



APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 2

THE BRIDGE

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Chloe and Torres in Year 9, provide cultural insights.

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A look at individual and team sporting achievements



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on the Spring Term, it has been a time of mixed emotions at Bridgewater High School. We have seen our students grow and develop in so many ways, and it is always heartening to witness their progress. Across all year groups, we have seen a real sense of confidence and maturity developing, with each group facing their own unique challenges.

Our Year 11 students have shown great confidence in their mock exams, while Year 10 have settled into their GCSE studies with determination and focus. Our Year 9 students have made a successful transition to the Upper Site, and we are proud of how well they have settled in. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have taken a mature approach to being role models on the Lower

Site, and Year 7 students have found their place as true Bridgewater High students, settling in and finding their feet.

We are also pleased to report that we have fully moved into our new buildings at the Upper Site, which has proven to be a successful design, despite some minor electrical issues!

As we look ahead to the summer term, we are committed to improving our communications with parents, as promised. To inform our work in this area, we have shared a survey with all parents and carers to understand better your needs, whilst considering what evidence and research is available to us to ensure our actions have the most positive impact on the support we provide to our students. We are confident that this will help us to deliver an effective strategy that meets the needs of our school community.

However, it is with great sadness that we must also reflect on the passing of a much-loved colleague, Mrs Rebecca Booth. Becky, as she was known, worked as a Teaching Assistant at our school since 2007 and touched the lives of many students, families, and colleagues. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. You will find a more fitting tribute to her in the newsletter.

With those few words, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all the best for the upcoming term.

Regards

Mr K Powell
Principal



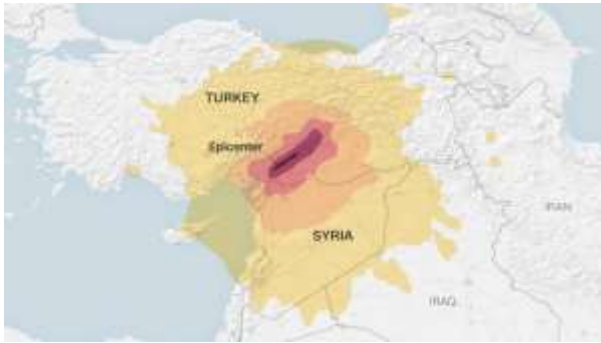
FOOD AND MOOD

On the 21st and 28th March, Year 9 Food Technology students enjoyed a talk during their normal lesson with a Nutritionist. This was an hour-long interactive lesson in which they discussed 'Food and Mood'. This included highlighting how various foods can lead to increased anxiety and depression, and why it is so important not to skip breakfast.

There were also lots of tips on how to eat well to help you feel great. We are certain that our students derived lots of helpful advice from the session.

Mrs S Callaway





Turkey Syria Earthquake Bake Sale

On the 6th of February 2023, two earthquakes hit parts of Turkey and Syria. The first of these devastating earthquakes hit at 4:17am local time and measured at 7.8 on the Richter scale. It was followed by at least 78 aftershocks. The second hit 9 hours later at 13:24 and measured at 7.5 on the Richter scale. Then another large earthquake hit on Tuesday 21st February which measured at 6.4 on the Richter scale and had many aftershocks including one that measured 5.8. These catastrophic events have caused more than 50,000 people to lose their lives, along with 100,000 people being seriously injured and thousands of people being homeless for a freezing winter. In total, 23 million people have been affected by these disasters.

Bridgewater High School Upper Site held a bake sale on Friday 17th February to raise money for the *DEC Red Cross Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal*. They are providing shelter as well as other essential aid such as helping the wounded and providing psychological support for the survivors. I am pleased to report that we successfully raised £301.23.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in any way.

By Charlotte Y9

CHINESE NEW YEAR

By Chloe Year 9

Unlike the Western New Year, which is based on the Gregorian calendar, Chinese New Year is determined by the Chinese lunar calendar, which means the official date changes each year. In 2023, the Chinese New Year started on Sunday 22nd January. The celebrations often run for 15 days, up to the Lantern Festival on 5th February. Chloe, in Year 9, takes up the story...

Today I am going to tell you about Chinese New Year in my way.



Chinese New Year is a day that came from China a long time ago, it is also called Lunar New Year. It is celebrated in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia even Japan. And I am going to tell you about what we do at Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year Eve

The three days before New Year's Eve are so busy for us. We have a lot to do in those three days. For example, the first day of the three-day countdown, we call that day the 28th of the old calendar. We need to do a big clean in our houses on that day. This is because the sound we say for the word of the 28th (廿八) sounds like (易抹) so we clean on that day. On that day we will use grapefruit leaf to bathe and clean ourselves. This is because in the past people thought grapefruit leaf washes away bad luck and dirty things out. The day of the last day countdown, we call that 30th. We go to a big market where there are lots of flowers to buy. You can go there before the 30th it is just up to you.



Here is my favorite part, having a celebration dinner 團年飯 (reunion dinner) with my family. My grandma usually cooks really, really good food for all my family, not only my mum and dad, and me, and my brother. She has to prepare for a whole day. We will also have foods that have a special meaning; food like shrimp. Shrimp reads as 'ha'; people think if you eat shrimp, you will have happy new year and will be happy for all of the new year because if you say shrimp like 'hahahahahahahaha' it will sounds like laughing. The shrimp will taste good if you fry it with ketchup.



We will also eat special 'China' food like 髮菜 fak choi. It is a type of seaweed it looks like hair and sounds like 發財 meaning you can become rich.

After we have finished our dinner, we go back to our home from Grandma's house, have a bath and get ready to count down the last minute '3,2,1,0... Happy New Year!' people start to text you to wish you Happy New Year, blessing each other with greetings. Fireworks go in the sky in a place beside the sea. There are so many people there to watch the fireworks. We don't have bonfire night so many people want to watch fireworks with their family. Alternatively, you can stay at home and watch live streaming. After that we will go to bed with our 'lucky money'. This is the red pocket. We will hopefully have a good dream and good night's sleep.

Finally Chinese NEW YEAR!

