

# Great Sankey High School NEWSLETTER



March 2023



## YEAR 7 NATIONAL CUP FINALISTS!

Our Year 7 boys' football team had already made history by reaching the semi-finals of the ESFA Boys under 12s Playstation 9-a-side Schools Cup as no other Warrington school had ever gone as far – but on Monday they went one step further.

The team beat Northampton School for Boys 3-2 in Monday's semi-final, with Jack Waters scoring twice to go with a further goal from Elliot Hardman.

Great Sankey High School will now contest the final at The Hawthorns,

the home ground of Championship side West Bromwich Albion – on Monday, May 22.

Having taken a commanding 3-0 lead, the boys caused made onlooking spectators anxious as Northampton scored two late goals. However, the team held out to make it through to the final.

Mr McCann, team manager, said, "Reaching the final is obviously a massive achievement. These boys are ready for the challenge and we aim to give them the best possible

chance to create a lasting legacy. We want to show the country that this is not only a rugby town, but now has school football teams to be recognised nationally."

We will share details of how parents and carers can keep up with events at the Hawthorns when they are available.

Congratulations to the boys— everyone in school is proud of this fantastic achievement!

# Headteacher Update

Parents/Carers, I hope our first newsletter finds you well and looking forward to the Easter break. This week we welcomed an inspection team from Ofsted into school. The outcome of the inspection remains confidential but I am looking forward to sharing the final report with you when it is published. We expect that to be by the end of April. The staff and students were absolutely superb and I have been proud of all of them during an experience that can be stressful for everyone in school. They all deserve a rest.

Today, we say farewell to Miss Sri-Udom in our Geography department as she moves to a promoted post elsewhere. I wish her the very best of luck after 6 successful years here. After the break we will welcome a new teacher in the PE department, Miss Derbyshire.

Over the last two days, the Year 11 student leaders have joined me in the process to select members of our new Junior Leadership Team. This is a team that will meet with me once a month to discuss issues and work strategically to make improvements to student life in school. The standard has been simply amazing. We had 120 applications and 40 students were shortlisted for the final process. We have some

difficult decisions to make to choose the successful students. We will let students know the outcome when we return.

I want to congratulate the Year 7 boys' football team for their superb progress in the National Cup. We cannot wait for the final! Well done lads!

Sadly, I missed the semi final as I was on a call with the lead inspector on Monday. At least one of my teams are doing well! Sadly, Everton are not doing quite so well.

This term has been extremely busy topped off with an Ofsted visit. There have been many highlights (and a couple of lowlights) but after two terms here I feel 'at home' and know what needs to be done to get the school where it can be. Meeting the dozens of parents and carers over the last 12 weeks has been so important in order to get your perspective on what we do well and what we can do better. Thanks to all of those who have emailed me, rung me or met me. I hope you all manage to have a restful 2 week break. Best wishes

Mr G Evans



## Alumni Network

Calling all Great Sankey High school Alumni! If you are a past student of Great Sankey high please complete the short Microsoft form below, we would love to hear from you!

<https://forms.office.com/e/DtCvM4b4kW>

## Scholar awards

We are re-launching our scholars award with our students. These awards are given to those students who show outstanding commitment to after school enrichment activities here at Great Sankey High school. Details are being shared with pupils in assembly and awards and certificates will be handed out at the start of our summer term. If you fancy joining one of our after school activities please check the room details on our website - we look forward to seeing you there!







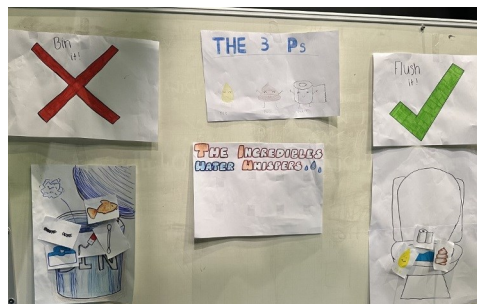
# SCIENCE WEEK

Our Science department recently celebrated a fantastic Science Week with our pupils!

It began with a trip to the Manchester Science and Industry Museum - 60 of our keenest Y7 STEM enthusiasts attended a day of hands-on experiments and exhibitions, including a lively Q&A session with four local STEM professionals. The pupils asked some really insightful questions and learned a lot - they were a credit to our school.

The excitement continued with a speaker from Science Made Simple, delivering the amazing XX Factor show. She spoke to Y7 and Y10 pupils about some of the lesser well-known scientists, engineers and mathematicians who have made great contributions to the world of STEM. The show was informative and entertaining, with smoke rings, a theremin and exploding canisters!

The final event of the week was a fantastic opportunity for a group of our Y9 girls, with the aim of encouraging more girls to consider a career in STEM. We had visitors from United Utilities, who mentored the girls to produce presentations addressing some of the environmental issues faced by such a large water company. The girls engaged really well with the task and included a variety of different media and resources in their presentations, with two teams being awarded prizes for their efforts.



