

Empowering Every Child to Thrive & Flourish

Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another busy and successful summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many achievements, experiences and opportunities that our pupils have enjoyed over the past few months.

This edition of our newsletter highlights the breadth of learning that takes place both inside and outside the classroom. From our exciting Skills Builder Launch Day, which introduced pupils to the essential skills needed for future success, to the Careers and Enterprise Launch Event, we continue to place a strong emphasis on preparing our young people for life beyond school.

Our older pupils have embraced new challenges through Year 10 Work Experience, gaining valuable insights into the world of work and developing confidence, independence and employability skills. These experiences are invaluable in helping our students make informed choices about their future aspirations.

The term has also been filled with memorable enrichment opportunities. Pupils have enjoyed activities including bowling, the annual ski trip, and a competitive pool tournament, all of which have encouraged teamwork, resilience and friendship. Visits such as our trip to Lancaster Castle have brought learning to life and provided opportunities to explore history and culture beyond the classroom.

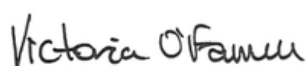
We have also delighted in welcoming our newest arrivals, the ducklings, whose presence has brought excitement and joy throughout the school community. Meanwhile, our Primary 1 LINK activities have strengthened partnerships and supported successful transitions for younger learners.

A particularly significant milestone this term has been saying goodbye to our Year 11 leavers. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us and wish them every success and happiness as they embark on the next stage of their journeys. They leave with our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

None of these opportunities would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of families and carers, and the enthusiasm of our pupils. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this term such a positive and rewarding one.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and experiences featured in this newsletter. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Vic O'Farrell
Headteacher



Skills Builder Launch Day

Our school is currently looking at how we support students to develop and grow their skills so that they feel more confident in their studies, work and all aspects of life. We have worked closely with Skills Builder over the last 2 years to support workplace visits through a Modern Work Experience offer allowing for meaningful relationships between employers and our school. It was now time to launch the skills across the whole school and what better way than a full day timetabled with exciting sessions created by teachers in Athena and Pegasus that offered students the opportunity to showcase their own skills. Certificates, prizes, cakes and a selfie frame helped give a launch day buzz! We had some guests join us and their feedback clearly shows success and opportunity:

Jane Ayrton: Enterprise Coordinator: Inspira

It was a well organised and enjoyable day, and I had the pleasure of working with a group of students who engaged in all the activities and put into practice problem solving, teamwork, creativity, listening and speaking. During the event, they worked together to find out how to cross a room and avoid obstacles, keep a balloon in the air and create a plan to make a visit to a venue in Blackpool more interesting, to name just a few.

Thank you for inviting me along to share the day and for the skills builder cupcake it was lovely.

Michelle Walker– Project Manager: Fylde Coast Responsible Business Network

I loved your school wide introduction (from the Headteacher) as to why skills are so important and how they help students succeed both at school and what employers are looking for in the future. I hear this so many times from employers and it was great to see this translated and adopted by Educational Diversity.

The sessions were well thought out, engaging and fun. I enjoyed listening to KS2 students start off speaking about their favourite foods in front of their peers. Then onto KS3 where students were using creativity to design some very cool marble runs. I popped into a further session whereby the students were planning and making wind turbines.

What struck me was the thought, and effort that had gone into the tasks and structure of the day. And whilst it was a day different to the usual timetable, the students were giving it a go and getting stuck into the activities, despite the heat!



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience: What a Week!

Students across Athena and Pegasus attended a work experience placement for one week in June. This year we had a wide variety of employer offers to support with most students accessing a placement in a vocational area that they might want to move into after school.

