

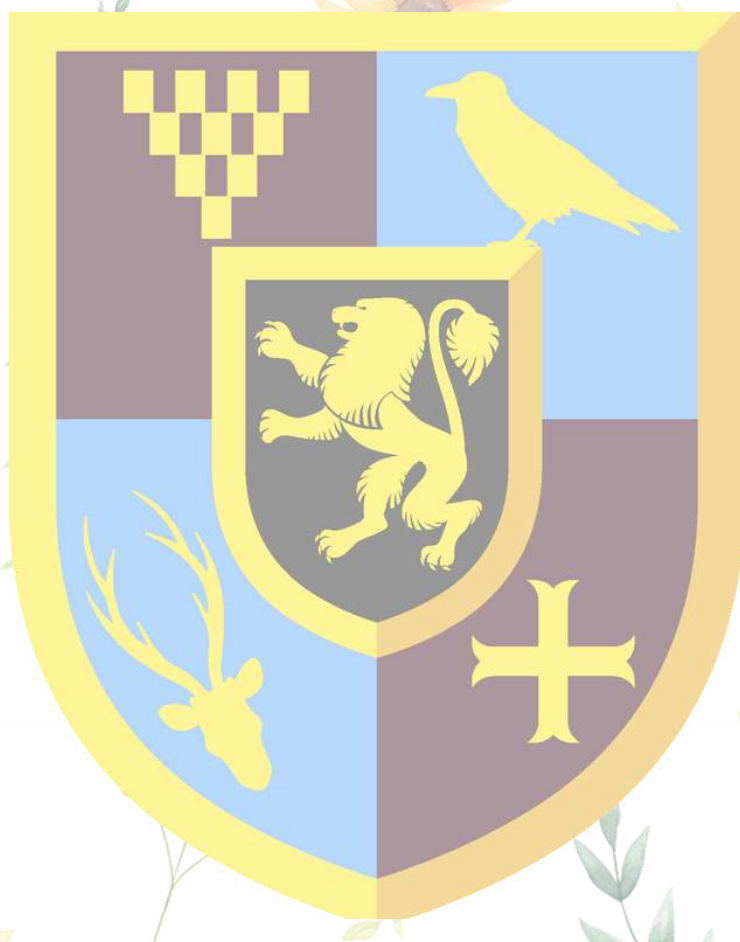
Southport
Learning
Trust



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

Issue 36 — Summer Term 2025







Dear All,

It is hard to believe that we are once again at the end of another academic year. Perhaps it is my age but time seems to go faster the older one gets! I was so proud to see our Y11 cohort in all of their finery at their recent prom at Aintree. They were in Y6 when I first came to the school and they have now completed their GCSE exams and are rapidly becoming fine, young adults ready to make their way in the world. Similarly, chatting with the Y13 students at their prom, it reminded me that we, as teachers and support staff, are in a privileged position to be working with such articulate, determined and caring young people. I wish all of them every success as they approach the next exciting chapter in their lives, and of course, we all have everything crossed that they have all done themselves justice in the examinations. Results Days are: A-Level: 14th August and GCSE: 21st August. Mrs Phillips/Mr Tees will be in touch with further details of the actual days.

As it is the end of the year, it is, as usual, time to wish some colleagues well as they leave us for new pursuits. Dr Rennison, our Head of Biology, Mrs Bartlett, Computing Teacher and Mr Cropper, PE Teacher, are all taking early retirement. Miss Hill, Maths Teacher, is taking some time away from teaching to focus on other pursuits. I know you will join me in thanking all of these colleagues for their considerable contribution to Range over many years. We also welcome Mrs Day and Mr Kenyon to Science, and Mr Rannard will be joining us in the Maths department. Good luck to all of them in their new roles.

I hope you enjoy reading through this edition of the newsletter. It is once again packed full of interesting articles and stories highlighting many of the extra-curricular pursuits of our students and staff. Well done to all of them for 'rolling up their sleeves' and getting involved in such an array of activities. Well done to all of them who achieved awards at our recent end-of-year assemblies.

Attendance and Reading feature heavily in this edition! Please do take the time to read the information. Reading (not on a phone) is a fantastic way to keep your child's mind stimulated, creative and healthy. I appreciate it's not easy with so many competing demands on our children's attention these days, but your support with this aspect of education is crucial in their development.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support of the school. Working in partnership is the only way we can ensure that everyone achieves to the very best of their ability; we do not take it for granted!

Finally, I want to dedicate this edition of our newsletter to Ruby Jones. Many of you will know that Ruby loved wave art and sunflowers, you may notice that as our theme! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Claire House in Ruby's memory.

I wish all of you a very happy Summer holiday. Inside, there are also great hints and tips to support young people regarding their wellbeing and keeping safe. Please encourage them to read through these sections and to take the advice on board.

I will be in touch nearer the time regarding the start of the new academic year.
With very best wishes,

Mr McGarry,
Headteacher

Year 7 - Fantastic Year

Our first year at Range is coming to an end, and we look forward to coming back and starting in Year 8. Our students have accomplished a great deal over the year. We have seen a lot of outstanding performances across all sports.

The students have taken part in two excellent shows, The Jolly Christmas Show and the Spring Spectacular. We have collected for the Sefton Foodbank at Christmas and given out over 100 Easter eggs to our local families. Thank you to everyone who donated to these worthy causes. Many students were invited to the Pizza and Christmas movie afternoon. We have also given out awards twice this year for Effort, Attainment and attendance. Well done to everyone who received a well-deserved award. Finally, our students enjoyed a day at The Crocky Trail in Cheshire. It was a great way to finish Year 7. Enjoy your well-deserved break, and we look forward to seeing you all in September as Year 8 students.



- Mr Rudd & Mrs Gallagher



Year 8 - Best of luck!

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting school year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on your journey and look ahead. It's been a real pleasure being your Head of Year team over the past two years. We've seen you grow in confidence, support each other, and get stuck into school life — from lessons and clubs to trips and house events. You should be proud of how far you've come. Of course, there've been ups and downs, but it's how you've responded that matters. Your resilience and growth have stood out, and we're proud of every one of you. In September, your new Head of Year will be Ms Wilson, and your new Assistant Head of Year will be Mr Wilson (no, they're not married!). They're both full of experience, energy and care, and are excited to work with you. Year 9 is a big step. You'll take on more responsibility, start thinking about future choices, and be role models for younger students. We know you'll rise to the challenge. Thank you for making our time with you so rewarding. We'll miss working with you day to day, but we'll always be cheering you on - have a brilliant summer and a great start to Year 9!

- Miss Singleton & Mr Critchley



Year 9 - Brilliant Term

As the academic year comes to a close, we'd like to say how incredibly proud we are of our Year 9 students. They have shown great maturity, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the year, and we are excited to see them begin their GCSE journey this coming September. This year has been full of achievements – from students successfully completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award to showing great engagement during their Citizenship mock assessments. These experiences have helped shape a strong, supportive, and ambitious year group. We also had a fantastic time on our end-of-year trip to Blackpool – a well-deserved celebration of all their hard work! Thank you to all our students and families for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer break – we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for the exciting year ahead!

- Mr Jump & Ms McCarthy

Year 10 - A Year of Commitment and Growth



Congratulations to our incredible Year 10 students on a fantastic year filled with dedication, resilience, and outstanding effort. Your commitment to both academic progress and wider school life has not gone unnoticed. Whether through classroom achievements, extracurricular involvement, leadership roles, or quiet persistence behind the scenes, you've each contributed to the positive and dynamic spirit of our school. We are so proud of how you've balanced challenges with determination and continued to strive for excellence.

As the year draws to a close, we want to acknowledge the hard work you've put in and the growth you've shown as learners and individuals. Your resilience and willingness to go the extra mile have set a strong foundation for success in the coming year. We are excited to see what Year 11 brings for you and look forward to celebrating your achievements as you continue on your journey. Well done on an exceptional year – the best is yet to come!