There was a real buzz around the Science department during the whole week - a STEM success!

# MATHS CHALLENGE

We would like to proudly celebrate and congratulate all students in Years 9-11 that competed with the best aspiring mathematicians in the country as part of the UKMT Maths Challenge.

Nathan (Y10), Bosco (Y11), Heather (Y11), Alvin (Y11) and HayIn (Y11) all received Gold certificates, meaning they scored in the top 9% nationally. Their impressive results meant they were invited to take part in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge for which they are awaiting their results.

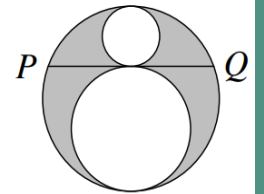
We also had 3 students from Year 10 and 3 from Year 9 receive a Silver Certificate. This means they finished in the top 33% in a field including Year 11s! Another 24 students received Bronze Certificates scoring more than half of all students competing in the UK.

Here is a taste of the level of challenge these fantastic students were up against. Let us know if you have an answer!

The diagram shows two unshaded circles which touch each other and also touch a larger circle. Chord  $PQ$  of the larger circle is a tangent to both unshaded circles. The length of  $PQ$  is 6 units.

What is the area, in square units, of the shaded region?

- A  $3\pi$       B  $\frac{7\pi}{2}$       C  $4\pi$       D  $\frac{9\pi}{2}$       E  $5\pi$



## Noughts and Crosses Play

Earlier this term, Year 10 Drama GCSE students had the chance of going to see Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman, at The Lowry in Manchester. This trip was organised to further expand their knowledge and understanding of the play that they are studying for their Component 3 written exam. Giving the students the opportunity to see this amazing production can support students with their learning and give them the chance to see how the Performing Arts industry works. Here at Great Sankey, we also work to ensure our we are giving students every opportunity to inspire them to follow their own dreams in many different sectors like the Arts.

"I really enjoyed the trip. It was very helpful for our exam because I understood the play a lot more and could come up with more creative ideas in the exam after seeing the play and how it was originally staged and performed."- Olivia, Year 10

"I felt the trip really helped the group as we had our mock the next day. It was enjoyable to watch and I would recommend this to other students that are doing the same play for their GCSEs"- Lucy, Year 10



"It was very useful and helped with the exam a lot. I think moving forward all drama students need to have the same experience that we did as I think they would really benefit from it."- Finlay, Year 10





# THE ADDAMS FAMILY

The Performing Arts transformed Barrow Hall Theatre for a series of stunning shows last month. Packed audiences were treated to a real spectacular with amazing performances from all involved. Many thanks to our Performing Arts department and everybody who contributed to an outstanding show. We asked Mrs Cosgrove, Head of Performing Arts, to tell us what is so special about Great Sankey High School shows.

"The school musical is much more than "a play with a few songs". I think people only begin to understand what this experience involves when they come to watch our productions; it is a whole school full scale exhibition, encompassing all of the arts. Those that come to support can see that it really is an equal partnership of acting, a live band, singing, dancing and set design. Those involved also understand the even bigger picture that involves choreography, tech crew, prop crew, costume and make up, marketing, tickets, refreshments and stage management. A lot of work goes into these productions by students, staff and also support from parents. To have the opportunity to be involved in the school musical (in any capacity) teaches our students life skills such as building confidence, commitment, team work, leadership, creativity, expression, independence, perseverance, resilience, emotional intelligence whilst also supporting their social wellbeing. These are among the experiences our students will value and remember most when they have long left education and are adults in the world of work with their own families! We are a fully inclusive school and although we audition for the lead parts, anyone can be involved providing they are willing and able to commit to the rehearsal and performance schedule. We encourage new students to come and be part of our performing arts family. If you are reading this thinking you might like to be part of this next year, please do give it a try. "There are no regrets in life, just lessons."

Mrs Cosgrove, Head of Performing Arts







# ADDAMS FAMILY REFLECTIONS

Students who took part in The Addams Family production gave us their thoughts after the amazing run of shows.

“Being part of the show is amazing and honestly, it is like a second family. Everyone is so kind and always understands if a prop does not go onto stage on time. The backstage crew are all so sweet and loved by many. The head of the cast really don’t like to act like they are superior to anyone and are so respectful. And finally for the teachers they are just so amazing and loyal to the show thanks to them I can actually move a prop and run a team.”  
Jack, Year 9

“The Addams family has completely changed my life, the friends I’ve made, the welcoming sense of community. This all adds up to bring someone’s happiness and confidence way up.” Lucy, Year 9

“It was a great experience being back stage, hopefully I can join again next year in the next show but all I can say is well done all and thank you for a great experience.” Thomas, Year 9

“I really enjoyed the musical this year, it felt like a big family and there was no judgement. I’m really happy I got to be a part of it.” Teya, Year 9

“It was truly a magical experience bring backstage, helping to set the scene and watch the play unfold.” Georgia, Year 11



# Great Sankey STEM Bake Off

Friday 17th March was an exciting day for Mr Jenkins and Mrs Stones, as 10 of our students put their baking talents to the test to produce a cake based on this year's 'British Science Weeks' theme of 'Connections'. Staff who came to look at students' creations were astounded by the pupils' creativity and the range of interpretations for 'connections'. A massive well done goes to Lewis, Poppy, Gabriella, Katie, Jessie, Jamie and Henry for entering both delicious and beautifully decorated bakes and our congratulations go to our three winners:

- 1st Place - Max (Year 9)**
- 2nd Place - Austin (Year 7)**
- 3rd Place - Lily (Year 10)**



## Literary Festival 2023

March saw the return of Great Sankey's annual Literary Festival and this year's involved more events and departments than ever!

