

# Blackpool Aspire Academy

*ENTITLEMENT CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER*



Issue 5  
Oct 2023



# Extra-curricular activities –Autumn term 2023

## MONDAY

Brass, A4, 3.20-4.20pm  
Excellence programme, Super lectures, 4-5pm,  
Blackpool Sixth, Miss Plancke

## TUESDAY

Pzazz, Drama studio, 3-4.30pm, Miss Mackay  
Percussion, A32, 3.15-4.15pm  
KS3 Art, C17, 3-4pm, Mrs Riley  
Film club, 3-5.30pm, Mrs Kay, library  
Football (all year groups), SPH, 3-4pm  
GCSE Art, C17/C18, 3-4pm, Mrs Riley/Mr Iddon  
GCSE Maths, B3-5-7, 3-4pm  
GCSE Digitech, A3, 3-4pm, Mrs Matthews  
DofE Y9-10 (specific dates, from October 2023),  
3-4pm, B8, Miss Plancke

## WEDNESDAY

Let's talk, B1, lunch time, Mrs Gregory  
Strings, A4, 3.15-3.45pm  
Geography club, C13, 3.15-4pm, Mr Butler  
KS3 gym (invitation only), SPH, 3-4pm, Mr  
Ryder  
Badminton, SPH, 3-4pm  
Netball, courts, 3-4pm  
Golden Graduation, B10, 3.15-4.30pm, Mr  
Jenkinson/Miss Taylor  
GCSE History, C12, Mr Carter  
GCSE Art, C17/C18, 3-4pm, Mr Iddon, Miss  
Riley  
Science and CREST awards (from October  
2023), 3-4pm, B8, Miss Plancke

## THURSDAY

Chess, C9, 3-4pm, Mr Clarke  
Woodwind, A4, 3-4pm  
Percussion, A32, 3-4pm  
KS4 Art, C17, 3-4pm, Mrs Riley  
Singing, Piano, Keyboard, A4, 3-4.30pm  
Young readers, C2, 3-4pm, Mrs Brown  
GCSE, Geography, C13 to C15, 3-4pm, Mrs  
Stevenson/Mr Tock  
GCSE Science, 3-4pm, science labs  
GCSE Art, C17/C18, 3-4pm, Mrs Riley/Mr  
Iddon  
GCSE Religious studies, C16, 3-4pm, Mr  
Butt

## FRIDAY

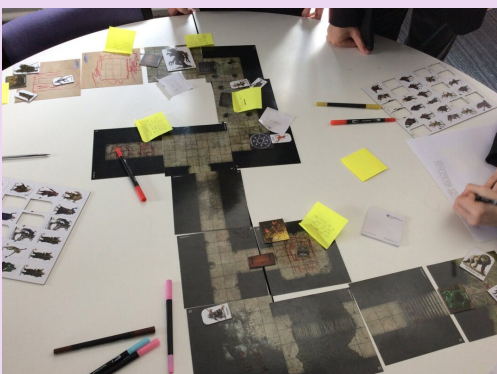
Dressmaking, C17, 3-4pm, Mrs Riley, (invite over  
a few weeks only)  
Chinese sessions, C7, 3-4pm (from October  
2023), Mrs Barnett/Mrs Lumber  
KS4 fitness club, SPH, 3-4pm  
Table tennis, Hall, 3-4pm, Mr Clarke (November  
start only)  
GCSE Business, A3, Mrs Matthews/Mr Buchanan  
GCSE Art, C17/C18, 3-4pm, Mr Iddon/ Miss Riley  
GCSE Sports studies, B15, Mrs Elson  
Eco-committee, Eco-schools project, B8, 3-4pm,  
Miss Plancke



Students in Years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to attend a game design workshop presented by UCLan (University of Central Lancashire) on Wednesday, 17th May 2023.

The day comprised of the game design workshop followed by a tour of the facilities and great campus, and finally a discussion and Q&A session with university ambassadors.

Students received information on the various courses on offer, the life as a student and the numerous extra opportunities available at the campus.



*Career in Game design - UCLan*



# Physics workshops for Year 9



9ySc1 and 9ySc2 had the privilege to take part in some very interactive science workshops on Monday, 22nd May. There were various activities on offer, all designed to engage with the Physics curriculum and deepen the students' knowledge and understanding.

Many thanks to the Lancaster University team and Blackpool Sixth form science for coming along and supporting our students and to the Ogden trust for funding the project.