- Mrs Plumbly & Mr Duddridge

Year 11 - Goodbye and Good Luck



**SMALL STEPS
ARE BETTER
THAN NO STEPS**

Well, what can I say our Year 11 group of pupils are some of the nicest, smartest, funniest set of individuals myself and Mr Wilson are ever had the pleasure of working with! Thank you for a memorable three years we will never forget you.

Now as you close this chapter and move forward to new beginnings, we just want to say how proud we are of everything you've achieved. You've shown resilience, growth, and determination through challenges. It's now time to take on the future with confidence.

Whether you're heading into Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships, or something entirely different, remember this: your hard work has laid the foundation for whatever comes next. Keep believing in yourself and stay true to who you are.

Goodbye, and all the very best of luck in everything you do. We'll miss you so much, go shine bright out there!

- Ms Wilson & Mr Wilson

**TIME FOR A
BREAK.**

McCluskie Magic: Lola's Trophy-Filled Year of Sporting Glory!

Range High School is proud to celebrate the incredible achievements of Year 8 pupil Lola McCluskie (8KHU), who has enjoyed a phenomenal year of sporting success both locally and nationally. Lola played a key role in helping her Sefton football team achieve the prestigious league and cup double. The team capped off a dominating league campaign by lifting the league trophy in May, before finishing a perfect season with a thrilling 5-2 win in the final of the League Cup against Wirral. Lola's impact in midfield was instrumental throughout the season, showcasing her vision, control, and leadership on the pitch.



But Lola's achievements didn't stop there. Representing Blackburn, she helped her team win the PGA Cup in a fiercely contested match against Bristol. Despite going 1-0 down, Blackburn equalised just before half-time and then clinched the trophy with a decisive penalty late in the game. Lola, playing at right back, once again showed her resilience and determination under pressure. To top off an unforgettable season, Lola added a national title to her name by winning the National Futsal Final with the Merseyside team. In a heart-pounding match held in Derby on Saturday, 5th July, the team came out victorious with a dramatic 5-4 win, sealed by a last-minute goal. Lola's commitment and composure in high-stakes matches were clear to see and are a testament to her sporting maturity well beyond her years.

Lola's versatility is one of her many strengths – she plays centre midfield for Sefton, right back for Blackburn, and even competes with the boys' team at Range High School. Her dedication is exceptional, travelling across the country week in, week out, to compete at the highest level. Beyond her sporting success, Lola is a fantastic pupil in school, balancing her academic responsibilities alongside a packed sporting schedule. Her passion, commitment, and professionalism are truly inspiring to everyone in our school community. We are incredibly proud of all Lola has achieved this year. She is a shining example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish. Well done, Lola – enjoy a well-earned rest this summer before taking on even more challenges in the new season. We can't wait to see what you do next!

- Mr K Hughes, Year 8 Form Tutor



Community Award for LFC Involvement

Isaac Dean, has been honoured with a community award for his outstanding contribution to Liverpool FC's youth programme. His dedication, creativity, and leadership left a lasting impression, making a real difference to the team and wider community. The programme gave Isaac the opportunity to thrive and share his ideas in a meaningful way, showcasing his potential and passion.

Parent comment:

"Thank you to Range High School for putting Isaac on the LFC programme. It has been such a positive experience for him. He really flourished on the programme and his ideas and voice had a real place of meaning."



Range Waves: The Voice of Range High

Exciting things are happening at Range High School as a brand-new student podcast, 'Range Waves', hits the airwaves. Brought to life by a creative team of Year 10 students—Brandon, Joel, Isaac and Oscar—Range Waves is an exciting new project that showcases student voices and school life in a fresh, engaging way.

The podcast team meets every Thursday in Room 10, where they record snippets, interviews, and behind-the-scenes moments. These recordings are then edited and combined into a full episode, which is released at the end of each half term—so listeners can expect two episodes per term, packed with highlights and student-led content.

This fantastic initiative was developed in partnership with Miss Chambers, who has been supporting the team from day one. With a mix of humour, creativity and insight, the podcast gives a platform to student perspectives, covers school events, and even includes special guest interviews.

Whether you're a student, parent, or member of staff, Range Waves promises to keep you informed and entertained. Be sure to tune in and support this exciting new venture—there's a wave of talent at Range High, and it's just getting started.

- Miss Chambers, Brandon Le Breton, Isaac Cavangh, Oscar MacKenzie and Joel Waring



Trading Day

On Wednesday, July 9th, we held our annual Trading Day, where Year 10 Business Studies and BTEC Enterprise students create and manage their own 'mini businesses'. From early in the morning, the Arts Theatre was buzzing with activity as teams of students set up their stalls to offer a range of sweet and savoury snacks. Students used their creativity to 'add value' to their basic resources, developing products such as fresh fruit skewers, s'mores and a build-your-own waffle bar. There were also beautifully decorated cookies and prettily packaged sweets on offer, alongside pistachio-flavoured chocolate bites and fondues inspired by the Dubai chocolate trend. It is possible that our newly introduced 'sugar tax' encouraged other students to create savoury snacks like cheesy chips and hot dogs.

Our students put in a tremendous amount of effort to research, develop, cost and market their products, and the event was a great success. As they reflected upon their experiences at the end of the day, some concluded that having the right amount of stock was the best advice they could provide to next year's traders, since several groups had run out of goods before trading ended.

A huge 'well done' to all our students and as always, heartfelt thanks to the many staff, in particular Mrs de Belle in Food Technology, Mrs Wright in Reprographics, Miss Chambers and the Range Wave team and the Caretaking staff, as well as parents who supported the event.

- The Business Education Team



DT Food and Textiles

This year in food and textiles we have been busy all year at KS3! As always, the pupils have worked hard to develop their practical skills and build confidence with everything from knife safety skills, use of the hob and oven, making bread-based pizzas with homemade sauces to pasta bakes and curry. Year 7 pupils have produced a printed tote bags in textiles, and Year 8 pupils have produced appliquéd zipped pencil cases whilst developing control of the sewing machines. Thank you for all the support from home with ingredients, and we hope you have enjoyed seeing the results of their efforts!

Fantastic Focaccia competition

In addition to the products made during lessons, we offered a 'Fantastic Focaccia' competition to Year 9, to make and decorate focaccia bread using a selection of chopped vegetables, olives or fresh herbs. Congratulations to Belle McNally, who won with her tulip design.

In the future, we have decided to rename this task as 'Ruby's Recipe' in memory of Ruby Jones, who spent a lot of time in our department when she completed her Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE. We will encourage the pupils to decorate their focaccia with images of sunflowers in her memory as these were one of her favourite flowers.

- Mrs H de Belle & Miss C Usher



Girls on Board – Building Stronger Friendships Together

We'd like to celebrate the incredible engagement of our students in the Girls on Board project, which has been supporting our girls in navigating the challenges of friendship with confidence and compassion. The girls were exceptional during the recent assembly, showing real maturity and thoughtfulness throughout. In the follow-up workshops, they were open, reflective, and impressively responsive, contributing with honesty and empathy.

We are so proud of the kindness, resilience, and emotional intelligence shown by every student involved. Their pledge to support one another — and any girl who finds herself “in the water” — is a powerful reflection of the caring and inclusive community we are building together. We're excited to continue this important work next year and can't wait to see the strength and support our girls will continue to show each other. Well-done!

Keep up the good work!

