Year 11 students have officially completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award:

Prabdeep, Amarah, Zuzanna, Blessing, Gurmam, Nishat, Mobashar, Aleina, Aaron, and Anam.

The DofE Award is structured around four key sections:

- Skill Development – Learning something new
- Volunteering – Giving back to the community
- Physical Activity – Taking up a sport or fitness challenge
- Expedition – A challenging outdoor adventure

Many of our students embraced these challenges with enthusiasm. Some took up new sports like basketball, while others volunteered within the school, assisting teachers. Many also chose to support the local Gurdwara, volunteering in the langar to prepare and serve food to the community—a heartwarming way to give back. Others pursued creative skills, such as jewelry-making, refining their craft over time with impressive results.



A key highlight of the year was the practice expedition, leading up to the final assessed outdoor expedition. Through a series of training sessions, students developed essential navigation skills, including map reading and compass work, enhancing their confidence in outdoor survival. Despite enduring all weather conditions, their determination and team spirit remained unwavering.

On an even more exciting note, we are delighted to send our best wishes to the eight students who have chosen to pursue their Gold Award—only the second cohort from Holyhead School to do so!

We couldn't be prouder of all our students for their hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Congratulations to all!

Mrs P Davies | Teacher of Food & Nutrition/Assistant DofE Manager



Community Spirit Shines Through in Year 7

Students across all Year 7 form groups have shown incredible kindness and generosity by working hard to collect and donate food for the local community food bank. Their enthusiasm and commitment to helping others has been truly inspiring, and the success of this initiative speaks volumes about their character and compassion.

At first, the Year 7's weren't sure what to expect, but they quickly realised how meaningful it was to be involved in such a vital cause. It wasn't just about collecting and sorting food; it was about making a real difference in the community. This gave the Year 7 helpers a sense of responsibility, as they saw firsthand how all of Year 7s efforts were benefiting families in need. Whether it was organizing food donations, packing them into boxes, or delivering them to local families, every task felt important and made each individual proud to contribute.

All the food was secured safe and sound. A massive thank you from New Life Wesleyan Church as our food impacted the local community. Furthermore, we spread hope and positivity to all of our neighbours and put a smile on their faces.

A huge thank you goes out to all our parents and families, whose support made this possible. Your contributions helped teach our students the power of giving and the importance of community.

This act of service reflects the core values of Holyhead—love, unity, care, and respect—and we couldn't be prouder of our students for living these out in such a meaningful way.

Well done, Year 7!

Anisa 7E & Mrs Edwards | Head of Year



MATHS MASTERMIND



In its second year, the Holyhead Maths Mastermind competition returned bigger and better, drawing even more enthusiastic participants. This inter-school challenge once again tested students' numerical and problem-solving skills through intense rounds of countdown, matchstick puzzles, and the mastermind challenge. The competition saw incredible effort, determination, and mathematical talent from all involved, making for another thrilling and successful event. Congratulations to our winners and all who took part, your dedication and courage were truly inspiring. We look forward to scaling up even further next year. Thank you to Miss Khatun and Mr Tayub for organising it all and of course the events team we couldn't have done it without you.

The Maths Department



Central Region
Schools Trust

Maths Inter School Challenge

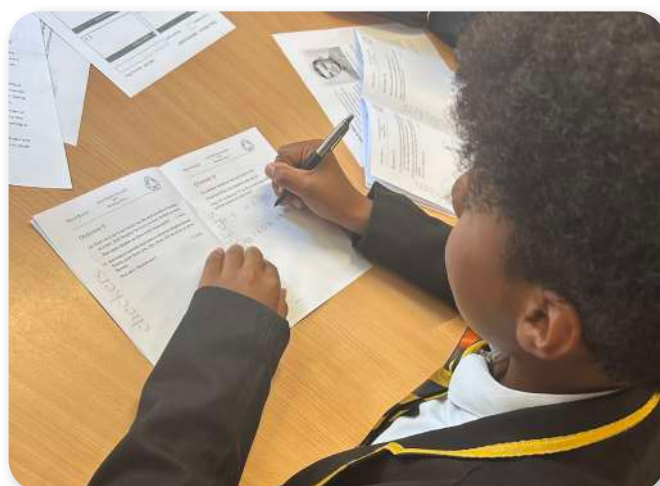
6 students were chosen to take part in the annual CRST Maths Challenge; Zemirah 9A, Udey 9F, Jiya 9A, Alisha 8D, Nikhil 8D and Mohammad 8G.

The students travelled to Arrow Vale Secondary School in Redditch, where they were placed in teams of 6, mixed with students from other schools within the Trust. The students had to complete 3 rounds of activities, in which they had to work collaboratively within their group, in order to score the highest points. The first two rounds saw the groups completing a variety of maths questions, with all of them relying on each others' knowledge to help them answer as many questions as possible. The final round consisted of the students completing a number crossword puzzle as a group - this round was extremely tense as there were groups neck and neck with one another prior to this round. Once the scores were totalled, the winners were presented with certificates and prizes; we had 3 students come away with first, second and third prizes for their collaborative efforts.

Udey was amongst the group who won 1st place, Nikhil was in the group who won 2nd place and Mohammad won 3rd place with his team.

It was a fantastic day and was a chance for the students to develop their maths and problem solving skills, as well as deepening their love for maths. The students were chosen, because they consistently put in effort in every maths lesson and this was a nice way to reward them and encourage them to continue with their hard work. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were challenged in each round, but were resilient and tried really hard - I am very proud of them.

Miss P Jandu | Mathematics - Lead Teacher for Year 9





Do you have any unwanted school uniform that is still in good condition?

Would you like to see fewer perfectly good school uniforms being thrown away each year?

Perhaps your child has outgrown their uniform and you no longer need it.

If so, we would love to accept any donations to help us set up a pre-loved uniform shop to pass on uniforms (for a small charge) to other families.

If you have any good quality uniform that you no longer need, we would be grateful for donations of:

Blazers

Ties

Jumpers

Shirts

Black trousers

Black skirts

PE kits



Parents or students can bring donations into school and drop them into the boxes in Reception.



Holyhead

Teach What Matters



An Unforgettable Adventure: Ski Trip to Piancavallo, Italy!

This February, 37 students from Holyhead School in Handsworth embarked on their first ever ski trip which became an unforgettable week at the beautiful ski resort of Piancavallo, Italy. What followed was a week filled with excitement, learning, and incredible progress on the slopes.

The Journey of a Lifetime

Our adventure began with a mammoth 27-hour coach journey from Birmingham to the Italian Dolomites. Setting off from Holyhead School, we crossed through France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland before finally arriving at our hotel in Piancavallo. Despite the long hours, the atmosphere on the coach remained lively—music, movies, and plenty of snacks kept spirits high!

Hitting the Slopes

For many of our students, this was their first-ever time skiing, and the idea of tackling the slopes was both thrilling and a little nerve-wracking. Over the course of the week, we had 20 hours of expert ski lessons, starting with the absolute basics: learning to balance, stopping safely, and making our first controlled turns. By the end of the trip, the progress was unbelievable! Most students who had never worn skis before were confidently navigating the blue runs, while a few even took on the challenge of the more difficult red slopes. Seeing our students' confidence grow each day was one of the most rewarding parts of the trip.

Après-Ski Fun

It wasn't just about skiing—the evenings were packed with activities, making our time in Piancavallo even more memorable. The food throughout the trip was delicious, with plenty of pasta, meats, and tasty desserts keeping us fuelled for the slopes. One of the highlights was our pizza night in a restaurant, where we got to enjoy authentic Italian pizza after a long day on the slopes. Another fun evening was the quiz night, where teams battled it out in a mix of general knowledge and ski-related questions. But a fan favourite was the alpine coaster where we got to accelerate to high speeds on a coaster up and around the mountains seeing the unbelievable views as we whizzed around it!

Memories to Last a Lifetime

Looking back, this trip was a once in a lifetime experience for many. It was a chance to push ourselves, learn a new skill, and experience a completely different environment. From the laughter on the coach to the exhilaration of speeding down the mountain, every moment was special.

We thank Mr Goodison, Mr Prentice, Mr Wright, Mrs Fry & Miss Fox-Roberts for all their hard efforts getting this trip from just an idea, to an unforgettable experience!!

Are we going to do it again? Absolutely! The Piancavallo 2025 ski trip was an incredible experience, and we can't wait for the next one! Watch this space!



BLETCHLEY PARK

Home of the Codebreakers

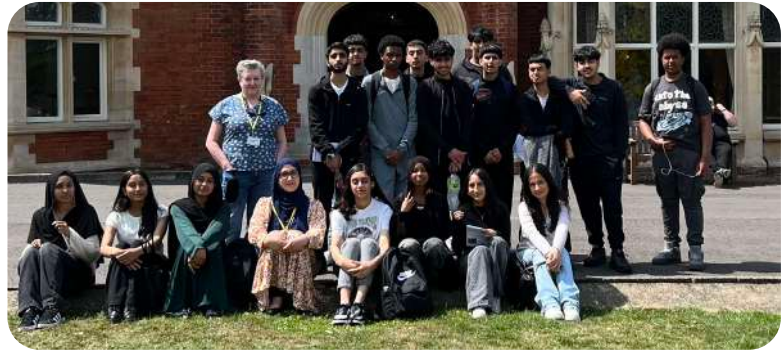
We took a group of Year 10 mathematicians and Year 12 mathematicians, historians, and computer scientists to Bletchley Park, to learn about code breaking in WWII and the development of modern computers.

Students took part in a workshop on breaking the Lorenz code, an important and difficult code used by the Germans to send secret messages. They also saw surviving Enigma machines, used to decipher the famous Enigma code, and the huts where the code breakers worked in very cramped, cold, and damp conditions!

The machines that were developed by this hugely talented group of mathematicians and engineers led to the design of the 'Colossus' computer, generally considered to be the world's first large-scale, programmable, electronic digital computer.

They found out that women played an extremely important role at Bletchley, but that because of the Official Secrets Act many never had any idea of the role they were playing in winning the war until many years later. 75% of the people working there were women, and their roles were vital at all levels.

One of the most famous people to work at Bletchley was Alan Turing, and there is a whole museum dedicated to him, containing quite a few personal possessions including his teddy bear!

