WILLIAM HOWARD SCHOOL

December 2024

SPOTLIGHT on YEAR 7

At William Howard School, there is never a dull moment, and Year 7 has certainly been at the centre of all the latest happenings.

As the Director of Learning, I take immense pride in how our Year 7 students have seamlessly adapted to school life, tackling each challenge with remarkable resilience. Their hard work, dedication to success and eagerness to seize every opportunity presented by our exceptional staff, have resulted in an impressive accumulation of 80,214 house points—a truly remarkable achievement.

The recent introduction of the Director of Learning House Point Certificate has spurred even greater enthusiasm among the students. I am thrilled to announce that our first recipient of both the Bronze certificate (500 house points) and the Silver certificate (750 house points) is Paisley Hogg. Congratulations, Paisley! Since then, many more students have earned the Bronze certificate, including Logan Graham, who also achieved the Silver award.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the families who attended the recent Tutor Evening. It was a wonderfully positive event that showcased the fantastic accomplishments of our Year 7 students across all subjects this year to date.

Our classrooms continue to foster a calm and productive learning environment. As I observe Year 7 lessons, I am consistently impressed by the high standard of work being produced. I hope you were able to appreciate some of the outstanding projects displayed during the evening. Your feedback is invaluable, and I encourage you to share your thoughts to help us enhance future events.

Miss Elliot has been working diligently with various student groups to cultivate positive social spaces within the school. Our common room is beginning to reflect the vibrant personality of Year 7, and we look forward to further developing this initiative in the weeks ahead.

As we approach the festive season, there is much to look forward to, but I encourage our Year 7 students to adhere to the mantra: “We work hard, and we play hard.” Maintaining our high standards will ensure that we enjoy the rewards as we near the end of the term.

The House Tutor challenges are heating up, with form groups fiercely competing for house points and attendance. Many forms have already earned the coveted sparkly stars (yes, you read that correctly), which are proudly displayed in the common room. The winning form will receive a festive treat at the end of the term, adding an extra incentive to our friendly competitions.

Children in Need

Our Sixth Formers did a great job of organising activities for Children in Need, in their fantastic fancy dress costumes!

The theme this year was linked to Paddy McGuinness’ awesome challenge completing 300 miles on a Raleigh Chopper bike.

Staff showed their pedal pushing power in a head-to-head bike time trial challenge during break, with £117 being raised from ticket sales for the event. Thank you to Mr Connolly, Mrs Nettleton, Mr Davis, Miss Inglesfield, Mrs Cooper and Nicole Todhunter (Head Student) for being such great sports!

Year 7 were front and centre to cheer on staff and students in their challenge.

Book Fair

A huge thank you to all students, parents and staff who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. It was a very successful event, with the sales of books and stationery amounting to nearly £1,000. As a result, our school will receive lots of free books for the library and students were invited to select or request new titles. Year 7 students were front of the line as they took in some top titles in the library. If you were not able to buy a book – why not borrow it? Many of the Book Fair titles will soon be available for loan from the WHS Library.

Learning to Save a Life

During this half term, Year 7 students are participating in essential life-saving training through the 'Call-Push-Rescue' (CPR) programme. They will receive practical instruction in CPR techniques and the use of a defibrillator. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Crew Manager Shaun Yeats from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service for his invaluable support in training the first groups of students. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr Mallinson for organising this vital training opportunity.

A note to Year 7: Remember to proudly display your certificates in your record of achievement folders!

Reading Partners

Year 7 students have partnered with Year 12 mentors to improve their reading skills. Under the dedicated leadership of Mrs O'Connor and her team, significant efforts have been made to promote reading across the school. Every Friday, Year 7 students meet with their mentors in the Sixth Form Centre, where they receive valuable support in reading strategies, comprehension tasks, and goal setting aimed at enhancing their classroom learning. The collaboration has resulted in a wonderful atmosphere each week, showcasing the fantastic commitment and energy from everyone involved.

Remembrance

Our cadets, choir, and whole school community did us proud during our Remembrance Service on Friday, 8th November. We hope it was a fitting tribute to those who made considerable sacrifices in the two World Wars and later conflicts. The Year 7 students demonstrated exceptional respect throughout the ceremony, making Mr Davies and Miss Elliot incredibly proud.

Year 7 also contributed fantastic poppy designs, which were displayed in the main foyer in school.

SPORTS NEWS

Cross Country

A group of Year 7s took part in the City Cross Country Championships at Austin Friars School. The course was a fast, flat route and the weather conditions were perfect. Both Year 7 teams placed fantastically with the girls coming third behind Trinity and Austin Friars, and the boys winning the team event.

We are proud of all runners but there was one standout individual performance to celebrate - a special shout out to Louise Ackerley who finished 1st place in the girl's race and went on to represent Cumbria at the National Cross Country Championship, placing in the top 50.