Finally, is the day of the first day of Chinese New Year we call that 年初一. We will go to do the most important thing in the Chinese New Year and the most meaningful thing of this festival. We will go to my Great Grandmother's home to visit her because we don't see her so often. The meaning of Chinese New Year is going to see your family members to have a reunion dinner together. So, in the morning I will walk to my grandma's home and help her cook a Chinese New Year special breakfast. We will buy some 'cake'. There are three main type of cake, 年糕 (lin go), 蘿蔔糕 (law bak go), 芋頭糕 (wo tao go) and my favorite is 年糕 it tastes like mochi (rice cake). After we all have eaten some breakfast we can get our red pockets from people who are married and older people. (At Chinese New Year, I can earn a lot of money.) We can't get a red pocket if we didn't say any greetings. After we have said greetings, we can get our red pocket. You can't open it in front of the people who gave to you because it is very rude to do that. You need to wait until the end of the 正月 This means the end of January of the Chinese old calendar. After we arrive at my Great Grandmother's house, we have to wait until all my family members get there before we can start our lunch. We will have 盆菜 (poon choi).



After we are all full, I can play with my cousin who I don't see so often so I am really happy. While I can spend time with him. My Grandma will give him a red pocket also.

On the second day of the Chinese New Year (we call that 年初二) I will have lunch with my grandma. She cooks so many dishes and we call this lunch 開年飯. Some of the dishes are similar to 團年飯 and after that we will play mahjong (打麻雀). People think if you play mahjong and you win, you will be lucky in the new year and you can earn more money.



On the third day, we call that 年初三, but there is another name for the third day. We call it red mouth (赤口). This is because on that day, people can get into arguments easily so we will not go out visit other people. We will go to worship God. Many people choose to worship the Chinese God who will protect them in a new year and can bring them prosperity in the new year.

This is what I do at Chinese New Year and this year is my second Chinese New Year in England.

Finally 身體健康 (son ty kin hon, good health) 事事如意 (hope everything goes right) and 笑口常開 (may your year be filled with an abundance of smiles and laughter.)

Lion Dance 舞獅

By Torres Year 9



What is it?

Lion dance is an excellent form of folk art from China, it was also called [Taiping le] in ancient times. There are north and south folk dances, the southern lion is called lion dance.

When can we watch it?

The lion dance is usually performed at Chinese traditional festivals such as Chinese New Year or important occasions such as business opening events. The lion is the Symbol of the Dance. The lion is known as the king of all animals, so the lion symbolizes power.

Where can we watch it?

In Mainland China, Japan, Korean Peninsula, Hong Kong, Macau, Tai Wan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Ryukyu.

What is inside the lion?

The lion is made of strips of coloured cloth, and each lion dance is generally performed by two people, one dancing the head and the other dancing the tail.

What is the lion dance for?

The lion dance is one of the most important traditions at Chinese New Year. It is performed to bring prosperity and good luck for the upcoming year.



Earlier this term, Year 7 students enjoyed a two-day residential visit to the Conway Centre at Menai Bridge on Anglesey. This is very much a Bridgewater tradition and a source of great fun, new friendships and lasting memories for our students.

POSTCARDS FROM CONWAY

- Conway has been a very good trip and it will be stored in my memories. The Xplore Centre was really fun. The activities were really cool and exciting. I wish I could visit this wonderful place again.
- The journey to the Xplore Centre was really nice. I got to sit with my friends and have some fun.
- Conway was a real adventure! The disco was really fun and I got to dance with all my friends. Staying in the dorms was cool since I got to chat with my friends. The food was good except for the chicken!
- Overall, this has been a very good trip and I hope the next year 7's enjoy it as much as I did.
- My favourite part of the Conway trip was the disco. When some cool music was on, people all danced happily. I also liked canoeing, which was relaxing. Team work was very important. I had never been canoeing before so it was a good experience!
- I think the night-line was the most exciting and the most scary part too. I couldn't see things clearly and I almost fell down all the time!! That was funny!
- I love the Conway Centre's food too. We had pizzas, pastas and salads
- I wanted to do the zipline too but unfortunately I was not in that group.
- Guess what? I thought I could buy some toys or snacks at the shop but I forgot to bring my wallet to Conway, so I couldn't buy anything at the shop.
- At the end of the day, I was super tired and very sleepy!
- My experience at Conway was amazing. First, we drove about forty-five minutes to a science museum called Xplore. We were there for about 4 hours. We had our lunch there and we looked at meters and lots of different things. There was something called a "dark room" which was really cool.
- Then, after the museum we drove for two more hours to the Conway Centre. When we got there, we unpacked and then had dinner. After dinner, there was a quiz, which was fun, and a talent show. It was cool to see everyone's performances.
- The next day, in the morning, I did the night-line and problem solving. After lunch, some people went canoeing in the freezing cold. Then we had dinner and went to bed. The next morning, I went orienteering and, while we were waiting for the bus to arrive, I did some colouring.

POSTCARDS FROM CONWAY

- I have just recently got home from the 3 days and two nights residential trip to the Conway Centre. One of my favourite parts was the canoeing because we got to sail into a big lake. We had some races and stupid dances to see who could stay standing and not fall in and my team won all of the races.
- At the end of the canoeing, we had to untie all of the boats and pack them all away. The instructor let us jump into the sea and it was freezing!! My second favourite part was the disco as we got to dance around to some music and eat some sweets. I had an amazing time!!



DRAMA

KS4 DRAMA PERFORMANCES

The Drama department recently showcased THREE (yes, three!) full scale productions, within two days, at Priestley College. As part of the Year 10 BTEC Acting and Musical Theatre courses, students are required to participate in a live performance. Since 2019, the final productions have been staged in the Costello Theatre at Priestley College, working alongside the Year 12/13 Priestley Production Arts Crew. This enriching experience allows our students to work in a professional setting, whilst making links with higher education.

On the evening of Wednesday 22nd March, Year 10 Musical Theatre and Miss Plimmer staged 'Grease'. This high-energy, sing-along favourite was a hit! We were all singing along with the cast. The following evening, Mrs Antell led the multifaceted play 'Two' by Jim Cartwright. Set in a pub, we see the silent struggle of the Landlord and Landlady after the death of their young Son, whilst witnessing the sights and sounds of pub life.