Our employers included:

- Easterleigh Animal Sanctuary
- Walkies Blackpool
- Evolution Construction Group
- Christ the King Catholic Academy
- Manor Nursery school
- Trinity Hospice Shop
- Westminster Primary Academy
- Decades Retro Café Bar
- Bella Italia
- Buttylicious
- Go Electrical



Students had daily visits from school staff to check in and learn about tasks they were completing. The week was a huge success with positive feedback from employers and students! We know how well it went because successes have included: offers of part-time weekend work, increased confidence around people, being able to adapt to a totally new environment, offers of Year 11 the placements as part of timetable and even a possible apprenticeship after leaving school! Well done Year 10!



Aspiring Pathways

Creating Pathways to Success

Our school was delighted to host the launch of the **Aspiring Pathways** programme, a new government-funded initiative that will help more young people in Alternative Provision access meaningful work experience opportunities. The event brought together leaders from education, business and government to highlight the importance of giving young people the chance to explore the world of work, build confidence and develop the skills they need for the future. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the positive impact that careers education and employer engagement can have on our pupils and their aspirations.

The real stars of the day were our young people. We were incredibly proud that one of our Year 11 pupils Jamie, and one of our former students, Warren, were invited to join the young person's panel, where they shared their experiences of work placements and spoke about how these opportunities have helped them grow in confidence and think positively about their futures. They also took part in interviews with the BBC, representing the school brilliantly and demonstrating just how valuable work experience can be. Their stories were inspiring and a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved when young people are given the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone, discover their strengths and realise their potential.



Curling and Pool Tournaments

Athena Pupils Shine at Bolton Arena

Six pupils from Athena proudly represented the school at a recent sporting event held at Bolton Arena, delivering an outstanding performance against strong competition from Manchester, Bolton, and Liverpool.

Having already secured victory in the regional finals in Blackpool, the team arrived with confidence and determination. Throughout the day, they demonstrated exceptional skill, resilience, and teamwork, competing at a very high level in every match. Their cooperation and positive communication on the court enabled them to progress through the rounds and earn a well-deserved place in the final.

The pupils should be extremely proud of their achievements. They played with confidence, supported one another, and consistently upheld the values of Educational Diversity—being ready, respectful, and safe—throughout what was a long and demanding day. Their performance not only showcased their sporting ability but also reflected their excellent attitude and commitment as representatives of the school. Well done to all involved for competing with such pride and determination.



Pegasus Cue Up for Success!

During this term, Pegasus students had the exciting opportunity to participate in a pool tournament alongside other alternative provisions. The day proved to be a huge success, with all students fully engaged from start to finish. It was fantastic to see such high levels of enthusiasm, focus, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Students worked together in pairs during matches, demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication, and mutual support. They showed resilience and determination, celebrating successes together and encouraging one another through every game. Staff were particularly impressed with how students conducted themselves, representing Pegasus with pride and maturity.

In addition to developing their skills in the game, the event also provided a valuable opportunity for students to socialise and build positive relationships with peers from other provisions in a friendly and inclusive environment.

The highlight of the day came at lunchtime, when CK summed up the experience perfectly, saying: "I have really enjoyed today - is there any chance we can come next week and play again?" This comment truly reflects the enjoyment and positive impact the event had on our students.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and look forward to providing more opportunities like this in the future



Sports Day

Everyone's a Winner at Educational Diversity Sports Day

Educational Diversity recently held an exciting and inclusive school Sports Day, bringing together pupils and staff from both school Athena and Pagasus for a fantastic day of friendly competition, teamwork, and fun.

The event featured a wide variety of activities, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to take part and enjoy themselves. Traditional favourites such as the egg and spoon race proved as popular as ever, while pupils also enjoyed trying their hand at archery, indoor javelin, boccia, and curling. A range of sporting activities, including badminton, short tennis, basketball, and table tennis, kept participants active and engaged throughout the day. It was wonderful to see every pupil getting involved and taking part with enthusiasm. The positive attitudes, determination, and sportsmanship displayed by all participants truly reflected the spirit of the event. Staff participation was also fantastic to see, helping to create a fun and supportive atmosphere and encouraging pupils to give their best in every activity.