- From your supportive pastoral team



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following pupils who have completed their whole Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Amelie Scott
Tess Clare
Eleanor Mackenzie
Oliver Scarrott
Evan McCann
Callum Sheerin
Eve Bolton
Blake Christian
Alfie Griffiths
Olivia Hughes
Eva Robinson
Emily Womack
Lilly Zajitschek
Joni Falconer
Lewis Gaskell
Nikitha Rajaram
Jane Quinn
Jessica Leech
Jessica Burns
Magdalena Jones
Maria Perju
Serena Povey
Isla Goffey



This year we had 51 young people at the Bronze expedition and 8 young people completed their Silver expedition fantastic effort. Looking forward to more completion in the next academic year. If you want help and advice over the summer email jr@range.sefton.sch.uk



School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org

Email: info@skips.com

Tel: +441212271941

142 Newton Road

Great Barr

Birmingham B436BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Keeping children safe online

www.skipssafetynet.org



A Night to Remember: Range High School Prom 2024

Glamour, laughter, and unforgettable memories filled the air as Range High School's Year 11 students celebrated their prom in style at the iconic Aintree Racecourse on Wednesday, 3rd July.

It was a night worthy of this remarkable year group. Dressed to the nines, the girls dazzled with elegance and confidence, while the boys stepped up with shades on and spirits high. The red carpet may have been imaginary, but the star quality was very real.

From the moment guests arrived, it was clear the evening would be one to remember. The dance floor was electric — packed from start to finish. Whether it was the Macarena, the Cha Cha Slide (complete with a few puzzled faces at the “Charlie Brown” move!), or impromptu dance battles, Year 11 brought the energy in full force.

The joy in the room was undeniable — a well-deserved celebration of hard work, growth, and the end of an important chapter.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Behind the scenes, a huge thank you goes to Ms McGowan for orchestrating such a magical evening, and to Ms Wilson and Mr Wilson, our outstanding Heads of Year, for their unwavering support. Thanks also to the dedicated staff who joined the night to celebrate alongside the students.

Captured Moments

All prom photos have been sent out — if you haven't received yours, please get in touch with Miss Chambers to make sure you don't miss out on the memories.

As the sun sets on prom night and Year 11's time at Range draws to a close, one thing is certain: this year group will never be forgotten. You made us proud — every single one of you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer

We can't wait to see you on Results Day!

Range High School forever.

**Good
Luck!**



TOP TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR BIKE

M Mark your bike

Attend a free bike marking event advertised by Merseyside Police. These are advertised on the local Merseyside Police social media channels. Your bike is 83% less likely to be stolen if it is both marked and registered.

A Awareness

When you are out on your bike be aware of your surroundings and don't let thieves try to steal it. When out on the street leave your bike in a well lit area where it can be seen by passers by. Lock both wheels and the frame to a cycle stand, or an immovable object. Make sure the lock goes through the frame, wheel and the post you are securing it to. Take any removable items with you.

R Register your bike

Register your bike for free by visiting The National Cycle Crime Database/BikeRegister. Merseyside Police are now actively checking bikes on the National Cycle Database. If your bike is stolen, this will significantly increase the chances of you getting your bike back. Scan the QR code (to the right) to register your bike on BikeRegister.

SCAN ME



K Keep out of view

When at home store your bike in a shed or garage. Don't leave the bike unattended outside the front of your house. Remember to secure it to an immovable object.

I Insure

If you have invested a significant amount of money into your bike, consider specialist bike insurance or check your home insurance covers you for theft away from home.

T Top bike lock

A decent bike lock is worth its weight in gold. A heavy-duty bike lock can make thieves jobs more difficult, often meaning they want to steal a bike that is less secure. Make sure you buy a Sold Secure Diamond or Gold Lock.

Geography News

Catch the Wind with Gayle: Our New School Weather Station Goes Live!

The Geography Department is excited to announce the arrival of our brand-new weather station—Gayle! Affectionately named for the gusty conditions often experienced atop our school building, Gayle has taken pride of place on the roof, in full view of the Humanities block. And she's already proving to be an incredibly valuable teaching tool.

Gayle is no ordinary piece of equipment. This advanced station measures a wide range of meteorological variables in real time, including:

- Air Pressure
- Dew Point
- Indoor and Outdoor Temperature
- Rainfall
- UV Index
- Solar Radiation
- Humidity
- Wind Direction



With such a variety of live data being collected, our students can now observe and explore weather patterns as they happen—without even leaving the classroom. The station not only displays instant readings on a tablet located in the Humanities office, but also sends data to an online weather portal, where it's stored and graphed over days, weeks, and months. This allows us to track long-term trends and seasonal changes with ease.

One of the most exciting aspects of Gayle's capabilities is how it brings complex concepts to life. For instance, students often find it difficult to grasp the link between air pressure and cloud cover. With real-time visualisations and graphs, they can now see how changes in pressure correlate with the arrival of clouds or clear skies, deepening their understanding of key meteorological principles.

Gayle has now been officially registered, meaning that others in our local area—and beyond—can also track her data. If you're interested in watching the weather unfold alongside us, follow the link below or head over to our Instagram page: [@rangegeogdept](#), where you'll find regular updates and a direct link to Gayle's readings.



This station is not only helping us track the elements but is blowing new life into our lessons—*pun definitely intended*.

Stay curious, stay weather-wise, and don't forget to check in with Gayle!

– Mr. K Hughes, Head of Geography





Accelerated
Reader

RANGE READING

★ PLEASURE
★ KNOWLEDGE
★ FLUENCY

Benefits of Summer Reading

**Just 30 minutes of reading a week
can make a difference:**

- **20% more likely to feel satisfied with life**
- **18% more likely to have higher self-esteem**
- **52% more likely to feel socially included**
- **37% more likely to enjoy social activities more**

THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

**Why not sign up for the
Summer Reading challenge as a
family and share your stories!**



SCAN ME



Art News

Sefton Young Artist of the Year Competition

The Atkinson in partnership with the Arts Society Southport have invited young artists in high school or equivalent to submit one piece of artwork to their competition, to be exhibited on the Atkinson's website from Friday 11th July 2025. The artworks will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Atkinson and winners will be invited to display their artwork in the Atkinson foyer. There will also be a prizegiving ceremony and vouchers awarded. We have our entry, a vibrant coloured pencil and painted artwork, 'Opposing Futures' by year 9 student Kirandeep Sangha. Best of luck!



Year 10 Visit St Lukes

Over the past couple of days, our Year 10 Art groups have enjoyed a wonderful historic art trip to St Luke's Church in Formby. It was a pleasure to explore the church's architecture and artistic features while learning more about the local history.

We were especially grateful for the opportunity to speak with the current vicar, Reverend Dr Matt Davis, who generously shared his time and knowledge with the students.



Galleries Visit

This term, as part of the A level Art and Photography courses, we have arranged a trip to the Liverpool Galleries for a group of Year 12 Art and Photography students. They will have the opportunity to visit exhibitions at the Tate and Walker Art Galleries, as a beneficial element of their Component 1 coursework.

Tickets are also booked to visit the UK premiere of 'Beyond Monet', an immersive exhibition showcasing an amazing piece of Claude Monet's work. This unmissable show includes his iconic Water Lilies series and Impression, Sunrise which is taking place at the Exhibition Centre Liverpool. This incredible trip also includes an exhibition of the creative legacy of Holly Johnson and charting the remarkable story of 'Frankie Goes to Hollywood' over five decades which is taking place in the Liverpool museum's as a special photograph exhibition.

These trips to experience art and culture in our home city first-hand are an invaluable part of students' studies.

Transition Day Taster Sessions

As part of the Sixth Form experience for the new cohort coming in September, the Art Department held a session for pupils, exploring the cyanotype printing technique with some excellent results. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and cannot wait to join us in the Sixth Form in September with all the exciting things that we have planned!

Local primary school children also attended a taster session, making colourful dreamcatchers, learning about radial design and Native American culture.

London Trip

Looking forward to the end of the year, planning is taking place for an exciting Art and Photography A level trip, where pupils in both Year 12 and 13, have a fantastic opportunity to visit our capital city, London. This is an exciting festive trip to enhance pupil's exposure to cultural experiences, taking place from the 3rd of December.

Unmissable highlights of the trip include a visit to Madame Tussauds and Marvel Universe 4D, the Skydeck at the Shard, Southbank Christmas markets and the Illuminated River. Pupils will also view culturally significant works at the National Portrait Gallery and at the Gilbert and George Centre, letting them explore the surrounding area of Spitalfield's Market and Shoreditch.