Mr Coleman also showcased the comedy, 'Teechers', by John Godber on the same evening. We saw school leavers Gail, Salty and Hobby create a wildly hilarious play for their Drama teacher, Mr Nixon. We certainly met some 'characters' along the way – especially Oggy Moxon and Mr Basford!

I would like to express my thanks to the Department staff for their hard work on these productions. I appreciate all that you do. In addition, thanks to our Arts Technician, Clara, for being heavily involved along the way. Roll on next year where we will do it all over again!

Mrs Swaffield - Head of Drama

TWO

Year 10 BTEC Acting made us proud with their Priestley College performance of Jim Cartwright's play 'Two' on Thursday 23rd March. The performance is part of their 'Component 2' element of the course which is worth 30% of their overall grade.

The class were tasked with performing the entire play for a live audience and for many, this was the first time they had performed on a stage to a live audience. The cast did a tremendous job and audience members were impressed with their interpretation of this gritty play.



We overcame some nerves and were really excited by the opportunity of using the professional facilities at Priestley College. I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the staff and students from Priestley College who made this experience possible.

Mrs B Antell



Grease is the Word!

On Wednesday 22nd March, the BTEC Year 10 Musical Theatre class went to Priestley College. They rehearsed all day for their assessment. It was a busy day! They waited patiently while each technical cue was set up (for microphones, backing tracks, lighting and projections). They rehearsed sections of the musical to improve their performance. They performed a dress rehearsal in the afternoon and then the show took place at 6pm.

There was a good sized, and very supportive, audience watching the show and I cannot thank them enough for being there.

These pupils have worked very hard on this musical – every one of them. I am extremely proud of them, and their families will be too.

Well done Lucy, Paige, Niamh, Lucy, Luka, Daisy, Nathan, Molly, Nell, Hannah, Ash, Ruby, Ellie, and Jamie.

Miss M Plimmer



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

During February 2023, we held our annual Bridgewater school production.

We chose to stage a production close to my heart - Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Nearly 30 years ago, my parents took me to watch Philip Schofield as Joseph and I was amazed by the colour, music and of course, the canopy at the end. When I think back, it was at that moment I realised how much I loved the theatre and live performance. Having grown up on the stage as a dancer, Drama was a new direction for me. I once told my Drama teacher I wanted to be like her, and here I am! I feel very lucky to do something that I love. The finale of Joseph has always been a vivid memory of mine and to get the chance to direct my version of the show was an opportunity I grabbed with both hands.

Since September 2022, our collaborative cast of Years 7-11 dedicated their time to weekly rehearsals after school. I can honestly say every rehearsal was a joy!

The cast's enthusiasm never wavered; if anything, it grew even stronger as the time progressed! I think my obsession with the soundtrack contributed to this and added to the mix...



The school production is one of the few events when students are together as a cast, regardless of their age. Seeing Year 7 work alongside Year 11 is special when we are accustomed to a split site. I honestly do not have enough words to express the pride I have for our young performers. Watching the production come together with costume, set and props was brilliant. The memories I hold from seeing the production as a child now have new ones. It was an honour to direct this show and I will treasure the experience.

A BIG THANK YOU!

I would like to extend my thanks to the EPA staff who have been closely involved in this production: Miss Plimmer, Miss Hooper, Mrs Antell, Mr Coleman, Miss Betts, Mr Bradbury and Mr Mughal. Without you, I could not have done it. You are all fantastic and I appreciate everything that you have done!

Thank you to those colleagues who supported us by attending the performance evenings and contributing to our raffle. We will be using the money raised to buy new head microphones to use in future productions. We have also donated some funds to the Year 9 bake sale that was organised to raise money for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.

Alison Swaffield Head of Drama



Warrington Training, Apprenticeships and Job Fair

The Parr Hall 10th March 2023

A group of Year 10 students was taken to The Parr Hall for a Training, Apprenticeship and Job Fair today. There were over 35 companies/organisations there. Each student was tasked with speaking to at least 3 companies and was given a list of five basic questions to ask the company. Every student then updated their worksheet with the information they had. The students said they enjoyed it and had spoken to lots of companies. They had a good understanding of what the different companies did and the different employment opportunities they could present.

Flex UK - a global company working from their Appleton Thorn site particularly commented on how Bridgewater Students were very polite, highly engaged and a





World Book Day 2023

'a celebration of books and reading'

Bridgewater celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March, with the Lower School Library acting as the focal point for various fun, book-related activities. Designated by UNESCO as the biggest celebration of reading and books, World Book Day is marked in over **100** countries across the world. The library was keen to play its part in promoting the importance and the enjoyment gained from books and reading!

This year, we celebrated World Book Day 2023 with a *Bumper Book Quiz* in the library at lunchtime for Y7 and Y8. Pupils had to answer questions based on well-known children's and YA books, ranging from Harry Potter to Alex Rider, The Hunger Games and the Murder Most Unladylike series. The event was well-attended and winners were chosen from each year group, with Lily (Y7) and Alice (Y8) each winning a book of their own choice from the Book Fair.

Pupils could also enter various other competitions such as 'Guess Your Teachers' Favourite Book' and 'Book Blurb'. Book Trailers were played in the library and pupils contributed to a **What I'm Reading...** display to provide recommendations of good books.

Following on from World Book Day, the Library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair, where pupils could browse hundreds of titles from Scholastic and buy pocket-money priced stationery and bags. The Fair always creates a 'book buzz' with lively discussion of books and recommendations amongst pupils. This year, we raised £217 of free books for the library!

Thank you to everyone who took part in World Book Day 2023 and who visited the Fair!



BECKY BOOTH

It was with deep shock and profound sadness, that we learned, last month, of the sudden death of well-loved Teaching Assistant, Mrs. Rebecca Booth. Becky, as she was known, was a long-serving colleague who had a positive impact on many children and staff during her time at Bridgewater High School. For those closest to Becky, they will remember her for being one of life's most gentle, kind, and caring people. She is greatly missed by all of us at Bridgewater. We extend our deepest sympathy to Becky's family. May she rest in peace.

Back in summer 2022, Becky wrote the following poem to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Becky was delighted to receive acknowledgement From Buckingham Palace and was looking forward to seeing this included in The Bridge.