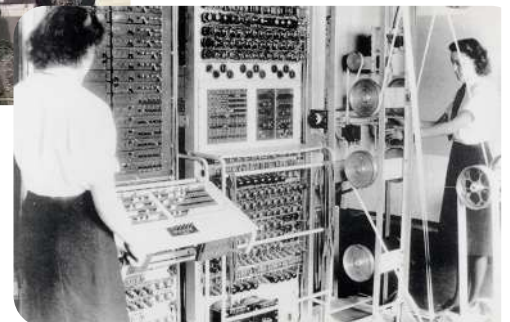


We did not have a lot of time to see everything, but we dashed about to see as much as we could manage—it takes a lot of time to see the whole site, which includes some vintage cars used in several films, and



a memorial to the Polish mathematicians and airmen who worked at Bletchley.

Image: Colossus computer women





I recently had the opportunity to visit Sutton Park Primary School for the first time, where I spent a day teaching Year 5 students about the story of Moses in Judaism. As I entered the vibrant classroom, I was greeted with

cheerful smiles and the energetic buzz of eager learners—which instantly set the tone for an exciting day.

My visit was centered around the significant story of Moses, a central figure in Judaism known for leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. The students were already familiar with some aspects of the story, but it was heartening to see their enthusiasm as I introduced them to the deeper meanings and lessons embedded within it.

Engagement with the students was truly fulfilling. Their eagerness to learn and explore new cultures was evident, making it clear that education goes beyond textbooks—it's about fostering curiosity and understanding among diverse communities.

As my day came to a close, I felt a great sense of gratitude for the warm welcome I received and the insights shared with the bright young minds at Sutton Park Primary. Visiting this school for the first time reminded me of the importance of sharing stories that bridge cultures, fostering an appreciation for different beliefs and practices. This also inspired me to keep helping the youth learn and become better people everyday.

Mangat 9B



To prepare for this project, me & Unaisah took on the role to organise the resources and the lesson to deliver. We also made sure to learn about Judaism in depth ourselves in order to answer any possible questions from the students.

We were very excited to teach the students at Sutton Park Primary in Year 1 about the story of Hanukkah and Judaism. Seeing their faces filled with excitement was one of the most enjoyable things, the kids were engaged and had fun with each activity we had set for them. In the end me & Unaisah were really proud of how much the Year 1s have learnt about Judaism and Hanukkah.

This experience allowed me to have an insight to what teaching feels like and has opened my mind into the world of teaching. It also allowed me to gain more confidence by stepping outside my comfort zone. Overall, this was one of the best experiences I've had and I'm looking forward to going out and teaching at more primary schools

Preeti 10A



SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH '25

On Tuesday 1st July, we invited Aman Dosanj and Tony Shergill along to Holyhead to kick off our South Asian Heritage Month celebrations.

Aman Dosanj is a former footballer for Arsenal and the Women's England team and one of the first British South Asian players. Now she works as a freelance journalist and follows her passion of farm to table produce and recipes.

Aman spoke to students about her career journey and playing as a young person on what are now, globally applauded teams.

Being a young, asian girl in the 90s, Aman was one of a kind. She spoke to the students about how the support and backing of her grandmother and family meant that she was able to enjoy and play a sport that she loved. She then joined our Year 10 boys and girl's football team in some drills and footballing sessions.

Tony Shergill, CEO of Brit Asia, a TV network that helped establish the British Asian sound of Bhangra, came and spoke to students about the importance of South Asian representation in mainstream media.

Tony spoke about how meetings and ideas have helped to spark global collaborations from major artists.

Students then split off into groups and worked in teams to pitch a new idea for a tv show to feature on Brit Asia.

The sessions and workshops were a huge success and offered students the chance to see South Asians in careers and sectors that they are sometimes underrepresented in.

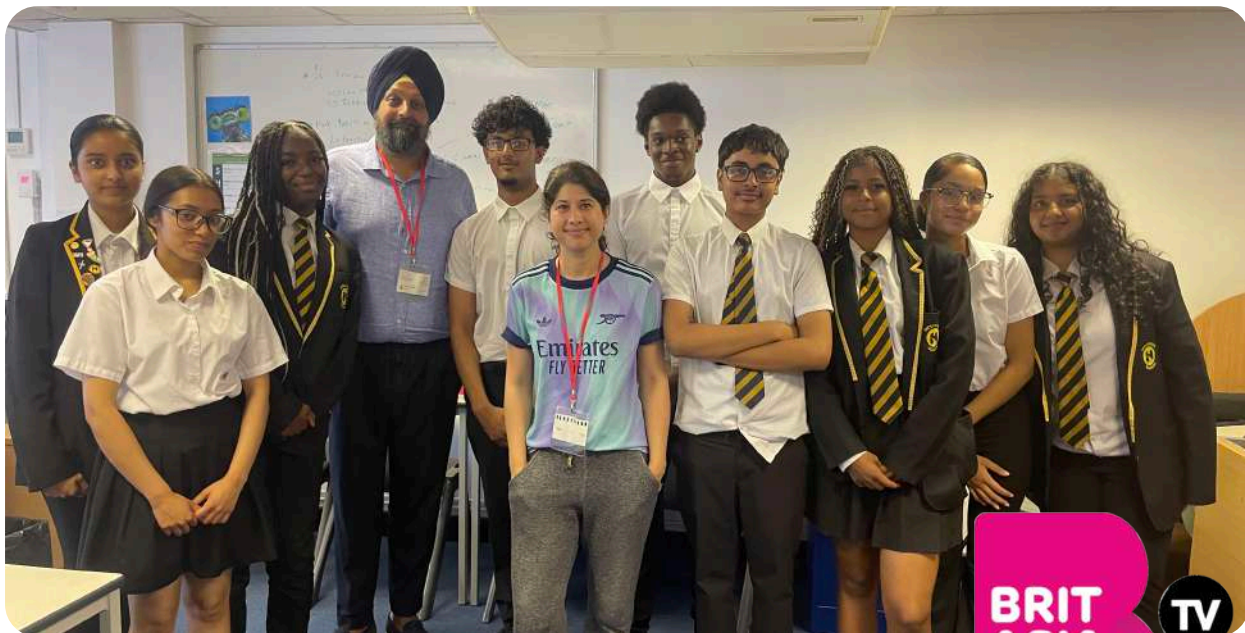
Students began to understand that there other opportunities outside of the stereotypical careers of doctors and lawyers that they can sometimes get pigeonholed into.

Following this, our students have also been offered the opportunity to visit the Brit Asia offices in September - we can't wait!

Alongside our speaker events, students have been working in their PSHE lessons to explore South Asian Heritage and how this has influenced industries.

Students were asked to pick a sector of their choice, be it Art, Food, STEM, sport and everything in between. They then researched and created projects on how South Asian heritage and history helped to influence this industry.

PSHE is a subject where students are given the opportunity to explore their identity and heritage and what this means to them - A huge thank you to Miss Dore and her amazing PSHE team, who did an amazing job delivering this project to our students!



Students have created fantastic projects and we hope to expand on this next year.

Miss S Kaur | Community Connector Officer

WORLD BOOK DAY

A Celebration of Stories and Creativity!



Holyhead School was alive with literary magic as students and staff came together to celebrate World Book Day in spectacular fashion! The event was packed with incredible costumes, inspiring authors, and creative competitions, making it a truly unforgettable day.

One of the highlights of the day was the fantastic effort put into costumes by staff and students alike. Teachers took dressing up to the next level, with some amazing outfits from our Heads of Year. A special shout-out goes to Mr. Lovell, Mrs. Parker, and Miss Garewal for their brilliant portrayal of the Three Blind Mice! Their attention to detail and enthusiasm brought a smile to everyone's faces.

However, the stand-out faculty of the day was undoubtedly the Humanities Department, who stole the show by dressing as characters from Dr. Seuss' beloved books. From the Cat in the Hat to Thing 1 and Thing 2, they truly embraced the spirit of the occasion and showcased their love of literature in style.

The day was made even more special by the incredible authors who visited Holyhead School. Students had

the privilege of meeting Matt Windle, a professional boxer and poet laureate, who shared his journey and the role that reading and writing have played in his life. His inspiring words encouraged students to see literature in a whole new light.

We were also delighted to welcome Iszi Lawrence, who worked with students on events that have had a significant impact on our cultural history. Her engaging sessions opened up thought-provoking discussions and deepened students' understanding of the power of storytelling.

World Book Day wouldn't be complete without some friendly competition! Many form groups took part in the exciting door-decorating contest, showcasing their creativity by transforming classroom doors into vibrant displays inspired by books. From chocolate bars to flags, the entries were nothing short of incredible.

The anticipation is building as we await the announcement of the winners, but one thing is certain – every participant has contributed to making the school a more colorful and inspiring place to learn.



WORLD BOOK DAY

A Celebration of Stories and Creativity!

Holyhead School's World Book Day celebrations were a true testament to the joy of reading and the power of storytelling. A huge thank you to all staff, students, and guests who made the day such a success. We can't wait to do it all again next year – who knows what literary adventures await us then?

Mrs S Bangar | Deputy Principal



Arts Award

Last term saw the inaugural CRST Arts Award, the first Trust-wide Art Competition, which was a tremendous success. Open to KS3, KS4, and KS5 students, this exciting event invited students to showcase their talent in Fine Art, 3D Art, Photography, or Food Art. The theme for 2025 was: "Our World, Our Future," which encouraged students to explore environmental issues, technology, and their dreams for tomorrow. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards were on offer in every category, as well as a chance to be exhibited, so the competition was fierce! Well done to all the entries as well as the winners.

The Holyhead winners were:

- Udey Year 9 BRONZE Trophy winner - FINE ART
- Sienna Year 9 GOLD Trophy winner - 3D ART
- Ilyah Year 9 GOLD Trophy winner - FOOD ART
- Zara Year 7 Holyhead ART Champion

D Brown | Art Teacher & Technician Artwork by Zara



Artwork by Ilyah



Period poverty

Period poverty is the lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints. Periods are a normal part of life. It is increasingly recognised that good menstrual health is an essential component to wellbeing.

Did you know that 1 in 9 children have missed school because they could not afford to buy sanitary products in the United Kingdom?