They will also have the amazing opportunity to experience the magical ice sculptures at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland and try ice skating at the UK's largest outdoor ice rink. A new trip for 2025 is a visit to the David Bowie Centre at the V&A East storehouse, a new creative workspace built around the world's largest collection dedicated to the life and work of David Bowie.

These trips to experience art and culture in our home city first-hand are an invaluable part of students' studies.

LIBRARY LIFE: READ, REVISE, RELAX

Aiming High: Year 7 Student Adriana Notarantonio Soars Toward Her Dream of Becoming a Pilot

At just 12 years old, Adriana Notarantonio from Year 7 is already flying high with ambition and determination. While many students spend their lunch breaks unwinding or chatting with friends, Adriana can be found in the school library, deep in study, completing courses on her laptop on aviation, air law, and meteorology.

Adriana's passion for flight is no passing interest. She has set her sights firmly on becoming a commercial pilot and is already laying the groundwork for her future. She plans to begin flying lessons the moment she turns 13 (the minimum legal age to begin) and has her long-term goals mapped out with impressive clarity. At 18, Adriana hopes to begin formal training with British Airways, joining their pilot pathway to turn her dream into reality.

Her dedication and discipline are truly inspiring. Learning subjects like air law and meteorology, complex topics typically tackled much later in a pilot's journey, shows her commitment to understanding every facet of aviation.

We are proud of Adriana's initiative and drive, and we look forward to following her progress as she continues to pursue her high-flying goals. There's no doubt: the sky is not the limit for Adriana Notarantonio - it's just the beginning.



Year 9 Students Dive into MFL Revision in the Library

In preparation for their Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) end-of-year assessments, our dedicated Year 9 students have been making excellent use of the school library during study sessions and lunchtimes. The calm and focused environment has proven to be the perfect space for brushing up on vocabulary, grammar rules, and exam techniques in French.

With revision guides, flashcards, and online language platforms at their fingertips, students have shown great independence and commitment to improving their language skills. Many have been working collaboratively, testing each other on key phrases and supporting one another with pronunciation and translation tasks.

Ms. Parry, Head of MFL, commented, *"It's fantastic to see students taking their revision seriously and using the resources available to them. The library has become a real hub of productivity, and we're proud of how maturely Year 9 are approaching their assessments."*

As the exams approach, the MFL department encourages all students to continue their efforts and make the most of every opportunity to revise - whether that's in the library, at home, or in the classroom. Bonne chance to all!



A Quiet Escape: Reading and Relaxation in the School Library

The school library has become a peaceful haven for students seeking a moment of calm during their busy days. Whether it's before school, at breaktime, or during lunch, students from all year groups have been enjoying the space to read, relax, and recharge.

For many, it's the perfect place to lose themselves in a good book, from fantasy adventures and graphic novels to thought-provoking non-fiction. The shelves and e-library are filled with a multitude of titles to bring their imaginations alive, and students can often be seen completely immersed in another world. But reading isn't the only creative activity taking place. A number of students have been using the library as a space to express themselves artistically, filling sketchbooks with drawings, designing bookmarks, or simply doodling as a way to unwind.

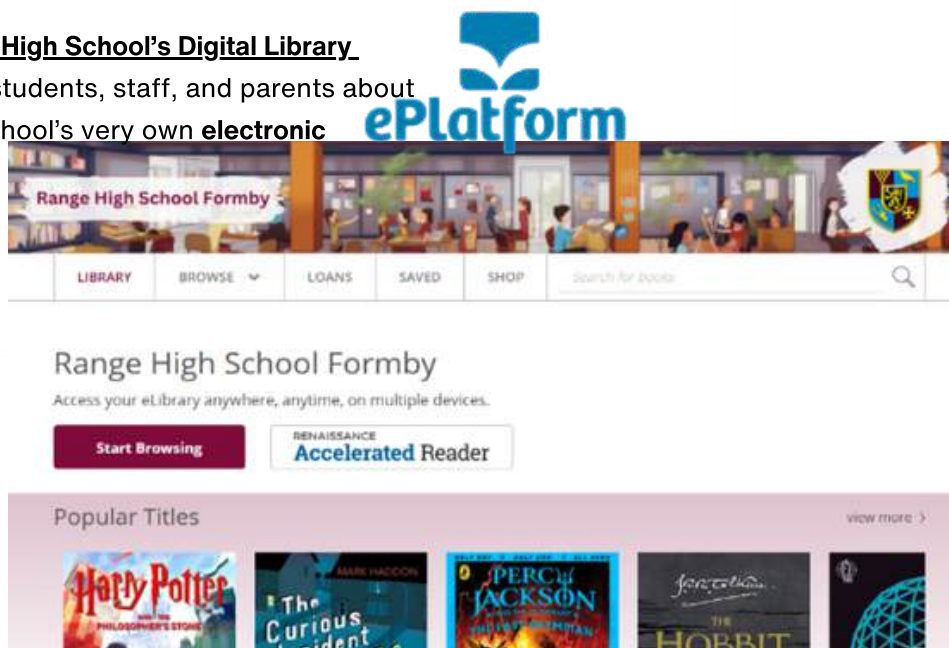


Ms. Skinner, the Head of English, said, *"It's wonderful to see students using the library not just as a study space, but as somewhere they can truly relax and be themselves. Whether they're turning pages or turning pencil strokes into art, it's all part of building a love for learning and creativity."* The library continues to offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, a place where students can find inspiration, quiet, and the joy of discovery.

Explore E-Platform: Range High School's Digital Library

We are excited to remind students, staff, and parents about **E-Platform**, Range High School's very own **electronic library** - a fantastic resource that puts thousands of books at your fingertips, anytime and anywhere.

Available on **mobile devices, tablets, and computers**, E-Platform is easy to use and accessible 24/7.



Whether you're looking for your next great read, completing an Accelerated Reader quiz, or just in need of a quiet escape into a story, E-Platform has something for everyone.

The library includes a wide selection of books for **all ages and interests**, from popular fiction and young adult novels to non-fiction, classics, and graphic novels. There's even a dedicated **Accelerated Reader section**, making it easier than ever for students to stay on track with their reading goals. For those who may need a moment of calm or support, the platform also features a **well-being area**. This thoughtfully curated section offers books focused on mindfulness, mental health, and personal development helping readers take care of both their minds and moods.

Ms. Skinner, the Head of English, says, *"E-Platform is a brilliant way to keep reading alive outside the classroom. It's flexible, inclusive, and opens the door to a world of stories for every student and staff member."* To access E-Platform, simply log in using your school account. Happy reading - anytime, anywhere!

READING - THE WAY FORWARD!

Year 7 & 8 Reading Stars Shine Bright

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the remarkable reading achievements of our Year 7 and 8 students this term. Their progress reflects not only academic improvement but also resilience, determination, and a genuine love for reading. This year's Reading Awards recognise students who have shown extraordinary commitment to developing their literacy skills - often overcoming significant personal challenges along the way.

Year 7

The **Platinum Award** went to **Arabella Thacker**, who has made exceptional progress by increasing her reading age by an incredible **5.07 years**. Despite the challenges that dyslexia can present, Arabella has persevered with courage and determination and is now reading at a **Year 11 level**. Her journey is truly inspirational.

The **Gold Award** was earned by **Finlay Davis**, whose hard work and dedication paid off with a **4.02-year** increase in reading age - a clear testament to the power of persistence.

Alex Ras received the **Silver Award** for his consistent effort and positive attitude. No matter the reading challenge, Alex has never given up, and his steady progress is a reflection of that resilience.

The **Bronze Award** went to **Holly Helmsley**, who has made fantastic progress by increasing her reading age well above her chronological age - a brilliant achievement.