Our Queen, Our Constant, Our Rock

What can I say about Queen Elizabeth II?

She has always been there throughout our lives.

A constant, beautiful, compassionate person.

Who glows with an aura of loving light.

Queen Elizabeth, Your Majesty, our rock, you have held this country and commonwealth together for seventy years.

Always constant in our lives.

You will always remain our longest serving Monarch, Our Queen, Our Constant, Our Rock.

By Rebecca Booth



It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow.

Chanel





THE DESIGNATED PROVISION SENSORY ROOM

Over the past few years, the students in our Designated Provision unit have been requesting a sensory room. Last half term, their request was granted!

The sensory room is very beneficial to our students as it allows them to self-regulate and decompress in a calming place. They can also engage in sensory based activities, such as rolling on

the gym ball or using the resistance bands. We also offer fidget toys, such as 'pop-its' and therapeutic approaches to meet their needs emotionally and physically. By having their sensory needs met, the students are able to improve their concentration, alertness and sensory development. The DP students and staff have been working alongside the maintenance team to make sure that the sensory room appeals to everyone and supports their development.

Our sensory room currently includes fairy lights, an emotions whiteboard, a gym ball, beanbags, blankets including a weighted blanket, emotion octopuses, comfort toys and Bingo, our amazing pet reindeer. We are very happy that the sensory room now exists, and we would like to thank the maintenance team for preparing this for us, as well as the staff and students for donating items for the sensory room.

The DP staff also ask that if anybody has any unused or spare beanbags, blankets or sensory equipment, please donate it to be used in the sensory room. Please email Mrs. Riley (c.riley@bridgewaterhigh.com) if you can help.

Baylee Y11

Russell Or Alternate Route Group

A group of Year 10 students have worked so hard for the last six weeks. They have given up their time and taken part in various presentations to prepare them for College/University life. Priestley College has helped to deliver the programme and the students have enjoyed lectures such as "Is Humankind killing the Planet?", "Science can save the Planet including growing chicken from a chicken feather", "Pathways to Elite Universities" and more.

Participants must successfully complete a 1000-word essay and they can be part of the 2023 ROAR Graduate Cohort.



A FOCUS ON Y11 REVISION

Since February, we have welcomed our Year 11 students to attend Breakfast Revision in the IMAX. From 7.45 a.m. pupils are able to get a warm drink and a patisserie item if they choose to come to school early and engage in silent individual revision.

We have had between 30-40 pupils taking advantage of this opportunity and we have made a commitment that this will continue as the Year 11 students prepare for their Summer Examinations.



Year 11 Rewards

Each week, we have been rewarding students in school for sustained effort with private study/revision. This is in addition to our usual rewards for attendance, lesson scores etc. Pupils have been rewarded for the following: use of GCSE Pod; use of Tassomai; attendance at Intervention and targeted support sessions; attendance at additional study sessions (before school/lunch time sessions). Since February, we have awarded students with over £200 worth of Amazon vouchers.

Priestley College Collaboration

During the last term, we have had the Languages department from Priestley College working closely with the Languages Faculty at Bridgewater to widen our pupils' experiences of Modern Foreign Languages and to give them a different view of how to learn languages. Events have taken place so far with Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11.

In the first place, and running into the options process for Year 9, the German teacher and the Graduate Tutor from Priestley College visited our school to view the new classrooms we now teach languages in and to talk to the pupils about the advantages of language learning for both its own ends and for the transferable skills required for university study. Pupils took a great deal of interest in this, and it helped many in their decision about which language to study for GCSE.

A second event was then run at Priestley College for the Year 10 pupils who are already thinking about studying a language for A-level.

29 Bridgewater pupils were taken to Priestley College and worked with the French and the German staff there to enjoy a taster lesson of how A-level language lessons can be a little different from GCSE, for instance lots of technology used. The main bonus that pupils found was that they had control of the listening materials and so could pause it as they needed!

The final event of the trilogy was a grade booster session for 21 Year 11 pupils who are aiming to achieve grades 7 and above in the summer in French and German. This was an over-subscribed event for our pupils as we had initially been asked to keep it to a maximum of 15, so we were very pleased when Priestley accepted our request to extend the numbers. Again, pupils worked through some A-Level style exercises to boost their grades and focus on skills that

are needed for Grades 8 and 9. Our pupils impressed Priestley colleagues. "Motivated", "focused", "gifted" were just three of the compliments the Priestley staff gave when evaluating the sessions afterwards, to say nothing of our pupils getting through far more work than had been expected...

CANDICE ROBERTS AWARD

Huge congratulations are due to Year 11, Amelia who was the recipient of our annual Candice Roberts Award.

Candice was a former Bridgewater student who loved the Performing Arts. After losing her life through illness, her family gave us this award to continue her legacy.

We present this awards on the final night of the school production and always have a multitude of students we could award it to.

But this year, Amelia was a firm favourite. Amelia has been in previous school productions (Wizard of Oz and Our Day Out) and has played a prominent role as the Narrator within this year's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Studying both Musical Theatre and Music at KS4, Amelia is a true professional on stage. She is hard working, energetic and fully committed to her craft. We are so proud of you Amelia and are honoured to present you with this award!

Mrs Swaffield

"It is an honour to have received this award; having seen so many amazing actors receive it before me, I am still in shock that I've been added to that list! This means the world to me, and I will continue to treasure it as much as I treasure the performing arts!"

Amelia, Year 11



We owe enormous thanks to Priestley for accommodating our pupils (and myself) in stretching the educational and learning boundaries for our pupils, and for showing them the way beyond the exams they are currently working towards. Long may it continue!



PRINCIPAL COOKING

We have entered the Food Teachers Centre competition with the prize of £100 of fresh fish. All we had to do is persuade our Principal to cook any fish dish, to any class, upload a picture to the Facebook group, and we are in the running!

Our Principal, Mr. Powell, kindly cooked his choice of Cod Fish Tacos with dip and sauces to a Year 8 class, with me as his Sous Chef! The students loved it!

Wish us luck, and thanks Mr. Powell, for your help!!

Mrs S Callaway



Creative Writing Club

Creative Writing Club enjoyed a fantastic end to the term with a presentation ceremony in the Learning Resource Centre. Pupils were able to take home a copy of their completed project, *'Meatballs in Tomato Sauce: A Collection of Short Stories'*. Mr Eden presented the pupils with their anthologies and congratulated them on their efforts.