Both centres competed passionately throughout the day, showing excellent team spirit while maintaining a healthy competitive edge. There were plenty of laughs, encouragement, and memorable moments as teams supported one another and celebrated each other's achievements.

To conclude the day, certificates were presented to the winning team and the runners-up in recognition of their outstanding efforts. However, the real success of the day was seeing all pupils actively participating, having fun, and building confidence through sport and teamwork.

A fantastic time was had by all, making this year's school Sports Day a memorable and successful event for everyone involved.



Skiing

A Chilling Adventure: Students Take to the Slopes at the Snow Centre

As part of Educational Diversity's Rewards Programme, students were given an exciting opportunity to visit the Snow Centre at the Trafford Centre in Manchester, an experience that proved both memorable and inspiring.

From the moment they arrived, students represented both themselves and the school with pride, demonstrating outstanding behaviour, respect and a positive attitude throughout the trip. Their conduct reflected the very values the rewards system aims to celebrate.

For many of our students, this was their first ever experience of skiing, making the day even more special. Stepping into the Snow Dome, where temperatures plunge to a brisk 6 degrees, they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Despite the unfamiliar conditions, the students quickly adapted and threw themselves into the activity.

The session required them to learn a range of new skills, from correctly putting on ski equipment to safely accessing the slopes. Perhaps the greatest challenge of all was mastering the art of balance, learning how to stay upright on skis! Yet, through perseverance and encouragement, students showed remarkable resilience and a willingness to learn.

Laughter, teamwork and a sense of achievement filled the day, as students supported one another and celebrated their progress. By the end of the session, it was clear that this experience had not only introduced them to a new sport but had also boosted their confidence and independence. Overall, the trip was a fantastic success, a rewarding and enriching experience that our students will remember for years to come.



Ducklings

From Egg to Waddle: A Truly Special Experience!

Over the past few weeks, our school has been filled with excitement as we welcomed our Egg to Hatch programme into the classroom. Watching the eggs hatch and caring for the ducklings has been a wonderful experience that brought so much joy to everyone involved.

We were delighted to welcome five Runner ducklings, each with their own unique personality and a fantastic name:

James Pond

Michela Quackson

Big Bad Barry

Young Sheldon

Pippin

From the moment the first egg began to hatch, our students were captivated. They eagerly watched each stage of the ducklings' journey, learning about life cycles, growth, and the importance of caring for living things. What has been especially heartwarming is seeing the nurturing side of our students shine. They showed such kindness, patience, and responsibility, by making sure the ducklings were safe, comfortable, and well cared for each day.

The ducklings brought smiles, laughter, and a real sense of calm throughout the school. It wasn't just our students who fell in love with them—our staff thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our feathered visitors too! The ducklings quickly became much-loved members of our school community.

Although it's time for us to say goodbye, we're excited to share that the ducklings are now beginning their next adventure at Eastleigh Animal Sanctuary, where they will continue to grow and thrive. We hope to arrange visits in the future so our students can see how much James Pond, Michela Quackson, Big Bad Barry, Young Sheldon, and Pippin have grown.

Did you know? 🦆 Ducks have almost 360° vision, allowing them to see nearly all the way around without turning their heads. They can also recognise up to 100 different human faces!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this experience so special, and a big thank you to the wonderful Incredible Eggs company! The memories—and the quacks—will stay with us for a long time!



Year 11 Leavers

Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Celebration

The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly was a memorable and emotional occasion, well attended by parents and carers who came along to celebrate the achievements of our pupils. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the journeys the students have taken during their time at school.

A range of subject awards were presented, recognising effort, resilience, and academic success across all areas of learning. Alongside these were a series of light-hearted and funny awards, which brought laughter and joy to the occasion, capturing the personalities and memories of the year group.

A particularly special part of the assembly was the presentation of our annual key awards, given in remembrance of valued members of staff who have passed away. These awards continue to honour their legacy and highlight the values and dedication they brought to the school community.