We have free period products in school and encourage girls to get their monthly supplies from the First Aid, Head of Years office. Just Ask for the **RED BOX**.

TOGETHER WE WILL END PERIOD POVERTY!!

EAL HUB

The EAL program at Holyhead was re-launched in September 2025 to support newly arrived and continuing students whose first language is not English. Students have made accelerated progress throughout the year.

Students have worked hard and have attended their intervention lessons held in the EAL HUB. Students have been introduced to digital tools and language apps to supplement their learning.

My first ever student to attend EAL interventions was Meerab Year 11- who has now left and I wish her well for the future. I thank her for giving me this opportunity to help and support other students.

Holyhead now has EAL intervention lessons that support students whose first language is not English. I look forward to continuing working with our EAL students and parents, so that students can make accelerated progress and be able to achieve the best grades they can.

Holyhead has and always will be, working hard at making sure that all of our students are confident and work to the best of their ability as we expect 100 percent effort from them at all times.

Ms T Ayana

Exploring the Wonders of the Ocean: A Sea Life Centre Trip

On Monday the 30th of June 2025, a group of enthusiastic EAL students embarked on an exciting educational trip to the Sea Life Centre, an experience that combined learning, adventure, and fun under one roof.

The trip aimed to deepen students' understanding of marine ecosystems, conservation efforts, and the incredible diversity of sea life. Upon arrival, students were greeted by a vibrant array of aquatic creatures—from shimmering tropical fish to fascinating sharks and majestic turtles.

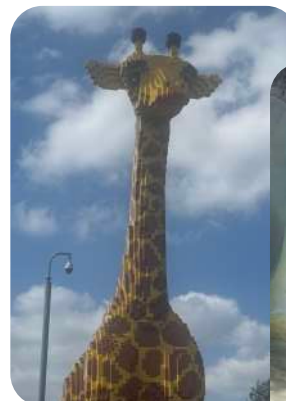
One of the highlights was the spectacular underwater tunnel, where students walked beneath swimming rays and sharks, providing a breathtaking perspective on ocean life. This immersive experience sparked curiosity and excitement, encouraging students to think critically about the importance of marine conservation.

In addition to the educational aspects, the trip fostered teamwork and social bonding as students explored the centre together, sharing their discoveries and reflections. Many expressed awe at the complexity and beauty of ocean life and a renewed commitment to protecting the environment.

Teachers noted the positive impact of the trip, highlighting how it brought classroom lessons to life and inspired students to pursue further studies or careers related to marine science.

Overall, the Sea Life Centre visit was a memorable and valuable experience that enriched students' knowledge and appreciation of the natural world, leaving them with lasting memories and a deeper connection to the seas.

We also visited the giraffe made out of lego, which was outside Legoland and learnt how to use the tram. Students saw canal boats and walked across the bridge. Students learnt new vocabulary and loved being around the posh end of Birmingham!



SEA LIFE
National
Birmingham

PRESENTATION EVENING 30TH

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence

ANNIVERSARY

On the evening of 26th June, Holyhead School gathered at the Town Hall to celebrate the achievements, talents, and dedication of its students and staff during the much-anticipated Presentation Evening. Marking a significant milestone—the 30th anniversary of this cherished event—the evening was truly one of the best yet, filled with inspiring performances, heartfelt recognition, and a strong sense of community.

From the very start of the day, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement and teamwork. Staff and students alike came together to ensure the smooth running of the event. Special thanks go to the Site Team who went above and beyond, stepping in as drivers to transport equipment, and to the catering team who kept everyone fuelled throughout the long, busy day.

The students who performed on stage dazzled the audience with polished and powerful acts. A special shout-out goes to the Creative Arts team for their tireless dedication in training students for a range of captivating performances—from the drama scenes of Cinderella and Gospel Choir to the vibrant rhythms of the samba. Their hard work truly brought the evening to life and showcased the depth of talent at Holyhead.

We were honoured to welcome a number of distinguished guests, including the Birmingham Lord Mayor, Councillor Zafar Iqbal, along with

representatives from our local community, business partners, and school governors. Your presence brought warmth and encouragement to the evening, and we sincerely thank you for joining us in celebrating our students' achievements.

In addition to celebrating student achievements in academics, enrichment, and leadership, this year's event introduced a new tradition—Long Service Awards for staff members. These awards recognised the dedication of colleagues with 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service, with a special tribute to Mr Toney for his incredible 40 years at Holyhead. This milestone underscored the school's appreciation for its hardworking staff, whose commitment helps create a supportive and inspiring environment for all.

Presentation Evening 2025 was a shining example of the Holyhead family spirit - staff, students, former pupils, and community members coming together to celebrate success, support one another, and reflect on the past 30 years of excellence.

As we look forward to next year's celebrations, the memories made this year will continue to inspire the whole school community.

Mrs A Mistry | Central Community Strategy Lead



PRESENTATION EVENING 30TH

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence

ANNIVERSARY

On Presentation Evening I won two awards, one for Community Champion and the other for The Micro Tyco. On the way there from school the traffic caused the journey to take around an hour which allowed me to perfect my looks for going on stage. The only really stressful part of the evening was getting sorted into our seats and knowing which seats we have for our second award.

During the night I kept on screaming inspirational messages as soon as the crowd went quiet after the applause for my siblings which made everyone smile and my parents proud. Right before my award, instead of stressing about going onto stage and being nervous about the crowd, I was just busy applying my lip combo and adjusting my hijab. As soon as I heard my name being called I slightly rushed onto the stage but right after I gave Millie (Benjamin Zephaniah's Sister) a handshake as I looked to the crowd I had a big smile of my face and I could hear my friends screaming on the top of their lungs and my Mom, Dad, Brother and Auntie faces waving at my from the balcony which made me feel recognised and adored.

For my second award I was too busy to look in the mirror due to forgetting the order we were supposed to go on stage in but eventually we got it sorted. This time as soon as I walked onto stage I gave a hand signal to encourage the crowd to make more noise for me which they did.

At the end of the Presentation I went up to the Head Prefects and shared many compliments with them because they were so brave. Then afterwards many teachers were telling me how I took the spotlight in any and every way I could which I personally don't think is true but after this evening many more teachers have learnt my name and I have finally gained recognition in time of Year 11 because next year I hope to be hosting at Presentation Evening."

Jumeria 10F

"When I was on the stage and started performing, I felt nervous but when I was in the middle of my presentation I started to have confidence in myself, I could face the crowd even if it was quite dark. When I finished my presentation I was happy I did it, although I didn't believe I would be able to look up at the audience that was filled with about 500 people but I knew I finished my dance successfully and let go of my thoughts and danced with joy."

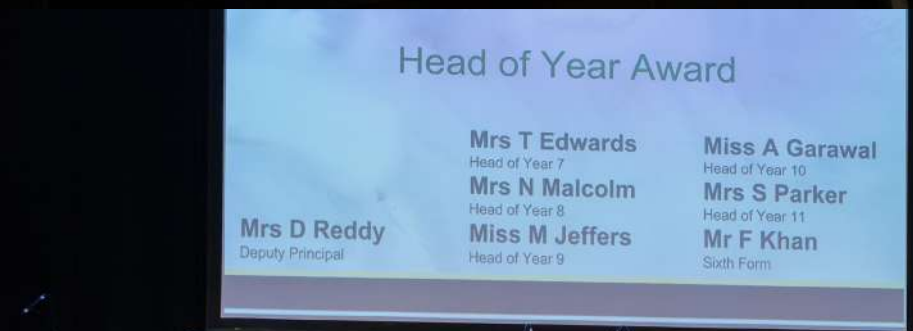
Grace 8F



"I enjoyed my time as it was filled with joy and I got to create bonds with people I never thought I would talk to and it helped me to gain confidence."

Chenteyana 10A







PRESENTATION EVENING

30TH

ANNIVERSARY



PE SPORTS REPORT

YEAR 7 & 8 BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

As the football season came to a close, both our Year 7 and Year 8 boys' teams proved themselves to be true contenders, finishing in the top three of their league. It was a season filled with determination, teamwork, and some unforgettable performances on the pitch.

From the very first training session, the players showed incredible commitment, pushing themselves to improve their fitness, technique, and teamwork. Hours of practice - whether in the rain, cold, or under rare bursts of sunshine - paid off, as both teams delivered consistently impressive performances throughout the season.

The Year 7 team, despite facing some tough opponents early on, quickly found their rhythm. With strong defending, creative midfield play, and clinical finishing up front, they played some beautiful football. Their teamwork and resilience were key to their success, and they proudly secured a spot in the top three, finishing the season on a high.

Meanwhile, the Year 8 squad built on the experience they gained last year. Their attacking play was a joy to watch, with stunning goals and well-worked team moves throughout the campaign. A standout moment was their thrilling 5-4 win against a strong Hamstead Hall side - proof that their hard work in training had truly paid off. Their consistent performances earned them a well-deserved 2nd place finish among the league's top teams.

Both teams stayed focused and determined right through to the final whistle of the season. Win or lose, their efforts were remarkable, and they made the school incredibly proud.

Beyond the results, the biggest achievement was the spirit, dedication, and friendships formed along the way. Congratulations to all the players and coaches for an outstanding season—one to remember!

Mr Gill & Mr Goodison

YEAR 9 & 10 BOYS FOOTBALL: CHASING LEAGUE GLORY

The Year 10 boys' football team were nothing short of dominant this past season, finishing at the top of the league with an unbeaten record and their eyes firmly set on the title throughout.

From game one, the team played with intensity, confidence, and a real hunger to win. Every match showcased their quality across the pitch - creative build-up play from the back, culminating in some ruthless finishing in front of goal.

One of the season's standout highlights was their explosive 8-4 win against Aston University Engineering Academy. It was a game that had everything: end-to-end action, high-scoring drama, and a performance that left no doubt about this team's attacking power.

Heading into the final stretch of the season, the boys remained focused and determined to finish what they had started. The title was within reach, and they worked hard to maintain momentum, stay sharp, and give everything in those crucial final games.

Whatever the final standings, this squad had already made a lasting impression - not just through their results, but through their teamwork, commitment, and passion for the game.

Mr Gill

YEAR 7 & 8 JR. NBA TEAMS: SPRING TERM ROUND-UP

The Jr. NBA season was a great success for our Year 7 and Year 8 basketball teams, marked by growth and determination.