Year 8

The **Platinum Award** was awarded to **Isuka Wijerathna**, who has overcome the challenge of learning English as a second language. Through determination and hard work, he has increased his reading age by **4.07 years** and is now reading at a **Year 10 level** - a phenomenal accomplishment.

The **Gold Award** went to **Dexter Jones**, whose tireless commitment to reading resulted in a remarkable **5.10-year** increase in reading age - an outstanding success that reflects consistent effort and focus.

Charlie Wright earned the **Silver Award** for his perseverance and steady commitment to reading, never letting any challenge stand in his way.

The **Bronze Award** was given to **Nancy Clegg**, who has significantly exceeded her chronological age in reading, showing real growth and maturity as a reader.

Ms. McGowan, Reading Intervention Coordinator, praised the students: *"These awards highlight not just academic progress, but the incredible determination and growth mindset our students bring to their reading. Each of these young people should be extremely proud of what they've achieved."*

A huge congratulations to all our award winners your hard work and love for reading are truly inspiring!



A Quiet Escape: Reading and Relaxation in the School Library

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of a group of dedicated students who have successfully completed their reading intervention journey this term. Their hard work, perseverance, and positive attitude towards reading have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of them. In **Year 7**, congratulations go to **Erin Proffitt** and **Eleanor Jackson**, who have shown incredible commitment and resilience throughout the programme. Both students have made great progress, building confidence and developing a love of reading along the way.



In **Year 8**, we applaud the efforts of **Isuka Wijerathna**, **Inuki Wijerathna**, **Esme Rodgers**, **Senna Mason**, and **Louie Rawlins**, all of whom have completed the reading intervention programme with flying colours. Each of them has made significant strides in their reading ability and demonstrated the value of hard work and determination. Ms McGowan, who led the intervention sessions, said, *"It's been a pleasure to watch these students grow into more confident and capable readers. Their success is a result of their dedication and willingness to embrace each challenge."* As they move forward, we know they'll continue to build on this success both in and out of the classroom. Well done to all and enjoy your new chapter!

SILENT PROTEST SPEAKS VOLUMES IN YEAR 7



Year 7 Tackle Social Protest through Michael Morpurgo's Running Wild

This term, Year 7 students have been diving deep into themes of social protest for this term's English unit, using the gripping novel *Running Wild* by Michael Morpurgo as their inspiration. Set in the lush jungles of Indonesia, the story follows a young boy's journey of survival and discovery after being separated from his family and his close encounter with the devastating impact of wildlife crime.

The novel powerfully explores the destruction of natural habitats and the illegal poaching of endangered animals, sparking thoughtful conversations in the classroom about real-world issues. Students examined how fiction can shine a light on injustice and were encouraged to consider their own voices in speaking out for what is right.

One of the highlights of the unit was a creative project where Year 7s designed persuasive placards to protest against wildlife crime. These placards, filled with eye-catching slogans, strong imagery, and heartfelt messages, were not only informative but also showed the students' passion and understanding of the topic. Many pupils went above and beyond, putting in tremendous effort at home to make their designs stand out.
protest!

The results were nothing short of inspiring; vivid artwork, powerful language, and a clear call for action filled our corridors with a grand finale on the mound outside. The Year 7 students' commitment to this unit proved that this generation is more than ready to speak up for the planet and its wildlife.

Well done to all our Year 7 students for your creativity, commitment, and powerful

WOMEN IN STEM – RANGE STYLE!

Breaking Barriers: Former Student Natalie Knowles Excels in Computer Science

We are incredibly proud to share the inspiring journey of former student Natalie Knowles, whose determination and resilience continue to shine long after her time at school.

Natalie was one of our students, facing significant physical challenges, she would have to use a puffer stick to write. Despite these obstacles, Natalie was undeterred in her passion for learning. When Computer Science was first introduced as a GCSE subject, Natalie bravely chose to be part of the very first cohort - undoubtedly a trailblazer. She studied the subject alongside 29 male students, but this never fazed her. Her tenacity, focus, and love for technology carried her through.



After leaving school, Natalie continued her Computer Science journey at Liverpool College, then Treloars, and is now in her second year at Wrexham University. There, she is thriving writing computer games and excelling academically; her recent grades of A, A, and B+ are a testament to her hard work and talent. Natalie's lecturers have already recognised her potential, telling her that if she maintains her current standard, she will be offered a place on the Master's course without hesitation.

Natalie's story is a powerful reminder that with perseverance and passion, no barrier is too great. She remains an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to seeing where her extraordinary journey takes her next.

Attendance Matters

As the year draws to a close, we would like to thank you all for working with us to improve our school attendance.

Range High School staff, pupils and families have been working hard and the Attendance team have had many meetings, conversations and made lots of home visits. We are also lucky to have had Louise Griffiths from Sefton council in school this last term to work with us, whom many of you will have met. We look forward to welcoming Louise back in September.

If you feel you need support with improving attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We felt it was timely to remind families of a few points

Please do not book any holidays in term time as we are unable to authorise any at all. We understand that this is a complex and difficult situation for some families but this is not our decision and we are bound by the DfE guidance.

Register codes N.B.

10 or more unauthorised codes will mean a Fixed penalty Notice

Authorised codes	Meaning
/	Present AM
\	Present PM
I	Illness
C	Authorised absence
Unauthorised codes	Meaning
U	Late after register has closed
O	Unauthorised absence
G	Holiday taken in term time

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils a sunny holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September

- Mrs L Dillon, Attendance Officer

London Trip 2025

The History Department's annual summer trip to London was a great success, helped by the impeccable behaviour of our students and beautiful weather.

Year 10 students had the unique opportunity to step back in time and explore the grim reality of life in Victorian Whitechapel — a key focus of their GCSE Crime and Punishment studies.

The day began with Mr Bonner's walking tour of Whitechapel, the infamous setting of the Whitechapel murders. Students explored the dark alleyways and historic sites that revealed the harsh living conditions, overcrowding, and extreme poverty that shaped the lives of many Londoners in the late 19th century. We also learned about the limitations of Victorian policing, helping students to understand why 'Jack the Ripper' was never caught — a question that continues to fascinate historians to this day.

After a thought-provoking morning, students enjoyed lunch at Spitalfields Market, sampling a variety of cuisines and soaking in the vibrant atmosphere. In the afternoon, the group headed to the London Dungeon, where we experienced a thrilling and theatrical journey through 1,000 years of London's dark past — from the Great Plague to witchcraft accusations and the close call London had with the Gunpowder Plot — all brought vividly to life through live actors and special effects. Mr Bonner and Ms Murray were unfortunate enough to be chosen as extras in the storytelling!

The final stop was Camden Market, where students had the chance to explore the eclectic shops, grab a bite for tea, and enjoy some free time before the train ride back to Liverpool.

We would like to thank all those who visited London with us for helping make it such a memorable and enjoyable day.

- History Team



LONDON



PE

Year 10 Football

Our Year 10 football team made it all the way to the Sefton Cup Final at Marine FC, delivering an unforgettable performance. Range took a commanding 2-0 lead, but Maricourt fought back to level the score. A third Range goal reignited the lead, only for Maricourt to respond once again. With the game finishing 3-3, it was down to penalties—Range held their nerve and emerged victorious, bringing the cup home in style. A brilliant effort by all involved!



Celebrating National Sports Week with Inclusive Rounders

As part of Youth Sport Trust's National Sports Week, pupils from Range, Maghull, Stanley, Greenbank, Birkdale, Merefield, Kew Woods, Bedford, and Hudson primary schools came together on Thursday 19th June for a fun and inclusive Rounders tournament. Mixed into eight teams, the pupils enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of sport, with our Year 8 students taking the lead in coaching and supporting the younger players. A brilliant effort from all involved but a special mention to our Y8 rounders team.



Tennis - Formby Lawn Tennis Club

Wimbledon fever has been in full swing and our tennis squad certainly caught the buzz during a fantastic afternoon of friendly matches at Formby Lawn Tennis Club. The energy was electric as players rallied, competed and showcased their growing talent and passion for the game. With spirits high and inspiration drawn from the pros, who knows, there could be a future Wimbledon champion among them!