# The Excellence Academy



Congratulations to our Year 9 students who took part in June 2023 in the Excellence academy programme hosted by Blackpool Sixth Form, in association with Oxbridge Edge.

The Excellence academy is a three year long programme of debates, which starts in Year 9 and will carry on with further workshops in Year 10 called 'Peace and Conflict' and Year 11 - plenty more energetic debates for our group to look forward to!

The last session of the programme saw teams debating the four following topics:

- Should learning to learn be a GCSE subject in its own right?
- Will reproductive technology be beneficial to humans in the long term?
- To what extent is history her story?
- Are religions licensed insanities?

The team did not win the overall debating contest, but did learn invaluable communication and resilience skills along the way with a superb effort from them all. Overall the students were extremely well behaved and had done extra research on each topic, in readiness for the session, which was great to see.

Thank you to Peter Wright and The Excellence Programme team for inviting us and Peter Garrett, for leading the debates.

# Geography Fieldwork

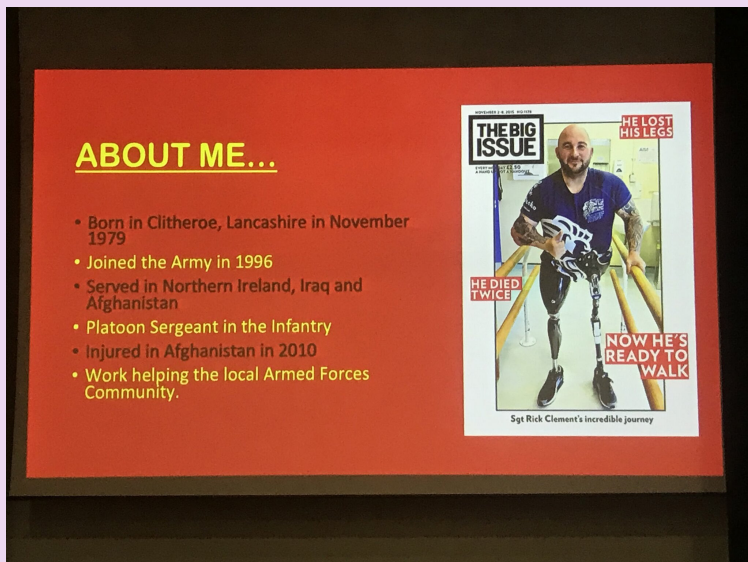


On Wednesday, 21st and Thursday, 22nd June the Year 10 GCSE geographers conducted their geography fieldwork in accordance with exam board regulations. Visiting Cleveleys to investigate coastal management strategies, our students were focusing on the groynes - shore protection structures built perpendicular to the shoreline of the coast, over the beach and into the shoreface (the area between the nearshore region and the inner continental shelf), to reduce longshore drift and trap sediments - investigating whether the groynes were effective in reducing longshore drift along the coastline.





# The Excellence Academy



In May and June 2023, some of our Year 10 students have taken part in the Excellence Programme at Blackpool Sixth Form, focusing on power and conflict around the globe and in particular Afghanistan and Iraq.

They had the privilege of meeting Sgt Rick Clement, a veteran of Northern Ireland and Afghanistan, who stepped on a bomb during the 2010 conflict losing both his legs and walked in public for the first time at a Remembrance Sunday service

The last week saw our Year 10 debating whether it was acceptable to target civilian infrastructure, diplomacy and peace treaties as well as nuclear powers and whether the national service should be reintroduced.



# History trip to London

Our History department held its first enrichment trip to London, with an overnight stay in the city on Monday, 19th June.

Students had the privilege of visiting the Imperial War Museum and the Old Operating Theatre. In the evening they attended a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre. The students also managed to squeeze in a visit to Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London before afternoon cruising on the Thames.



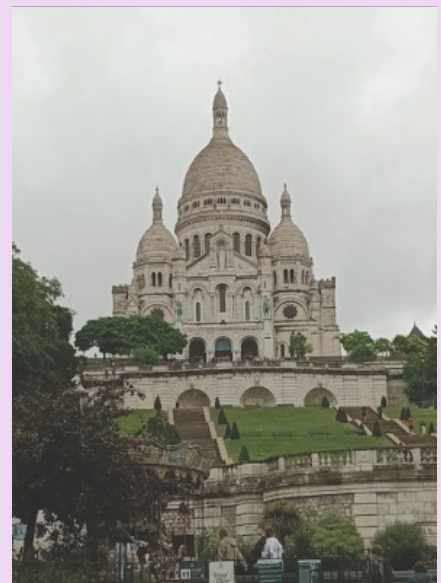
For most, it was an educational event they are unlikely to forget. Our special thanks go to Miss Martin and Mr Carter for this great opportunity

# MFL trip to Paris

40 students had the opportunity to visit Paris in July 2023 and what an opportunity this was.

