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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Careers and Community Members,

As we approach the Easter break, I find myself in that age-old habit of commenting on the weather, hoping for brighter days ahead. Despite the gloomy weather, I am delighted to share the vibrant activities and achievements of our students here at Bridgewater High School, often unnoticed by many outside our school community.

At Bridgewater, we firmly believe that our students' success extends far beyond exam performance alone. Our vision statement reflects this belief: "Every member of Bridgewater High School will develop and succeed through personal and academic growth."

In today's global context, the need for skills like resilience, empathy, respect, and compassion has never been more pressing. We all sense a shift away from these essential qualities at times in our daily lives and work. This awareness is not lost on the school leaders across our town, particularly in

the face of fragmented communities.

As an eternal optimist, I believe it's crucial to celebrate instances where we defy this trend and continue to nurture our community. This term, we have seen many such examples first-hand.

For instance, the Y7 Conway Trip saw an incredible input from parental volunteers, a heartening display of support for our school. While more common in primary schools, this venture was a new experience for us, and the volunteers' contribution was instrumental in making the trip a success. If you are an alumni reading this, you likely have your own cherished memories of the Conway Trip from your time here!

On the topic of Alumni, our newly launched Alumni network has provided invaluable insights for our students, with past graduates sharing their real-life success stories. Having external speakers share authentic narratives about their careers is always a highlight of the year, and I extend my thanks to all who have contributed. I encourage others to do the same whenever possible. Signing up to our network via the link available on the school website is a good first step.

And finally, I want to express my appreciation once again for the unwavering support you offer to our school and your children. It does not go unnoticed, and it goes towards making Bridgewater High School the place that it is.

As we head into the Easter break, I urge you to take time to connect with your families and friends and wish you all a wonderful Easter break.

Warm regards,
Mr. K. Powell
Principal

LONDON MARATHON APRIL 21st 2024



How time flies, this is me twenty seven years ago, the year I joined Bridgewater High School, just completing my first ever London Marathon. I am going to be re-tracing my steps and taking up the gauntlet for a second time. This year I will be raising money for St.Rocco's Hospice, a tremendous facility here in Warrington.

As you can see, I am wearing my trusty bum bag, hidden inside which was my cassette player with my cassette tape playing my favourite songs. This was obviously before mobile phones - no Apple music on that day!

If you would like to kindly donate, here are my just giving details:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/linda-hindle-1708187770102page>

Thank you, and hopefully I will be celebrating crossing the line in one piece.



Mrs Linda Hindle
School Support Officer

LOWER SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

For the second year running, we have held a successful Y7/8 Chess Tournament in the Library, with 34 pupils playing a total of 96 games of timed chess at break and lunch. Competition was fierce throughout the league. The winner was Clara who was the only player not to lose any games, with Luca, Ilija and Oliver in joint second and third place. All received Amazon gift cards. Well done to everyone who took part this year - we look forward to running another tournament next year!



Year 11 Student's Fundraising Mission

Warrington Guardian Article



James & Evie



Vickie



Vickie & Kate

Vickie, mum of Evie in Year 11, was recently diagnosed with a very rare, 16cm clear cell carcinoma mass to the abdomen of unknown origin. This led to her underdoing a triple surgery to remove her reproductive system, the tumour, and her stomach muscles.

In December, Vickie, from Latchford, had a CT scan to check on the healing from her surgery. Here, she was told the devastating news that the cancer had spread to her lymphatic system. The mum-of-two has now been diagnosed with stage 4 life-limiting cancer and has started chemotherapy in the hopes of stunting or slowing down the spread.

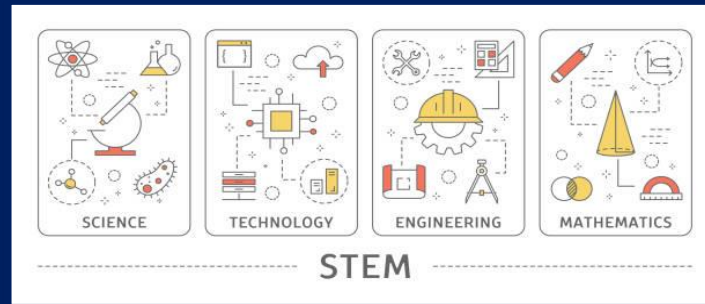
Also in December, Evie's boyfriend James was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma in his left thigh. The 15-year-old is currently undergoing chemotherapy. As Evie says, "We should have just been worrying about our GCSEs and what to wear for prom this year, but I guess our last year of high school will be a bit different for us."