Mrs Lomas and Mrs Dearden are very proud of Bridgewater's budding writers!

If any pupils are interested in joining, just come along to Room 62 on Monday, or see Mrs Dearden for details.



VOLUNTEERING

If your child is looking for a Duke of Edinburgh's placement or some voluntary experience, Warrington Youth Orchestra have some opportunities on Saturday mornings at Bridgewater High School.

This will include helping with social media, marketing, helping with beginners' classes, putting chairs and music stands in place, manning the tuck shop and sorting out the music etc.

If they play an instrument, that is a bonus but certainly not essential.

Please email warringtonyouthorchestra@gmail.com for more information.

JO BLAKELEY
Enrichment Co-ordinator



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND TCAT SKILLS WORKSHOP



On Monday 27th March a group of students from TCAT schools across Warrington were involved in a Warrington Borough Council Skills Workshop. Two Bridgewater students from each year group (7 to 10) were selected by Head of Years and they were tasked with answering questions and giving their opinions on the future careers, aspirations and opportunities available to them in the Warrington area and beyond.

Faye, Alexa and Finn said "It was a constructive session which helped us build clear ideas of what we want in our future. We discussed options for our future and choices we have about moving forward and taking the next step in the world of work".

The workshop will be followed up by a survey to be distributed to students/teachers/parents/carers, seeking opinions to help inform Warrington Borough Council regarding the availability/future of our local economy and which roles and skills will be available/needed.



OXNET

Pupils from across Years 7-10 have been participating in sessions to answer the question 'Can we live on other planets?'. This is the fifth year of the STEM programme, with sessions run in partnership with Oxlore, part of Oxford University. The aim of these days is to improve the academic aspirations of our pupils and encourage more students to not only think about going to University, but also to consider Oxford and other Russell group universities as a realistic option.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 focused their attention on powering machines on other planets. This involved them problem-solving to work out why different circuits failed to operate. They then had to work as a team to plan a circuit that would enable different machines on the planet to work.

Year 9 pupils focused their attention on communication in space. During the session, pupils learned about the importance of facial expression and body language to portray emotions. This then led to the idea that communication through traditional means would be more difficult in space - whether it be between two people in spacesuits or people on different planets. Pupils were given the task of devising hypotheses, linked to communication in space. Our students considered all aspects around the research they would carry out, including the equipment they would need and how they would carry out the investigation. They then had to present their project ideas to the Oxford researchers and ask for funding. All students were rewarded for their hard work, being paid in chocolate coins.

Year 10 started their morning asking questions and finding out about university, including how to apply, how many people will be in lectures and what life is like at university. They then looked at medicine in space. For this, they had a budget to spend on medical equipment to take to space with them, before being given a scenario for them to save as many people as possible. Through this, they learnt the importance of prioritising and making decisions.

Our students were a credit to the school, working collaboratively with other students and coming up with some creative ideas. They asked some fantastic questions, some of which challenged the researchers themselves. I would like to thank the researchers from Oxford for their time and the effort they put into the sessions. They were both interesting and enjoyable and I look forward to another session in the summer term.

Mrs S Gavin



Press release and picture.
March 2023

Trust awarded £5million to reduce carbon emissions.

Five schools in Warrington have been awarded more than £5million to help them reduce their impact on the environment.

The academies – all part of The Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT) – will see significant changes over the next year as the money is invested in helping decarbonise the buildings.

Andy Moorcroft, CEO of the Trust, said “One of our key strategic aims is to achieve net zero across our academies and do what we can to mitigate our impact on climate change.

“We are delighted to have been awarded this funding from SALIX which really moves our plans forward.”

Under the latest round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme, initiated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and delivered by SALIX, the trust has been awarded a £5,088,719 grant.

TCAT will be investing a further £1,472,529 of its capital funding into the project.

This will support the decarbonisation of Broomfields Junior School, Meadowside Primary School, Bridgewater High School (Lower School), Padgate Academy and Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

Ground source heat pumps and both cavity wall and roof insulation will be installed on all sites. The project will reduce emissions by up to 40%.

The Trust’s academies have also been awarded school capital funding worth £349,105 by the Department for Education and this, along with further capital spend by the trust, will pay for LED lighting to be installed across all 10 academies.

Modern energy monitoring systems will also be installed in all academies to help pupils, students and staff change their habits and do the basics of switching off lights, PCs and any other appliances when not in use.

“This project will reduce our carbon emissions by up to 40%, a really significant achievement,” said Andy Moorcroft.

“We know that this will mean some disruption for our academies over the next 12 months as the work gets underway, but the end goal is definitely worth it.”

Salix Director of Programmes Ian Rodger said: “We look forward to working with The Challenge Academy Trust in this journey of decarbonisation. This project will help cut carbon emissions and will help make these schools more energy efficient.

“As well as cutting carbon emissions, it means that ultimately the schools will become more pleasant and comfortable places for both students and staff to work.

“Congratulations to the Trust on its successful Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid for funding.”

If you have any further questions, please email Andrew Moores or call 01925 624465.

Editors' notes

- The Challenge Academy Trust was formed in 2017 by like-minded leaders of local primary and secondary schools in Warrington along with Priestley College.
- It is made up of 10 academies including four primary schools, three with nurseries, five secondaries and a sixth form college.
- TCAT is a unique trust, being the first in the country to include primary and secondary academies together with a sixth form college. It also includes a Church of England High School, Sir Thomas Boteler, whose faith foundation is assured through representation from the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool.
- Its goal is to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Warrington area. Its mission is *to serve, challenge and empower the educational community*.
- The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, initiated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, provides grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.
- The scheme supports the aim of reducing emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037, compared to a 2017 baseline, as set out in the Heat and Buildings Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy in October 2021.
- The scheme is delivered by Salix Finance, a DESNZ non-departmental public body.

