



Newsletter

Empowering Every Child to Thrive & Flourish

March 2026

Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of a busy and successful spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and engagement with the school. Your partnership plays a vital role in ensuring that our students thrive both academically and personally, and it is greatly appreciated by staff and students alike.

This term has been filled with a wide range of activities and achievements across the school, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our whole community. Looking ahead, we return for the summer term on Monday 13th April. This is an important and focused period for many of our students. Our Year 11 students will begin their examination season and we wish them every success as they prepare to demonstrate all they have learned. In addition, our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATs and we are confident they will approach these with determination and resilience.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming students back for what promises to be another productive and rewarding term.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria O'Farrell

Vic O'Farrell
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary



Monday 13th April – Back to School

Monday 4th May – School Closed (Bank Holiday)

Tuesday 5th May – Back to School

Friday 22nd May – End of Half Term at 2.30pm

Monday 1st June – Back to School

Monday 20th July – End of Term at 2.30pm

All Rise!

All Rise Workshops are government funded workshops delivered through the founder James Stewart. All Rise assists in creating pathways into law for pupils, both primary and secondary. The initiative is to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and an introduction to students in possible careers within law.

Workshops involve an immersive experience for pupil engagement, providing role play and real life scenarios in the application of the justice system. Pupils take on the roll of legal representatives and are introduced to various aspects of the role, such as barristers, court report writers, court artists and jurors. This allows pupils to use inference skills, logical reasoning through analysing pieces of evidence from different crime scenes and an education of the law in their country.

'I enjoyed finding the clues to different crime scenes and being a barrister later, debating evidence that made the person guilty of his crime.' MBA

'I really enjoyed being able to use the props like the court mallet and shouting 'silence in the court room!' HW

**PUPIL
VOICE**

'The rewards were really cool like those celebrity trophies actors get for taking part in it. The man who taught us was really interesting too and fun.' DD



Next steps Year 11

Our Year 11 students recently took part in dedicated feedforward sessions following their mock examinations, providing a valuable opportunity to reflect on their progress. During these sessions, students carefully measured their performance against their target grades, identifying key strengths as well as areas for improvement. This supportive process encouraged them to take ownership of their learning and set clear goals for the months ahead. In addition, students were able to engage with our careers advisors, exploring potential pathways and next steps as they prepare to move on from Educational Diversity.

"It was really beneficial and gave me an understanding of where I am up to"

"I thought it was pretty useful for giving me an idea of what my options are moving forward"



Talent Foundry

Every year Talent Foundry visit Blackpool to offer Blackpool schools a programme encouraging ambition, skills development and confidence to Year 10 students. The programme equips students with essential financial literacy skills while helping them build aspirations, self-awareness and employability skills.

Year 10s from Pegasus and Athena went to the Holiday Inn for a session that looked at their plans and hopes for the future whilst thinking about what opportunities there are in Blackpool. Students then learned how to make non-alcoholic cocktails – a MojitoNo and an Espresso MartiNo – in a session led by the hotel mixologist.

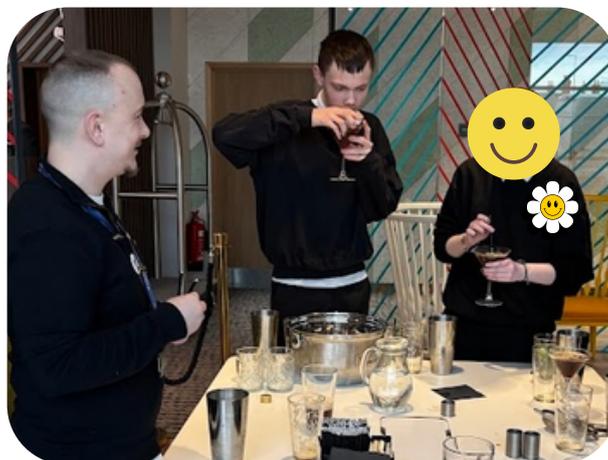
A follow up session at The Cliffs included a future based game of 'would you rather....' leading to some very detailed discussions on the value of money. There was a speed bed making competition and a full tour of the hotel including rooms and facilities to learn more about the hospitality industry. The team at Talent Foundry were very impressed with student engagement in both Athena and Pegasus sessions.

Student quotes from feedback:

"I really enjoyed how interactive it was
which made it fun"

"It's helped me understand the importance
of money and reliability"

"It has prepared me and given me lots of
ideas of what my future could look like"



Town Wide Careers

January 2026 saw our annual opportunity to get to know employers and education/training providers from across Blackpool and the north west. Local schools are fortunate to have the support of the Fylde Coast Responsible Business Network (RBN) who work tirelessly to bring everyone together. Our first encounter with an employer was a visit from Deborah Woods from Floation Energy who introduced the event in our centres and told us all about renewable energy at the offshore windfarm. The students were excited to be reunited with Deborah at the main event.

This year students in Key Stage 3 from Athena and Pegasus attended alongside staff to explore 3 zones packed with people waiting to share their knowledge and experience. The exhibitors arranged from solicitors to building companies, Border Force to Blackpool Transport and the army to the University of Lancashire! Our students showed confidence in asking questions and taking part in activities, Another memorable event!



