# FOCUSON...

Issue No.82 – 9 March 2018

## ...Year 11 Easter School

Students in Year 11 are in full swing with preparations for their upcoming examinations well underway and, following on from the success of Easter School in previous years, we will be running a similar programme again this year. During the Easter Holidays, students in Year 11 have the opportunity to attend sessions in school that will help prepare them for their upcoming GCSE's, working alongside their teachers to develop their subject knowledge and examination technique. Sessions will be run throughout the holiday, starting on Monday 26 March until Thursday 5 April and include drop in sessions, live performances to develop understanding and past paper guidance. Teachers will provide support and advice on how to answer a range of questions and help students to understand key terminology which may appear in the examinations to help build confidence ahead of the examinations commencing. A full timetable is available to view now on the school website. Good luck to all our Year 11 students with their preparations!

## ...Learning for Living

The annual 'Learning For Living' Year 8 essay writing competition concluded last week with the awards ceremony hosted at Range High School. Now in its 17th year, the competition challenges young writers from Year 8 in Formby secondary schools and younger students from the Formby primaries to write an essay about something that would change the world. Our very own Mia (8M) won the overall prize for secondary schools with an emotional piece about how her grandfather, through the support and generosity of others, coped with the loss of his leg. FHS has won the Learning for Living Secondary School award for 16 of the 17 years – true testament to the writing talent enjoyed and nurtured here. Well done to Mia and to runners up Katie (8R) and Freya (8Y).

## ...Musical Theatre Club

On Wednesday 28 February our Musical Theatre Club enjoyed a master class with Mr David Siebert. David was the Assistant Director on 'The Wind in the Willows' at The Palladium last year and has just completed a run as the Assistant Director at the RSC for 'A Christmas Carol'. David, who is due to begin rehearsals for The King and I coming to London Palladium this Summer, managed to squeeze us into his busy schedule. David gave tips on singing and performance skills to our Musical Theatre Club who performed excerpts from 'Les Miserables', 'Matilda', 'Mamma Mia' and 'Billy Elliot' for our forthcoming 'A Musical Revue' production taking place at Formby High School on Saturday 28 April.

## ...Attendance Challenge

Congratulations to Tutor Group 11M who celebrated a fantastic 97.2% attendance in the first half term of 2018. Tutor Group 7B were nipping at their heels along the way to try to clinch the prize but Mr Parkinson's form held on to their lead, much to his delight, and shared the tin of Celebrations chocolates in reward!

## ...Governor Visit

Every term, a group of FHS Governors visits school to get first hand experience of daily operations and gain a deeper understanding of some of the issues they discuss in Governor meetings. This term's visit focussed on Key Stage 4 and involved a tour of Year 10 and 11 classes throughout the morning and a workshop with a group of students. Governors were incredibly impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm of students in all lessons they visited. In the student workshop, Governors were able to seek their views and opinions on key issues around life in Year 10/11 as well as general school issues. The students expressed their views very maturely and clearly, giving Governors plenty of food for thought! Thank you to Governors and students/staff involved in another very productive visit.

## ...Year 11 Practice Interviews

Over two days at the end of last week, more than 20 employers generously donated their valuable time to come in and conduct practice interviews with every Year 11 student. Part of their Careers education, the session gave students the chance to prepare for and experience a professional interview process which will prove invaluable to them for further education or employment applications in the near future. Thank you to all our wonderful professionals for giving up your time for our students.

## ...Swedish Visit

Once again the school had the great pleasure of welcoming visiting students and staff from Katedralskolan (literally The Cathedral School), in Linköping, Sweden. The secondary school, founded in 1627, is the third oldest gymnasium in Sweden and its representatives have been coming to the school for ten years as part of their international awareness programme. Students sampled a wide variety of lessons as well as the delights of the dining room! Part of their purpose in doing this is to carry out research on attitudes to social issues and culture, something with which our students were happy to cooperate. Such is Katedralskolan's enthusiasm for Formby High that they will be bringing 80 of their staff over in October of this year to share good practice and develop links between the two institutions.

## ...Pi Challenge

The Maths team launched the Pi Challenge last week for Year 7 to 9 students to see how many decimal places they can recite Pi from memory. Last week the all time school record was set by Jack (Year 9) who reached 112! In next week's assemblies, Years 7 and 8 will see if any of their finalists can beat the school record – good luck to Rob, Matthew, Conrad and Faye (Year 7) and to Isobel, Ava, Daisy and Katie (Year 8).

## ...Sporting Matters

Congratulations to Joe from 10R who recently became the second boy from our current Year 10 to earn the coveted Sefton Schoolboys' tie for representing the borough of Sefton 10 times in the U15s football team. Boys are chosen from 21 secondary schools across Sefton. Joe, a tough tackling defensive midfielder who specialises in breaking down opposition attacks, said "We have a squad of 17 boys who were chosen from over 1500 boys across Sefton. I feel very honoured and privileged in representing Formby High School for Sefton. We are at the top of the league and are in the quarter finals of the Merseyside Cup". Good luck to Joe and the rest of the squad for the remainder of the season.

## On the Horizon...

- ★ Y10 Road to Success Eve – 13 Mar (6.30pm)
- ★ Y9 Subject Consultation Eve – 15 Mar
- ★ Y8 STEM Big Bang Trip Birmingham – 16 Mar
- ★ DofE Gold Training (YCP Southport) – 17 Mar