

Our Year 7 students continue to demonstrate a high level of commitment to their education, constantly demonstrating our core values of *respect, responsibility and resilience*.

This half term students have continued to impress the teachers with their eagerness to *be the best they can be*. This newsletter shows some of those highlights.

Polite Reminders

Attendance

It has been fantastic to see so many students back in the classroom working hard! We have loved hearing all about their holidays. Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their students in getting them into school, even on days when students wished they could just spend another hour in bed!

Uniform

Students have arrived looking extremely smart! Thank you to the parents who have replaced worn out shoes over the Christmas holidays. Please continue to ensure all students are dressed in the correct school uniform. Our Year 7 students certainly appear to take pride in their appearance around school.

Equipment

The majority of students have a full set of equipment, showing that they are eager and ready to learn. Please can we continue to ensure students have a full pencil case, reading book, planner and bag.

Personal belongings

Due to the nature of secondary schools, students are moving around the school more than they would have done in primary school. We have had some students lose their coats/PE kits. Please could I kindly ask that you check your child has come home with the correct attire and return anything to the school that is not their own.

The chances of recovering lost items are so much higher if the name is written inside garments and bags.

We also have some coats in our office and lost property. Students are to check these areas, along with their classrooms to see if has been left there.

World Book Day

This half term we celebrated World Book Day with a 'get comfy and read' themed day. Students and staff arrived in school dressed in comfy clothes ready with their books.



Extra opportunities for quiet reading were provided and the whole school shared a gripping story, "The Hitchhiker" by Anthony Horowitz. Five-minute instalments were read at the beginning of each lesson, so by the end of the day everyone had heard the full tale with its surprising twist at the end.



A Big Book Swap, where unwanted books could be donated and exchanged, proved popular and staff had been challenged to send in photos of

themselves enjoying some quite reading time away from the classroom.

In the Library, the annual Spellbinding Reading Challenge was launched for keen readers from Years 7, 8 and 9. Students will be reading, reviewing and star-rating the 10 pre-selected titles, with the ultimate goal to select the best novel of 2024.

A special WBD quiz was available with names of famous book characters scrambled up for entrants to decipher, and £1 WBD vouchers were distributed to all Year 7 and 8 students.



In the Classroom

Drama



Year 7 students have been working on their physical and vocal skills this term by bring the caricatures of Roald Dahl's stories to life. The Drama Department have been blown away by Year 7 students' assessment piece, an extract from *The Witches*, where students have had to learn lines off by heart and work as a team to ensure the performance is ready. Some students have even worked in the drama studios during break to ensure they are being the best they can be!



Music

Year 7 Music students have been flexing their composition muscles over the past few weeks, writing their very own music based on the pentatonic (5 note) scale. The results have been fantastic, showcasing their use of repeated patterns, creativity and flair.

RE

Year 7 RE this term has been very exciting. We have been completing an introduction to Philosophical Thinking and the engagement and creativity across our classes has been fantastic. Students have wrestled with questions such as 'what makes us human?', 'Are there any rules that should never be broken?' and 'Does anything stay the same for ever?'. They have really worked hard to explain their reasoning both in their discussions and in their formal writing, and we are very proud of them.

Shout Outs – Academic Excellence



At William Howard School we celebrate the students who demonstrating being **the best they can be**. In lessons, staff identify a student who has demonstrated a positive work ethic, produced excellent work and excellent effort. You can tell through the long list of names, just how incredible our year group are.

Computing



Daisy Ballantyne is a Cipher Queen! Cracked a Caesar Cipher code with no key and pretty quickly. Kudos!

Drama

For consistently thinking outside the box with their creativity and giving 100% in lessons:



Alice Judd
Heidi Wright
Pippa Grant
Olivia Macgillivray
Lauren Mclaughlin
Emily Potter
Jasmine Reed
Fraser Sim
Ellie Vance
Kate Reimartuse

Mrs Buckley was extremely impressed with the whole of Class 7x/Dr1 for their commitment to their *Witches* performances.



English



Fraser Sim – who embodies the characteristics of William Howard school – responsibility, respect, resilience in bucketloads. He is enthusiastic, dedicated, well mannered, and determined to succeed.

Daniel Elgey - for effort and respectfulness. He is extremely hard-working and nothing is too much trouble for him – he will always volunteer to go the extra mile in the English classroom. Well done to both.



French

Miss Leighton's French class is a dream! Many of them go above and beyond every lesson.

Joey Davidson - amazing contributions through the lesson and work rate is outstanding too.

Finley is also very motivated and he asks very pertinent questions.

Deivids Butans, Amelia Forster, Alyssa Inglis, Fraser Phillips, Kate Reimartuse, Mia Smith, Toly Vince and Ben Wills are working very hard in French and are making fabulous progress.



Spanish

Phoebe Storey has been a super worker in her Spanish lessons. Always contributing politely raising her hand, completing all the tasks and performing well in assessments.

Louisa Craig, Isla Hodgson, Lila Keelan, Zuzanna Nawrocka, Daniel Nixon, Joshua Nixon and Abdullah Pirzada are working super hard in Spanish and making wonderful progress.

History

Coen Thompson and Phoebe Story are always trying to be the best they can be in History. They are constantly enthused and full of energy for the subject which translates into curiosity and quality work.

Lottie Steel and Elsa Watson have also been superb this term, showcasing their historical skill when applying their knowledge to issues such as William's victory at Hastings. Keep it up!

Alyssa Inglis – Her work is always of the highest standard in presentation and detail. Most pleasingly, she is developing the self-confidence to contribute reasoned and knowledgeable verbal contributions to lessons.