SPORTS NEWS

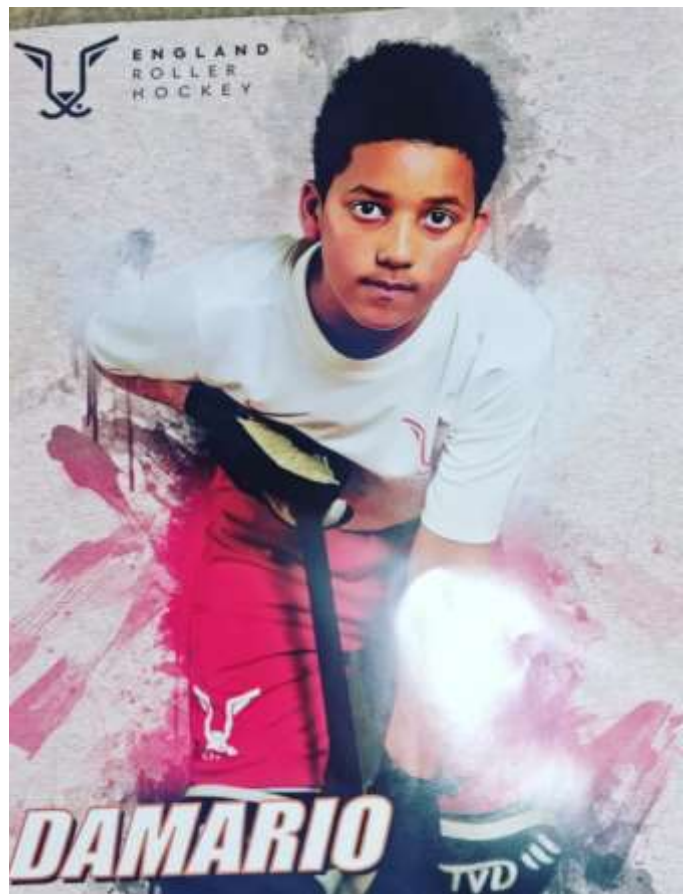
ROLLER HOCKEY

A Year 7 Bridgewater student has been selected to represent England over the Easter holiday. Damario, who plays for Manchester Roller Hockey Club, has been selected to represent the England Under 13's team in Portugal on the 10th April. The event, taking place from 10th - 16th April, will involve multiple training sessions as well as matches against local Portuguese teams.

Damario has also been selected to play in the Northern Counties Regional Under 13's and Under 15's team who will play against those chosen in the Eastern and Southern parts of England.

Damario has been playing Roller Hockey since the age of 5 and trains 3 times a week. He is also currently the top goal scorer overall in the Northern Counties League for both under 13s & 15s.

Everyone at Bridgewater wishes Damario the best of luck in his forthcoming matches for the Northern Counties and England teams



Academy Sport+

Favourite colour: Blue
Favourite sportsperson: Lucy Glover (a rower who started at my club)
Worst food: raw tomatoes
Nando's sauce heat: lemon and herb
Favourite music artist: Taylor Swift
Pets name: Lola my cat
Favourite food: Roast dinner

Worst thing to do: Sit around being bored
Best thing to do: I love exploring new places
Favourite movie all time: Hunger Games series
Worst song: I'm not a fan of classical music



Lucy Fontana

Question 1.

What is your name and the sport that you participate in?

My name is Lucy and I am a rower. In my sport you can either scull (where you use 2 oars) or sweep (with 1 oar) and so far I have concentrated on sculling.

Question 2.

How long have you been doing the sport and how did you originally get into that sport?

I started rowing at the end of year 7 when I was 12 years old and I did the 'Learn to row' course at Warrington Rowing Club. From then on, I was hooked! We train both in the gym to work on our strength and endurance, and out on the water which I much prefer.

Question 3.

What level are you currently participating at?

I have just been selected to represent the North West Region at a national level.

Question 4.

Describe in detail your greatest sporting achievement to date?

To compete for the Northwest I had to row at the NW trials and I was really nervous before the race as I had put a lot of effort into preparing and training for the event so I wanted to do well. It was a very busy event with lots of crews trialling, so it was quite stressful getting onto the water and getting into the right position at the start. However, the race went well, and I was really pleased to find out that I comfortably beat all my opposition. I was proud of myself and my crewmate.

Question 5.

What is your goal, what do you want to achieve in your sport?

I would love to row for GB and in a world event such as the World Rowing Championships or even the Olympics.

Question 6.

How do you think that you will achieve that?

I already train five times a week so I will need to keep that commitment and possibly even train even more. I will need to listen to my coaches to improve my technique even further and take advantage of any opportunities that come my way.

Academy Sport+

Favourite colour: Pink
Favourite sportsperson: Natasha McKay
Worst food: Fish
Nando's sauce heat: medium
Favourite music artist: Kings of Leon
Pets name: Boo

Favourite food: Pasta
Worst thing to do: Netball
Best thing to do: Figure skating
Favourite movie all time: Titanic
Worst song: Pop music



Olivia Smith-Hughes

Question 1.

What is your name and the sport that you participate in?

Olivia Sith-Hughes figure skating

Question 2. How long have you been doing the sport and how did you originally get into that sport?

5 ½ years. I attended an ice session at Altrincham and the rest is history

Question 3. What level are you currently participating at?

National level 5

Question 4. Describe in detail your greatest sporting achievement to date?

Becoming World Champion aged 9 in Cork City at the World inline figure skating Championships

Question 5. What is your goal, what do you want to achieve in your sport?

The best I can possibly be

Question 6. How do you think that you will achieve that?

Practise, training camps and a positive attitude

Academy Sport+

Favourite colour: Yellow
Favourite sportsperson: Dave Ryding
Worst food: mushrooms
Nando's sauce heat: medium
Favourite music artist: Bon Jovi

Pets name: Sasha
Favourite food: Risotto
Worst thing to do: Going to hospital
Best thing to do: Skiing
Favourite movie all time: The Man with the Golden Gun
Worst song: About Damn Time - Lizzo



Ben Turner

Question 1. What is your name and the sport that you participate in?

Ben Turner, Alpine and indoor slalom ski racing

Question 2. How long have you been doing the sport and how did you originally get into that sport?

I started racing when I was about 7, I started skiing on holiday when I was 4

Question 3. What level are you currently participating at?

National level

Question 4. Describe in detail your greatest sporting achievement to date?

