



# PHILIPS HIGH SCHOOL

SUCCESS, TOGETHER, ASPIRE, RESPECT

## Winter Newsletter

### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

**Last day of  
Autumn Term**  
20 December 2023

#### **Spring Term**

**First Day Back**  
04 January 2024

**Half Term**  
16 February 2024  
-

26 February 2024

**Easter Break**  
28 March 2024  
-

15 April 2024

**Bank Holiday**  
06 May 2024

#### **Summer Term**

**Half Term**  
24 May 2024  
-

03 June 2024

**Last Day of School**  
18 July 2024

### Introduction

Another Year is soon to be over and I am delighted to present to you this Newsletter which showcases the many events and activities taking place at Philips High School. There are many trips and activities taking place.

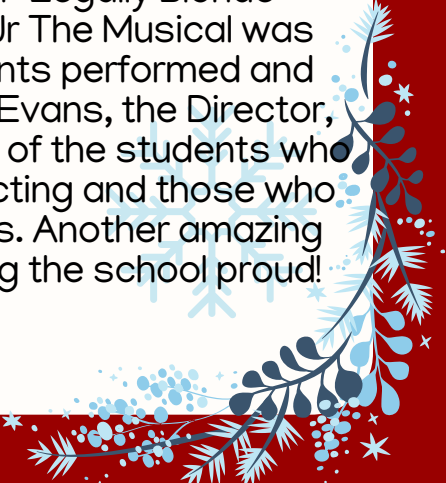
I am very proud of how the Cadets have developed and the numerous activities they have taken part in.

We have lots of other exciting trips and opportunities planned for the future including a trip to Auschwitz in Poland and Skiing in Passo Tonale, Italy.

The Christmas Celebration Concert took place on Wednesday 13th December and was a great success showcasing music and dance from some of our very talented pupils.

Trips Day on Friday 15th December took pupils to a number of different venues including the Trafford Centre, Hollywood Bowl and Middleton Arena to watch Jack and the Beanstalk.

Our Second Production "Legally Blonde" following on from Annie Jr The Musical was performed in July. Students performed and "wowed" audiences. Mrs Evans, the Director, was extremely proud of all of the students who took part from, singing, acting and those who helped behind the scenes. Another amazing success with pupils doing the school proud!





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## Winter Newsletter



### Reminder of Expectations for the new Year 2024

ALL PUPILS return to school on

**Thursday 4th January 2024 at 9.30 am**



All pupils must wear the correct uniform to School together with the appropriate kit for Physical Education, Food Technology and Design Technology (as described in the Parent and Pupil Guide Handbook that can be found on the School's website).

Pupils who attend School wearing the incorrect uniform will be sent home to change.

All Staff will check regularly for the wearing of correct uniform by pupils. For persistent non-compliance by individual pupils – sanctions will be applied and communicated home (by phone, e-mail, text etc and logged on the e-portal).

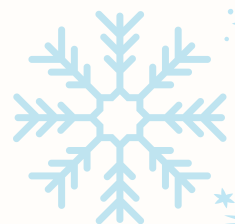
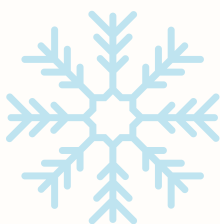
The STAR Card will be used to monitor the pupils in terms of uniform.

Finally, all the Staff, Governors and myself would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.



*Ms T Owen*

HEADTEACHER







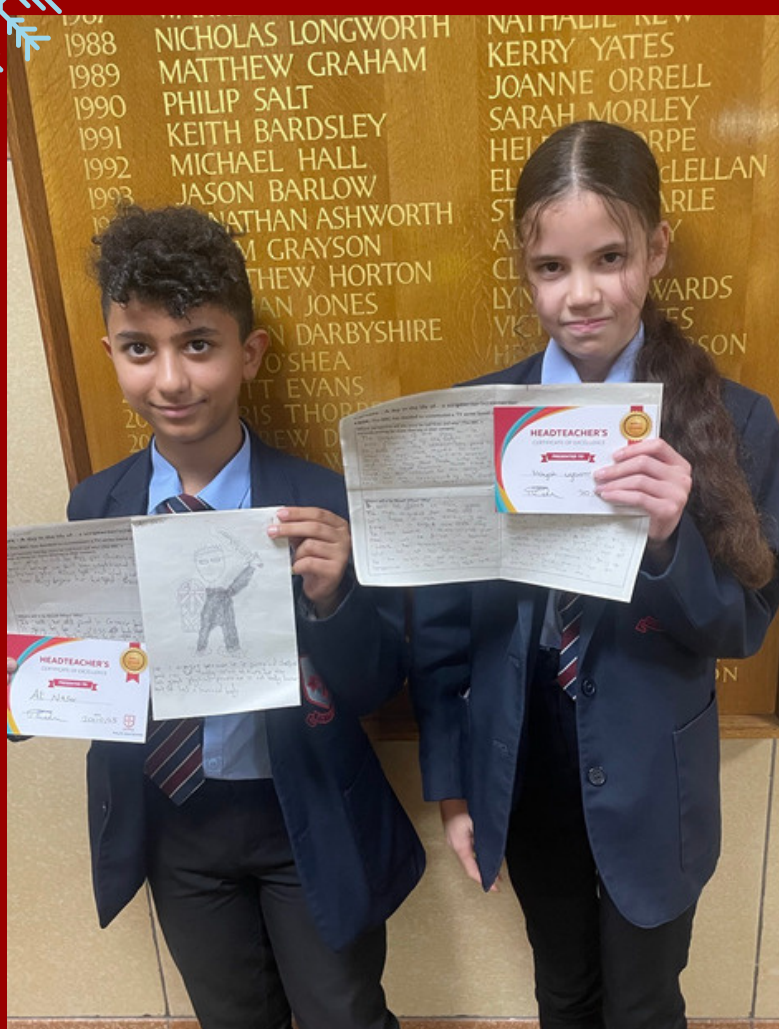
# Headteacher's Congratulations & Star Awards







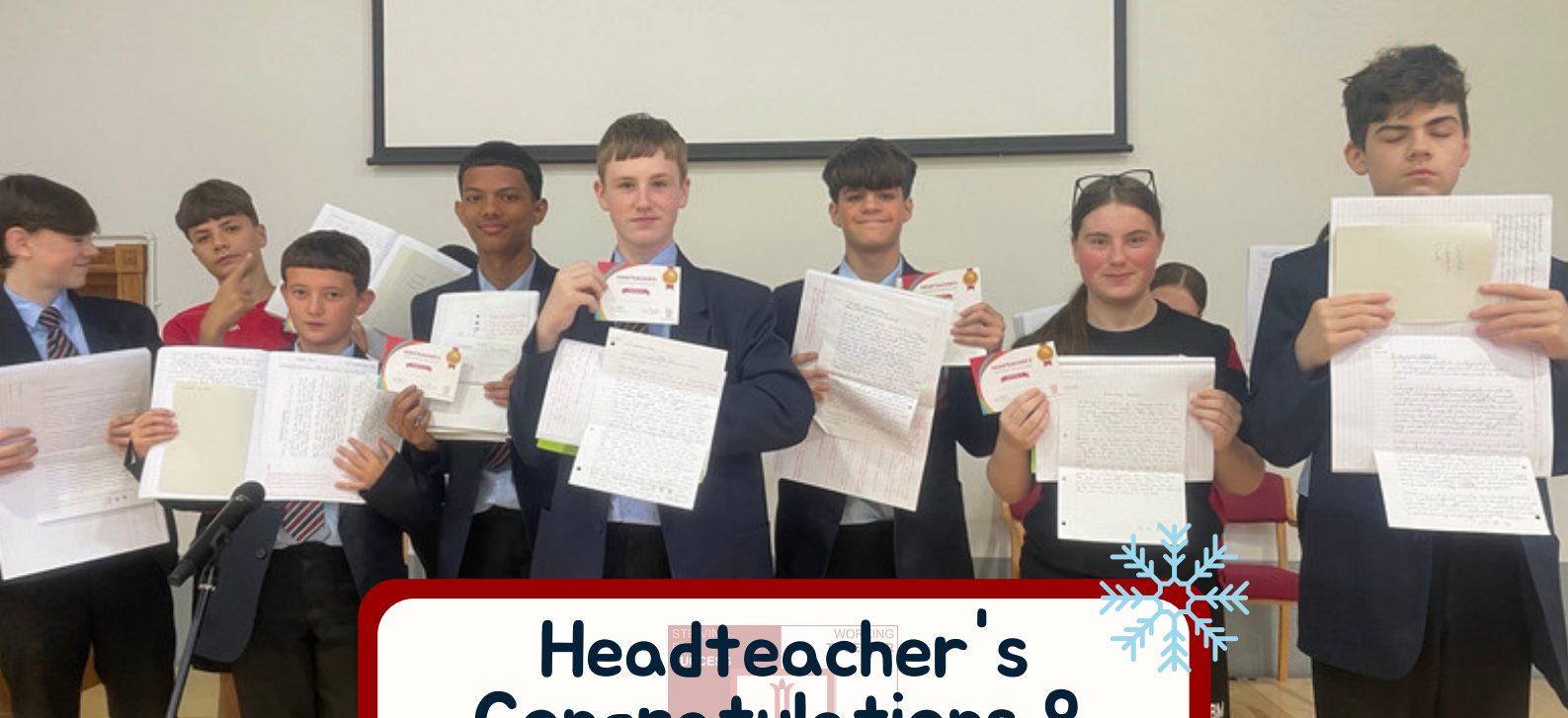
# Headteacher's Congratulations & Star Awards