Besides supporting her mum and James on a daily basis, Evie wanted to go that extra mile to show her support. Vickie's best friend Kate had already decided to take part in the 10k Race for Life at Victoria Park in June. This was due to her feeling 'helpless' and wanting to help her best friend. Following the race on this day, Kate and Evie will then take on the Pretty Muddy 5k event together in the afternoon. Evie added: "All I can do to help my mum and James is just love and support them -and I do, with my whole self. "But I can hopefully help anyone else who may find themselves in this situation in the future. "If you can, please sponsor us. This can really help improve people's lives whilst dealing with this awful disease. "It was never really real and was always something sad which only happened to others.

So far, the duo has raised an incredible £3,000 in just over a month. Kate said: "These donations mean the world to all of us. "We don't need spurring on because Vickie and James are the best motivation there is. "But the difference that this money could make is amazing. "To watch the people you love go through something so hard is awful. "To know they are living through it is worse. "Every penny and pound could make all the difference."

To donate to Evie's fundraiser, visit: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/vickies-race-for-life-2302>

To donate to Kate's fundraiser, visit: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/kates-race-for-life-327471256>



YEAR 9 STEM CLUB AT THE TCAT UU REFRESH REFRESH AT BEAMONT COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Our fantastic year 9 STEM team have been working very hard to make their models and plan how to build an eco community building in the Lake District.

They are honing their skills and developing ideas for materials that could help us in an environmentally uncertain future.

They have the final meeting in a months time, good luck to, Ollie, Nathan, Jack, Ed Olly, Edd, Lilly, Faith, Yelda, Charlotte, Eli and Halle.

Mr S. Langton

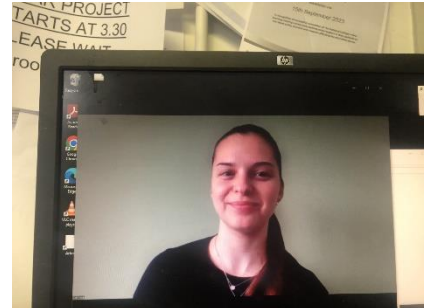
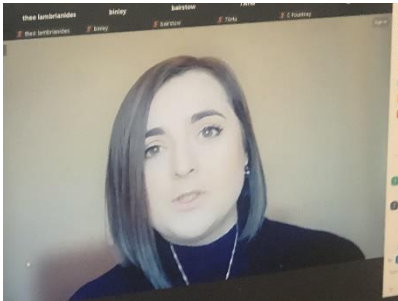




Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Alumni Assemblies

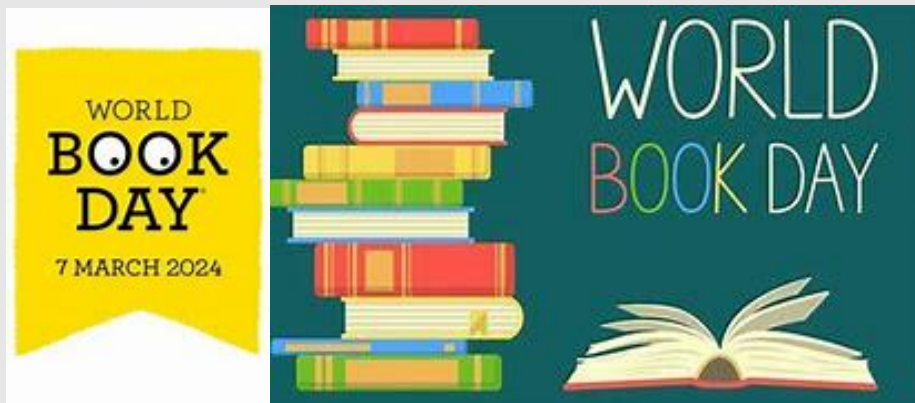
It was great to have former students delivering Alumni Assemblies during National Careers Week . Students were able to hear about different jobs and could ask questions and listen to former students' journeys since leaving Bridgewater. Thanks to all involved. Anybody who is interested in joining our alumni, please join via <https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/bridgewater>



National Apprenticeship Week

Students were able to attend sessions delivered by Warrington Vale Royal College and the Army . They were able to hear about different apprenticeships , what skills employers expect and how to look for and apply for apprenticeships.