From their first time travelling on the ferry or driving on the other side of the road, to tasting various French food and visiting historical buildings, our students experienced a different set of culture, attitude and traditions.

The whole continental breakfast was a hit every morning with French patisseries and baguettes just out of the oven! The students visited Montmartre Hill first, discovering its street artists and were very respectful once in the main basilica. That was followed with a tour of the Tower of Montparnasse and its 57 floors and panoramic views, the Eiffel tower and finally a river cruise around Notre Dame and the Invalids. All this excitement was broken up with lunch at a Flunch restaurant and some tea in the Xe arrondissement.





# End of Year trips 2023



**Our KS3 students were treated at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year to a cinema screening, one for each year group Y7, Y8 and Y9, to thank them for their efforts in lessons over the past few months. The events were held at the Vue Cinema in Cleveleys.**

**They all thoroughly enjoyed Guardians of the Galaxy 3.**



# Sports Day - July 2023



Fortunately, the poor weather in July held off long enough for our annual sports day event to go ahead at Stanley Park Sports Arena, with only a couple of spells of light drizzle attempting to dampen proceedings.

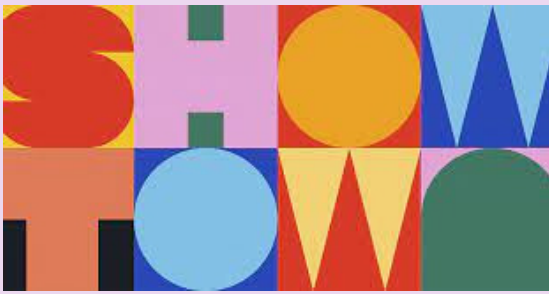
It was obvious from the outset that the overcast conditions could not diminish the enthusiasm of the students competing or those in the stands cheering them on; there was also a healthy turnout of parents, carers and well-wishers supporting all those taking part.

A vibrant display of athleticism, camaraderie, and healthy competition was in abundance across all the categories which consisted of 4x100m relay, 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800m, 1500m track races and long jump, triple jump, high jump, discus, javelin and shotput.



Sports Day 2023 will be remembered as another resounding success for Aspire Academy and our PE department which, without their hard work behind the scenes, this fun day just wouldn't take place.

# Art project with Design Lab



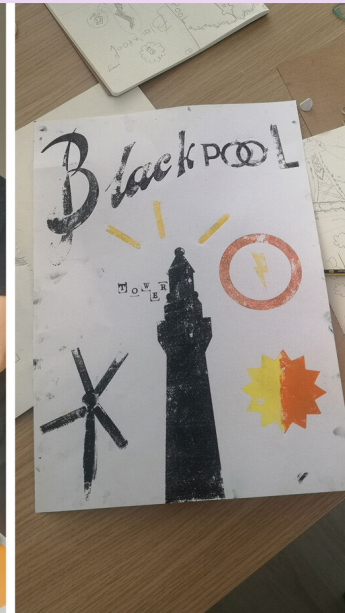
Did you know Blackpool Illuminations only use green electricity from renewable resources comprising of wind, small-scale hydro, landfill, and biogas?

The use of green electricity has reduced the annual Illuminations carbon dioxide emissions to zero, a saving of 420 tonnes per year in the atmosphere. At a time when rising energy prices are set to create real problems for many households, it would seem a great opportunity to reassure visitors that the illuminations are run in a sustainable way.

25 of our students were given the challenge to create a design for a light installation for the Blackpool illuminations that communicates the benefits of sustainable lighting.

To support them with this challenge, they worked with illustrator Nicolas Burrows who supported them in activities including drawing, collage, printmaking, and 3D prototyping. They underwent research and gathered inspiration during trips to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Blackpool Archives and Lightworks.

They were asked to share their designs in an exhibition in Blackpool at the end of the summer term 2023.