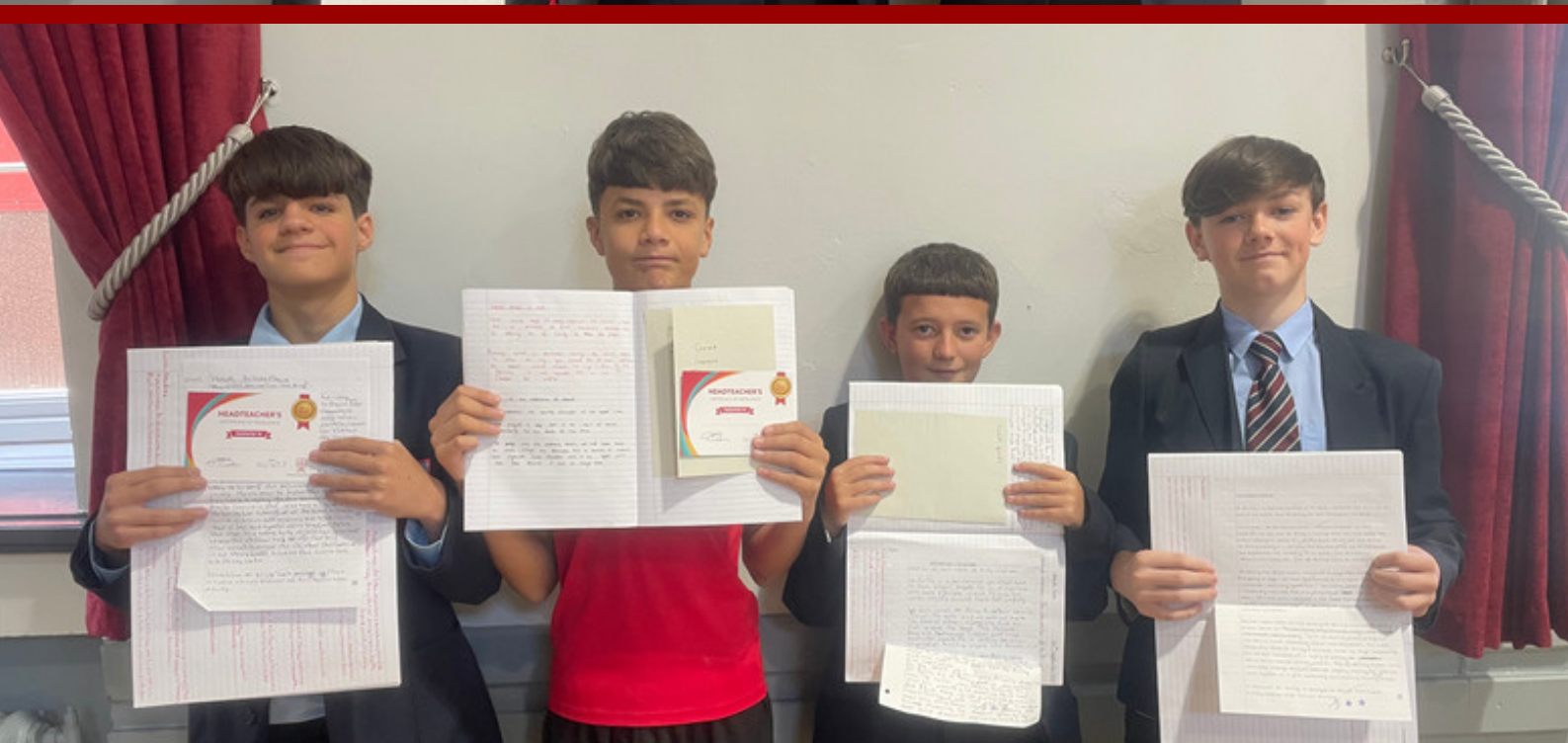
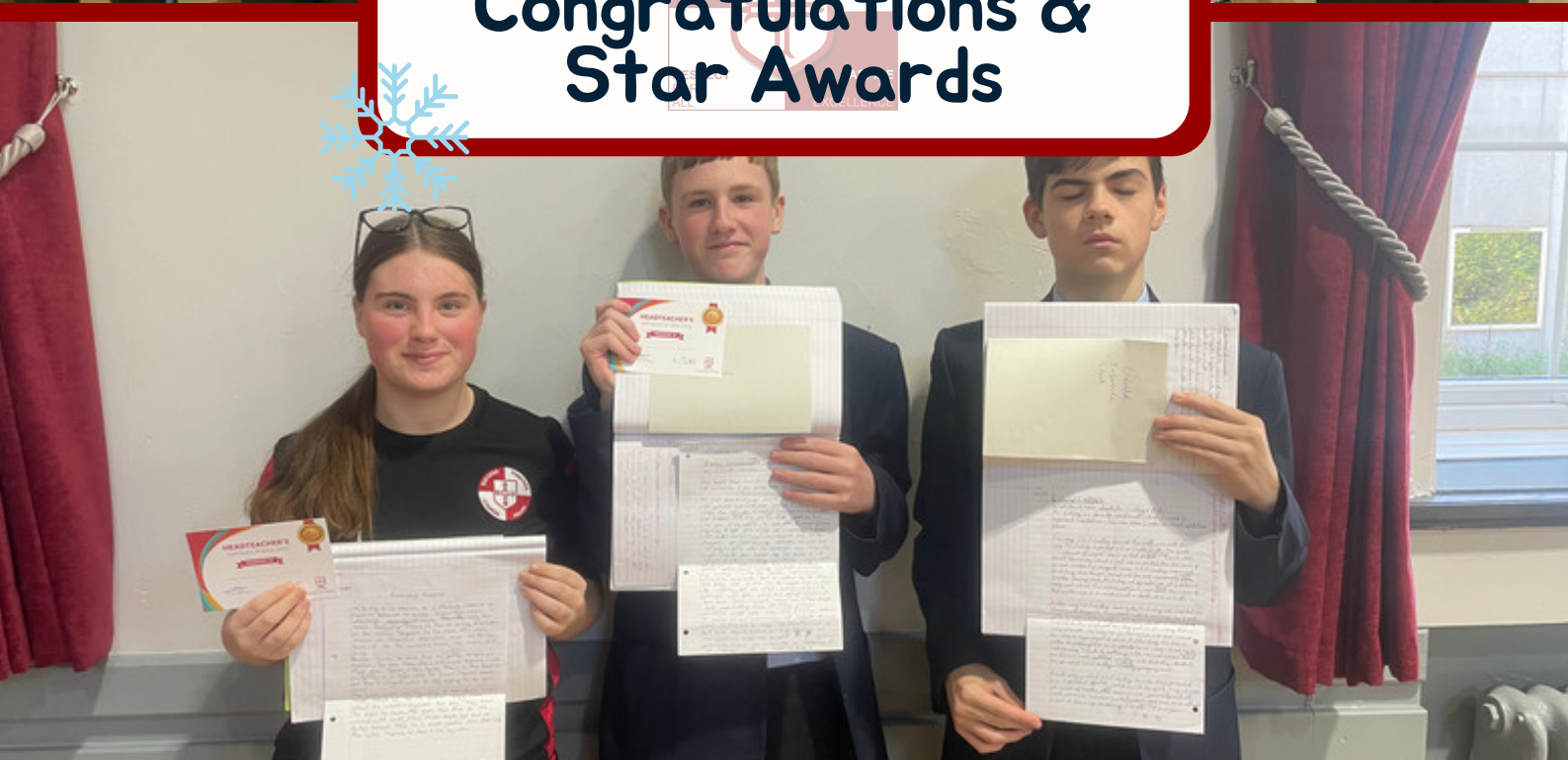