Year 7, many playing competitively for the first time, finished 9th out of 18 teams, highlighted by an exciting win fueled by fast breaks. Year 8 finished 8th and made the playoffs, showing strong progress despite a tough loss to Holly Lodge.

Both teams benefited from expert coaching by the City of Birmingham Rockets, developing skills and a love for basketball.

Well done to all players for their hard work and resilience this spring term!

Coach Prentice



KS4 BOYS BASKETBALL: SPRING TERM SUCCESS

During the spring term, our KS4 boys' basketball team demonstrated great dedication and teamwork. Despite losing most of last year's squad, a young team mainly Year 9 players rose to the challenge of defending their championship.

After months of hard training, they secured a top-three league finish. Highlights included a thrilling overtime win and a dominant must-win game, showing resilience and skill.

The team's commitment and leadership made this season one to remember. Well done to all involved!

Coach Prentice

ASTON SCHOOLS GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE – SPRING TERM RECAP

This spring, our KS3 and KS4 girls took part in the Aston Schools Girls Basketball League, showing great determination and team spirit throughout their fixtures.

The KS4 team had an outstanding run, winning a close game against Aston Manor (18–16) and delivering a dominant 35–2 victory over Broadway. The KS3 team also showed promise, bouncing back from a loss to Aston Manor with an 18–4 win against Broadway, before a tough match against Windsor Olympus.

Both teams trained hard and represented Holyhead with pride. The KS4 girls were in strong contention for the league title by the end of term - an incredible achievement.

Well done to all the players for their commitment and teamwork!

Mrs Gill

CRST INTERTRUST HANDBALL TOURNAMENT – CHAMPIONS!

This spring, Holyhead proudly hosted the second CRST InterTrust Sports competition - a 6-a-side handball tournament held at Arrow Vale. Schools from across the Trust, including Waseley Hills, Churchill, Gospel Oak, and Ipsley, joined the event.

Holyhead's Year 8/9 boys' and girls' teams both dominated the round-robin tournament, finishing unbeaten and taking home gold medals. The boys were particularly impressive, conceding just one goal all day and securing several emphatic wins.

The girls also went unbeaten, showcasing excellent teamwork, skill, and determination. Standout performances came from Krystal, Kaisha, Isatou, Gaganpreet, Zemirah, and Aisha.

Huge congratulations to all involved - and best of luck to our teams heading into the summer rounders tournament!

Mrs Gill

SPORTS LEADERS 2024/25 – SPRING TERM EXPERIENCE

On 25th February, the 2024/25 Sports Leader cohort took part in the next phase of their Future Prospects programme, joining four other schools at Aston Villa's Brookvale Training Academy.

The morning featured a fun and engaging Kinball coaching session led by Kinball UK, giving students the chance to try a new sport while working alongside peers from other schools.

In the afternoon, students enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Villa Park, exploring the changing rooms, press area, dugout, and more—an unforgettable experience for all.

The programme concluded in June with a final leadership event at Alexander Stadium, supported by Birmingham City University.

Mrs Fry



STEPS TO SUCCESS

Ten Year 7 students took part in the Steps to Success day, focused on building leadership, confidence, and communication skills. They worked closely with peers from partner schools, excelling in team challenges, creative sports, and environmental problem-solving.

The students showed great teamwork and initiative throughout the day. They returned with two trees, symbolizing the environmental pledges they made, along with prizes and pin badges celebrating their achievements.

It was a valuable experience for personal growth and teamwork.

Mr Gill

GO LEAD: EMPOWERING FUTURE FEMALE FOOTBALL LEADERS

During the spring term, our students took part in the first phase of the "Go Lead" Girls Football Leadership Programme, aimed at developing skills and confidence in young female leaders.

They began by exploring barriers to female participation in football and discussing ways to overcome them. In the afternoon, the girls led football drills with students from other schools, demonstrating creativity and leadership.

The day ended with prizes and resources to support encouraging more girls into football. The students left inspired and ready for the next phase in May.

Well done to all for paving the way for future female sports leaders!

Mrs Gill

A SPECIAL VISIT FROM DAMIEN WOOD

During Sign Language Awareness Week in the spring term, Holyhead welcomed Damien Wood, a deaf footballer from Wolverhampton Wanderers and Team GB Deaf Football.

Damien lost his hearing at age three but never gave up on his passion for football. He played for Wolves, Everton, Manchester United, and England's deaf football team. He also coaches Wolves U17s.

Damien delivered football sessions and taught basic sign language to our students, inspiring them with his story of determination and success.

He returned in April to work with Year 10 and 11 students, leaving a lasting impression on all.

Mrs Gill



FOOTBALL SEASON 2024/25

Year 10 Boys

The Year 10 boys' football team enjoyed an unforgettable season, clinching the league title in spectacular fashion - winning every single match. From the first whistle to the final kick, they dominated opponents with skill, cohesion, and a relentless attacking style. Their goals came in abundance, each victory underscoring their exceptional talent and determination. An unbeaten campaign - and a clear signal of superiority - made the school immensely proud.

Year 8 Boys

The Year 8 boys also had a standout season, finishing a strong second in the league. They delivered consistent performances throughout the year, showing grit and teamwork in every match. The title race went down to the wire, and they narrowly missed out by just three points. Though they came up short, the players should feel proud of their progress - this season laid a solid groundwork for future success.

Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 team faced a tougher start, encountering early challenges that tested their resolve. Despite this, they gained valuable experience and learned key lessons that will form a sturdy foundation for next season.

Mr Gill

SUMMER CRICKET CLUB SWINGS INTO ACTION!

This summer, the school's cricket club has been buzzing with energy, teamwork, and the unmistakable sound of bat on ball. The Summer Cricket Club is in full swing and it's shaping up to be a season to remember.

From the very first session, students of all ages and abilities have shown up with enthusiasm, eager to sharpen their skills and embrace the spirit of the game. Each week, they've been working on batting, bowling, and fielding techniques, putting their progress into practice through exciting small-sided matches.

But the club is about more than just cricket - it's about building confidence, making new friends, and enjoying the sunshine together. With a few weeks still to go, there's plenty more action on the horizon. Here's to a summer of sport, friendship, and unforgettable moments!

Mr Prentice



STAFF FOOTBALL TEAM 2024/25

The staff football team delivered a superb season, winning every match in dominant fashion. With emphatic victories over Handsworth Grammar School, Windsor Olympus, and Hamstead Hall, the team's quality and cohesion were on full display. Each performance was marked by skill, composure, and a strong team spirit, showcasing the same values we encourage in our students.

These outstanding results have set a positive example across the school community. With confidence high, we look forward to building on this success next season - and hope to expand our fixture list even further.

Mr Gill



CRST ATHLETICS GAMES 2025

The CRST Athletics Games returned to the Abbey Stadium in Redditch on 20th June 2025 for only the second time in its history and it was a truly memorable day of sport, unity, and celebration.

Over 250 students from Years 7 to 10 took part, representing Arrow Vale, Church Hill, Gospel Oak, Holyhead, Ipsley, and Waseley Hills. Athletes competed across a range of track and field events, showcasing talent, determination, and exceptional sportsmanship throughout the day.

From the very first race to the final jump or throw, there was a buzz of competitive spirit, with students striving for the prestigious Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. Colourful banners and school flags waved proudly in the stands, as each school cheered on their teammates in a vibrant display of community and camaraderie.

After a full day of exciting events, the final results were as follows:

- Year 7 Winners – Waseley Hills
- Year 8 Winners – Ipsley
- Year 9 Winners – Holyhead School!!
- Year 10 Winners – Gospel Oak

Each winning school will now have their name engraved on the official shields and represent the CRST as the face of Trust athletics until next year.

A special highlight of the day was the return of VIP guest Dom Tripp (England Touch Rugby Captain), who delivered an inspiring speech to students on perseverance, striving for excellence, and the importance of continuous improvement. Joining him was Jess Dunton, the U20 British record holder for the 60m hurdles, who also helped present medals and celebrate the day's achievements.

A huge thank you goes out to every athlete and member of staff who made the event possible. Your energy, organisation, and enthusiasm created an unforgettable day.

We also want to acknowledge and thank all PE staff and students who participated in Inter-Trust competitions across the year. Congratulations to our winners:

- Football – AV Boys | CH Girls
 - Handball – HH Boys | HH Girls
 - Rounders – HH Boys/Girls Combined
- WELL DONE, HOLYHEAD!**

Mr Prentice

CRST INTERTRUST ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT - CHAMPIONS!!!

In May, Holyhead attended the CRST InterTrust Mixed Rounders Competition. With all schools attending and Gospel Oak defending their title, competition was rife. Holyhead's team consisted of boys and girls from Years 8 & 9. Holyhead played Waseley Hills first and we won 8.5 - 3.

Next came Arrow Vale in a tighter contest, but Holyhead once again came out on top. Momentum continued to build as we faced Ipsley, where our consistent teamwork and strategic play earned yet another victory.

Our penultimate match brought us face-to-face with defending champions Gospel Oak - a high-pressure game, but Holyhead rose to the challenge and delivered a convincing win. The final match against Church Hill was closely contested, yet Holyhead's resilience and skill saw us edge out another well-earned win.

With an unbeaten run and five straight victories, **Holyhead were crowned overall tournament champions.** It was an outstanding team performance, marked by excellent gameplay, determination, and true sporting spirit.

Congratulations to all the students who took part - you were thoroughly deserved winners!

Mrs Gill



SPORTS LEADERS 2024/25

On 13th June, the 2024/25 Sports Leaders cohort attended the final day of their Future Prospects sports leadership programme at the iconic Alexander Stadium.

After an opening introduction, the day was split into four interactive sessions. First came a data analysis task where students watched live sports footage and tracked key performance indicators - including passes, goals, and shots - without the ability to pause. A real challenge!

Next was a session in the sports laboratory, where students participated in various fitness tests and experienced exercising in a climate chamber set to a scorching 35°C.

Before lunch came a creative highlight: in small groups, students designed their own sports energy drinks using ingredients like squash, sugar, salt, and syrup. Some were delicious... others, not so much!

The final session was a coaching challenge. Students played adapted versions of rounders — using a tennis racquet, football, and frisbee — learning how different equipment affects game tactics and how activities can be adapted for different participants.

