

Great Sankey High School NEWSLETTER



June 2023



GREAT SANKEY SPORTING TRIUMPHS!

What a term it has been for the sporting teams of Great Sankey High School. In just a few weeks the following teams won the following titles.

Year 7 Football Team—They became the first school team from Warrington to win the PlayStation National Cup Final. Members of the same team then went on to win the 'Manchester United Emerging Talent Cup' last week.

Year 8 Rugby Team—They became Warrington Schools 9 a side Rugby

Champions.

Year 9 Rugby Team—They won the North West RFL Trophy beating Standish 14-8. This made up for the disappointment of losing to the same team in the National Semi Final.

Year 11 Rugby Team— The team completed a remarkable achievement, winning the Nation RFL Trophy for the third time of asking! They won the trophy each time it was held since they started in 2018 with Covid interrupting the events in 2020 and 2021. They dominated the

final in Featherstone with a small army of parents, friends and staff in attendance. Just one week later, the lads battled to victory against Wade Deacon High School (Widnes) to take the North West RFL Trophy yet again. They even made national radio when Chris Moyles announced their double, pointing out that no other school has won both trophies every year they have participated. An outstanding achievement! Congratulations to the teams and also to the PE staff who coach and manage these teams with such commitment and dedication.

Headteacher Update

Parents/Carers, I hope you are well. It is not quite time to reflect on the year yet but school is still very busy with activity as the final weeks approach. There are lots of trips to come, work experience for Year 10 and preparations for next year. Once again, the local community has shown its support for the school and we will be over subscribed again in Year 7 this September. We look forward to welcoming the students and parents/carers into school at the beginning of July.

I know some of you will be frustrated that there will be further industrial action by one of the teaching unions in July. I understand this causes difficulties for you and we do try our best to see if we can have students in school on those days. This includes looking at the number of lessons we know will not be with a teacher who will not be in school. I cannot ask staff to cover for striking colleagues and this makes it difficult if a large number of lessons are potentially without a teacher. This is why we will not be able to have Years 7-10 in school on those days. Year 6 will not be in lessons on Wednesday July 5th which is why we are able to have them in school that day.

I had the great pleasure of seeing our Year 7 football

team in West Bromwich and the year 11 rugby teams in Featherstone and at Crosfields for their two finals. Those last 2 finals have converted me into a Rugby League fan. As an Everton season ticket holder, it has been refreshing to see teams who know how to win. What also made an impression was the passion and commitment of the parents and friends of the lads in the teams. Thank you to all of you who made those long journeys. I had the privilege of seeing the teams behind the scenes and I know your presence was so important to them.

I also had the pleasure of being a judge at the recent MAT Factor singing competition. I was ready to channel my inner Simon Cowell and practised a few scathing comments. However, there was no need as every performer was superb. I have never known a school to have such a talented number of students who can sing or play instruments with such professionalism. It was a brilliant night and the theatre was, once again, full of parents and friends supporting the students. Thank you. Mr G Evans



6th Form News

Hannah Clarke has passed her junior leadership course with the air cadets with flying colours winning a top cadet award. She is the first female to ever do so. Over the past 20 years 1200 cadets have completed the course and Hannah is one of only 23 to win the top cadet award. She is the first ever cadet from the Great Manchester Wing to win the award and the first from Lymm Squadron. As you can imagine, we are extremely proud of all the commitment and hard work she has put in over the past 9 months. She also got to go to the King's Coronation. Well done Hannah!





YEAR 11—A DOMINANT FORCE

Great Sankey High School Year 11 boys team secured their third consecutive national final last month. They faced Spen Valley High School in Featherstone and claimed a resounding 38-8 victory. The team scored tries from Oli (x2), Billy (x2), Junior, Oliver, Lachlan, and Lewis, with Daniel adding the successful conversions. It was a back-to-back triumph, having also defeated the same West Yorkshire opposition in last year's final.