George Cox

Key Stage 3 participated in a Modern Work Experience offer that is supported by the RBN and Connected Futures (a place based partnership). This is an opportunity to link to a workplace where the offer is employer led and linked to learning outcomes. Students welcomed employees from George Cox Construction (highways engineers) as they neared completion on the new access road to connect Amy Johnson Way and Common Edge Road. We then had an informative (but very chilly!) visit to the site, met some professionals at work, had a tour and tried some measuring equipment – with a nice link to school based Maths. Students were talking to staff about how good it would be to work in this industry on the drive back to the centre and they know more about that offer from this visit. We welcomed the team back to help students design their own road and its surroundings linked to nature and renewable energy – lots of effort and imagination shown there. Another employer link to build on and we look forward to more meaningful visits in the future.



Young Seasideers

This term, KS3 students took part in the local Young Seasideers art competition and exhibition, showcasing their creativity and teamwork. Our Athena students particularly impressed the judges with their collaborative craft piece, earning them the title of **2026 winners**.

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved, whose hard work and dedication brought to life a powerful piece highlighting the impact of pollution on our oceans. The exhibition is at The Gallery and Blackpool and The Fylde College, University Centre on Park road, Blackpool, until Friday 3rd April, and is open to the public.



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

We have been working hard over the last year to expand our Universal offer so that we can support the needs of all of our pupils, particularly those who are neurodivergent. Staff are intrinsically implementing reasonable adjustments such as; movement breaks, sensory toolkits and technology to support our neurodivergent learners.

Staff and pupils have engaged in activities this week to broaden their understanding about specific neurodivergent conditions such as; Dyslexia, ADHD and Autism. They have enjoyed learning about celebrities who have a diagnosis too!

As part of our SEND development, Arbor is now being used to track pupil diagnosis so that we can use the data to support referrals from Educational Diversity to the Neurodevelopmental Pathway and ADHD team.

We also have new induction processes and systems in place to ensure evidence of diagnosis is obtained as this is vital when applying for access arrangements in Keystage 4. All staff have also taken part in the AET accredited Making Sense of Autism course as part of the SEND CPD cycle.

World Book Day

Earlier this month we celebrated World Book Day as a whole school where we engaged in book-themed activities such as: storytelling, literary competitions, book hunts, reading together and dressing up as fictional characters. "We had fun guessing who the staff had dressed up as. I like how reading helps me with my own writing." (RS year 10) Our love of reading has truly been ignited, but it doesn't stop there as 2026 is the National Year of Reading which is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people to (re)discover the joy of reading. We hope students enjoyed exchanging their book tokens for their own World Book Day books. We all know how important reading is to our lives, at any age, as it not only increases our vocabulary, improves concentration levels and helps us to become better communicators, it also reduces stress and improves our grades.

Take the World Book Day pledge and commit to reading just 20 minutes per day and feel the benefits.



Ready for Re-integration

Helen Dolan (Integration Coach) and Amy Heard (SENDCo) have been working collaboratively to design and launch our new reintegration process. Our reintegration process is made up of a three tier graduated approach. The first being consideration of pupils who have benefitted from our provision as an intervention, who have good attendance and demonstrate a consistency in 'Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe'. We have discussions with parents and pupils whilst gathering relevant information and data on progress and performance. Pupils and parents are encouraged to give a choice of three schools to be considered.

Once we feel pupils are 'reintegration ready', referrals are processed through the Local Authority's Fair Access Panel (FAP) whereby a decision is made as to whether the referral will be accepted and a school allocated. The transition period can then begin with regular meetings between both schools involved. A bespoke transition plan is devised with regular reviews. Our final stage is reintegration, where the pupil commences their timetable in mainstream starting part time and building up to full time.

We are incredibly proud that we currently have three pupils reintegrating and four pupils who have been referred to FAP this month. This is testament to their improvement in many areas and the support provided by Educational Diversity.

A key part of our development has been training staff at both centres, training leaders in schools as well as presenting our approach to the SENDCo in Blackpool. At present we are working with mainstream high schools but envisage our primary pupils also being considered.

Bowling Competition Rolls into Action

In November 2025, the Athena 10 Pin Bowling Team from Educational Diversity took part in the regional 10 pin Bowling Competition at YMCA Thornton. The team showed exceptional skill, teamwork, manners and sportsmanship and won the competition progressing through to the county finals which took place in March 2026 in Burnley against a number of schools from Preston, Burnley, Lancaster, South Ribble, Blackburn, with Darwen, Pendle, Chorley, Rossendale, West Lancashire and Fylde. Educational Diversity again, showed amazing skill, confidence, resilience, teamwork, as well as having fun and won the event with a huge team score of 560 points. As well as **winning** the event **one pupil won the Marty Unsworth** hotshot award for two strikes and two spairs. The team was congratulated by the other schools and were a credit to our school community!



Sporting Success!

During this term, the students at Pegasus have attended various sporting events, including a KS3 football tournament, a girls' badminton event and a table tennis event. All of these opportunities allowed our students to compete against different schools within the Alternative Provisions Network as they proudly represented Educational Diversity by displaying their sportsmanship qualities; we are really proud of them as they should be of themselves.

A special mention goes to the KS3 students who came away undefeated from the football tournament, which was held at Accrington Community Trust. The students played five matches, winning three and drawing two. The students were extremely pleased that they were the only school to go undefeated on the day with one student (RH year 8) exclaiming, "I can't believe it! Has that ever happened before?" The skills which they learn in sport, such as communication and teamwork, are qualities which our students can transfer into other parts of their lives and continue to be the **winners** we know they already are.



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