To end the day, students had the chance to take photos and run on the stadium's athletics track - famously used by elite athletes including Usain Bolt.

This marked the conclusion of this year's Future Prospects programme. It's been fantastic to see our students grow in confidence, especially in how they communicate with peers from other schools and staff from beyond Holyhead.

Mrs Fry



GO LEAD: EMPOWERING FUTURE FEMALE FOOTBALL LEADERS

A group of Year 8 and 9 girls were selected to take part in GO LEAD - a football-specific leadership programme designed to inspire and develop future female leaders in sport.

The course was delivered in three parts. The first session introduced key leadership concepts through collaborative activities with students from other schools, focusing on communication, teamwork, and confidence.

In Part 2, students visited Aston Villa's training ground, where they led warm-ups and skill-based activities - a hands-on experience that helped them build their coaching abilities. They then applied these skills by leading football sessions for Year 7 students back at Holyhead.

The final session focused on refereeing. Students learned the official rules of football, how to correctly blow the whistle, and how to use the flag - before putting it all into practice by officiating a small-sided game. This was a fantastic and empowering end to the programme.

Students will continue to build on this experience by refereeing primary school football events in September. It's been an inspiring journey - and we may just have some future referees in the making!

Mrs Gill

ASTON SCHOOLS ROUNDEES

The rounders season began in style on Monday 16th June with the Year 10 Girls tournament at King Edward VI Handsworth Girls' School. Holyhead started strong, securing a 9.5 – 3 win over Broadway. A close match against King Edwards followed, with Holyhead emerging victorious again. We then took on Holte School, delivering an excellent performance to complete a clean sweep. With three straight wins, Holyhead were crowned overall winners - well done to all the Year 10 students for their fantastic play!

Next up were the Year 8s in a well-attended tournament featuring seven schools. Despite strong performances and great effort, Holyhead finished in a respectable 4th place. A brilliant effort from all involved.

Looking ahead, the Year 7 tournament takes place on 7th July, followed by the Year 9s on 14th July. Best of luck to both teams - we're cheering you on!

A ROYAL VISIT WITH THE LIONESSES

On **Monday 30th June**, Holyhead had the honour and privilege of being invited to take part in a ceremony to send off the Lionesses as they prepared to compete in the Women's European Football Tournament in Switzerland.

As part of this exciting opportunity, eleven girls from our Year 8/9 football team visited **St George's Park**, England's national training facility, where they took part in coaching sessions and played football with some of the top coaches from the England Ladies squad.

One of the day's highlights was an interview with **His Royal Highness Prince William**, who was gracious, warm, and engaging with our students. He was joined by England Ladies Coach **Sarina Wiegman**, who also spoke with students and staff.

Our students designed and created banners for the Lionesses in preparation for their departure procession. With the DJ pumping out tunes, the Lionesses set off for the airport amid cheers from the students. The team showed their appreciation by signing autographs, shirts, and taking selfies with

excited fans. The Lionesses then drove off, followed by shouts and screams of good luck!

This was a truly wonderful experience for our students. Few Holyhead pupils can say they met a prince and a Lioness on the same day — a moment to remember and treasure forever.

Mrs Gill



HOLYHEAD HOSTS MONSTER KICKABOUT: NIKE, SPORTS DIRECT, AND SPECIAL GUESTS!

On Wednesday 2nd July, Holyhead School hosted an unforgettable event for our Year 8 students and several local primary schools: Monster Kickabout. This exciting day is part of a nationwide football initiative from Sports Direct and Nike, designed to inspire young people to discover the joy of football.

From morning until early afternoon, students participated in a wide range of football activities organised and delivered by the Monster Kickabout coaches. The atmosphere was electric, with stations set up across our astro turf pitch where everyone



could try new skills, compete in friendly challenges, and enjoy team games.

What made the day truly special was the incredible line-up of guests who joined us. We were honoured to welcome Ben Foster, former professional goalkeeper with a career including Manchester United, Birmingham City, and West Bromwich Albion. Alongside him was Alistair Patrick-Heselton, ex-QPR footballer and GB London 2012 Paralympian in 7-a-side CP Football. Also with us was Tom Ochoa, host and producer of The Fozcast Podcast, Commercial Director for The Cycling GK, and Ben Foster's agent. We were further delighted that Caroline Retabi, representing Nike, flew in from Amsterdam especially to support the inspiring partnership between Nike and Sports Direct.

Throughout the day, students had the chance to meet and chat with our special guests, who offered encouraging words as everyone took part in the activities. Ben Foster and Alistair Patrick-Heselton joined in too, taking penalties, setting challenges, and motivating everyone to have fun and give their best. A highlight for many was seeing some of our Holyhead students take part in post-match style interviews with Ben Foster, sharing their thoughts on the day just like professional footballers.

No one went home empty-handed. Every student received a fantastic goodie bag containing a Nike backpack, Nike socks, a Monster Kickabout shirt from Nike and Sports Direct, and plenty of other surprises. One of our own students was even awarded extra prizes—a brand-new Nike football and an Amazon gift card—for outstanding effort and behaviour throughout the event.

The day concluded with plenty of photo opportunities, captured by professional photographers and a videographer recording all the action. Students and staff alike were thrilled to capture memories with the guests and celebrate such a positive and inspiring experience.

Events like Monster Kickabout demonstrate the incredible power of sport to bring people together, build confidence, and create lifelong memories. A huge thank you to Nike, Sports Direct, the Monster Kickabout team, the visiting coaches, and of course our special guests Ben Foster, Alistair Patrick-Heselton, Tom Ochoa, and Caroline Retabi for making this such an incredible day for everyone involved. Well done, everyone!

Mr. Gill



FROM THE DIANA AWARD

My experience as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador has been a truly remarkable and rewarding experience for me. Meeting new faces, helping people and training with others has been thrilling. Being an Anti-Bullying Ambassador has enabled me to go on trips to the local Care Home and Fire Station, and organise charitable events such as penalty shootouts.

Aryan 9

Ever since I decided to join the Anti Bullying Ambassador team, I feel like life has been different. At first I didn't take it seriously but after a while, I really understood my position. I will forever be happy I joined the team because it has given me the chance to look at school life in a different perspective. I have had good and bad experiences which I have learnt from. I started speaking to people I didn't even know existed and I had the chance to talk to big groups of people which I am not confident in. I want to thank Mrs Denny for allowing me to continue being part of this group and I hope the next will be just as good as ours.

Anna E 9H



Our primary objective is to raise awareness. We achieved this by organising charity events to raise funds for various charities. We selected charities such as Let's Feed Brum and Bringing Hope. A range of charity events took place, including selling items, sponging teachers, penalty shootouts, and many others. In total, we managed

to raise approximately **£120** in just one day, which was an incredible achievement. This moment filled us with pride, as it was the result of months of careful planning. We promoted all events during assemblies and attended other classes to increase awareness about bullying. We discussed what bullying is and how to reduce its occurrence. Many found our efforts to be very informative. As part of the anti-bullying team, we have witnessed numerous smiling faces that were previously absent. I believe our mission is to bring joy to others and help them feel good about themselves, which in turn makes us proud of our work. Fulfilling our responsibilities is truly rewarding. I have never felt happier; bringing cheer to someone is like living a dream. In a world filled with conflict and violence, we must be the ones to put an end to it, as it impacts many. As members of the anti-bullying team, we aspire to halt this cycle of violence, as it affects so

many. **Bullying should never occur.** We must unite and put an end to such behavior. We need to support those who are suffering and firmly say no to bullies. It's crucial to recognise bullying, as it may be happening right beside you without your awareness. As previously stated, our main focus as part of the anti-bullying team is to combat this issue by raising awareness. We can prevent bullying by being inclusive, respectful, and kind to our peers. If you witness bullying, stand up for the victim, offer support, and question bullying behaviors.

Krystal

This Easter season, we as a Holyhead came together to make a heartfelt donation, thank you cards and loads of delicious chocolate easter eggs to our locals like the charity, Church Rose Nursing Home and Handsworth Fire Station. With students, parents and staff involvement, we aimed to bring a little more joy to our community during this Easter Season. We also went to the Church Rose Nursing Home to share our joy and smiles with them and gave them the easter eggs, played board games with them and had a chat with to know their stories. And for the 2nd half of the day, we went to the Handsworth Fire station where we had an opportunity to express out gratitude for their services and what they do us, they're always available to assist us, even during the holiday season. This Easter drive not only provide support to our local community but also reminded us of the of the holiday's true meaning and the connection with Holyhead-hope, renewal and love for one another. We are proud to be part of Holyhead as this tradition of giving and appreciating each other (outside Holyhead also) continues

Gaganpreet 9D

It was a lovely experience to visit the nursing home. I enjoyed every second of it just meeting all of these lovely kind people just shows us how much kindness there is in this world. The staff, the people who lived there were all so friendly and nice. Everyone had a great time playing and getting to know all of these sweet people. I honestly felt so much joy talking to these great people and them telling me about their lives. Overall I loved this trip and I'm so thankful that I got to go on it.

We all had a great time visiting the fire station. All of the staff were so funny friendly and helpful towards everyone. From trying on the gear to holding the equipment it was all enjoyable. I loved learning all about being and working as a firefighter although it is all hard work and takes lots of dedication if you enjoy what you do you'll make a difference. Overall I really had a lot of fun and was so thankful to be given the opportunity to go on this trip.

Roz 9D

Enriching Minds Through Maths Year 9 and 10 University Trips

Our High Prior Attaining (HPA) students in Years 9 and 10 had the exciting opportunity to take part in enrichment visits to Aston University and the University of Birmingham. These trips were designed to spark greater interest in mathematics and showcase the many career opportunities the subject can offer.

During their visits, students engaged in interactive workshops and fun, competitive quizzes that stretched their thinking and challenged them to apply maths in real-world contexts. The sessions also provided valuable insight into how maths is used in various professional fields, including finance, engineering, and visual animations.

The trips were a fantastic way to inspire our young mathematicians and help them see how their classroom learning connects to exciting future pathways. We look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their ambitions going forward.

"I didn't realise maths was used in so many different careers – it actually made it feel more interesting."