# School's Out for Summer



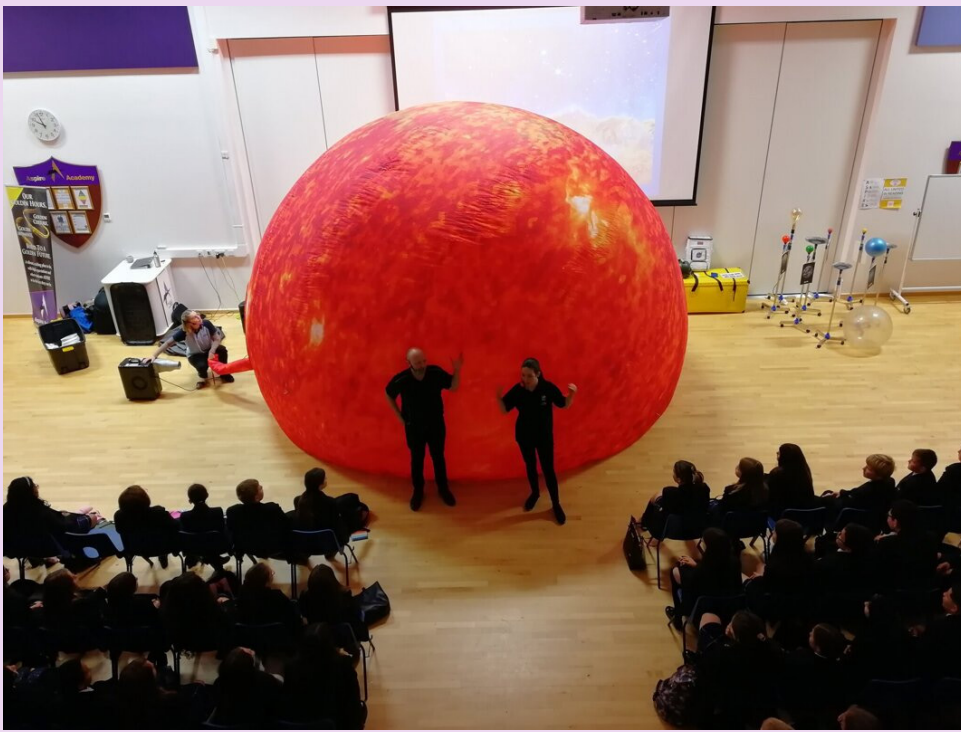
On Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th July, Pzazz, Aspire Academy's Performing Arts Company performed 'Schools' Out for Summer ', its summer show.

The students who took part worked really hard on their routines and performing this amazing show to packed audiences.

The show was a celebration of stage and screen musicals including: School of Rock, Matilda, Mean Girls, Six, Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen, Grease and High School Musical.







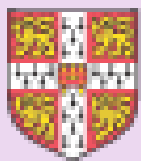
On the 26th september 2023, the BAE Systems Education Team, in partnership with the RAF and the Royal Navy, kindly agreed to present a fun session to our Year 7 and 8 students in our main hall.

The session covered the progress in engineering in extreme conditions, from the depths of the oceans to outer space, demonstrating the engineering challenges that are faced when travelling to the most inhospitable places imaginable. The students discovered some innovative solutions to these problems and examined how these were put into practice.

The team also discussed engineering careers within BAE Systems, the RAF, the Royal Navy and on a wider scale in the North West.



# Physics at work Conference - Year 11



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Cavendish Laboratory  
Outreach

Ten of our Year 11 students took part in the Physics at work exhibition at Cambridge University in September 2023. The exhibition allowed our students to interact with scientific researchers and current PhD students as well as discover Cambridge University and life as a university student.



From nanophotonics, neuroscience using light and sound, quantum physics, 3D printing and AI to physics in extreme conditions and research in Antarctica, students had the opportunity to discuss and discover a variety of careers in physics and how practical problems are solved using science.

Displaying exemplary behaviour and attitude during the presentations and lectures this was a great experience and opportunity for them all.



# Geography - Lake district residential

The Geography Department took 26 Year 10 and 11s to the Lake District at the end of September 2023. Leaving Aspire early Saturday morning, the aim of the trip was to immerse our students in a natural environment and where better to experience the great outdoors than the Lake District?!