Competing at the English Alpine Championships in Italy

Question 5. What is your goal, what do you want to achieve in your sport?

I want to race in International FIS races and perhaps qualify to be a race coach

Question 6. How do you think that you will achieve that?

Keep training hard, working on my fitness and technical ability

SPORTS ABILITY DAY

On 3rd March, I gave a speech to 50+ students about how the Sports Ability Days have been so important to me. Sports Ability Days are a termly event where students who have special educational needs from all across Warrington can partake in a day of inclusive sports that are adapted to our needs.

Bridgewater also hosts a fortnightly Friday sports afternoon, where students from DP and SEN from TCAT schools can further develop their skills with PE teachers. Many students who have SEN and mental health issues, including myself, can struggle to participate in mainstream sports, so these days are important. We can meet other people who we can relate to as well as practise skills for sports. Some of the sports we have been doing include football, boccia, golf, cricket, tennis, rugby and indoor rowing. These are done in a way which allows us to enjoy ourselves without having the need to mask and learn new skills. The purpose of my speech was to emphasise how much these days mean to us and how inclusion in sport is vital. A few ways that anybody can make sport inclusive include using adapted equipment (e.g. a ball with a bell in it for the visually impaired in tennis) or creating a relaxed environment without any pressure.

We can all create an inclusive environment for everyone.

Baylee Year 11



SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the Year 7 & 8 athletes that competed at the Warrington Schools Sports hall Athletics competition.

Warrington Schools Sports Hall Athletics

Results

Year 7 Girls 3RD place
Ella, Abigail, Amelia, Emily, Harriet and Edith

Year 7 Boys Runners Up
Ed, Charlie, Tobi, Seth, Dominic and Nathan

Year 8 Girls 1st place
Freya, Sophie, Olivia, Georgina, Isobel, Ellen, Emily & Amber

Year 8 Boys 1st place
Archie, Lucas, Teddy, Isaac, Christian, Austin, James

Y7 boys, Y8 boys and girls qualified for the County Sports hall Athletics at Ellesmere Port Sports Village.

Results

Year 7 Boys 3rd place James, Jack, Edward, Charlie, Tobi, Dominic, Nathan and David

Year 8 Girls 5TH place
Olivia, Sophie, Freya, Georgina, Emily, Amber and Isobel

Year 8 Boys 8th place
Edward, Lucas, Rafael, James, Euan and Sam

We are now looking forward to competing in the Track and Field Competitions and Sports day.

Mrs K Marshall



Y8 Girls' Team



Y8 Boys' Team

Emily and Amber Y8
(8 Lap Paarlauf, Speed Bounce and Relay)



Tobi, Y7, who smashed the National Average for U13s on the Standing Vertical Jump

NETBALL

What an amazing and hectic netball season at Bridgewater! We have had record numbers of participants of all ages and abilities, some playing netball for the first time regularly and others developing both performance and umpiring/coaching skills to a high level.

This edition of *The Bridge* covers the netball season from Christmas to the end of the season at Easter. It has been a packed season of achievements and lots of learning!

Warrington Champions

All of our year groups lead the way in Warrington netball with our B teams achieving many wins in the Warrington Schools Festivals. We are so proud to be able to field 4 teams in some year groups. Well done to all players this season!

County Competitions

Unfortunately, our year 10 team missed their County competition this year as all but two of the girls were on their DofE expedition. They cannot help being multi-talented and bursting with drive to excel! (Next year ladies!) Our year 7, 8 and 9 teams had a fabulous though very cold Saturday County Competition, playing some very tough opposition. All 3 teams had some brilliant wins, some losses - some by only a goal - and all ended in around 5th/6th positions in Cheshire. This was an outstanding achievement as more and more schools enter this tournament. Congratulations to these 3 brilliant A teams!

County Reps

Massive congratulations to the girls who achieved county reps this season in what is now the most competitive sport at this level.

Year 7 – Ella - Cheshire
 Year 8 – Tilly
 (Greater Manchester/Oldham/Thunder)
 and

NETBALL

Year 10 – Millie (also Loughborough Lightning U15 hub)
 Olivia - both Cheshire

Sisters in Sport National Cup

This is the first season that Bridgewater has fielded three separate teams in this National Competition. Our year 9 and 10 teams won their first round games which kept them in the Cup level and both had second round wins against Oldham Hulme and Wirral Grammar. Our journeys ended however in the 3rd round when the year 9 team was beaten by an extremely tough Withington team and our year 10 lost in the fourth round by a golden goal over in Hull! It was an extremely difficult situation but our girls showed complete resilience, team spirit and I know that they will come back even stronger next season.

Our year 8 team breezed through the plate competition this year and achieved a well-deserved place in the National Plate Final on March 21st. We left very early to travel to Bromsgrove School to face St. Helen and St Kathryn Girls School. The whole experience was amazing from start to finish but on the court, it wasn't to be our day. The teams were only a couple of goals apart until the final quarter when we ended with a 35-26 loss.

The level of play was outstanding and the progress of our year 8 team has made me so proud. Massive well done to our very own Tilly who was awarded player of the match and huge congratulations to the whole squad for making a National Final – a first for a Bridgewater team in this competition.

Also, a huge thanks to our travelling parents for their support on the day.

NETBALL



Year 9 Netball Team



Year 10 Netball Team



Year 8 Netball Team

NETBALL



Year 7 Netball Team



Year 8 Netball Plate Finalists

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

January started the Girls Football off after Christmas with the U12 County Girls Championships Futsal at Rudheath Senior Academy. The girls came top of the Warrington League. They came 3rd overall with 2 points off being placed higher. It was a tight competition with top 2 coming down to 1 goal to place. Matilda, a Bridgewater student who is a qualified referee, was the referee for the competition.

Lucy, Clara, Evie, Neve, Tilly, Mathilde, Sienna, Abigail.

Quarter Finals success

The U13's Girls made it to the quarter finals, but it ended in defeat to Sandbach. We had a great run of games in this year's Cheshire Cup. All players should be proud of the team we have built.

We had some of our year 7's represents Bridgewater in the U13's.

Isabelle, Holly, Ellen, Charlotte, Annabel Lucy, Clara Evie, Neve, Tilly, Mathilde, Sienna, Abigail, Poppy, Lilly, Amy.