A week later, they completed the double with an emphatic 20-0 win against Wade Deacon at Crosfields, Warrington. Tries from Lucas, Ronnie, Billy, and Lachlan secured the win. The team's skill, talent and resolve were enough for them to complete a clean sweep of rugby league titles and cement their place in the rugby league history books. A fitting end to their time together as Great Sankey High School rugby league players.

This incredible team of talented youngsters are no strangers to silverware, as a Year 7 team, in 2019, they won the showpiece decider that was the curtain-raiser to the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley – completing a double for the town that year as Warrington Wolves were also winners that day against St Helens. The form continued into Year 8, before all competitions were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. As fixtures started up again in Year 10, the team picked up where they left off - matching the success from Year 7 by again winning the national and North West titles.

With these latest wins, the team has now won every major trophy available to them throughout their school lives. This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team, as well as their coach Stuart Garry and the PE department. Mr Garry had this to say about his team's success: "The lads are a superb, talented bunch who show pride in representing the school. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to be a part of their success. Myself along with all staff at school and their parents are incredibly proud of their historic achievements." Garry added his thanks to Lee Westwood from Warrington Wolves, who has helped coach the team since year 7, and has played a major role in the team's development.

The Great Sankey High School rugby league team is a shining example of what can be achieved with hard work, dedication, and talent. Their success has brought pride to their school and community, and they are sure to continue to inspire future generations of rugby league players.

Nobody is prouder of the team's achievements than the PE department who have been with the boys every step of the way, and after their final win as Great Sankey students, they posted the following message, "A pleasure to watch these lads play rugby throughout their school life. Won every trophy available to them. Every Sankey team will look up to them and deservedly so. We hope they've made lifelong memories and know how proud of them everyone in PE and school is. #champions".



MAT FACTOR

The school came alive with incredible talent as students from various schools showcased their skills at the highly anticipated Mat Factor talent show. Pupils from Great Sankey High School, Alsop High School, Westbrook Old Hall Primary, and Park Road Primary wowed the audience with their exceptional performances. The event featured a range of categories, ensuring that all participants had a chance to shine.

The talent show kicked off with the Primaries/Year 7 category, where young stars took the stage with enthusiasm. Among them, Lily a year 7 pupil from Great Sankey captured hearts with her rendition of "My Immortal" by Evanescence, delivering a captivating performance that left the audience in awe.

Moving on to the Year 9 category, two talented singers stole the spotlight. Esther, showcased her impressive vocal range with a heartfelt rendition of "Stay" by Rihanna. Meanwhile, Georgie, amazed the crowd with her powerful rendition of "Heart of Stone" from the musical "Six."

The Year 10 and 11 categories brought forth another rising star. Alexia, another student from Great Sankey High School, delivered a show-stopping performance of "Burn" from the hit musical "Hamilton," leaving the audience mesmerized by her talent.

In addition to the individual categories, the audience had the opportunity to participate in the voting process. Westbrook Old Hall Primary won the Audience Vote category with their energetic performance of "Waterfalls" by Paul McCartney, which had everyone on their feet, clapping and singing along.

However, the excitement reached its pinnacle when the Overall Winner was announced. Miley, representing Alsop High School, took home the coveted title with her emotionally charged rendition of "Love in the Dark" by Adele. Miley's exceptional vocal skills and ability to connect with the audience made her performance truly unforgettable.

The Mat Factor talent show provided a platform for students across schools within the Omega Mat to showcase their extraordinary abilities. It was a celebration of talent, passion, and creativity, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to witness it. Congratulations to all the winners and participants for making the event a resounding success. Lily, Y7 Winner, said, "The MAT Factor has given me the confidence to sing in front of a crowd on my own, I have never done this before! I have really enjoyed working with the music students and I am going to audition for the school show!"

Year 9 & Year 8—Rugby Champions



Great Sankey High School's Year 9 rugby team emerged triumphant in an exhilarating contest, clinching the Northwest championship title. Overcoming the challenging Standish team with a final score of 14-8, the victory marks a remarkable achievement for the team and the school.