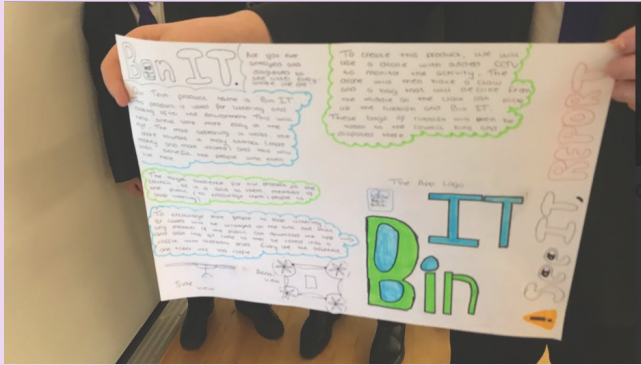
On the first day the group visited Conistone and walked through the historical Coppermines area to Leverswater, a 4-5 mile walk around. Most of our students had never seen the Lake District, wore walking boots, seen a wild sheep or experienced an actual footpath, so it was a superb achievement. Many admitted it was worth their moans and now the prospect of walking up to C floor in the Aspire building was no longer a challenge. They even saw Blackpool through Binoculars on the walk and were amazed. The fresh air helped a quiet night in their dorms too!

The second day was based on team challenges and conservation tasks. The group set humane mammal traps the previous evening and managed to catch seven woodmice and two voles. We also took part in willow coppicing and wreath making much to Ms Stevenson's, Mr Clarke's and Ms Plancke's delight. The challenging obstacle course was a muddy success, so too the fire lighting!



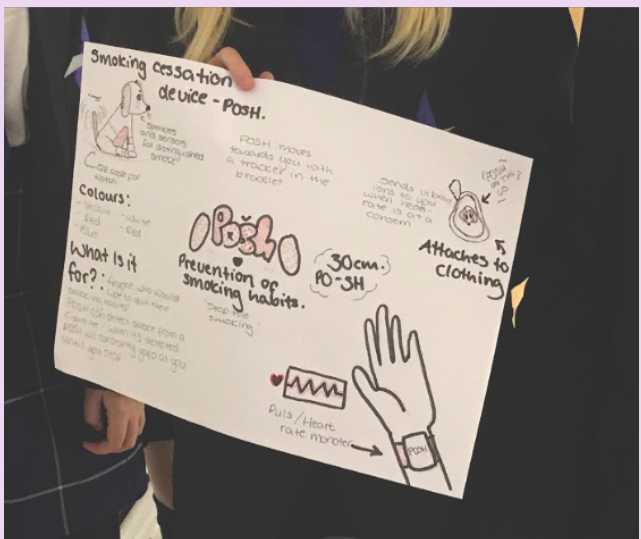


# Dell technologies workshops 2023



**On Friday 22nd September and 6th October, students from 9xSc1 to 9xSc4 acted as brand new ‘social enterprise’ companies, who are seeking ‘funding’ from Dell Technologies for a new and exciting tech product! During the workshop, they were encouraged to develop their knowledge of social issues in their community and the way that technology can be used for the greater good.**

**The programme raised students’ aspirations and developed key transferable skills such as creativity and teamwork, which can be used in the world of work. They also had to present their company, product and design to the Dell technology’s volunteers and Talent Foundry staff - a nerve-wracking moment for some!**



# The Mercians - Live!



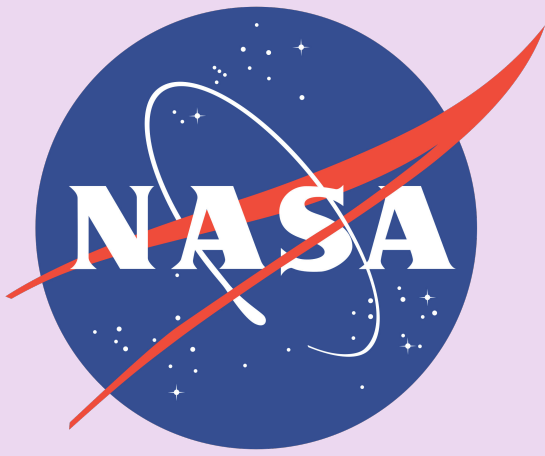
On 25th September, the whole school was lucky enough to have been joined by the indie pop/rock band The Mercians.

The 5-piece from Leicester are performing their own material, alongside some covers, all day to each year group. Between songs, they are holding question and answer sessions with our students about issues such as mental health and toxic masculinity.