As part of World Book Day 2024, over 100 Lower School pupils enjoyed some creative writing workshops with the author, Lis Jardine, author of The Detention Detectives series, published by Penguin. Pupils were tasked with coming up with some murder mystery scenarios and were shown how to put together a mystery story.

Pupils commented that the session was “pretty fun and creative” and “it was interesting to know how an author’s mind works!”.

Other World Book Day competitions included Who’s Coming to Dinner in the Library, Guess the Masked Book Character and a Bumper Book Quiz. Winners were Oliver and Gaia (Bumper Book Quiz), Eskild H (Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?), Tabitha/Olivia and Ada (Guess the Masked Book Character). All winners were able to choose a book of their own choice from the Scholastic Book Fair.

Thanks to all who took part in World Book Day 2024!



CONWAY 2024!



Earlier this term, over 300 Year 7 Appleton and Stockton students Year 7 students enjoyed a three-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.

Particular highlights were a visit to the Xplore Science Discovery Centre at Wrexham, where students enjoyed lots of hands-on learning. At the Conway Centre, there was a range of exciting, outdoor adventure activities including nightlines, orienteering and rowing. Of course, the social side was not neglected and great fun was had with the traditional Bridgewater talent show, not to mention 'Play your cards right' and a space-hopper challenge!

Thanks to all who participated, including staff who supported the event.



Here is what the pupils said about their time away.

Conway - by the students

After an enjoyable trip to Xplore (and a group of emphatic singers on the coach), we arrived at the Conway Centre. We were assigned our dormitories after a welcome Speech From Miss. Howard. Appleton pupils trekked up the staircases with heads held high and bursting with excitement. As chatter echoed through the corridors, everyone reached their dorms and made their beds (a surprisingly difficult task for some) whilst talking with their dorm members. After a short while, everyone went back to the hall for dinner. We had a roast dinner under our noses whilst people connected with those outside their dorms whilst others prepared for the talent show. First we watched Alex who quickly solved Rubix cubes, then Logan played the piano with upbeat, high tempo skipping. Rio won! Then we had bingo with Mr. Till calling and a game of Play Your Cards Right. The first day was over for the night.

Noah (Appleton)

The best part of Conway was the disco because it had all my favourite disco songs and everyone was running, jumping and dancing. It was just the best night. Everyone lost their voices after. My favourite thing I did was canoeing because I had never done it before but I still went on and had so much fun. We were playing games like who could canoe the fastest and we even got a fossil when we stopped off.

Lily (Appleton)

Conway was a decent residential. It was fun, if a bit muddy. Overall, it was good. The activities were very good. We did mountain biking and we went to the beach. It was cold but good fun. There was also a bike trail which was great as there were big hills to go down and there was a bridge to go over. We also did rock climbing. It was very fun. The staff were very kind and we weren't pushed to do things we didn't want to do.

Amelia and Edie

At the Conway Centre we had lots of fun and made lots of amazing memories. Some activities included the nightline and orienteering. In the nightline, we had to wear black out goggles and we held on to a rope while we were guided verbally by our friends to help us get over barrels and other obstacles. As well as this, we also played frisbee golf and problem solving. In the evening, we did Bridgewater's Got Talent and a disco. The disco was really fun. On the last day, I did indoor climbing. Overall the Conway experience was amazing. I have made so many memories.

Emily (Stockton)

At Conway, we did lots of activities but my favourite was the rock climbing. The climbing staff were very funny especially Jennifer. Being there with friends was amazing and I made lots of good memories with them.

Emily (Stockton)

I loved when we did Bridgewater's Got Talent. I also loved the disco right at the end when we sang Sweet Caroline. I also loved the activities especially when I did the high ropes and I raced Mrs. Hutchinson! Overall, we had loads of fun. I wish I could do it again.