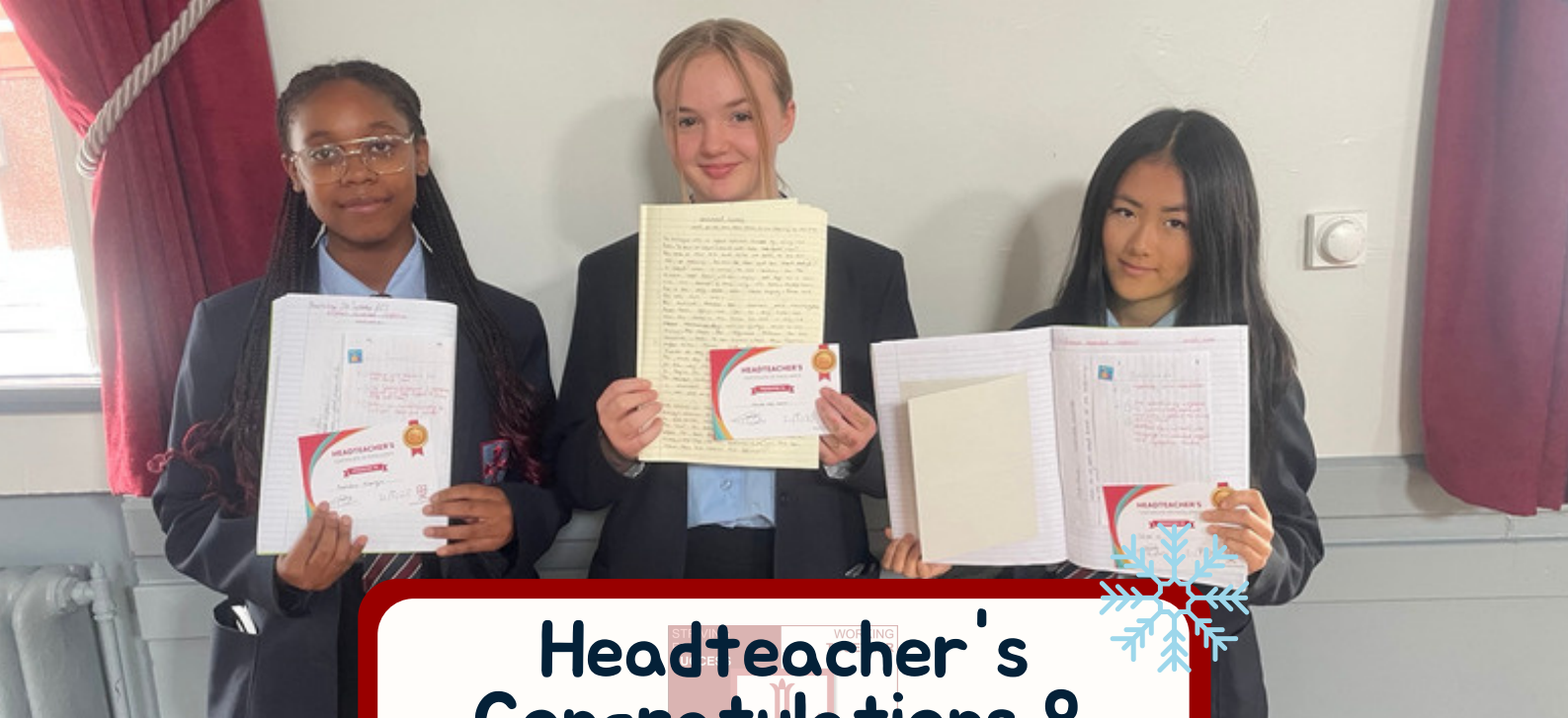




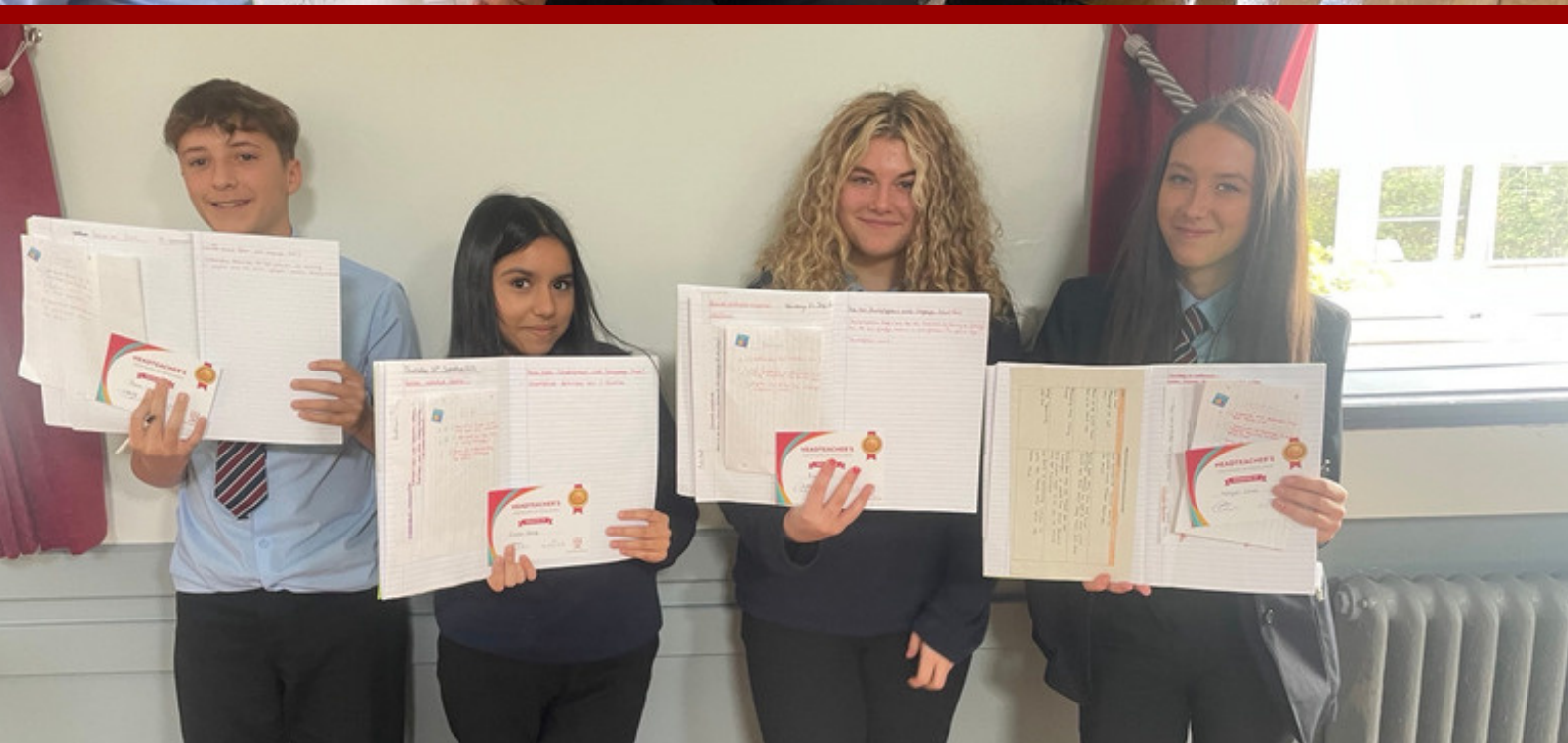
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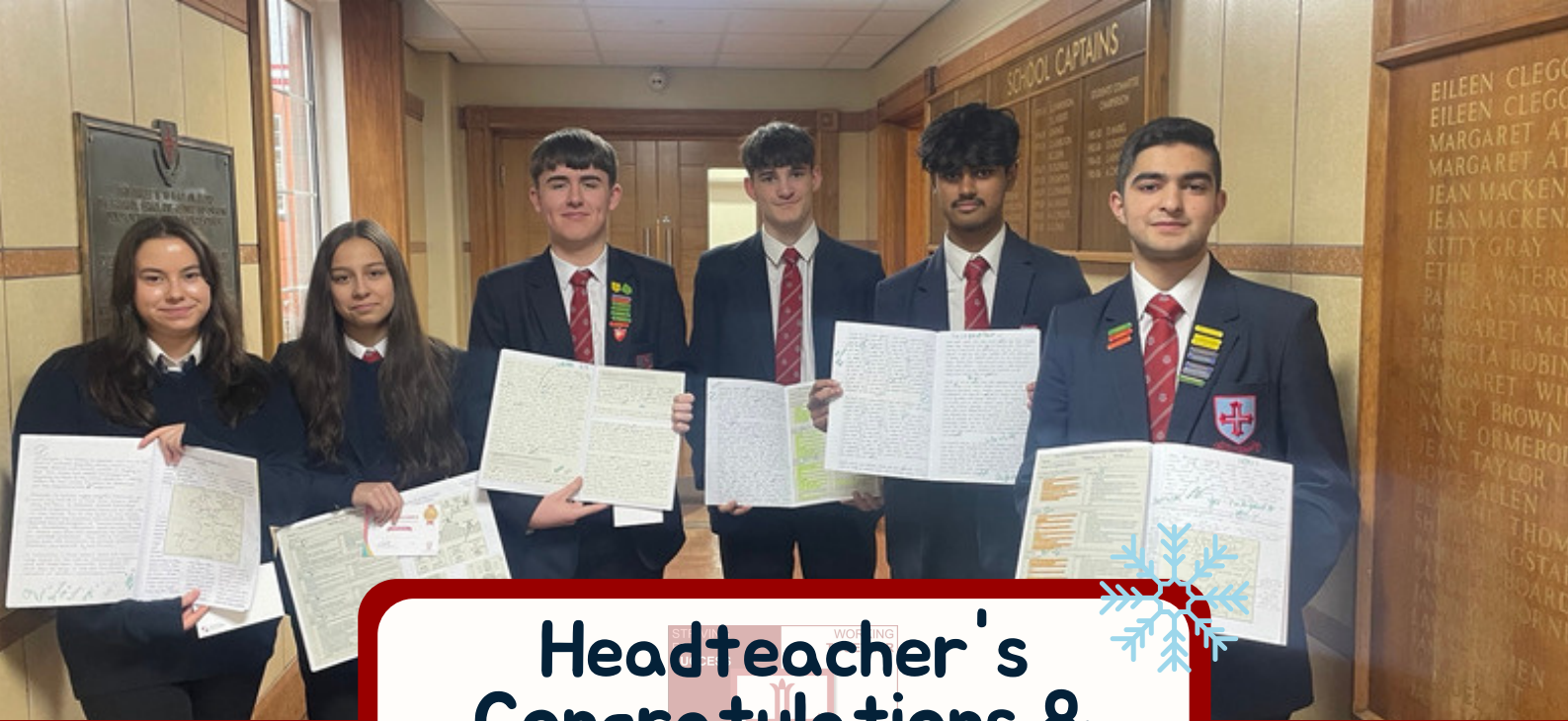




