

By the time you receive this, we will be most of the way through our options process. In March, we have had assemblies focused on option choices and an Options Evening for students and parents to find information about the best subjects for each individual. This is an exciting time and an excellent opportunity to reflect on what has gone well and what goals there are for the future. As the term goes on, you may have more questions about the KS4 curriculum; please do not hesitate to contact the Year Group Team.

Uniform

Thank you all for your support with uniform. Year 9 always look so smart around school, setting a fantastic example for younger students and showing their commitment to our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Many students had acrylic nails over Christmas. As these are a health and safety hazard and can prevent students from participating in some subjects, these must be removed.

Shoes must be polishable, make up minimal, and leggings are not allowed. The standards cards we are using help promote communication between home and school, so that if something does go wrong, we are aware and can support the student.

Attendance

As ever, consistent attendance is important for achievement. At this time of year there are all kinds of coughs and colds, but it helps to minimise absence as much as possible. There are times when there are family events that take place in term time; however, requests for time off in term time are likely to be unauthorised and, again, my advice is to minimise time off school as much as possible.

Thank you for all the support you give us in delivering a high-quality education to this amazing year group!

World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated World Book Day by getting comfy and reading. Students and staff turned up to school in pyjamas or comfortable clothes to enjoy a cosy time reading for fun. Even Tiger (Ms Ledger's dog) entered into the spirit of the occasion by reading a novel by her favourite author.



Digitally Empowered



A group of Year 8 and 9 girls represented William Howard School at the “Empower Cumbria” event in Workington.

Mr Johnston said, “The girls did brilliantly within a range of activities based around decoding, problem solving and teamwork. They represented the school with

pride and showed their ability to adapt logic and problem-solving skills to several workshops. Special shout out to Alice Evans and Sienna Fidler for winning £20 Amazon vouchers each in the decoding challenge”.

Music

Year 9 Music students have been getting creative, composing their very own ‘pop compositions’ using our new online Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). *Soundtrap* is browser-based so the students can share and collaborate with one another with ease as well as continue their learning from home. Students have been inputting their own drumbeat, bass line, chords and melody and the results have been fantastic!



Meanwhile, Choir are preparing to compete in the Music and Drama Competition and performing in Spain. Rock Club are preparing for a gig at ‘The Source’ Carlisle in April and will also be performing in Spain along with the WHS Orchestra.

Language Leaders



This initiative, led by the Languages department, continues to be a great success. Now part of the WHS Character Curriculum, Year 9 students have been preparing activities this term for Year 7 Language classes. They have created online games, language passports, card games and restaurant conversation practice activities to inspire the younger learners. Yesterday they were able to deliver their activities and Year 7 were able to enjoy them! Bravo!

Chess Club

Mr Connolly would like to congratulate all the students who have been to Chess Club across this year. 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 Davies 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 every Wednesday at break two!

Design Technology

It's been a real treat to hear about the pride taken in practical work in DT. Students have undertaken a project designing and making coasters and a container. It's taken the best part of the year to get to the finished product, but it's worth the wait!



PE

William Howard School narrowly beat Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in an 'edge-of-your-seat' basketball match.

In the first external basketball match that WHS have played in a number of years, Year 9 students, Harry Whittaker, Theo Lamont and Seb Tyson (alongside older students), took on a well-drilled QEGS team.



English

Year 9 have been studying the work of playwright Arthur Miller in English. Jack and Freddie (pictured) used their considerable acting skills to perform a tense moment in *The Crucible*, where John Proctor (played by Jack) defies the courtroom presided over by Danforth (Freddie) and denounces witchcraft.

Politics, Philosophy and Economics

In the week before half term, the Year 9 Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) group presented some amazing group projects to the whole of the class.

After a term completing an introductory unit on the history of philosophy and how to carry out a philosophical enquiry, they worked in small groups to identify an area of study which they used to develop their skills and deepen their knowledge. The questions they chose demonstrated amazing creativity and covered many areas of politics, philosophy and economics. The ten different presentations included:

- a study of toxic masculinity and femininity in the Barbie movie,
- if knowing the background of musicians can deepen our enjoyment of their music,
- how much we need to know about politicians before we can make an informed decision on who to vote for,
- an evaluation of the merits of Communism,
- if ghosts can possibly be real (and if they can have an effect on humans even if they are not real).

They were explored with maturity and presented with confidence - well done to the whole class!

Dance

Year 9 dancers have been working incredibly hard this term developing their performance skills in the style of contemporary dance. As well as developing their resilience in technique exercises, they have also been working on a piece of repertoire which they will perform in our upcoming showcase on Thursday, 21st March. Shortly after this they will be taking part in a Contemporary dance workshop for the CAT Scheme, ran by the lovely Kelly Mclelland. This is both an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about advanced training and give them a taster of what GCSE dance entails.

Drama

LAMDA lessons have got off to a strong start and these students are showing great enthusiasm and commitment towards preparing for their forthcoming Level 2 Grade 5 examinations in June: Abigail Dawson, Elias Hershon, Aidan Hodgson, Grace Hodgson, Mya Gilmour, Tori Postlethwaite and Isla Watson.

We are fortunate at William Howard School to be able to offer the opportunity for our students to take LAMDA Examinations in solo acting as part of our Drama peripatetic programme.



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...

Alfred Hitchcock's **THE 39 STEPS**

Kinky Boots

Disney's **HERCULES** HERO TO HERO

Olympic Rings

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

RENT

TOP GIRLS by Caryl Churchill

Peter Pan

A CHORUS LINE

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

Outdoor Learning



This half term, students on the Outdoor Learning course have been learning about conservation. The group have explored different aspects of conservation and know why it is so important. The students have been given a brief to develop a conservation area on the school site and they have suggested many great ideas around creating natural habitats, shelters and conserving water. As always, the staff have been impressed by the passion and enthusiasm from such a talented group of Year 9 students. We look forward to seeing how their conservation areas progress.



Photography

This year we have three Year 9 photography groups and here we have a small selection of work from one of those groups. After only six months of using 'real' cameras, which are complicated pieces of kit, they are doing so well. The most recent work they have been working on are photo-collages, a few of which you can see below. Creativity at its best! Excellent work Year 9!



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