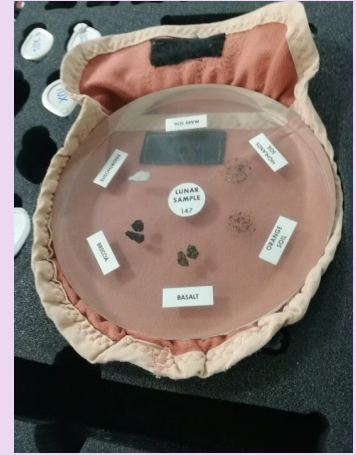
Thank you to The Mercians for treating our students to some jumping tracks!







# International Space week



As part of International Space week in Oct 2023, some of our students got the opportunity to view and handle rare samples of moon and martian rocks as well as meteorites last week during a series of enrichment sessions within the Science Department.

The rare samples were provided by NASA and the UK's Science and Technology Council. They included a 1.2 billion year old piece of Mars rock, a 4.3 billion year old nickel meteorite, parts of the Argentinian Campo de Cielo and Chondrite meteorites, as well as samples collected by the Apollo 11 moon landing team in 1969.

Samples like these can tell us a great deal about the planets from which they originate, but there is still much to learn. NASA and the STFC hope this will encourage students to become the next generation of astronomers.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, as did some of our staff!



# The Royal Institution Science Lives Here

The Royal Institution kindly accepted to deliver two science shows to our Year 7 and 8 students on Thursday, 19th October, 2023. The shows, titled KS3 Energy Live!, were enrichment activities aimed at developing the concept of energy in a fun and meaningful way.

Parents and carers were also treated to a Royal Institution twilight show later on the same day at 5pm and it was for our first Community show, well attended that evening.

The Royal Institution presents shows all over the UK. For more information on their work and engagement activities, please follow this link  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheRoyalInstitution>

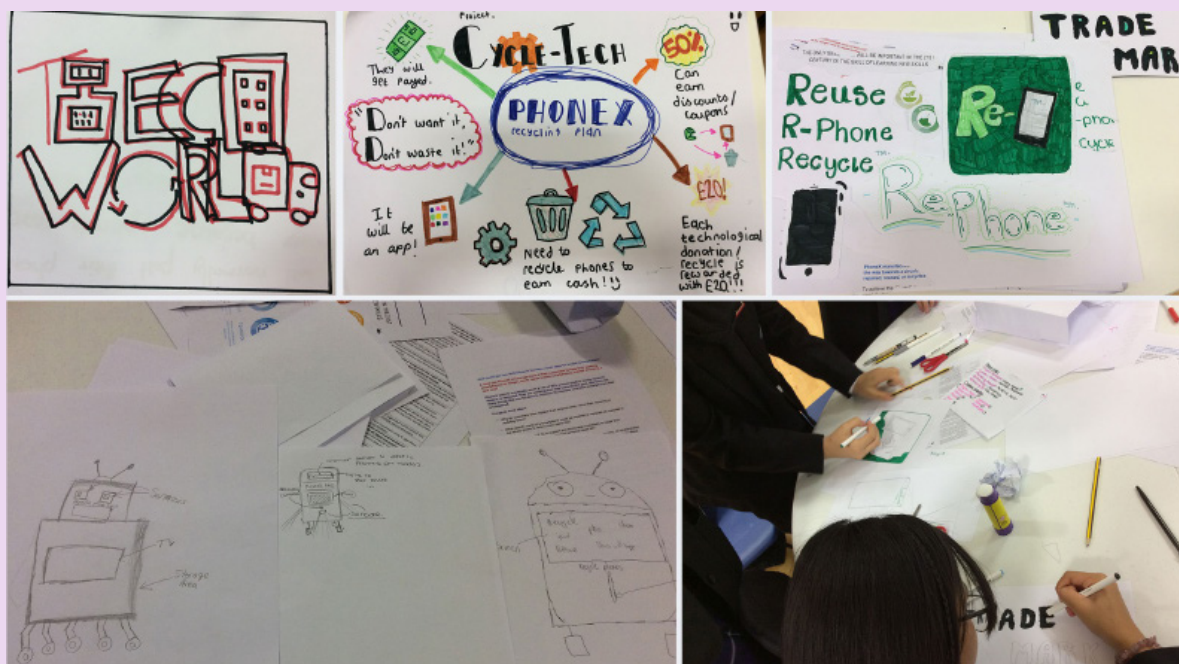




# KPMG Career workshops 2023

**Congratulations to our 8xsc3 and 8xsc4 classes, who successfully completed their STEM workshops with KPMG on Friday 20th October.**