Abi (Stockton)

Conway was an amazing experience. It was filled with enjoyment. We did frisbee golf, orienteering, mountain biking, canoeing, rock climbing, problem solving and the nightline. My favourite was canoeing.

Tiaga (Stockton)

As ever, Bridgewater's students were truly outstanding and a great time was had by all, as you can see from the following pictures.





YOUNG WRITERS

Year 7 have proven themselves to be quite the creatives this half term. Several year 7 students have been taking part in The Young Writers competitions. Logan, Pollyanna, Robyn and Islien have all been commended for their efforts and have seen their work be published! In addition, a further group of year 7, 8 and 9 are currently undertaking some of these challenges and exploring their creativity.

Well done to all those who have taken part!



TEA FOR DP

Tyler and Mitchell from Year 10 within our Designated Provision, made afternoon tea last week as part of their GCSEs. As you can see, it was delicious. Well done boys!



OLIVER!

Our fantastic whole school production 2024 was Oliver Jr. This is an opportunity for students from all year groups to come together to create an ensemble performance. It also provides an occasion for parents, carers, family and friends to come into school to see how talented our pupils really are.

Our audience also included the supportive staff body, governors and even past students and staff. It was fantastic to see so many supporting the cast and crew members. From auditions to performances, it was an absolute pleasure to work on this production. Students dedicated every Wednesday afternoon and a weekend to put the show together and then performed in three evening performances and a matinee performance for the Y6 students from Broomfields Junior school.

Our main characters were from a variety of year groups. Oliver was played by Freddie who is a Year 7 pupil; Dodger was played by Richey; Sykes was played by Dominic, Nancy was played by Amy in Year 9 and Fagin, played by Jacob was in Year 11. They were supported by students in all year groups and they were an incredible bunch whom all the staff enjoyed working with.

Huge thank you to Miss Cousins for all her hard work organising costumes, the set and the supporting technology. Miss Hind helped out with choreography and Dr Letheren also came to the rescue with Mr Bumble's hat! Finance was integral to selling tickets, organising floats for the raffle and licencing agreements. We really appreciate you all helping out.

The annual whole school production is a firm favourite on the Drama calendar because we see what a difference it makes to the students. Their confidence grows, they create friendships with pupils from all ages within school, they build relationships with the staff and they are proud of their achievements. Our students are phenomenal! I can't wait to see what they produce next year!

Mrs Antell





The Candice Roberts Award was presented to the extremely deserving Jacob in Year 11. Candice was a former student at Bridgewater High School who sadly passed away at a very young age. Her family wanted to immortalise her passion for Performing Arts through this dedicated award in her name. Each year we face a challenging decision as to who receives the award and every year, we find it difficult to narrow it down to one outstanding pupil. This year was no exception as so many pupils have impressed us with their dedication to and talent for the subject. Jacob was chosen to receive the award this year as he has been heavily involved in drama club, whole school productions, open evenings, and drama showcases throughout his Bridgewater journey from Year 7-11. He develops his skills at external drama clubs and has recently been cast as a main character in an upcoming performance of *Legally Blonde*. He is currently working towards his Btec Performing Arts Acting qualification and has continually worked hard and tried his best. We are always impressed with Jacob's ability to support and encourage others, be a role model to younger and less experienced students, to accept and act upon feedback and take initiative to work on and improve his own practice. Jacob also used his passion for the arts to influence his English persuasive writing which shows how much he believes in the subject.

Well done Jacob. This is well and truly deserved.
Mrs Antell



NEW YORK 2024

On Thursday 4th April 2024, we will be embarking on our EPA New York trip to experience the MoMA and Broadway as well as soaking up the sights and discovering the bright lights of the big city. 40 students accompanied by five staff will be spending five days of the Easter break exploring and taking part in an array of activities in the big apple. We are very excited to get the trip back up and running following the covid pandemic and now all of the planning is complete, we are ready for the trip of a lifetime.

We have an Instagram group set up to share our key moments and treasured memories of the trip. If you would like to share our journey, follow us: [bridgewater_NYC_2024](#)

Thank you so much in advance to the staff who have given up a chunk of their holidays to support this trip: Mr Carroll, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Swaffield. Also, a big thanks to Finance for their support.