Rugby

Mr Green has assembled an exciting new class of Year 7 rugby stars, and they recently participated in their first fixtures of the term. Their opening match took place against Caldew School, and we extend our gratitude to Brampton Council for enabling us to utilise the King George V playing fields, which will be instrumental in fostering rugby development.

The boys had an amazing experience and learned a great deal during the match. As this event was primarily developmental, no scores were recorded. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the team showcased

their skills, marking what we hope will be the beginning of a rugby revolution at WHS. We invite all interested students to join the Rugby Club, which meets after school every Tuesday. Come and be a part of the team!

Future England Roses

32 students, including Macey Wilson, Tilly Fielden and Grace Moscrop travelled down to Manchester Arena on Saturday 16 November, to watch the England Vitality Roses take on Jamaica in the Netball Autumn Internationals.

On arrival, they took in the atmosphere by watching the teams warm up and collecting some 'goal' signs ready for the game. They were even lucky enough to have a photo taken with some of the England future roses!

With a penalty shot awarded to Jamaica, to be taken after the final whistle, the game ended 49-49.

Mrs Holliday said, "It has been a brilliant opportunity to see elite netball and it has without doubt inspired our students to continue in their netball journey."

The Super 7s Strike Again!

Some of our Year 7 netballers travelled to Caldew after school today for a match. Miss Carruthers reported:

The first game started well, though Caldew were certainly putting up a strong battle. They passed and moved quicker than we did in the first third, as a result our defence had to work hard to stop them scoring. A much-needed goal for WHS came just before the end of the first third.

We came out strong in the second third and began to settle into our rhythm. Perhaps the confidence from leading at the end of the first third helped - it was evident nerves had settled. Two goals scored by Amelia saw the second third finish 3-1.

A change in positions saw a gear shift by Caldew in the final third. They took advantage of the mistakes we made, as a result they scored two consecutive goals. A tight game, with the final score WHS 4-3.

The second game was also close. The first minutes were evenly matched in the centre of the court. WHS had more shooting opportunities, but the ball just wouldn't go in. At the end of the first third - WHS 1 Caldew 0. Again, the second third was better, nerves and adrenaline had settled and we were thinking more carefully about where to pass the ball. Lilly found her eye in the shooting D, scoring two consecutive goals. A goal was scored by Caldew in the final minute, making the end of game score WHS 3-1. Well done everyone!

A shout out to Phoebe for playing GD in both games!

The Stars of Hollywood... Bowl

Twelve Year 7 students had a great time at the North Cumbria Secondary Schools' Panathlon Tenpin Challenge held at Hollywood Bowl.

21 teams battled it out to find a new North Cumbria tenpin champion. Our two teams played superbly. They didn't come away with the win, but they enjoyed every minute with stronger friendships forged as they worked together and supported each other. Happy voices, cheers and laughter could be heard all around!

A huge well done to Mitsy, Jessica, Sienna, Fallyn, Ben, Isaac, Nicky, Joshua, Amos, Liam, Leo and Zayn.

Mrs Croucher commented: "They were a real credit to the school and a joy to be with."

Special congratulations go to Zayn who scored over 100 and was presented with a gold medal, coming in joint first place for the most strikes and spares scored in the competition.

Student Achievements

Jujitsu Success for Luca

Luca Rees was once again on the road, this time participating in the British Jujitsu 247 Northwest Open 2024 competition held at Blackpool's iconic Tower Ballroom. Luca delivered an outstanding performance, clinching the gold medal in the GI category and securing silver in No-Gi.

We are absolutely thrilled for him! His dedication and hard work in training are truly paying off. Congratulations, Luca!

Phoebe's a Star

Phoebe Lord entered the arena with her horse, Cracker, at the prestigious STARS Champion of Champions event held at Aintree, Liverpool.

This competition holds significant importance for Phoebe in her equestrian discipline. Despite facing challenging weather conditions, including wind, rain, and hailstones as large as golf balls, she proudly showcased her skills in two classes during the finals. Remarkably, she secured 13th place out of 58 competitors in her first class and 18th out of 52 in her second—an outstanding achievement, especially considering it was their first time competing at this level. Well done, Phoebe!

Be Just & Fear Not

Rory Williamson continues to impress with his exceptional skills on the ball. He has earned a regular position in his age group at Carlisle United, demonstrating both talent and dedication.

Though Rory may be a man of few words, he serves as an inspiring role model for his teammates. His consistent high-level performances enable him to compete among the best in the game. And let's not forget—Rory has a talent for scoring spectacular goals! Keep up the fantastic work, Rory!

Carlisle RUFC stung by Blake

Blake Hodgson has been demonstrating his exceptional skills on the rugby field, recently delivering an outstanding performance that culminated in scoring the first try against Carlisle RUFC for Aspatria Hornets. His impressive contributions throughout the season earned him both the Man of Steel award and the Parents' Player accolade at the Aspatria U11 2024 awards. Fantastic job, Blake! Keep up the great work!

Thank you for your continued support. If you need to get in touch, please contact me or Miss Elliot.

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