**Presented by Catherine McNeill, recruiter, the STEM workshop involved using the latest technologies available to create a new design to support Iphone and Samsung to recycle their products, whilst keeping in-line with the companies' latest environmental strategy.**



**All students learned to listen to each other, discuss a brief as a team and come up with a solution, using persuasive skills and language to deliver two presentations: one, initially in front of their peers, then the second more daunting one (and announced only a short while before) to the KPMG volunteers present. Both volunteers and Catherine mentioned again how well the students worked together for over three hours to present a product that would be suitable. The presentations were successful indeed.**

# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKSHOPS

Our students have access to a wide range of workshops or sessions to discuss how they feel and to receive support if needed:

*Discussions with the mental health nurse during drop-in sessions (see posters in form rooms)*

*5 to 10 min of mindfulness sessions every week as part of their PSHE lesson*

*Let's talk and mindfulness with Mrs Gregory every Wednesday, lunchtime, C1*





*Blackpool Sixth form college*  
*Super Curricular lectures*

**2023/24**

**Mondays - 4 pm at the Sixth form College**

For more information and/or a letter please

Contact Miss Plancke  
in B8 or at

[p.plancke@aspire.fcat.org.uk](mailto:p.plancke@aspire.fcat.org.uk)

**6TH  
NOV**

**The Science of Memory  
Rob Fisher**

**13TH  
NOV**

**Conspiracy Theories  
Helen Crowther**

**20TH  
NOV**

**A Vocation in Public Service  
Chris Webb (Labour Party Parliamentary  
Candidate for Blackpool South)**

**27TH  
NOV**

**The science of effective learning: Optimising your  
studies!  
Alistair Burr- Pre-recorded talk**

**8TH  
DEC**

**\*FRIDAY**

**Turbulent times: An MP's role  
Paul Maynard MP, (Blackpool North and Cleveleys,  
Conservative Party MP)**

**11TH  
DEC**

**Hyperbrain  
Jodie Ellis**

**18TH  
DEC**

**Che Guevara: Hero or hypocrite?  
Dani Griezans**

**8TH  
JAN**

**How big is infinity?  
Rob Butler - Talk in the theatre**

**15TH  
JAN**

**Can a madman speak sense? Artaud and the theatre  
Mattjones - Talk in the theatre**

**22ND  
JAN**

**The beauty of Cleopatra  
Matt Speight - Talk in the theatre**

**29TH  
JAN**

**Offender Profiling: How valid are the methods we  
use?  
Leanne Mogan - Talk in the theatre**



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**5TH  
FEB**

**The science of the perfect cup of coffee!**  
**Dave Williams**

**26TH  
FEB**

**Becoming multilingual**  
**Jon Mcleod - Pre-recorded talk**

**4TH  
MAR**

**The boy who was turned into a girl**  
**Stephanie Benson - Pre-recorded talk**

**11TH  
MAR**

**An introduction to indigenous literatures and discourse**  
**Lucy Lavery, Salford University PHO student**

**18TH  
MAR**

**What do Pokemon and maths have in common?**  
**Callum Barnes**

**25TH  
MAR**

**How to be a philosopher**  
**Ken Walton**

**15TH  
APR**

**Artificial intelligence -threat or hype?**  
**Joe Mathews**

**22ND  
APR**

**Increasing working class voices in politics**  
**Lorraine Beavers (Labour Party Parliamentary  
Candidate for Blackpool North and Fleetwood)**

**29TH  
APR**

**Building Rwanda after the genocide**  
**Heather Danyadi**

**6TH  
MAY**

**Is the Literary Canon dead? Attitudes towards mortality**  
**Natalie Collister & Michelle Townsend - Pre-recorded**

**13TH  
MAY**

**Uncontacted tribes**  
**Matthew Morris**

**20TH  
MAY**

**STEM: Graduates of the Future**  
**Jon Turner, Lancaster University**





**JANUARY-FEBRUARY**  
**LET'S GET CREATIVE!**

Time to bring your young Elmer to life

## Art Trail

Elmer is coming to town and bringing an extra splash of colour and lots and lots of joy! From 13<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Elmer and 30 of his uniquely decorated friends will appear on the streets of Blackpool to form the biggest-ever public art trail the town has seen, running for eight weeks.