Saira 10F





As we reach the end of the summer term, it's hard to believe that Year 12 is nearly over. The journey this year has been a steep learning curve for many, and it's been great to see students beginning to understand what it truly means to succeed in Sixth Form. With End of Year exams now complete, students are starting to reflect on their progress and consider their next steps into Year 13.

This term, our tutor programme has covered a range of important topics - from exploring careers and job opportunities to more personal issues such as staying safe in relationships. These sessions have prompted thoughtful discussions and helped students grow both academically and personally.

Looking ahead, preparations for Year 13 are already underway. The UCAS process will begin in July and continue into the autumn term, and students will start drafting their personal statements. Even if university isn't the goal for everyone, this is still a valuable process, especially when used alongside a strong CV for job or apprenticeship applications.

Beyond lessons, this term has offered a range of enrichment opportunities. We kicked things off with a fantastic Careers Morning, organised by our dedicated careers team. Students attended a university and careers fair and participated in mock interviews with over 45 volunteers from various industries. Prior to this, students had worked on their CVs during tutor time, which were then discussed during their interviews. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive - they found the event incredibly helpful in building confidence and sharpening their focus on the future. We also partnered with Lloyds Bank for a mock assessment centre day, attended by 45 of our top-performing students. This immersive experience included individual tasks, group challenges, and presentations. Events like these are essential in giving students a taste of what to expect in the world of work - and many came away feeling more prepared and motivated than ever.

We're now finalising arrangements for our annual trip to the UCAS Universities Fair at the NEC. This event provides students with the chance to explore apprenticeship routes, graduate work placements, and speak directly with representatives from universities

across the UK. It's always an inspiring day that helps students set clear goals for their final year.

As we head into July, our focus turns to work experience. This is a key part of our summer term, and we're encouraging all students to secure placements for the week starting Monday, 14th July. A big thank you to those parents and carers who've already supported their children in finding placements - your help is vital, and very much appreciated.

Also coming up is our Wellbeing Week, designed to help students make a positive transition into Year 13. It's a great way to end the year on a high - with a mix of wellbeing activities, team-building tasks, and the much-anticipated Rewards Trip. After such a full-on year, it's a chance for everyone to relax, reflect, and enjoy time with friends and staff.

We were pleased to welcome many of you to Parents Evening back on 3rd April. Thank you for your ongoing support - it's been a pleasure discussing your child's progress with you. If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Office by phone or email at sixthformoffice@holyheadschool.org.uk.

This term, over 40 students earned the privilege of Home Study, thanks to their outstanding attendance and punctuality. This means eligible students with no lesson during Period 4 can sign out early. To qualify, students need 95%+ attendance and minimal late marks. We hope this continues to motivate others to stay on track next term.

It's been a fantastic year so far, and we're incredibly proud of how far our Year 12 students have come. Good luck to everyone as you get your results - we look forward to seeing you thrive in Year 13.

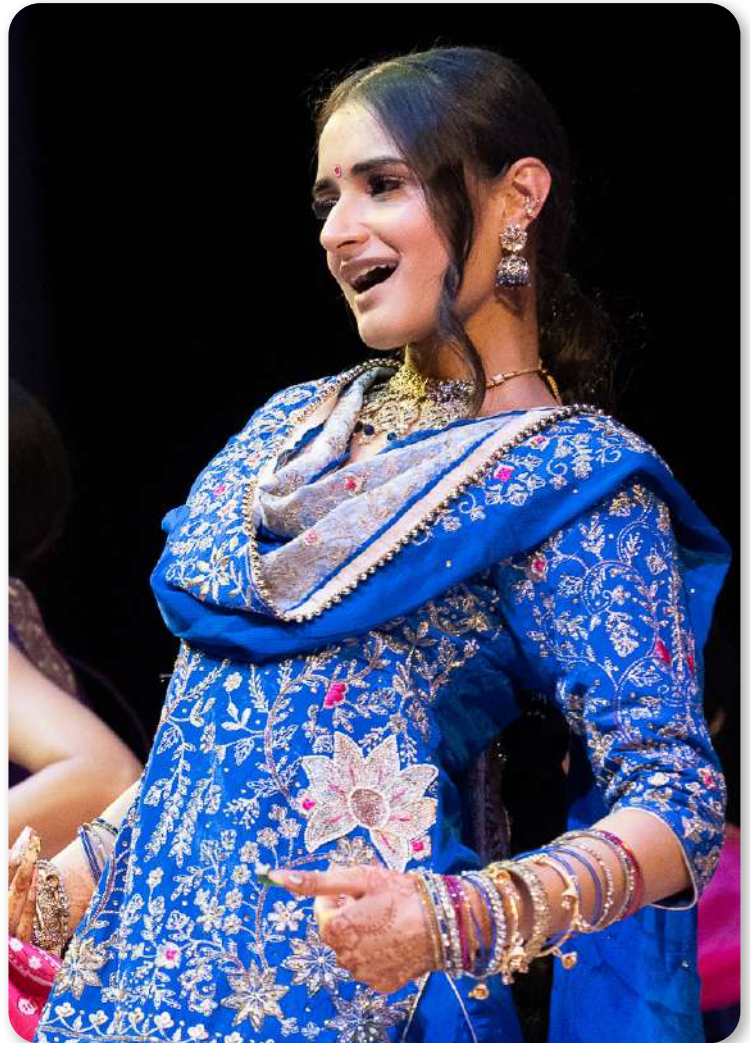
Mr Mills | Head of Year 12





As my time at Holyhead comes to an end, I've been reflecting on just how much this school has meant to me. It's more than the lessons in the classroom but it's the people, the memories, and the sense of belonging that made Holyhead feel like home. Over the years, I've grown not only academically but as a person, and that's due to the friendships I've built and the teachers who supported me every step of the way. Some of my most treasured memories are from rehearsals and Presentation Evening. Whether performing on stage, receiving awards, or cheering on friends, those moments reminded me how much we've all accomplished together. Being given the chance to perform helped me build confidence and find my voice, which is something I'll always be grateful for. Every award I received was a symbol of hard work, dedication, and the belief others had in me, even when I didn't always believe in myself. The thought of leaving is bittersweet. There's so much excitement about the future, but also a real sadness in closing this chapter. Holyhead has given me more than just an education; it's given me friendships I'll carry for life, lessons I'll never forget, and memories I'll always hold close. I'm proud of the person I've become here, and I'll always carry a piece of Holyhead with me wherever I go.

Rhea 13D



Hey, this is Suraiya. I've spent seven whole years at Holyhead, all the way from Year 7 to Year 13, and I can't stress enough how precious Holyhead is to me! I've made countless friendships with so many people over the years—not just with students, but with teachers too—and the memories we share are truly unique.

Holyhead has shaped me into the person I am today: kind, caring, confident, and someone who absolutely shines on stage. The opportunities I've been given—whether for trips or to showcase my talent—have been second to none. From performances at the ICC and Birmingham Town Hall to chances to win awards and go on amazing trips to France and Alton Towers, it's been unforgettable.

There's no better place to shine as a student than Holyhead! Look forward to the next chapters of your life here and get ready to make memories that will stay with you for a lifetime—just like they have for me!

Suraiya 13E

End-of-Year Message: Year 11 Leavers

As we reach the end of this academic year, it is with a deep sense of pride and emotion that I write this message to our incredible Year 11 students. Having had the privilege of being your Head of Year for the past five years, I can honestly say it has been a journey I will never forget.



Watching you grow from wide-eyed Year 7s into the confident, capable, and compassionate young people you are today has been one of the greatest joys of my career. Through the ups and downs, the challenges and triumphs, you have shown resilience, kindness, and determination. It has been an honour to walk beside you on this part of your educational journey.

For those of you returning to us in Sixth Form, I genuinely look forward to continuing this journey with you. For those moving on to new and exciting

opportunities elsewhere, I know you will thrive and make your mark wherever you go. I look forward to hearing about your successes in the years to come and hope our paths cross again in the future.

Our Year 11 Prom was a perfect celebration of all we've shared—a night filled with laughter, joy, and memories that will stay with us forever. It truly marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the parents and carers who have supported both the school and myself over these five years. Your encouragement, understanding, and partnership have been invaluable in shaping the students into the amazing young people they are today.

To the class of 2025 – you are remarkable. Go out into the world with confidence, kindness, and courage. Be proud of who you are and all that you’ve achieved. The future is yours to shape, and I know that you will shine brightly wherever life takes you.

You are amazing – go out there and shine.

Warmest regards,
S Parker | Head of Year

SIGN LANGUAGE AWARENESS WEEK: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SILENT WORLD

As part of Sign Language Awareness Week, Holyhead was honoured to welcome Amritpal Mistry, Health and Wellbeing Officer for deafPLUS Birmingham, who delivered a powerful and inspiring talk to selected Year 7 and 8 students.

In her session, titled *“My Silent World,”* Amrit shared her personal experiences growing up Deaf, including the challenges of being bullied for wearing a hearing aid and feeling different. Her message—**“always be kind”**—resonated strongly with students, who engaged with thoughtful questions and showed great empathy throughout.

This inspiring talk was a valuable opportunity for students to understand the lived experiences of the Deaf community and the importance of inclusivity, acceptance, and kindness in everyday life.

Following Amrit's visit, we continued our awareness efforts by hosting Damien Wood, Deaf GB Footballer and Wolverhampton Wanderers coach, who worked with our PE department and students to promote inclusivity in sport (see full article in this edition!).

A huge thank you to Amrit, Damien, the PE department, and everyone involved for helping make Holyhead a more inclusive and understanding community.

Mrs Mistry | Central Community Strategy Lead



Business in Action

DRAYTON MANOR

Our Year 10 GCSE Business students took part in an educational visit to Drayton Manor Resort to help them connect classroom learning with real-world business practice.

The workshop gave students a detailed insight into how the resort operates as a business. It began with an overview of Drayton Manor's background including its mission, aims and values, before moving into the importance of marketing and customer experience in a competitive market. The session was focused, informative and directly linked to key topics we've explored in class. It was great to see students making connections, asking thoughtful questions and engaging with the subject in a meaningful way.

After the workshop, students had the opportunity to explore the park and observe how the business operates from a visitor's perspective. The experience helped to deepen their understanding of how businesses like Drayton Manor are run on a day-to-day basis.