Jacob Ayad – He has been consistently focused and hard-working. He asks questions that show a real interest in learning more depth about the people/topics we are studying and once again, his work is of the highest standard.

Maths

Jack Docherty and Sophie Carling – they tackle GCSE and A Level standard questions with enthusiasm and display great character.

Emilia Jerzynska - Emilia's confidence has improved so much since September and it is clear within her written work and oral answers. Emilia continues to excel within her academic performance, taking on feedback in a positive and resilient manner.

Deivids Butans continues to make excellent contributions to class discussions and showing great resilience with the extension questions. Deivids is a keen learner with brilliant behaviour for learning that is strongly reflected in his academic performance.

RE

Kate Reimartuse and Lexi Charnock have gone above and beyond with their homework questions and have shared their thinking back to the class with confidence.

Chemistry

Maci Garner and Bobby Moffat for their enthusiasm in lessons.

Music

Josh Duggan for his enthusiasm, dedication and resilience. Josh strives to challenge himself every lesson, always accessing the stretch and challenge tasks to ensure he is making as much progress as possible.

The dynamic duo that is **Charlie Broatch and Zach Currah** - they have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks, creating their own composition and performing in front of the class, I can't wait to hear their finished piece.

PE

Will Mackie has worked fantastically as a trampoline coach this half term. He provides excellent feedback to his classmates to help them improve their skills - well done Will!

Bailey Turner showed resilience to perform a successful seat drop. Despite finding the skill a challenge, he kept going until he could perform the skill - Top work Bailey!

Kate Reimartuse – excellent responsibility for her own learning by giving 100% effort, helping others and taking on role of a leader. Shows respect for others and great resilience when trying out new tasks.

Sophie White – showing a much-improved attitude towards PE. Engaging and enjoying rugby lessons.

Students with most house points since September

Fraser Sim 1330
Daniel Elgey 1130
Louisa Craig 1037

Learners of the Lesson since September

Fraser Sim 59 times
Daniel Elgey 52 times
Isla Hodgson 45 times

Students with most house points since February

Daniel Elgey 280
Fraser Sim 278
Daisy Ballantyne 241

Learners of the Lesson since February

Daniel Elgey 16 times
Fraser Sim 11 times
Lexie Charnock 10 times
Faith Simpson 10 times
Kate Reimartuse 10 times
Joey Davidson 10 times

Shine Out!
Shout Out!

Extra-Curricular Activities

Year 7 Football



Another great performance from the Year 7 football team at RRCA. The A team won 7-0 with a strong performance.

The B team lost 3-2 in a close game with goals from Daniel Taylor and Dominic Lauderman. Shout out to Liam Graham for his outstanding work rate. Well done to all!

LAMDA

The results are in! We are proud to announce that the 19 students from Years 7 & 8 who took LAMDA examinations in Solo Acting (Level 1) at the end of January all did exceedingly well and passed with either Merit or Distinction.



Their teacher, Ms Lewis said, "I'm delighted with the results. The students worked incredibly hard in preparation for their examinations and their hard work has most definitely paid off."

Always keen to celebrate success in school, the candidates were presented with their certificates in assembly this week by Ms Pigdon.

We strive to provide students the widest possible range of opportunities to enhance and develop their skills further, so are pleased to offer LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) Examinations in school as part of the Drama peripatetic programme.

Years 7 and 8 Hockey

Another good team performance this week from the WHS combined Year 7/8 girls 7-a-side hockey team.



Against a strong Queen Elizabeth Grammar School side, the team showed great resilience in the first half, scoring a goal just before half term, meaning they were losing 3-1. In the second half, they restarted with a new positivity, showed better use of width, closed opponents down earlier, had more attacking play but narrowly lost.

Special mention goes to Hattie Wheatcroft for being player of the match and to Millie Coulthard for her first experience as goalkeeper. Well done everyone!

MFL Club

Year 9 Language Leaders have produced many fun games for Year 7 students in MFL Club (Break 2 in E1).

Here they are playing Stand Up/Sit Down in both French and Spanish.



Chess Club

We have had fifty students come to play games with us from across all year groups, these have included absolute beginners and those with such skill that they have put Mr Davis to the test!

During the rest of this term twenty five students will be competing in our first ever school Chess Championship, and we are always ready to welcome more players in R2 Break 2 every Wednesday.

Musical Production

After months of rehearsals and set building, the school production of *Little Shop of Horrors* came to an end.

There is an immense amount of talent under the roof of William Howard School, much of it not visible (the smart mathematicians, the creative writers, the methodical scientists, for example). However, what have been clearly evident are the incredible talents and creativity of our Performing Arts students (and staff).

The Directors of the show, Miss Serrechia and Miss Inglesfield agreed, "We are immensely proud of all our students for the roles they have played in bringing this ambitious musical to life. From the principals, the chorus, plant makers, musicians and technicians, it has taken a huge team effort amongst staff and students to make this performance such a success. We are so lucky to work in a school and Trust that value the importance of the arts and understand the impact it has on our young people."

We are looking forward to the next Performing Arts extravaganza – the 2024 DADA Showcase. Tickets are on sale now! See poster for details.



DADA SHOWCASE 2024
Showcasing the work of Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
in WHS Performance Hall
on Thursday, 21 March at 6pm
Adults - £5 / Concessions - £3
With features from...

For tickets please email: drama.contact@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk

Thank You!

I would like to extend my thanks to parents and carers - you constantly support the school to ensure your child makes the most of their time at William Howard School. Please can I remind parents and students that they must continue to come to school with the correct equipment and the correct uniform. Requirements can be found in student planners and on our school website.

Thank you.

Mrs Buckley, Director of Learning (Year 7)

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