# Headteacher's Congratulations & Star Awards







# Headteacher's Congratulations & Star Awards





# Safeguarding School Rules

## Appointments

Please try to make appointments out of school hours. If this is unavoidable then please ensure pupils are aware of what time they need to meet you at the school office.

Staff will not interrupt lessons to collect pupils for Appointments.

## Years 7–9

All pupils must be collected from reception by a parent / carer or responsible adult aged over 18 years. A letter or appointment card to be handed in at reception when signing out.

## Years 10 & 11

Pupils are allowed to make their own way to appointments if they have a letter of authorisation from a parent / carer or a phone call has been received by office staff (letters must be handed in to the Attendance Office and either copied or kept as confirmation evidence).

## Unwell Pupils

Head of Year must authorise pupils to go home (unless medical emergency).

All pupils to be collected from reception by a parent / carer or responsible adult over 18 years. Depending on the nature of illness some pupils are allowed to be sent home via taxi if the parent / carer requests – Head of Year must authorise this.

## Contact Details

Please ensure all contact information is kept up to date, in particular mobile telephone numbers and email addresses. You can check the details held by school through the parent app.

# Parking around Philips High School

Parking on school grounds is for staff only and where possible we ask that all visitors park off site in a safe manner, being courteous to our neighbours. **Please remember that the school is located in a residential area and it is an offence to wilfully obstruct the highway and parking across driveways is not acceptable.**

In order to safeguard our pupils at the start and end of a school day **please note the following;**

- No vehicle access to the Art Block for deliveries between 8am –9am.
- No vehicle movements between 8:15 – 9:05, 10:50 – 11:15, 12:45 – 13:45 and 14:45 – 15:05
- Movement of traffic is prohibited around the school grounds.
- Parking on site is for staff only and we ask you park off-site.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



# PLACE 2 BE

## Place 2 Be Counselling and Mental Health Support

Pupils use Place 2 Be for lots of reasons. The most common ones are anxiety, struggling to focus, low self-esteem, mood swings and trouble with their family. Pupils can book a Place 2 Talk session to talk about problems and worries, or weekly counselling is available every weekday apart from Wednesday.

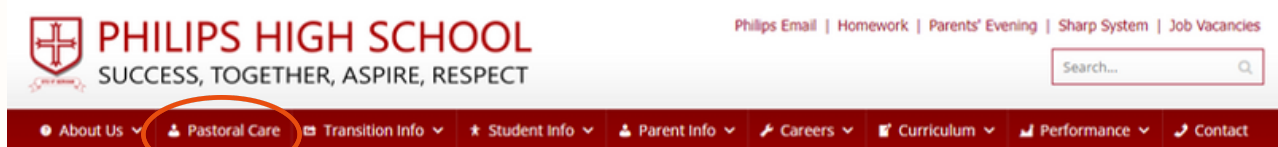
You can access this support in the following ways:

- Philips High Website ([www.philipshigh.co.uk](http://www.philipshigh.co.uk), Select "Pastoral Care" and then Select "Place2Be Booking" on the right hand side.
- Letter boxes around school
- Ask a member of staff
- Click the "Place2Be" Icon on you School Desktop Area



### External Agencies who can support you

Take a look at the Support Services available on the Philips High website under the heading "Pastoral Care", and you will find useful services relating to Mental Health Support, Bereavement, Sexual Health, Substance Abuse, LGBTW+, Eating Disorders, Early Help for Families, Bullying, Online Safety, Black and Minority Ethnic groups, Reporting terrorism, Domestic Violence:



If you or someone else is in immediate danger, then please contact 999 (101 – Police Non-Emergency, However you can also report online).

Other 24/7 Free Helplines are available for young people such as Samaritans on 116 123 and Childline on 0800 111 along with the Place2be Crisis Text Service (Text **CONNECT** to 85258) for confidential support.

For non emergency NHS advice call 111.





# PLACE 2 BE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Place2Be, our in-school Mental Health support service, has a variety of resources to help you support your child's wellbeing.

Their Parenting Smart website offers free practical advice on a range of topics including bullying, the transition to secondary/high school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties. Visit [parentingsmart.org.uk](https://parentingsmart.org.uk) to read more.

Place2Be's Parenting Smart – Online Course is a free, 4-week course designed to support parents and carers of primary-age children in their parenting journey.

Visit [place2be.org.uk/family](https://place2be.org.uk/family) to learn more about these free resources from Place2Be.

## Overview

As part of our mental health support for the whole school, Place2Be is proud to offer advice and resources for families. We do this through:



### Family Practitioners

Each Place2Be primary school has access to a dedicated Family Practitioner offering specialist support and training.



### Parenting Smart

Our website full of practical advice and tried and tested tips for parents and carers of primary-age children.



### Parenting Smart - Online Course

For parents and carers of children at Place2Be schools, our free course will help strengthen relationships with your child.

As a Place2Be partner school, your families are able to access these free resources which can help them to support their child or young person's wellbeing. Your Place2Be school-based staff member can refer families to a dedicated Family Practitioner, and any parent or carer can access [Parenting Smart](#) and the [Parenting Smart - Online Course](#).

This toolkit has suggested copy to help you share these two resources with your school community; including ideas for school newsletters, your school website, and more.







# Attendance

## Attendance Guidelines

The Local Authority attendance guidelines advise that any attendance below 96% is considered poor and below 90% is considered as persistent absence.

Poor attendance can have a detrimental effect on your child's progress at school. As a school, we closely monitor attendance.

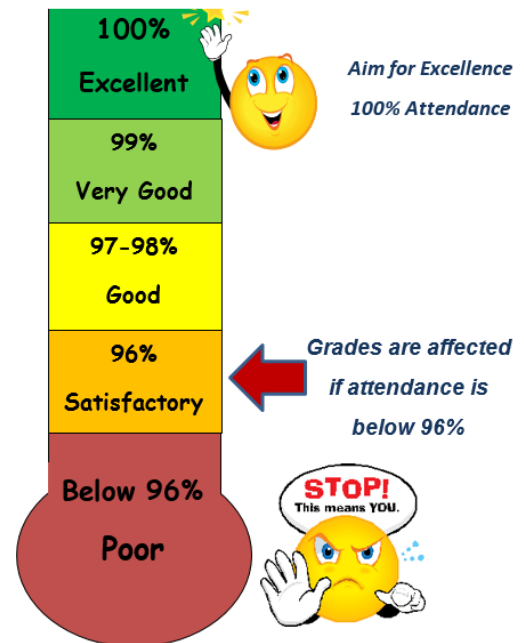
If attendance falls below 92% medical evidence will be required.

This can be provided in the form of any of the following:

- Email or letter from NHS Dr or medical practitioner including a nurse.
- Text or telephone consultation.
- Medication bottle or box.
- Pharmaceutical Consultation.

It is also very important to inform us if your child is unable to attend school on each day of absence.

Thank you for your support.



It is important that pupils arrive at registration and lessons on time. If pupils are late they will receive a late mark on the register, a strike on their Star card and a Detention.