"The workshop was very interesting and helpful. I can now see how the business concepts we learn in lessons are applied in the real world"

Hussnain 10B

"Seeing how Drayton Manor runs as a business made me think differently about theme parks. It's not just about fun, there is a whole strategy behind it"

Aneesa 10E

Overall, it was a valuable, enjoyable day that brought business studies to life beyond the classroom.

Miss Alaudeen | Business and ICT

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

CISCO Girls in IT

Birmingham City University (BCU) hosted the Cisco Girls in IT 2025 event, a dynamic and empowering day designed to ignite a passion for technology among young girls. Held in partnership with Cisco, a global leader in networking and cybersecurity, the event welcomed 10 of our Year 8 girls in addition to others from across the West Midlands to explore the exciting world of IT.

Students had the opportunity to:

- Explore cybersecurity challenges in hands-on simulations.
- Connect a Raspberry Pi Pico to another computer and learn how to program it.
- Learn about AI and digital transformation through real-world case studies.

One of the highlights of the day was a Dragon's Den-style challenge, where students pitched their ideas for an AI-powered app designed to make people's lives easier. The panel made up of inspiring female



leaders from Cisco and BCU listened carefully as our Year 8 girls presented their ideas with confidence, creativity, and curiosity. Their pitches not only showcased their problem-solving skills, but also sparked thoughtful discussions about how technology can be used to make a positive impact. It was fantastic to see the girls speaking so passionately and professionally in a real-world setting, leaving a lasting impression on everyone in the room.

The Girls in IT event is more than a one-day experience—it's part of a wider mission to inspire future female tech leaders and show every girl that she belongs in the digital world. Events like this spark ambition and curiosity, and remind students that tech doesn't just welcome their ideas—it needs them!

Mrs R Johal | ADOL Business & Computing

Holyhead School Shines in Sell-Out Production of

Sister Act

A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY

Holyhead School's Creative Arts department brought the house down during Spring term with a high-energy, feel-good production of *Sister Act: The Musical*. Featuring a talented cast of students from Years 8 to 11, this show was more than just a performance — it was a triumphant return to the stage after the challenges of the COVID era.

The production played to sold-out audiences on both nights, with excitement radiating from the stage and filling the auditorium. Students dazzled with their confidence, charisma, and commitment, making it a truly unforgettable experience for all who attended. It was clear how much hard work had gone into every scene, and the pride in the room was palpable.

A special shout-out goes to Blessing 11A, who took on the demanding lead role with incredible poise and passion — all while balancing the pressures of GCSE year. Her performance was a standout moment, showing not only remarkable talent but true dedication.

Directed, choreographed, and musically led by Miss Kerr, the show was a true team effort. She was supported by the rest of the Creative Arts team: Miss Brandy as stage manager, Mr Brown for technical setup and lighting, and Mr Dodds handling sound. Behind the scenes, essential support came from Miss Homer, Mrs Stafford, and Miss Williams, helping everything run smoothly.



This production was a celebration of creativity, resilience, and community spirit. A huge well done to every student and staff member involved — you've done Holyhead School proud!

Here's what Chenteyana, who played the supporting lead role of Mother Superior had to say about her involvement in the school production.

"My time in Sister Act was a very positive environment filled with good energy and I could be myself while still being able to keep that high level of professionalism that has been installed in me by the Creative Arts staff." **Chenteyana 10A**

hairspray

The Broadway Musical

Our Year 10 Performing Arts students recently took a vibrant and inspiring trip to Malvern Theatre to watch *Hairspray: The Musical* — a dazzling production full of energy, colour, and powerful messages.

This visit supported their Component 1 coursework, which involves exploring a play in depth by analysing production elements such as set, lighting, costume, and sound, as well as understanding the creative intentions behind the work. Seeing a professional performance live gave students the chance to experience how these elements come together on stage to bring a story to life.

The performance also offered valuable insight into how theatre can address social issues in an engaging and thought-provoking way.

"Watching 'Hairspray the Musical' showed the process of diversity and integration which I truly loved, educating the audience in a way to engage our society." **Zahra 10A**

The trip not only enriched their coursework but also left many feeling inspired about the world of theatre and their own potential within it.



RSA8

Celebrating Unity through Food

This year's RSA 8 social action project brought together creativity, culture, and community in a powerful celebration of diversity. RSA 8 gives students the opportunity to explore a cause they are passionate about—and this year, a group of thoughtful and enthusiastic students, known as the *Culture Crowd*, chose to focus on the theme of *unity in diversity*.

Believing that food is one of the best ways to bring people together, the Culture Crowd created a unique calendar that showcases a different dish and culture

each month. The calendar features recipes and cultural highlights from countries including the UK, India, Poland, Romania, Nigeria, Jamaica, and many more—offering a delicious and educational journey through the year.

As part of the RSA 8 initiative, students also participated in a series of workshops with other schools in the trust. These sessions helped them build vital skills such as communication, confidence, and presentation—tools that will serve them well both inside and outside the classroom.

Through their passion, teamwork, and creativity, the Culture Crowd have shown how something as simple as sharing a meal can become a powerful message of unity and inclusion.

Miss S Kaur | Community Connector Officer



FREE

*Breakfast
Club*

All students
welcome

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feeding humanity

A Project By  **KHALSA AID**

Join us for **FREE TOAST**
at the Front pod (via Milestone Lane gate)
Every day from 8:15am - 8:30am



Holyhead School marked VE Day with a powerful and creative cross-curricular event, bringing history to life across all subject areas. Staff and students worked together to explore the significance of Victory in Europe Day, while connecting key themes of World War II with their current learning. Each department brought its own unique lens to the commemoration:

- **Art** students designed bold, emotive wartime posters, drawing inspiration from 1940s propaganda art.
- **Maths** explored the fascinating world of wartime coding and encryption, reflecting on the crucial role of codebreakers.
- **PSHE** discussions focused on resilience, sacrifice, and unity, helping students understand the values that shaped the war generation.
- **History** lessons deepened understanding of key events, figures and the global impact of WWII.
- **Geography** examined the countries involved in the war, their alliances, and how the global conflict reshaped international borders.

A special highlight of the day was a **guest visit from Deputy Lieutenant Mr Johal**, who delivered an inspirational talk to our Key Stage 3 History students. Mr Johal spoke with passion and clarity about the sacrifices made during the war, the significance of VE Day, and the enduring value of education in shaping future leaders.

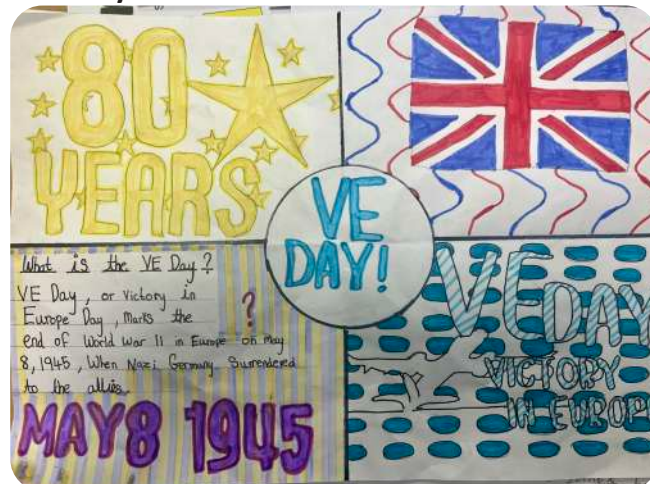
"Your message about the significance of VE Day, the sacrifices made during the war, and the importance of valuing education truly resonated with both students and staff. We are grateful for the time and effort you dedicated to engaging with our school community and for motivating our young learners to see themselves as the leaders of tomorrow."

Adding to the atmosphere, our **wonderful catering team** prepared a **themed lunch menu** inspired by wartime Britain. From classic dishes reflecting rationing to popular meals of the 1940s, students were able to enjoy a true taste of history. It was a delicious and immersive addition to the day's events, helping everyone connect further with the era.

The day served as a powerful reminder of the impact of history on our lives today, and how every subject - and every corner of the school - can play a role in understanding the past.

Thank you to all staff, students, our catering team, and Mr Johal for making this a meaningful and memorable VE Day at Holyhead.

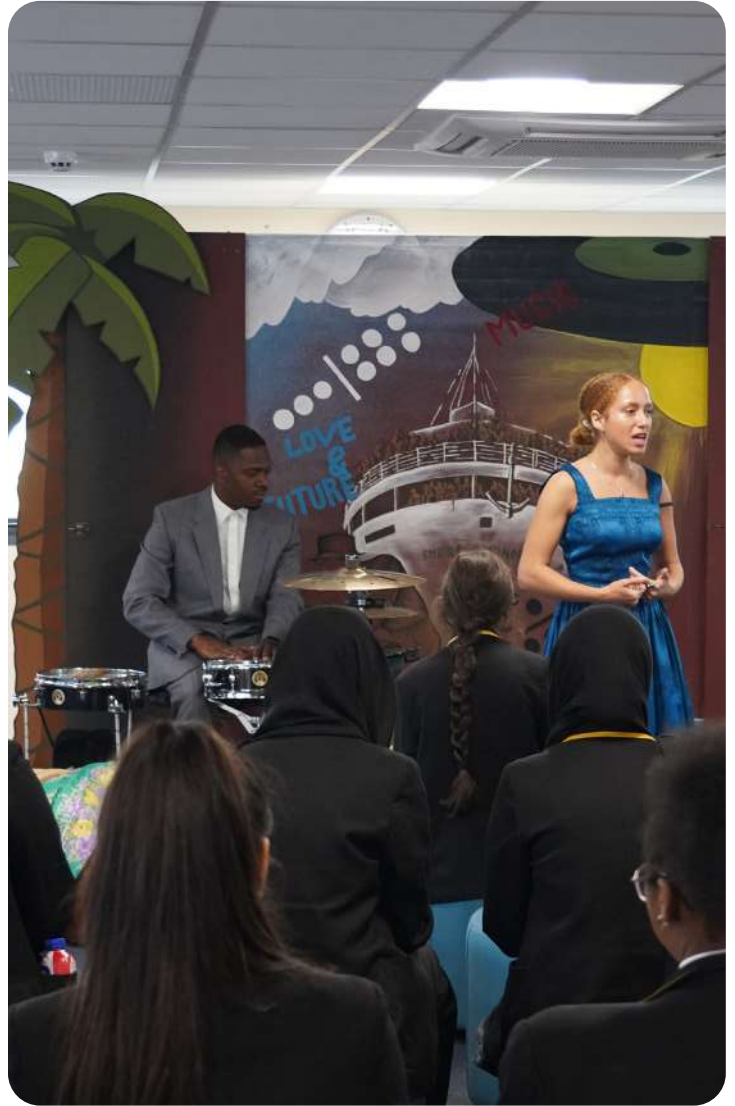
Mrs Mistry & Miss Kaur



WINDRUSH

The final topic that Year 9 History students study this year is the History of Migration. Our lessons on the contributions of the Windrush Generation overlap with the National Windrush Day celebrations. This year theatre company Sudden Productions performed 'Our Songs of Windrush' to Year 9 students. Their hour-long performance led the students through many aspects of the Windrush experience, such as the way the call for help to rebuild Britain was made in the Caribbean, the role of food, church, employment and solidarity, up to the Windrush Scandal of the 2010s. Students and staff present loved the engaging way the history was taught, and we hope to welcome Sudden Productions again in the future.