Mrs Antell

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WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN DANCE

We have been very busy preparing for our upcoming Oscars Dance show at the Brindley theatre next month. This year, Act one is showing our own version of the Disney movie, 'Moana' and Act two is showing a range of work from Year 9 students up to Year 11.

We have had a lot of after school rehearsals to prepare for the show so a big well done and big thanks to the students for giving up so much time, all students from Year 7-11 have been a pleasure to have in rehearsals and we are very excited for the show.

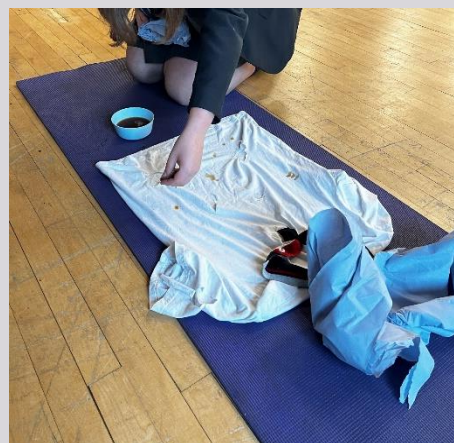
We have held a day of dance for our Year 9 Option students with Alix Faulkner, a professional dance artist when they created a dance in a day that they will be performing in the show. Our Year 10 students created a dance in a day with our lovely Miss Betts as part of their BTEC dance practical work.

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils have been working on developing their choreography and performance skills through studying professional works, Bugsy Malone and Swansong. Year 9 pupils have been developing their knowledge of other works and creating their own versions of works that tell a story and using the Dance group Diversity as a stimulus.

Year 10 have been fully focused on their Component 1 coursework and have become experts in Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker, there is an awful lot to cover in both practical and written work so we want to say a huge well done for working so hard.

Our Year 11 students have been busy completing their final component of BTEC dance. We have dancers and designers this year who will be doing their final practical performances after the Easter Break. We are very much looking forward to their performances based on the brief of 'Treasured memories' with some choosing to show an excerpt of these pieces in our Oscars dance show.

Some of our pictures here show a little insight into what we have been working on...
We hope to see many of you in our audience at the Brindley Theatre on 23rd April.
Nicola Fleming
Head of Dance





YEAR 10 BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (Acting / Musical Theatre pathway)

In February, we made our annual trip to Priestley College to perform our Component 2 class productions. It proved again to be an enriching and exciting experience for our pupils, allowing them to work alongside the Year 12/13 Production Arts students.

This year, the Acting class presented 'Teachers Leavers '22', a hilariously heart-warming comedy set in the North of England. The story documents the tales of Salty, Gail and Hobby, a

group of school leavers, who create a performance for their much-loved drama teacher.

The class worked so hard to piece together their production and for some of them it was their first experience of learning lines and performing to a large audience. I am very proud of what all the pupils achieved on the day and their enthusiasm was a joy to witness. I hope it becomes a core memory for them. Keep working hard and striving for the best!

*Mrs Swaffield
Head of Drama*



ANNIE AND BLOOD BROTHERS

On February 20th Miss Plimmer's BTEC class performed Annie and Blood Brothers extracts at Priestley College. They spent the day at Priestley College working with Production Arts tutors and Year 12/13 students rehearsing their performances. Priestley College created their set, lighting and sound. This brought the performances together brilliantly. The Year 10's worked efficiently and professionally on the day

and performed for their family and friends in the evening. Their experience was exciting and I hope that this will be a memory that they will keep with them forever. I am extremely proud of their achievement for Component 2 of their BTEC Performing Arts course.

Well done to Emmy, Izzy, Ryan, Evie, Xavier, Joel, Leila, Roxanna, Ava, Charlotte and Annie!

Miss Plimmer
Head of EPA Faculty



YEAR 11 BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (Acting / Musical Theatre pathway)

Year 11 are in the throes of their final exam and working towards the end of the course! This year, pupils were given the brief to devise group performance based on 'Treasured Memories'. This has been an interesting brief, which has allowed a range of topics and ideas to be explored, using research and real-life case studies to bring depth the various plots that have been developed.