League Victories

Y7 came 1st in the first tournament of Warrington League and 3rd in the final meeting when they reached the semi-final. This was against Lymm which went head to head into extra time and the pens which went to sudden death as both teams could not be separated. What a season our Y7's have had this year! We are excited for the seasons to come. Tilly picked up an injury part way through the season but that did not stop her refereeing in the Y7 league. Well done!

Our Y9 and Y10/Y11 won Warrington League this year overall and were awarded medals.

We're off to County finals!

U14/U16s are off to the County Finals held on Thursday 30th March at Moss Farm at The FA Centre.

Miss Aspinall & Miss Howard and both squads are looking forward to this year's finals and hoping for victory for a continuous year running. We will keep you all posted via our social media PE Twitter @BwaterPE

Bridgewater does Barclays Game On-Go Lead

Bridgewater High School are doing the Barclays Game On-Go Lead Girls Activator programme.

The Initiative is to increase number of Girls leadership opportunities through Football. Barclays Game On - part of England Football GO Lead - provides training to girls in Key Stage 3 to design, create and deliver football opportunities for their peers. The FA and Barclays, supported by Youth Sport Trust, have an ambition to ensure every girl has equal access to football in school by 2024.

We are undergoing the training and have completed the Inspire stage and are now completing workshops as part of the develop phase of the training. The girls got to meet Everton ladies footballer Jess Park on webinar and she give the girls an inspirational talk. They created the mission, vision and pledge as part of the development of girls' football at school. The girls have used session cards and designed their own sessions and delivered them to our Y7 Football squad. The Y9s have taken two KS3 Y7 Stockton and Appleton PE groups and delivered a Girls football tournament as part of their training. The next phase of the training will see our Y9/Y10 activators delivering to our Primary schools and leading on our girls' football summer league to conclude their training which they will submit their plan to Barclays and then hope to receive their certificate as Barclays Game On- Go Lead.

The leaders taking part in Barclays' Football Activators in the summer term, have already shown the importance they have as role models for the next generation of Girls' football leaders and footballers of the future.

I am hoping our younger students would like to follow in the footsteps of those students currently on the course.

Sport Activators- Caitlin, Imogen, Izabela, Lizzie, Emily, Olivia, Matilda
Rosie, Libby, Maisie, Imogen, Zoe, Kimberley, Heidi.

Miss Aspinall



U12 County Girls Football Championships



Y7 Warrington League

Barclays Game On-Go Lead Sport Activators









Y9 Sport Leaders delivering to KS3 Y7 PE as part of the training

EVA'S CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS



Congratulations to Eva in Year 7 who took part in the Cheshire Schools Cross Country Championships at Knights Grange, Winsford on Saturday 4th February 2023.

Eva won the 2km Minor Girls Y7 race and has now been selected to represent Cheshire County.

Well done and congratulations to Eva!

Mrs K Marshall

RUGBY LEAGUE

Both Year 8 and 9 have progressed into Northwest finals rounds and the Champions Schools national competition following the Northwest group stages. Year 8 have beaten Cowley comfortably in the Northwest competition so placing them in the final. In the national Competition, they hosted a strong side from Hull. The boys were excellent and won 20- 8 progressing on to the quarter finals.

Year 9 unfortunately lost to Standish in the Northwest quarter finals. The next fixture for Year 9 is against West Lakes Academy in nationals round 1. This will be played the first week back after half term. Both teams are looking strong and should progress further in the National competition. All year groups have much more fixtures to look forward to over the summer term, including the Warrington Legends tournament.



BOYS' FOOTBALL

The highlight of this half term for Boys' Football was the U16 reaching the Cheshire Cup semi-final. The boys Faced Lymm in the quarter finals where they put in a solid performance to come out comfortable winners. Their opponents for the semi-finals were Wilmslow. The boys played well against a well organised team and unfortunately lost 1-0.

OARSOME ROWING



Oarsome Rowing has continued with great success this term. Following the Northwest indoor championships, Emily Y8 qualified to represent Warrington in London at the Copper Box Arena. The group have also continued to develop their on-water rowing.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Olivia Y(8) has been smashing PB's this term in the 60m hurdles with a season best of 9.56. She's been competing all over the country and is looking to push on into the summer season.



Emily (Y8) has been smashing swimming PB's and winning plenty of gold medals this term. Highlights include the Wirral Metro Gala.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Liv (Y9) has started her 2023 figure skating season this term. She competed at Skate London, Alexandra Palace. Having obtained a qualification to compete at a higher level she smashed her PB.



Erin (Y9) has had an excellent run of form in swimming competitions this term. She has most recently completed in Wirral Gala where she got 5 silver medals. She then went on to compete at Stockport gala where she smashed her PB's in multiple events.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Millie (Y10) represented Cheshire U15's against Wanderers Australia in January.



Gabby (Y10) competed at the county championships this term. She had an excellent meet, competing in 8 events and making the finals in all events. Gabriella even beat the 50m Freestyle record for her age group, which was set in 2014, swimming in a new record time of 27.30



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Will (Y10) and Tillie (Y8) have been selected to represent the North West talent centre for water polo.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Esme (Y10) had an excellent cross-country season in the Cheshire Championships and Manchester League. Following this she has gone on to race at the English Championships (10th) and National Championships (5TH). It is excellent to see Esme performing on the national stage.



Lucy and Eva have been competing together for the duration of the year. They have won numerous events in their category including winning at their home club in the head of the Mersey. They have also won the Northwest regional junior time trials by 12 seconds.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Lucy (Y10) also competes nationally in Cheerleading. Whilst competing at the ICC national cheer competition in Nottingham, her team finished 1st in their Level 3 coed division meaning their national champions for 2023.



Ben (Y10) competed in the English Alpine Championships in his discipline, downhill slalom skiing.



ACADEMY SPORT+ ATHLETES

Ruby (Y10) has the role of principle ballerina in the show red shoes Alice in wonderland at the Brindley theatre.



Oliver (Y11) has had a strong start to his 2023 St Helens Campaign. The first fixture ended with a comfortable win for Saints against close rivals Wigan Warriors.



The Principal, staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, parents, carers and friends a restful Spring break.