The atmosphere was incredibly positive, with pupils clearly proud of their achievements and their time at school. Parents and carers were visibly overwhelmed with pride, making the event a truly meaningful and heartfelt celebration for all involved.

Following the assembly, pupils attended their Year 11 Leavers Party with Athena at Ballers and Pegasus at West Coast, where the celebrations continued in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Pupils were provided with food and had the opportunity to play pool and darts, as well as spend quality time with both peers and staff.

The evening was filled with laughter, music, and dancing, giving everyone the chance to celebrate together one final time. It was a fantastic event where pupils created lasting memories, and it was clear that a very good time was had by all.

Overall, both the assembly and the celebration were a fitting tribute to a brilliant group of young people as they move on to the next stage of their journeys.



Lancaster Castle

Visit to Lancaster Castle and Lancashire Police Museum

Year 10s at Athena are studying Crime and Punishment as part of their Entry Level and GCSE History syllabus offers. This visit gave us the opportunity to learn about how the castle has been key to developments in this area over time. We had a guided tour of prison cells through the ages and tales of prisoner treatment, learned all about the castle's ties with the Pendle Witch Trials and stood in the criminal and civil courts where gathering for trials was a societal occasion as well as a very serious procedure.

After lunch, in a very sunny courtyard, we had a talk in the Police Museum looking at prisoner conditions and forensic equipment to help solve crimes. There was time for us to explore the cells and even take some immersive photos! A very enjoyable and informative day out!





Primary 1 News



Welcome!

It's been a whirlwind summer term and we've packed in so much learning and investigation. We started the term with the arrival of our new students, as well as some extra special guests! Here's a whistle-stop tour of our term so far.

THIS TERM'S FUN!



Along with our new students five baby caterpillars also joined us. After an afternoon of careful name selection, each student had claimed their caterpillar and named them; Royal, Jeff, Flower, Martin and Spiney. We followed their progress as they grew, created their chrysalis and finally emerged as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies.



Goodbyes

It's been a pleasure having students attend our LINK programme for the last 12 weeks. We've spent time building resilience, teamworking and learning how to be ready, safe and respectful. I'm so proud of how far you've all come!

We also have two students transitioning to Calder Lodge for an exciting new chapter in their learning journeys

A big thank you to all of our wonderful families and staff for making Primary 1 such a fun and happy place.



OTHER EXCITING PROJECTS

- Ancient Egypt
- The Titanic
- The Great Fire of London
- Meeting the ducklings
- Primary Engineers train building STEM
- Food around the world
- London
- Dinosaur week
- Pirates
- Catering lessons
- The Great Outdoors



HEALTHY HABITS!

We learnt all about healthy foods and lifestyle and our top tips were:

- Eat yummy healthy foods
- Drink lots of water
- Get a good night's sleep
- Play and stay active



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STAY INFORMED WITH UPDATES, REMINDERS, PHOTOS, AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM
ACROSS THE SCHOOL.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY.

WE LOVE SHARING WHAT OUR PUPILS ACHIEVE.



<https://www.facebook.com/EducationalDiversity>



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Dates for your Diary

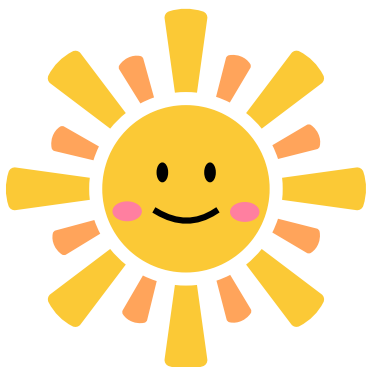


Thursday 3rd September – Back to School

Thursday 22nd October – End of Half Term at 2.30pm

Monday 2nd November – Back to School

Friday 18th December – End of Term at 2.30pm



ENJOY THE SUMMER