Mr A Lane | Humanities



Every June, Holyhead School proudly takes part in commemorating the Windrush generation—those brave individuals who journeyed to the UK aboard the Empire Windrush, seeking a better life after the war. While they arrived with hope, they were met with racism, discrimination, and countless social challenges. Yet, their strength and resilience helped lay the foundation for a more inclusive Britain.

This year, Holyhead students Harjinder and Mangat powerfully contributed to the commemorative service by reading a heartfelt poem that reflected the struggles and triumphs of the Windrush generation. Their words honoured the sacrifices made by those who came before and recognised the ongoing impact of their legacy.

The ceremony, held outside Birmingham Town Hall, was attended by the Mayor and several veterans, adding further meaning to the occasion. Together, they stood in reflection, respect, and gratitude for a generation that helped shape modern Britain.

Holyhead is proud to play a part in keeping these important stories alive—ensuring that the contributions of the Windrush generation are never forgotten.

Miss S Kaur | Community Connector Officer



DRAGONS' DEN AT HOLYHEAD:

Social Sustainable Environment Project with MORGAN STANLEY

This spring & summer term, Holyhead proudly partnered with Morgan Stanley to launch an exciting Innovation Project involving 30 creative and motivated Year 7 students. The challenge: design a sustainable product or service that would have a positive environmental and social impact.

Working in small teams, students were each supported by a professional mentor from the Morgan Stanley team, helping to guide their ideas and build their confidence. The programme ran over three key sessions:

- **Session 1 – The Launch:** The Morgan Stanley team introduced the project, inspiring students to think critically and creatively about sustainability.
- **Session 2 – Development:** Students further developed their concepts, working closely with their mentors to prepare their pitches.
- **Session 3 – The Pitch:** The final session saw teams present their projects in a Dragons' Den-style showcase. The judging panel included Mrs Sehra (Director of Learning), Mr Dave Knox (Principal), and Orla MacSherry (Morgan Stanley CRST Trustee). Students impressed the Dragons with their confident delivery, problem-solving and innovative thinking.

This exciting experience helped students develop **teamwork, leadership and presentation skills**, while gaining insight into business, sustainability and creative thinking beyond the classroom.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the amazing Morgan Stanley team for their mentorship and support throughout:

- Stephanie Mitchell (Lead)
- Enrique Pirez Sanchez (Deputy Lead)
- Niall Dunleavy
- Hannah Boscott
- Sam Hesler
- Diarmuid Dennehy
- Matilde Molinari Giglietti
- Orla MacSherry (Trustee)

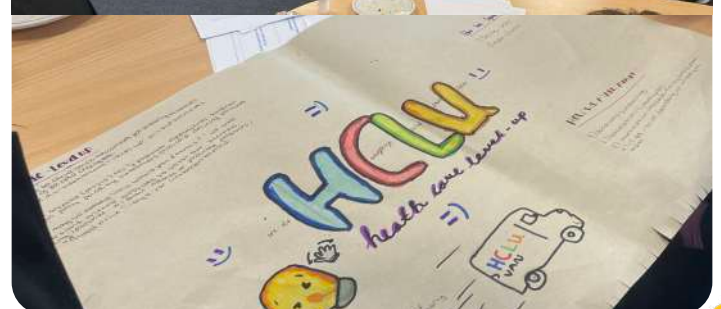
Morgan Stanley

"We would like to take a moment to thank you and all the staff involved in the Morgan Stanley Sustainability Project this year. The Morgan Stanley volunteers have been so impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement of the students. We appreciate all the time and energy you have put into supporting our volunteers and students at your schools and making this project such a success."

Stephanie and Fionn | Morgan Stanley

Well done to all the students involved - you should be incredibly proud of what you've achieved!

Mrs A Mistry | Central Community Strategy Lead



Micro-Tyco Challenge:

From Birmingham to the House of Commons

Earlier this year, a group of talented students from Holyhead School took part in the Micro-Tyco Challenge - a national sustainability competition organised by WildHearts Schools. The challenge asked students to create a business idea that tackled a real-world sustainability issue, encouraging innovation, teamwork, and entrepreneurship.

A mixed team of Year 7 and Year 10 students travelled to the Wesleyan Building in Birmingham, where they competed against three other schools. Their thoughtful and forward-thinking pitch not only impressed the judges but secured first place in the regional challenge. But the journey didn't stop there.

As a reward for their success, the team was invited to the House of Commons in London to attend a special Certificate Awards Ceremony - a prestigious recognition of their creativity, hard work, and commitment to sustainability.

This unforgettable experience gave students the opportunity to present ideas, build confidence, and develop a deeper understanding of how entrepreneurship can be a force for social and environmental good.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their outstanding achievement and for representing Holyhead on a national stage. Their journey is a powerful reminder that young people have the vision and passion to change the world.

Well done, team Holyhead!



"When we found out we were invited to Parliament, we were speechless. What we thought was just a small challenge turned into something unforgettable - being recognised in one of the most iconic places in London."

The day started early at 7am and was tiring, especially for those visiting London for the first time. On the train, two of our peers helped a non-English speaker who missed his stop by translating in Punjabi - a moment of kindness that reminded us to stay alert!

Walking through the House of Commons, we were amazed by the historic architecture and paintings. Though we couldn't take photos, the experience was unforgettable.

At the event, we were served drinks and canapés and stood around poséur tables, feeling respected and honoured. Miss Kaur gave a heartfelt speech that made us proud. We spoke with guests about their jobs and shared stories about our Holyhead community.

After a quick cupcake stop from our teachers, we headed home - Year 10s exhausted, Year 7s still buzzing with excitement. It was a long day, but being recognised by Micro Tyco at the House of Commons was a moment we'll never forget." Jumeira 10F

MICRO[£]-TYCO^{♻️}



FUTURES NEWSLETTER



SPRING
EDITION



The Spring terms has been bursting with exciting opportunities across year groups. From mock interviews and creative media workshops to apprenticeship insights and University visits, our students have explored a wide range of careers and developed essential life skills along the way. We're proud of how engaged, curious, and confident they've become!



☀ Futures Fair & Mock Interviews – A Day of Discovery and Development

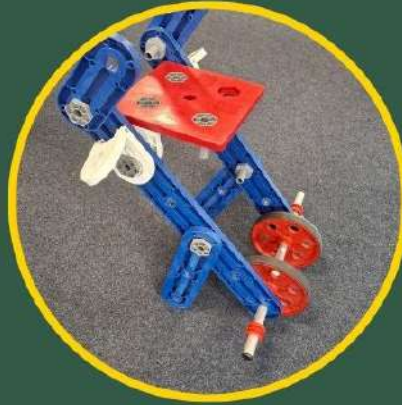
This year Holyhead hosted its Futures Fair alongside Mock Interviews for Years 10 & 12 — a powerful combination of inspiration and preparation. Over 40 local employers, universities, and training providers attended the fair, offering students a chance to explore career paths across industries including healthcare, law, public services, engineering, jewellery, media and finance. Aswell as the fair professionals from Praxis, Soho Bid, HSBC, Reliable Contractors, Oldbury Rep Theatre, and Carney Sweeney and Hockley Mint conducted one-to-one interviews with students, providing valuable feedback to boost their confidence, communication, and employability skills. It was an incredible opportunity for students to connect, reflect, and raise aspirations all in one go.



FUTURES NEWSLETTER

Royal Navy STEM & Careers Visit

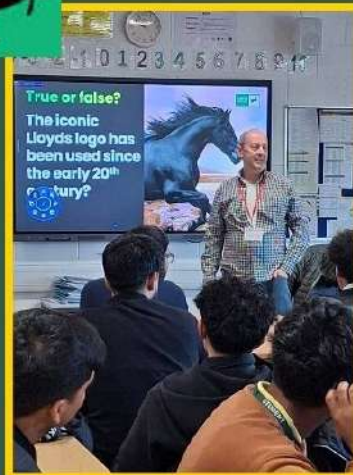
Year 10 students took part in a hands-on workshop with the Royal Navy, linking STEM subjects to exciting real-life careers. They discovered roles in engineering, technology, logistics, and learned how science and maths are used in the Navy every day.



Lloyds Bank Assessment Day



A select group of year 12 students were invited to take part in a professional assessment centre experience hosted by Lloyds Banking Group. They tackled tasks such as group challenges, interview practice, and presentations — all designed to mimic the real recruitment process used by top employers. The event helped students develop teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and confidence under pressure. Feedback from Lloyds staff praised our students for their maturity, creativity, and enthusiasm.



Aspire to HE – Aston University Visit

42 Year 9 students took part in an inspiring visit to Aston University as part of the Aspire to HE programme.

The day gave students a taste of university life, including a campus tour, interactive workshops, and talks on higher education pathways. The experience helped raise aspirations, build confidence, and show students that university can be an achievable goal, no matter their background.



Work pays Apprenticeship Team supported our Year 10 students, these sessions gave Year 10 students an in-depth look at apprenticeships, how to apply, and how they can offer a "learn while you earn" alternative to university.







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