North Sefton Athletics

A strong team of athletes from Range High School travelled to Edge Hill University to take part in the North Sefton Athletics Championships, competing against a number of local secondary schools. Students took part in a range of events including sprints, middle-distance runs, relays, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus and javelin.

Our students represented the school impeccably, showing excellent sportsmanship, determination, and pride throughout the day. There were numerous top-three finishes, personal bests, and moments of resilience that stood out.

The competition served as a valuable experience for our athletes and proved to be the perfect preparation for the Sefton Division 1 Athletics Championships the following week, where many of these same students would compete again against the strongest schools in the borough.

Sefton Division 1 Athletics

After strong performances at the North Sefton competition, our athletics team headed to the Sefton Division 1 Athletics Championships with confidence and determination. Held at Litherland Sports Park, this prestigious annual event brings together the top-performing secondary schools in the borough to compete across a full range of track and field events.

Range students competed in events including the 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m and 1500m, as well as hurdles, long jump, high jump, javelin, discus, shot putt and the relay. Every athlete displayed incredible focus, grit, and a real sense of team pride, cheering each other on and stepping up when it mattered most.

The girls' team delivered consistently strong results, earning valuable points across multiple events and securing an impressive 3rd place overall, a testament to their depth and teamwork.

The boys' team were in sensational form, dominating several events and performing with outstanding discipline and commitment. Their efforts were rewarded with a 1st place finish overall—a remarkable achievement and the first time in over 20 years that Range High has won the boys' title at this level. This victory reflects the hard work in training, the supportive team culture, and the resilience shown by every student on the day. It was a proud and historic moment for the school and a brilliant way to cap off the athletics season.



Sports Day

This year's Sports Day began with our 'Prelim Day', where students from all four year groups competed in the field events, including long jump, high jump, javelin, discus, and shot put. The weather was perfect, and the standard of performance was high throughout. Every point earned contributed to the overall house totals ahead of the main event.

On the main Sports Day, students gathered in house groups around the track to cheer on their peers in the running events. The atmosphere was electric, with every race—whether sprint or middle-distance—hotly contested. The level of athleticism, effort, and determination on display was outstanding.

With Mr Povey on the mic and music playing throughout, the field was full of energy and positivity. It was a fantastic morning that truly reflected the spirit of Range High School—friendly competition, encouragement, and pride in performance.

A huge well done to all involved—you made the day a brilliant success!



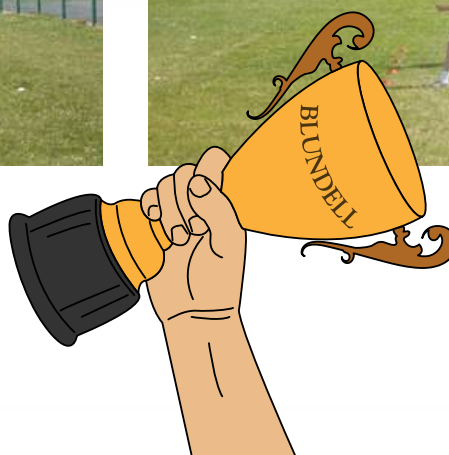
Final Standings

1st- **Blundell**

2nd- **Weld**

3rd- **Sefton**

4th **Derby**



Golf

The prestigious Formby Golf Club once again played host to our Annual Pinewoods Classic Golf Tournament – a highlight of the school's sporting calendar. With 16 talented competitors from Years 7 to 11, the event was a fantastic showcase of skill, focus, and sportsmanship.

Despite the age range, the competition was fiercely contested, with players navigating the iconic course's challenges in impressive fashion. After a day of excellent golf, it was Year 7 student Ben Calder who emerged as the overall winner – a remarkable achievement and a sign of great potential for the future.

A huge well done to all involved, and special thanks to Formby Golf Club for their continued support and hospitality. We look forward to returning next year for another exciting edition of the Pinewoods Classic!



Dodgeball

Our Year 7 and Year 8 dodgeball teams recently travelled to Stanley High School for an afternoon of fast-paced, competitive fixtures. Both teams represented Range High with enthusiasm, energy, and great sportsmanship throughout.

The Year 7 team performed brilliantly, showing great teamwork and resilience in a series of closely contested matches. They gained valuable experience and can be proud of their efforts. The Year 8 team were outstanding, combining tactical play with sharp reflexes to go unbeaten and secure a well-deserved overall victory. Their communication, movement, and team cohesion were clear to see and set a great example for future fixtures.

Well done to all involved!



Sports Mark

We are delighted to share that Range High School has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year—a fantastic achievement that reflects the dedication and commitment of our students and staff to school sport and physical activity.



The School Games Mark is a national recognition scheme that rewards schools for their ongoing engagement in the School Games programme, including participation in competitive sport, physical activity provision, and student leadership opportunities. Achieving the Gold level demonstrates that Range High is not only providing a wide range of opportunities for students to be physically active, but also ensuring that these opportunities are inclusive, well-organised, and consistently delivered to a high standard.

This year, we have seen fantastic levels of student involvement across intra-school competitions, inter-school fixtures, leadership roles, extra-curricular clubs, and enrichment events. From athletics to dodgeball, rounders to rugby, the commitment of our pupils has been second to none. A huge thank you goes to all staff, student leaders, and participants who have contributed to this success. We are incredibly proud to have received this recognition and will continue working towards maintaining and exceeding this standard in the years to come.

- P.E Department

Range High School's Ms Darvill to Represent Great Britain in World Dragon Boat Championships

Range High School is proud to share the exciting news that our exceptional Teaching Assistant, Ms A Darvill, will be representing Great Britain this summer in the 17th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships, held in Brandenburg, Germany.



Ms Darvill, who is a valued member of staff and a dedicated supporter of students across the school, is part of the Amathus Dragon Boat Club. She will take on the important role of drummer — responsible for setting the pace, coordinating the crew, and maintaining the rhythm and energy of the team throughout each race.

This international competition brings together the best dragon boat teams from across the world, showcasing a thrilling blend of athleticism, teamwork, and discipline. The drummer plays a vital role in ensuring unity within the boat, and Ms Darvill's skills, focus and determination have earned her the honour of representing her country on this prestigious stage. The best part is that the entire event can be watched live, free of charge. Whether you're new to the sport or a long-time fan, it's a fantastic opportunity to see world-class competition and support a member of our school community.



Watch Live from Brandenburg

The event will be livestreamed at no cost, but registration is required.

To sign up and watch, visit the official IDBF streaming page:

<https://www.dragonboat.sport/news/17th-idbf-wdbrc-brandenburg-live-streaming>

We wish Ms Darvill and the entire Amathus team the very best as they compete for Great Britain. The whole Range High community will be cheering you on!



Best Wishes

We recently held our final Local Governing Board meeting of the year. The last item of business was to wish Mr Jim Rimmer well as he takes his leave of Range. After 14 years on the Board, we are all hugely grateful to Jim for his hard work, dedication, expertise, challenge and support of the school. Jim, himself a retired Headteacher, has held many roles as a Governor including Chair and Vice-Chair. He will be sorely missed but we all wish him well and know he will continue to visit us in the future.

My thanks to all of our Governors who give generously of their time to support the school throughout the year. As always, minutes from our meetings are available on the school website.

On behalf of the whole Board, I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer break.

- Karen Owens, Chair LGB, Range High



Range High School Celebrates 50 Remarkable Years with Heartwarming Reunion

Range High School proudly marked its 50th anniversary with a weekend full of memories, reconnections, and celebration. The golden jubilee event brought together generations of students and staff, transforming the school grounds into a joyful gathering space filled with laughter, stories, and nostalgia.