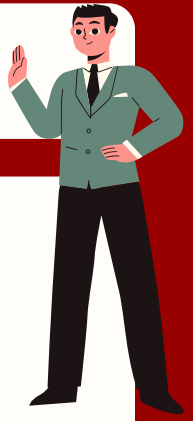
[attendance@philipshigh.co.uk](mailto:attendance@philipshigh.co.uk)



Leave a voicemail on  
0161 3512200, Option 1



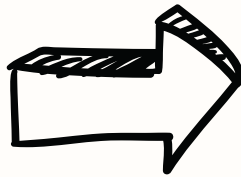
# Attendance



## Reporting an absence

If your child is ill, please report their absence as soon as possible on the first day of illness to

Please leave a voicemail on the attendance line each day.



Send an email to [attendance@philipshigh.co.uk](mailto:attendance@philipshigh.co.uk)

or



Please leave a voicemail on 0161 351 2200, **Option 1**

## Reporting a Medical Appointment

Medical or Dental appointments should be made, whenever possible, outside of school hours.

If appointments are unavoidable during school hours. We request that the appointment does not affect registration so pupils can still get a present mark for both morning and afternoon registration.



**At least** 24 hours' notice of any medical appointments.

Inform school via phone or email.

Please also include Medical Evidence.



Please make sure your child is aware of what time they are being collected.

Pupils are responsible for making sure that they are at Reception ready to be collected and sign out.

Office staff will not always be available to interrupt lessons to collect pupils



[attendance@philipshigh.co.uk](mailto:attendance@philipshigh.co.uk)



Leave a voicemail on 0161 351 2200, **Option 1**





# USEFUL CONTACTS



**BARDOC (out of hours service) – Please contact 111**

**Emergency Housing – 0161 253 5537**  
(In an emergency after 5pm 0161 2536606)

**Care and Support Service (CASS) 0161 253 6666**

**Fairfield Hospital – 0161 624 0420**

**Healthy Minds (Adults) – 0161 253 5258**

**Health Young Minds (Young people) – 0161 716 1100**

**Metrolink enquiries – <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/tram/contact>**

**Travel Line <https://www.traveline.info> or 0871 200 2233**

**NSPCC – 0808 800 5000**

**Greater Manchester Police – 0161 872 5050 or 101**

**Rape Crisis Line GM – 0161 273 4500 / 0808 802 9999**

**Mind.org.uk – Mental Health/Self-harm support –  
0300 123 3393**

**Shelter Manchester –**  
Free housing emergency helpline 0808 800 4444  
(Available Mon–Fri 8am–8pm, Weekend and Bank Holidays  
9am–5pm )

**Streetwise @ Early Break – 0161 723 3880**

**Admissions (Bury LA) – 0161 253 5670**





# SATCHEL ONE

Online tool, Satchel One, helps you keep track of your child's Independent Learning.

This gives you;

- 24/7 access to your child's homework
- A view of the quality and quantity of Independent Learning.
- Free apps for your iPhone, iPad and Android devices
- Automated notifications of homework due date

For more information please read the help sheet on the school webpage.



Any issues with Satchel One,  
please email: [SMHW@philipshigh.co.uk](mailto:SMHW@philipshigh.co.uk)

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### Philips High School Mobile Phone Policy:

- Pupils seen with mobile phones/headphones in the school building (inc all classrooms/corridors/canteen/pupil entrance) between 08:00 – 16:45 will have them confiscated.
- Pupils are only permitted to use phones during break and lunch outside the school building (playground/field/astro turf).
- If mobile phone / headphones are confiscated, pupils can collect them on the same day at 3:30 from the School Office.
- 3rd time offenders, the phone/headphones will be kept in the school office safe until parent/carer comes to collect, if continues, sanctions will escalate.

#### **Please Note:**

- Repeat offenders will be referred to Senior Leadership Team.
- Philips High School does not accept responsibility / liability for loss, damage or theft of mobile phones or similar online/electronic devices.



# OFFICE NEWS

## Pay for school meals

To help make it as easy as possible for you to pay for school meals we have introduced an epayments system which allows you to pay for school meals over the internet [www.bury.gov.uk/ payforit](http://www.bury.gov.uk/payforit) or by phone 0845 3052197 (Open Mon–Fr 9am–5pm)

**How to pay:** All major debit or credit cards are accepted with the exception of American Express and Diners Card. To pay online or over the telephone you will need the following details to hand;

- School Name
- Pupils name
- Pupil number (provided by school)
- 4–digit school DfE number—4025
- Your debit/credit card details

More information at: [www.bury.gov.uk/schoolcatering](http://www.bury.gov.uk/schoolcatering)

Please contact school should you require your child's individual log in details to enable you to benefit

## Appointments

Please understand that only parents/carers with a pre-booked appointment can be guaranteed to see or speak to a member staff.

Unfortunately, although we will try our best to accommodate. There will be occasions where no member of staff will be available



## Contact details

It is important that all contact details are up to date in case of emergencies. If you wish to update your contact details, please follow this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GJmcQj3Qz8>

Alternatively if you login to the SIMS Parent App or [www.sims-parent.co.uk](http://www.sims-parent.co.uk) you can check the contact details we already have and make any amendments.



# OFFICE NEWS

## PUPIL BELONGINGS

Please note, any pupil belongings that are dropped off at Reception, will be the **pupil's responsibility** to collect at Break or Lunch.

If the item is not collected by the end of the day, the Reception Staff may be able to deliver it to the pupil.

## STATIONARY PRICE LIST

Ties (Years 7 – 10)	£6.50
Ties (Year 11)	£7.50
Black Pen	20p
Red Pen	20p
Pencil	20p
30cm Ruler	20p
15cm Ruler	20p
Protractor	20p
Eraser	15p
Pencil Sharpener	20p
Compass	£2.00
Glue Stick	80p
Highlighter	50p
Filled Pencil Case	£2.00
Calculator	£12.00
Geometry Set	£3.00
Planner	£3.00



# WELLBEING



We are currently working with Emotional Friendly School to become the first school in Bury to achieve the Wellbeing Bronze Award, this is due to be reviewed in February, we can then look at getting silver and gold over the next 2 years.

We are working on a new whole Staff Wellbeing policy to ensure that wellbeing is at the heart of everything that we do at Philips High School.

The wellbeing department have recently hosted a Support Your Child Evening which aimed to improve parent's/carers knowledge around stress & anxiety and how best to support their child over the next few years whilst being at Philips High School, the feedback from parents was excellent and is something we aim to continue yearly looking at different areas of wellbeing.

A big thank you to Mrs Duxbury, Mrs Dalziel, Mrs Carlisle and Mrs Newman who all helped with the evening.

Staff Art Club has been excellent each week which has been an opportunity for staff to come together, take their mind off their busy day at work and have some fun whilst doing some art. The sessions have been amazing and a big thank you to Mrs Craig and Miss Gilks.

After Christmas we have Miss Bruce doing some staff yoga sessions focusing on numerous areas such as –

- Yoga flow and New Year intention setting
    - Vinyasa Yoga (flow yoga)
  - Yin Yang yoga (flow followed by static, restorative postures)
    - Creative flow (slower paced for more mindfulness)
    - Yoga, meditation and chanting (chanting optional)
    - Restorative yoga and sound bath
- (sound bath with crystal singing bowls – great for relaxation)



# Character News

We had lots of extra-curricular activities within the Character Department this term as well as our regular weekly lessons. Year 8 had the fantastic BSafe team in for a full day of activities that educated them about different risks and how to deal with them.

We had visitors ranging from the Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, Bury Children's Services, Bury Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Bury Council Community Safety Partnership and The Samaritans. They covered a range of topics such as: Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Bullying, Hate Crime, Peer pressure, Knife Crime, gangs, Online safety, Anti-Social Behaviour, Exploitation, Healthy Relationships, and Personal Safety. However, the highlight of the day was perhaps seeing Drama students from Bury College give an impactful performance that highlighted the consequences of the choices you make. It was lovely to see some of our former pupils return to showcase their talents to our Year 8 pupils.

We also had our first Character Day of the year and pupils in all year groups enjoyed a day off timetable to cover a range of PSHE topics. Year 11 had sessions with Place2Be on how to manage their stress during examination season and all year groups had a talk from TLC (Talk, Listen, Change) a Manchester based charity about the importance of respect in relationships and the significance of good role models – something we feel aligns strongly with our own STAR ethos.

KS4 pupils on the Aspire pathway have also enjoyed two extra Aspire Character Days – these have allowed us to cover essential and diverse life skills such as media literacy, online safety and dealing with emergency situations. All staff were hugely impressed with the maturity and willingness to learn that was shown by our pupils during these days.

Finally, our Year 7 pupils had a fantastic day working in teams with Avantor Careers and EDT Industrial Cadets. They enjoyed active learning experiences in STE(A)M related careers, giving pupils the opportunity to gain knowledge and exposure that will help them make decisions about their future. They worked hard in teams to come up with presentations on different careers based on roles within science related sectors.