Pupils have worked to prepare their performances and will stage these for the final

time after Easter. Alongside the practical work, pupils have created various written logs to accompany the development of their ideas.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past two years. We wish you all the luck in your final exams and wish you all the best for the future!

The Drama Department

SPORTS NEWS

NETBALL NEWS

We have come to the end of an outstanding netball season at Bridgewater with so many achievements. We have had 5 teams enter the National Sisters in Sport Competition for the first time, participation netball and weekly team training since September! The numbers at training have shown the commitment and dedication of all squads who well deserve the success they have achieved. We have found sponsors to help fund new netball hoodies and several players have achieved Cheshire and Thunder squads.

Congratulations to the girls also progressing with coaching and umpiring as several girls regularly develop their skills within school and at their clubs. Thanks to the girls helping to officiate at the Primary Cluster events.

Regional round of the Nationals

Our year 9 netballers came second in Cheshire and therefore went to the next regional round in Clitheroe. It was a super cold but superb day with several wins. Unfortunately, we did not make the semi-finals by just a goal difference. It was still an outstanding achievement to get this far in the toughest regional round.

Cheshire Schools Year 7/8 and 9

This was a very busy tournament with lots of game time for our 3 teams. Year 9 did not have their best day but lots of learning took place and hopefully they're saving their best netball for their National Cup game for the week after!

Year 8 pupils have made outstanding progress this year, narrowly losing in the semifinals to give us 4th place in Cheshire. This was a brilliant team effort and a day that really showed the progress and development of this whole squad. Year 7 have blown us all away this season and completely deserve to be crowned Cheshire Champions! The team won all their games convincingly and have started what looks to be a wonderful netball journey at Bridgewater.

Many thanks to all parents for their support and help on such a busy and successful day.

Sisters in Sport National Finalists

The highlight of the season for year 9 was to reach the SnS Final Four at Loughborough University for the second time on the run!

We travelled to Loughborough the night before for some serious carbohydrate loading and sleep. We were on the court for a 9am semi-final and won this by 5 goals, putting us in to the final at midday. We played Stockport Grammar but struggled to find our flow for the first half. We could not manage to gain a lead, even though we won the last quarter 7-1! This was a loss that didn't feel like a loss, by only 4 goals by the final whistle. The girls were outstanding and made Bridgewater proud yet again!

Congratulations to all Bridgewater netballers for an outstanding season. We say goodbye to our wonderful year 11 team who we will miss, but I know will keep hitting the court at club and college level.

We look forward to next season in September for more great memories and successes on the court.



Year 7 Cheshire Champions

SPORTS NEWS



Year 8 Squad



Year 9 Regional and National SnS Finalists

ATHLETICS NEWS

Well done to Isaac in Year 8 who runs for Warrington Athletics Club for track and cross-country running. It has been quite a successful year for Isaac, and his two team mates in that they have already, in the last few months, claimed silver in the Northern England Road Relays (3 x 3km) and 8th in the English National Cross Country Championships.

However, 2024 has started incredibly well for Isaac with an individual win on 6th January at the Cheshire County cross-country Championships. Isaac came in first place to become County Champion, as well as helping the team achieve the team gold medal too. He is now automatically selected to represent Cheshire in the 'inter-counties' championship at Loughborough University in March.

This result also sets Isaac up nicely for the upcoming Northern England Championships at the end of January, and then the English National Championships in February where he is hoping for a place in the top 20 in the country. Fingers crossed!

RUGBY UNION/RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS

The spring term has given our Y7-Y9 rugby teams a chance to compete with the best in Cheshire at the County 7s festivals. All three teams were outstanding and played some excellent rugby. Year 7 finished in fourth, Year 8 finished third and Year 9 won the competition.



SPORTS NEWS

Also this term, the Year 9 and 10 teams have reached the national stages of the champions schools tournament for a third year in a row. Hopefully the boys can keep up the good form and reach the final again!

FOOTBALL NEWS

The Year 7 Football team won the Warrington Schools' Finals beating Great Sankey. They also won the Manchester United tournament.

An excellent term for the Year7s!



Pictured above are players from the U12 Football team at the Cheshire Finals. Unfortunately we didn't receive a medal but the whole squad did very well to get us to the Finals!

Well done!

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