The English department arranged for Key Stage 4 students to have two evening trips to see a performance of *An Inspector Calls* and a trip to Bridgewater Hall for Poetry Live hearing poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker and Simon Armitage perform and discuss their work.

Author visits, arranged by our librarian Ms Clemson, for Year 7 and 8 allowed students to hear from authors Frank Cottrell Boyce and Phil Earle and groups of students had workshops from these successful authors to inspire their own use of the written work.

For the first time, our festival also involved work in other languages thanks to the MFL department with Year 7 watching the Spanish play "*Mi personalidad*" and Year 8 seeing the French work "*La maison hantee*."

The Performing Arts and Art departments delivered lessons based around works from the English curriculum, with Year 8 and 9 having Drama and Music lessons based around works from Charles Dickens and Year 7 experiencing Art lessons based around the text *Eleven*. The American author of *Eleven*, Tom Rogers, joined Year 7 students virtually via Teams to discuss his work and answer their questions.

World Book Day itself saw staff across the school dressing up as literary characters for Key Stage 3 students to participate in a challenge to name each character and there were literary events in the LRC. Thank you to all staff who took part. Mr Brighthouse

# School Uniform—A Reminder

As we reach the end of term, we would like to take the opportunity to revisit the uniform expectations so that students are prepared for the return after Easter. Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work. The uniform policy is available on the website for further reference, but please see the additional guidance below:

**Socks – black ankle socks.**

**Shoes – black polishable leather or simulated leather. No boots, canvas shoes or trainer style shoes are permitted, including branded sports makes including (but not limited to) Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Converse, Stan Smiths and Vans. We are aware that companies do market these as school shoes but they must meet our criteria.**

**Coat – due to the change in weather we will not be allowing coats in the school building. Hoodies and non-school jumpers remain prohibited.**

**Make-up, false eyelashes, nail varnish or jewellery – must not be worn for school. Items of jewellery which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated and students can collect at the end of the day from their year office for first offences.**

**We will be enforcing the uniform policy when we return after Easter. On the first day back staff will check the uniform of all students in form time and throughout the day. This will continue each day of the first week, for those who turn up in incorrect uniform. We will contact you each day when the uniform is not correct.**

**If you have any questions about the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year team or refer to the uniform policy on the website. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying. If there are any extenuating circumstances, which mean you are unable to meet the uniform requirements, please email the relevant year team:**

Year Group	Contact email address
Year 7	<a href="mailto:Intake2022@greatsankey.org">Intake2022@greatsankey.org</a>
Year 8	<a href="mailto:Intake2021@greatsankey.org">Intake2021@greatsankey.org</a>
Year 9	<a href="mailto:Intake2020@greatsankey.org">Intake2020@greatsankey.org</a>
Year 10	<a href="mailto:Intake2019@greatsankey.org">Intake2019@greatsankey.org</a>
Year 11	<a href="mailto:Intake2018@greatsankey.org">Intake2018@greatsankey.org</a>

**We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally and trust the guidance above makes things clear for everyone.**

**Mrs Wardle, Deputy Headteacher**





# SPORTS' NEWS

It has been fantastic to see the number of students continuing to take part in extracurricular activities. Please continue to come and get involved. All abilities and experiences welcome.

I am delighted to share some recent success stories and congratulate the following:

Sports Hall Athletics - Year 7 and 8 girls teams qualified for the county finals. Year 7 came 4th and the Year 8s came 8th (they won The Spirit of the Games title).

Year 7 Girls Football - Warrington school champions, having going through the whole tournament without conceding a goal.

Year 9 Rugby- Year 9 progress to the North West Final with 28-16 victory over St Mary's and they also won their last 16 match 32-14 vs Glantaff to qualify for the National Quarter Final.

Year 11 Rugby- Year 11 continue the phenomenal form they have shown since year 7 to progress into another North west Final. This week they have also progressed to the National RFL semi final after beating West Lakes 20-6.

Mr Garry—Head of PE





For the latest news and information follow us on our digital platforms



[greatsankey.org](https://greatsankey.org)



[twitter.com/GreatSankeyHS](https://twitter.com/GreatSankeyHS)



[facebook.com/GreatSankeyHS/](https://facebook.com/GreatSankeyHS/)