Improving children's  
mental health



# MANCHESTER UNITED FOUNDATION

Year 7 have taken part in a Manchester United cliff tournament. We competed against 8 schools across Greater Manchester drew one game and won the rest. We've finished 2nd on goal difference to the team we drew with. Year 7 pupils played some amazing football and represented Philips well.

Year 11 pupils took part in Manchester United Black History Month at Old Trafford. The day consisted of speaking to black owned companies across Greater Manchester, doing a Q&A, in which our pupils asking how they got to where they are, what grades they got in school and what path did they go down.

Philips pupils took a lot from the day.



Had special guest speakers like Harry Pinero and Danny Simpson.



# CANTEEN - THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all of our lovely Canteen staff who work so hard every day to provide us with a delicious and varied menu – especially on Thursday, 14th December when you provided an amazing Christmas Dinner for over 250 Staff & Pupils!



# THANKYOU

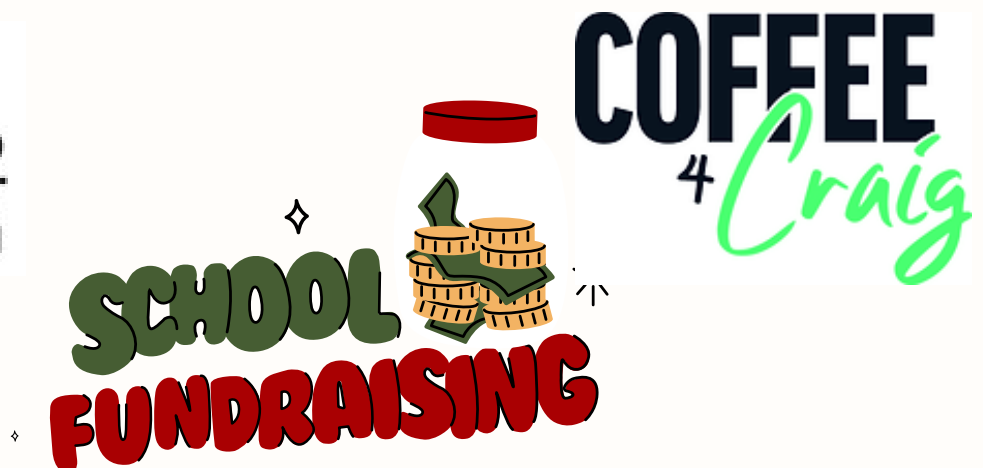
## SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

This term Staff & pupils have been working hard to raise funds and collections for two charities, Wood Street Mission & Coffe4Craig.

Wood Street Mission is a Manchester-based charity that helps alleviate the effects of poverty on local families. Their mission is to provide practical help to people who are struggling to make ends meet, such as clothing, bedding, and toys for children.

Meanwhile, we have raised an amazing £360 for Coffee4Craig – an organization that provides support and advocacy to homeless people in Manchester, including food, clothing, and shelter.

The money raised will go a long way towards helping those in need in the local community, and everyone who has contributed should be proud of their efforts.



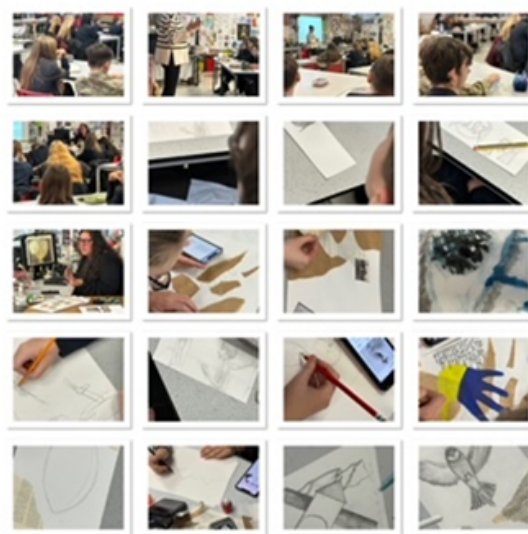
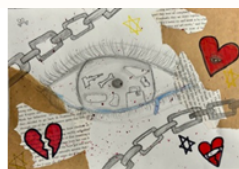
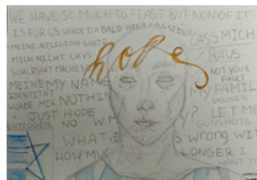


# ART NEWS

## Holocaust Education Art Workshop

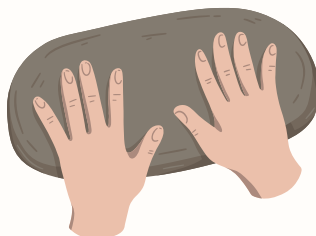


Year 8 pupils took part in an art workshop based on Liberation and kinder transport run by holocaust education team, Caroline Slifkin and Hannah Goldstone and funded by Holocaust UK and Heritage Fund UK. Pupils produced thoughtful and sensitive work. Caroline said "It's always a pleasure to work with you and your pupils. They did you and the school proud."



Pupils and their friends and families will be invited to attend The Bridgewater Hall to see the work displayed and next year.

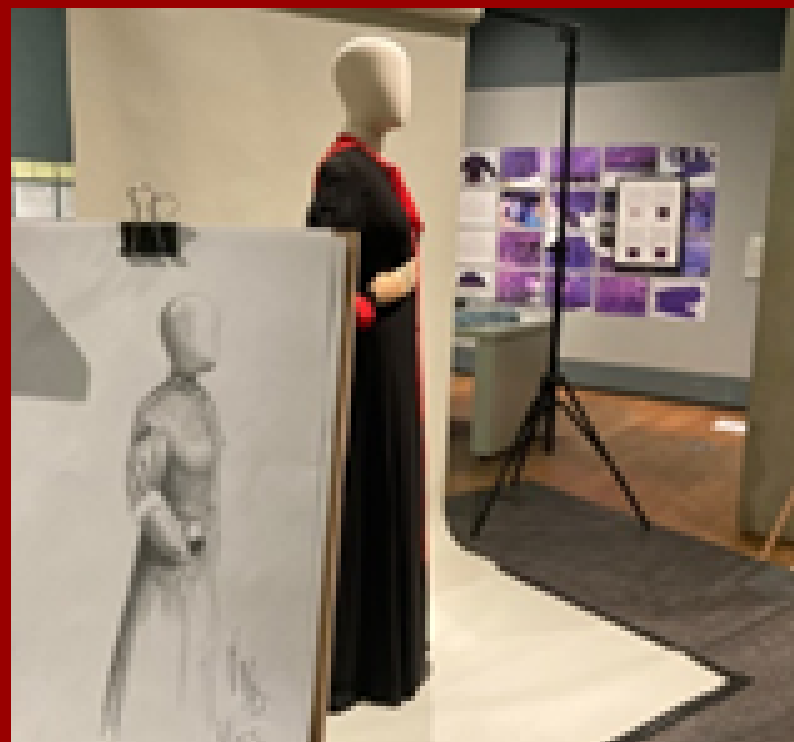
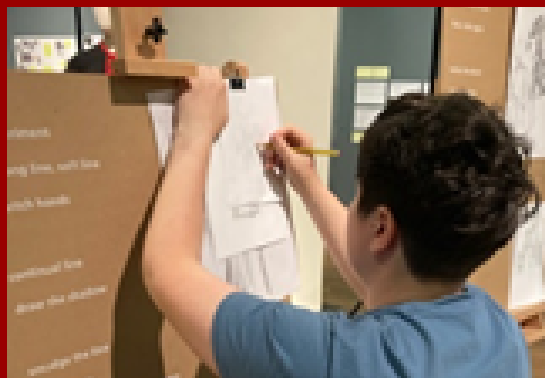
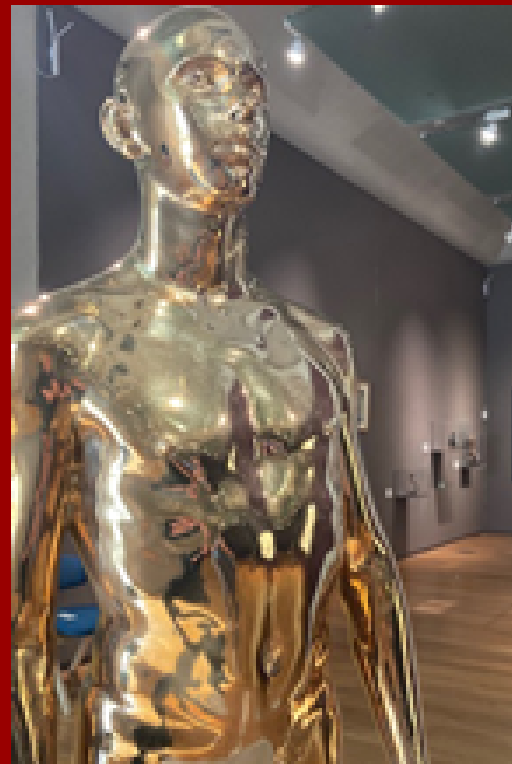
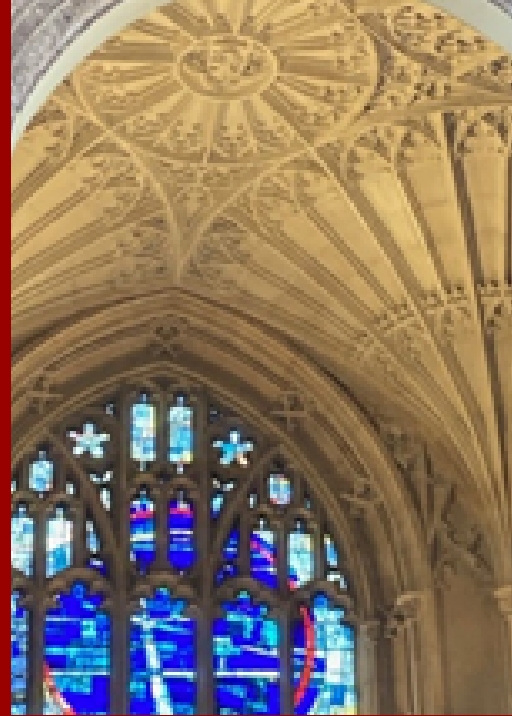
Staff Art Wellbeing club has been running this half term, working in a variety of media and producing sketchbooks to document the work they have been doing.