Among those in attendance were several members of the Range High Class of 1975, including Caroline Bamber, Joanne Singer, Karen Bentzen, Tom Crean, Martin Hiley, Emlyn Hiley, and Susan Turner. Their presence brought a deep sense of history and continuity to the celebration, reminding everyone how far the school has come since its early days.

The event also welcomed back several beloved former staff members who played pivotal roles in shaping the school over the decades. Pictured with the returning alumni were:

- **Dr Gerald Bedford, former Head of Science**
- **Irene Carr, the school's first Deputy Head**
- **Graham Leech, the first Headteacher of Range High**
- **Janet Wright, former acting Headteacher**
- **Mo Miller, former Headteacher**

50th



Their dedication, guidance, and influence were fondly remembered and widely appreciated by students past and present. The celebration featured speeches, a memorabilia display, guided tours of the evolving campus, and plenty of time for guests to catch up with old friends and former teachers. Attendees shared fond recollections of school plays, sports days, classroom antics, and lifelong friendships formed within Range's halls.

The anniversary was not just a celebration of the past but also a tribute to the school's enduring legacy and vibrant future. Here's to another 50 years of learning, growth, and pride in the Range High School community.

It was great to see you all.



Message from Mr McKay

What a remarkable summer term it has been! As we reach the end of another academic year, we cannot help but feel immense pride in the achievements our students have shown throughout these past months. The vast majority of our students have successfully completed their work experience placements, with many securing part-time jobs and apprenticeships directly following their placements. Special congratulations go to Heidi, Issy, and Mia, who received exceptional feedback from their work experience placements, truly showcasing the calibre of our students. We are delighted to have announced our newly selected head team, who have already thrown themselves wholeheartedly into their roles. Their enthusiasm has been evident as they've supported sports days, Year 6 Transition day and Matthews Mile - when two of our head students showed their fun-loving spirit by dressing up as a hot dog and fries! Our Year 11 to Year 12 transition day was a resounding success, filled with excitement and anticipation. The incoming Year 12 students demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm for the next phase of their educational journey, and we cannot wait to welcome them officially in September.

As our current Y12 students prepare to step into their final year as Y13s, we want to congratulate them on their hard work and perseverance. We also want to celebrate our outgoing Year 13s as they prepare for their next chapter. Congratulations to Louie and Maisy for winning best dressed at the Year 13 prom – you both looked absolutely fantastic! To all our Year 13 students, we wish you the very best as you embark on your next adventures.

Here's to a well-deserved summer break and an even more exciting year ahead!

- Mr J McKay



Work experience

Between the 7th and 11th of July, our Year 12 students took part in a week of work experience, gaining valuable insight into the world beyond the classroom. Students organised their own placements, showing real independence and initiative. Many choose to spend their week in a wide range of settings, including primary schools, solicitors' offices, care homes, tiling companies, spas, and even film studios!

Here is a write-up of some students' experiences:

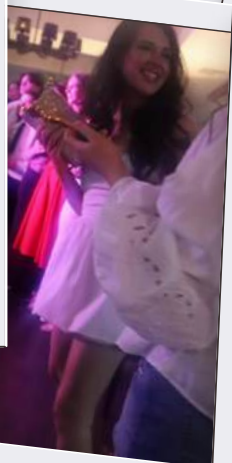
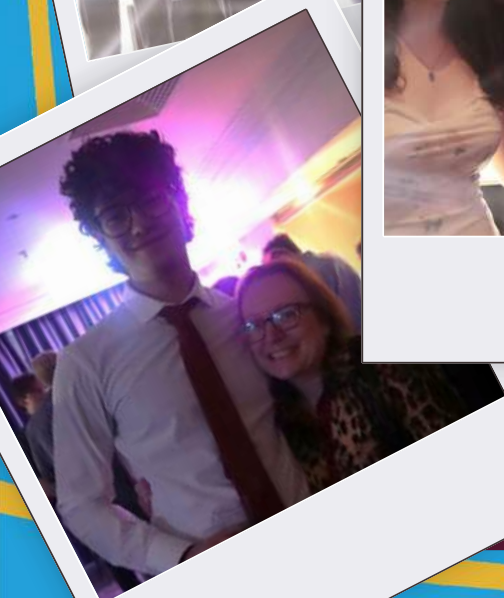
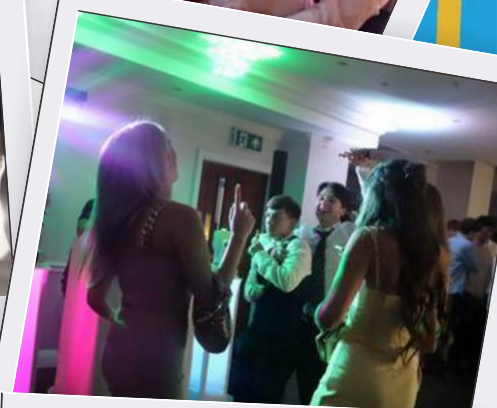
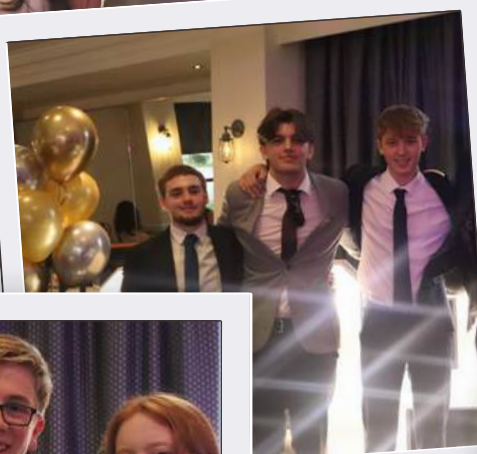
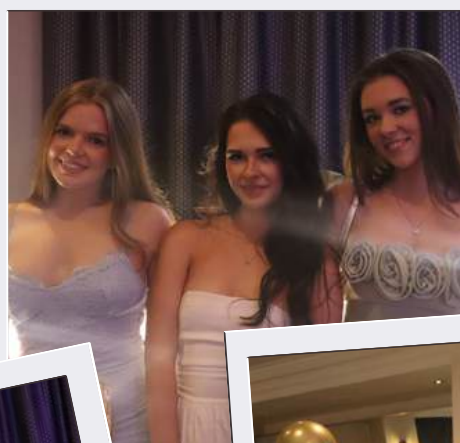
"I went to St Luke's Primary school to assist in a Year Two classroom. My main duties were to help the students with their papier mache projects and to assist them with their day-to-day work. From this work experience, I learnt resilience and improved communication skills through having to reword and explain things in a simplified manner to the children. This has impacted my future career choice because I always wanted to do primary teaching and this has given me an insight into how a classroom is run and how to manage and communicate with the students and staff while running a classroom. This has confirmed my choice in my future career." - Immy

"During my week of work experience, I went to Eric Wright Construction where I assisted an environmental manager. Together, we went on construction sites to conduct environmental audits, filled in spreadsheets of data we had found and assessed the overall impacts of construction on the environment. This helped me with deciding a career choice as it made clear that I want to do a job similar to or exactly like this. I enjoyed my week of work experience."

- Issy

Prom

On Thursday 27th June, our Year 13 students celebrated the end of their school journey in style at their prom, held at the Marriott Hotel in Liverpool. It was a fantastic evening filled with laughter, dancing, and unforgettable memories. Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed a delicious meal, music, and plenty of photo opportunities. It was a wonderful way to mark the end of their time at school, and we wish them all the very best for the future!



Sixth Form Head Team

We're pleased to announce that our new Sixth Form Head Team has been appointed! After a thorough selection process - including interviews, speeches in assembly, and votes from staff and students - the successful candidates have now taken up their roles. We're very proud of all the students who took part and impressed us with their ideas, confidence, and leadership. We're excited to work with the new team and look forward to what they will bring to the school in the year ahead.