# ART NEWS

## Year 10 GCSE Art & Photography Trip to Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Cathedral

Y10 enjoyed a day of culture as they visited Manchester Art Gallery, many for the first time. The work and photographs that they took will feature in their portfolios. They also visited Manchester Cathedral to see the visiting drawing exhibition that was on display there.





# Winter Memories



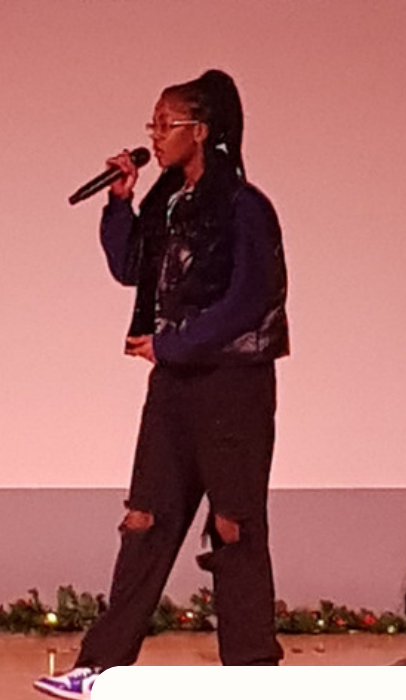
It's that time of the year again when students eagerly await the Christmas festivities in school. Year 8 students are in for a special treat this year as their form tutors have planned a hot chocolate and cookie morning. The aroma of freshly brewed hot chocolate and warm cookies filled the Dining Room, creating a cozy and festive atmosphere.

This Christmas treat is not just about indulging in delicious treats, but it's also an opportunity for students to bond with their classmates and form tutors. It's a great way to end the year on a high note and spread some Christmas cheer.

The Year 8 Christmas hot chocolate and cookie morning is a perfect way to celebrate the festive season in school and make lovely memories with classmates and teachers alike.







# Christmas Celebration Concert





# CADETS

It has been a busy start to the year for the contingent – this September saw 33 new recruits start. The Cadets also started on the updated syllabus which opened up new subjects such as Signals and Cyber Courses.

## Meet the Army

8 Senior cadets attended a day at Holcombe Moor Training Centre, during the visit they met members of the regular and reserve forces, took part in a series of activities which gave them an additional insight to all the options open to them should they wish to explore this as a career option.





# CADETS

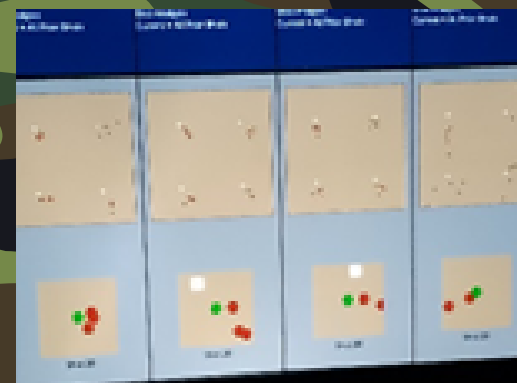
## Weapons Training

The Cadets have the ability to receive training on a number of weapons but predominantly the Scorpion Air Rifle and Cadet GP Rifle. Before they can use them on the range or on exercise, they had to go through an intensive training and an assessment. These assessments are completed every 6 months to ensure the cadets skills are refreshed, ready for use on the ranges.

## Shooting

One the most enjoyable activities the Cadets is being able to test their shooting capability, starting with the Air Rifle and moving onto the Cadet GP.

The contingent used the Weapon Training System in the Training Wing at Manchester Air Cadets in Oldham for the Senior Cadets to practice their marksmanship.





# CADETS

## Remembrance Sunday

The Cadets once again worked hard during the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday selling poppies around school, raising money for the Royal British Legion. Philips High School CCF had an even bigger presence at the Whitefield Cenotaph with 23 Cadets and staff attending. The Cadets laid 6 wreaths on behalf of the school during the service. They all looked very smart and received a lot of praise from the local community.

## Fusilier Museum

This term our new recruits visited the Fusiliers Museum in Bury. The Cadets got to learn about the history of the Fusiliers and their link with Bury and surrounding areas. At the end of the tour, they were also given the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the weapons used in previous wars.





# CADETS

## Imperial War Museum Visit

The Senior Cadets visited the Imperial War Museum in November and it was the first time the majority had visited. The Museum allowed the Cadets to develop their military knowledge looking at the exhibits from the First World War to present.

## First Aid Training

First Aid Training is one of the important life skills the Cadets are trained in, covering all aspects from assessing the casualty and calling the emergency services, performing CPR, simple bandaging through to using a Defibrillator. Six Year 11 Cadets also completed their Emergency First Aid at Work qualification.







# DRAMA NEWS

Year 11 visited The Playhouse theatre in Liverpool on 19th October to watch Frantic Assembly's adaptation of Metamorphosis. Students were mesmerised by the haunting set design and physical movement produced by the actors.

Metamorphosis tells a story of a man paying off his debt to support his family, but the burden becomes too overwhelming and he transforms into an insect. The actor hung from the ceiling, climbed up the walls and leaped around the stage.

The students, Mrs Evans and Miss Schofield, had the best time, they even stopped off for a cheeky Greggs!



# DRAMA NEWS



On Thursday 7th December, Year 11 BTEC Drama and Dance completed their component two performance in front of a live audience.

Mrs Evans and Miss Schofield felt very proud of all the students and wanted to congratulate them on their excellent showcase of talent.

BTEC Dance performed a jazzy dance number from Chicago the musical and BTEC Drama performed extracts from published plays such as Dennis Kelly's DNA, Anthony Neilson's The Lying Kind, Variations by Katie Hymns and many more. The audience gave a huge applause and thoroughly enjoyed all performances. Well done Year 11, keep up the hard work.





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH



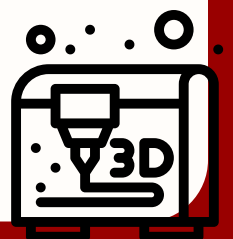
Year 10 have started their Duke of Edinburgh Award and are busily logging evidence of their progress ready for next year's expedition. We have 58 pupils taking part this year split between the Curriculum Group, the Extra-Curricular group and the Cadets, who also take part.

As part of the Award they have to demonstrate physical exercise, improving skills and demonstrating some kind of voluntary work over the next year. There's some really interesting one's being chosen; learning new languages, improving gym fitness, learning 3D modelling, teaching younger CCF cadets, training groups at netball/basketball clubs and cooking/baking (I like these last ones the best as we have to ensure the food is edible so I don't need to bring lunch on those days) amongst many others.



They've also been working hard on their First Aid skills during after school classes, which will give them invaluable skills for their personal life outside of school. Following this, throughout the next year, they will learn navigation skills and camp craft (cooking, tents etc.) in order to allow them to take part in next year's two day expedition navigating and camping around Rivington & Anglezarke (without hurting themselves, getting lost or starving!!)

Mr Coldwell





# PE NEWS

Overall the start of this year has been fantastic for the school's sports teams.

Each year group has made huge improvements in their game so far and we hope to do really well in this year's nationals, Jr NBA and Bury Schools tournaments.

So far year 11 are unbeaten, beating St Peters in the national schools as well as winning the Bury Schools tournament, we have our next 2 national school games coming up very soon against Bury Grammar and Trinity High School. The year 11 squad this year are so committed and determined to do well I really hope they can progress far in the National Schools competition.