Intermediate Biology Olympiad



A number of Y12 Biology students took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. This is a competition that is open to students in the first year of post-16 education. The competition consisted of a one-hour multiple-choice paper taken online. Questions were set on topics students were likely to have covered at GCSE and in their first year of A level. Some additional ideas were introduced requiring problem-solving skills and an understanding of core principles in biology. Congratulations go to Emily Morrison who obtained the Silver Award, narrowly missing out on Gold, Lara Kearon who achieved a Bronze Award and Amelie Scott who received a commendation.

- Mrs J McGregor, Head of Science Faculty

Got to have brains for Psychology

As part of their Biopsychology unit, Year 12 Psychology students took part in a hands-on brain dissection to deepen their understanding of brain structure and function. The activity allowed students to explore key regions such as the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem, linking theoretical knowledge to real anatomical features. Students were able to conduct their own commissurotomy (the severing of the corpus callosum, which joins the two hemispheres together), gaining valuable insights into how biological structures underpin psychological processes. The experience not only enhanced their scientific skills but also sparked thoughtful discussions about the complexity of the human brain.



- Mrs H Povey, Curriculum Area Leader for Psychology and Criminology

Digital Leaders Create a Flashy “Fruit Machine” Using Raspberry Pi

The Computer Science department is thrilled to showcase the incredible work of two of our new Digital Leaders, who have designed and built an impressive physical computing project entirely in their own time.

Using a Raspberry Pi microcomputer, the students created their own “Fruit Machine” — named as a playful nod to the Raspberry Pi powering it. This interactive device generates a random number between 1 and 10 when the large red button is pressed. Depending on the result, the screen flashes either a vibrant "You Win!" or a bold "You Lose!" message, accompanied by custom images designed by the students themselves.

This isn't just a display piece — it's a fully functioning experience. The students programmed the machine using Python, building on what they've learned in lessons and pushing far beyond, exploring a wide range of external libraries to bring their vision to life. They even added sound effects and flashing LED lights, which create excitement as the number is generated, and then change colour depending on the result.

The students also included a distance sensor to enhance the interactivity and added multiple modes of play — with one version being slightly more generous than the other!

Their technical skills were matched by their dedication. They sourced all the components themselves, soldered the electronic parts at home, and even created their own project emblems. The final product is a fun and educational piece of physical computing that combines design, programming, and electronics in a highly creative way.

While the name “Fruit Machine” may bring to mind traditional gaming machines, this project is entirely educational and creative in nature — a celebration of computing skills, problem solving, and innovation, not gambling.

We're incredibly proud of what these Digital Leaders have achieved and can't wait to see what they create next.



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Memorial for Ruby Jones - Wednesday 4th June

This year, Ruby Jones, one of our Year 12 students, very sadly lost her battle with illness associated with an operation she had at the start of this academic year. Ruby was an inspirational young person who, throughout her life, always showed great resilience and strength.

To support our school community and her family, we held a memorial service at the start of this half term. Ruby's family, school friends and teachers were able to come together and celebrate Ruby's life.

Ruby had a fabulous sense of humour and would always go out of her way to make others smile; it was her kindness and compassion that made her stand out from others. As part of the memorial service, we unveiled a bench that will be situated outside the sixth form building to allow her friends to sit together and remember Ruby as they move through sixth form.

Ruby was a very special young person, and as a school community, we will do all we can to keep Ruby's memory alive and to encourage our young people to live life as Ruby would - with kindness, compassion and endless positivity.

- Mrs G Philips & Sixth Form Team



Media News

Year 12 Students Get Creative at Southport's New Eastbank Centre

This term, a group of lucky Year 12 students were given an exclusive first look inside the newly refurbished Eastbank Centre in Southport – before it even opened to the public. Thanks to a special partnership with Edge Hill University, our Media Studies students were invited to take part in a unique day of hands-on workshops and future-focused learning at this exciting new creative hub.

The day was packed with engaging activities designed to give students a taste of the fast-moving world of the creative industries – right here on our doorstep. Working with Hatters Social Media Marketing agency, students got insider tips on how brands use digital platforms to engage audiences, grow their online presence and stay ahead in a competitive market.

Next up was a dynamic design session led by Edge Hill's Graphic Design department, where students were challenged to create a bold, eye-catching poster for the centre's new café. This task gave them a real sense of what it's like to work on a live design brief – and showed just how vital creativity and communication are in shaping local spaces.

The future came to life in the next session, with a fascinating introduction to how Virtual Reality is transforming industries as diverse as tourism, education and even surgery. Students also experienced an eye-opening Artificial Intelligence demonstration, sparking plenty of conversation about how AI is changing the media landscape.

Finally, students stepped into the role of presenters and producers as they planned, recorded and edited their own podcasts. It was a fantastic way to explore storytelling through sound – and gave many students the confidence to speak up and share their ideas in a completely new way. This action-packed day gave our students a real sense of how the creative industries – from design and marketing to digital technology – are not just thriving in cities like Manchester or London, but are growing right here in Southport. It also showcased the exciting pathways Media Studies can offer: into jobs, degrees, and careers that are dynamic, digital and deeply creative. A huge thank you to Edge Hill University, the team at Eastbank, and all our workshop leaders for giving our students this unforgettable opportunity. We can't wait to see what opens next at Eastbank – and which of our students might be shaping its future.

Thinking of studying Media Studies in Sixth Form? Trips like this are just the beginning...



Year 12 Explore Life Beyond the Classroom at LJMU's Creative Industries Conference

Our Year 12 Media students recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend the "Surviving in the Creative Industries" conference at Liverpool John Moores University – a day packed with inspiration, expert advice, and real-world opportunities for those dreaming of a future in media, performance or the arts.

Hosted by LJMU, the conference brought together top professionals from across the creative sector to share their journeys, insights, and honest advice. Students heard from speakers representing major industry names such as ESPN, ITVX Academy, Liverpool Locations, and the performing arts industry. Each speaker offered a unique window into how the creative industries work behind the scenes – and more importantly, how young people can break into them.

From the value of university courses to the importance of hands-on experience, the talks explored multiple pathways into the creative world. Whether students were considering academic routes or going straight into the industry via apprenticeships or internships, the message was clear: there is no one-size-fits-all way to succeed, but passion, persistence, and networking are key.

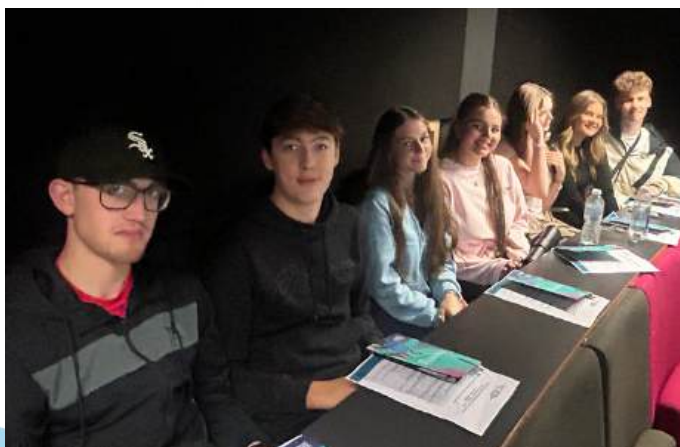
The morning sessions gave students the rare chance to ask their own questions, make connections, and even explore the possibility of gaining work experience through the contacts they met. For many, this was their first time networking with real professionals, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly.

In the afternoon, students took part in exciting taster sessions in Film Studies, Journalism and Creative Media Production, giving them a real flavour of what studying media-related courses at university could look like. Whether they were learning to analyse film, writing for digital platforms or experimenting with camera work and editing, students got hands-on and gained valuable insight into their potential next steps after Sixth Form.

The trip not only gave students a better understanding of the wide range of careers available in the creative industries – from production and performance to journalism and location management – but also showed them that these careers are absolutely within reach.

This was more than just a university visit; it was a powerful reminder that with the right skills, knowledge and mindset, our students can turn their creative passions into successful futures.

Media Studies: where creativity meets opportunity.



Southport
Learning
Trust