Year 10 came up against some very tough competition in the Bury Schools tournament this year and managed to get 3rd place, a fantastic achievement and some amazing performances.

The rest of the Bury Schools tournaments will continue after the Christmas break.

Year 7 Jr NBA have started amazingly well, they are yet to lose a game beating schools such as St Gabriel's and Turton high School, we are very fortunate to have some amazing players in the team that the rest of the team really look up to, they have a fantastic team mentality and hope to see this continue in the future.

Year 8 Jr NBA have also made an amazing start to their basketball season going unbeaten against schools such as Bury Grammar, Parrenthorn and St Anne's High School. The year 8 are such an amazing team with some fantastic characters in the group and have been a privilege to teach this year, I hope we can improve on our Jr NBA from last year (2nd place) and hopefully go one step further this year.

Good luck to all the teams competing this year.

Mr. Barlow





# LIBRARY NEWS



## Exciting Library Events This Term

The library has been busy with a range of thrilling events this term, including:

- Harry Potter Week in October, which featured an array of Harry Potter-themed activities such as word searches, colouring, crosswords, and quizzes.
- A Halloween craft club, where participants made Halloween bookmarks.
- Children's Book Week from November 6th to 12th, where all lessons in school were focused on reading.
- A Non-Fiction November competition, where students competed to come up with the most interesting fact.



## Book Advent Calendar

This year we have carried on the new tradition of doing a “Book Advent Calendar”.

Each morning during Form Time in the Countdown to Christmas break, Form Teachers have been “opening the Door” of our virtual Advent Calendar. One pupil in school has won a copy of a book to keep, each day.

The aim of this tradition is to encourage a love of reading amongst our pupils, as well as to promote the idea of giving and sharing during the festive season. The books have been carefully selected by our school librarian to cater to a wide range of interests, from adventure and mystery to romance and comedy.

It has also been a great way to bring the school community together, as pupils discuss and recommend their favourite books to each other.

Overall, the Book Advent Calendar has been a huge success, and we hope to continue this tradition for many years to come. We believe that it is important to promote the value of reading, and this is just one of the many ways in which we strive to do so.

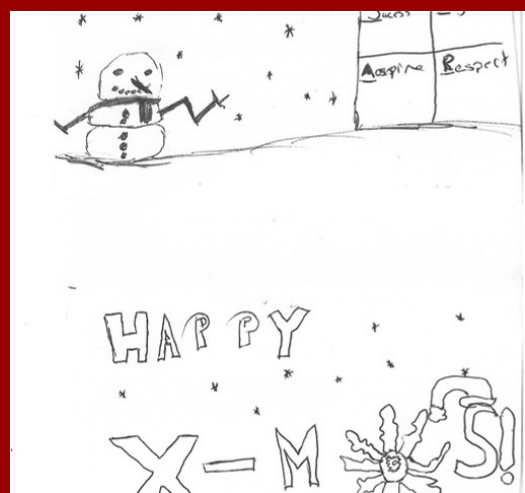
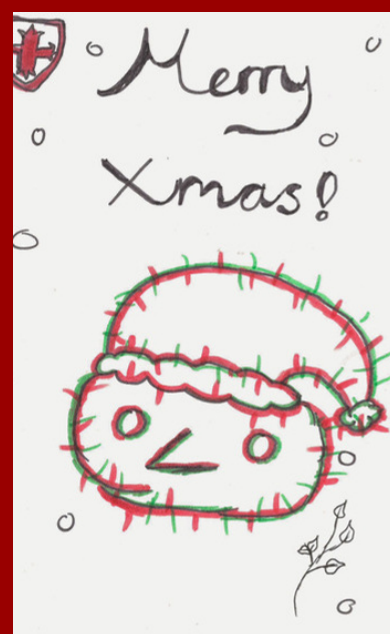
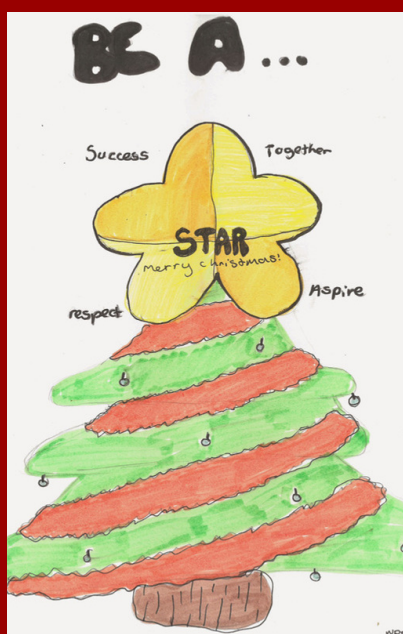
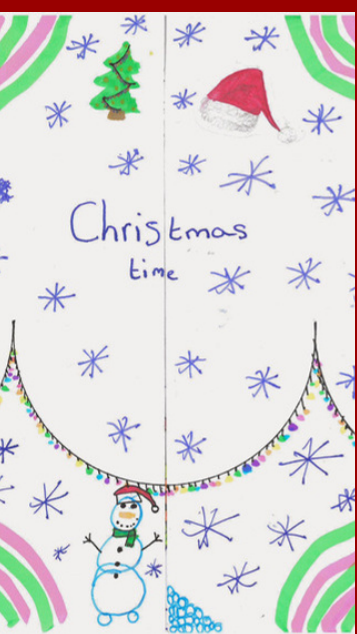


# LIBRARY ADVENT CALENDAR

Some of our lucky winners for the Book Advent Calendar!







# CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS

The Year 7 Christmas Card Competition was a roaring success this year! We had to crown one ultimate champion, but believe us when we say, the competition was fierce! Check out these other fantastic entries that made our decision-making oh-so-tough.

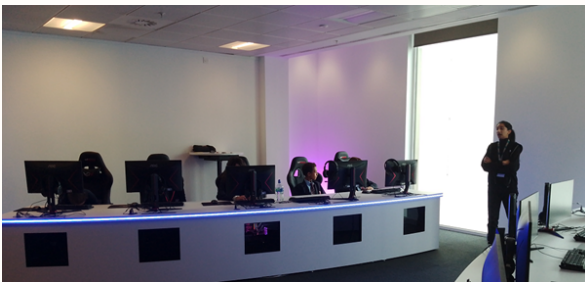


# SCHOOL TRIP

The MediaCityUK event was an excellent opportunity for the Year 8 students to explore the world of technology and media. They were given a chance to visit the different studios and departments and learn about the various aspects of the industry. The students were particularly fascinated by the talk on future technologies and how they could be a part of the tech industry in the future.

The cyber security based activities helped the students understand the importance of online safety and how to protect themselves from potential threats. The state of the art gaming systems and consoles provided a fun and interactive way for the students to learn about the latest technology in gaming.

Overall, the MediaCityUK event was a great success and left a lasting impression on the Year 8 students. It not only provided them with valuable information about the tech industry and cyber security, but also inspired them to consider pursuing a career in this ever-evolving field.



## MEDIA CITY





# SCHOOL TRIP

The Anderton Centre is a beautiful location nestled in the heart of Rivington. Over the course of their stay, they were able to develop their teamwork and leadership skills, as well as learn about the importance of communication and trust. It was wonderful to see the pupils having such a great time and learning important life skills in the process.

We can't wait to see what the Maths department has in store for next year's residential!



Anderton Centre



# ENRICHMENT DAY

Enrichment days are always an exciting opportunity for students to break away from their usual classroom routine and enjoy some fun and engaging activities with their peers. This past December, pupils at our school had the chance to participate in their own Enrichment Day, and from all accounts, it was a great success.



For the younger students in Years 7 and 8, the day's activities included a special trip to the Middleton Arena to watch a performance of the classic fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk. The colourful costumes, lively music, and engaging storytelling kept everyone entertained and engaged throughout the show.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students had a blast on their Enrichment Day, which was filled with a range of exciting activities. First up was a trip to the cinema to catch the latest blockbuster movie, followed by a fun and competitive game of bowling. The students had a chance to show off their skills and enjoy some quality time with their friends.



Finally, the older students in Years 10 and 11 got to explore the shops, restaurants, and entertainment options at the Trafford Centre. From browsing the latest fashions to indulging in some tasty treats, there was something for everyone to enjoy. All in all, it was a fantastic day of enrichment and enjoyment for all our pupils.





# Goodbye

Sadly we say goodbye to the following colleagues whom we wish all the very best for the future:



Mrs Wightman – Head of MFL  
Mrs Masztalerz – Librarian

# Welcome

Ms Beaud – Head of MFL  
Ms Bota – Second in MFL  
Mrs Smith – Maths Teacher  
Ms Hamond – Head of Year 10  
Mr Zelenyj – Temporary Assistant Attendance Officer  
Ms Khan – Librarian  
Mr Ahmed – Exams Assistant  
Ms Cartin – LSA  
Ms H Mahmood – Art Technician