The championship match proved to be a moment of redemption for Great Sankey High's Year 9 rugby squad, who had previously faced Standish in the national semi-finals. Standish had emerged victorious in that encounter with a narrow margin of 16-14. However, demonstrating their resilience and determination, the Great Sankey team bounced back to secure a well-deserved win in the Northwest championship.

Outstanding tries, executed by Tyler, Sonny and Lewis, played a pivotal role in Great Sankey's success. The team's stellar performance showcased their exceptional skills, teamwork, and unwavering spirit. With their resounding victory, the Year 9 rugby team proudly claims the title of Northwest champions.

The Year 8 rugby 9's team also claimed the championship title, further highlighting the school's dominance in the region. The school community extends its congratulations to the Year 9 & Year 8 rugby teams for their remarkable victory in their respective competitions. The Great Sankey High School athletes have certainly made their mark this year, and their accomplishments will undoubtedly inspire future generations of aspiring athletes within the school





Our next show has been announced! We have decided to go for Shrek- the main reason being there are 34 roles up for grabs.

The show will be on the 6th-8th February 2024. To audition you will need to get yourself an audition pack from a member of the Performing Arts team and prepare 1 song and 1 script section from the pack which you will perform in front of 3 teachers. Auditions for Y7 and Y8 are **Monday 3rd July** in BHT (3pm) and auditions for Y9, Y10 and the Dance Chorus are on **Tuesday 4th July** in BHT (3pm). For the dance chorus you need to prepare a dance that you have done before that will showcase your talent. If you are not successful in getting a lead role, you are still in the show as part of the chorus.

If you would like to act but are not confident enough to be a lead role, you can also be part of the chorus, you don't have to audition, you just need to let Drama/Music teacher know.

We are always going to welcome students into backstage roles, so if you are interested in lighting, sound, band, set, props, costume, make-up, please let a Drama/Music teacher know.

Last year we had over 120 students involved in all aspects of the show, so I would encourage anyone to get involved.

Miss Creamer

Talented year 12 Student awarded prestigious Nuffield research placement at Alder Hey Hospital



We are thrilled to announce that Mysha, one of our talented Year 12 students, has been awarded a prestigious Nuffield Research Placement (NRP). The NRP programme offers exceptional students the opportunity to engage in hands-on research projects, allowing them to make a meaningful contribution to the work of a host organization. Mysha's successful selection for this program is a testament to her outstanding abilities and dedication.

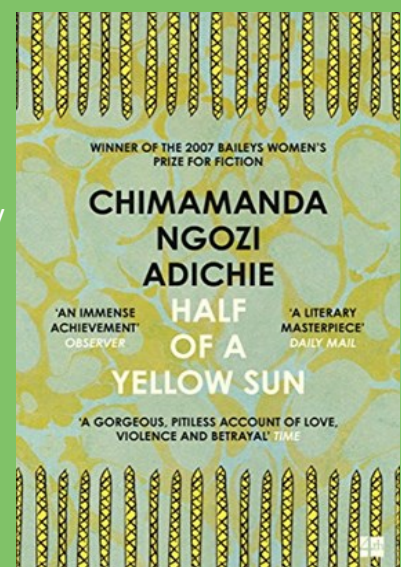
During her Nuffield Research Placement, Mysha will be focusing on improving disease outcomes for children with kidney disease. She will be placed at Alder Hey Hospital in the paediatric nephrology department, where she will work under the guidance of experienced professionals. This two-week placement will provide her with a comprehensive understanding of the field and allow her to conduct valuable research both at the hospital and from the comfort of her own home.

When asked about her selection for the Nuffield Research Placement, Mysha expressed her gratitude and excitement. "To have been selected means a lot, as it's a highly selective program," she said. Mysha recognizes the immense value of this placement, not only for her academic pursuits but also for her future aspirations. Her ultimate goal is to study medicine and become a doctor working for the NHS, and this placement will undoubtedly bring her closer to realizing her dreams.

We are immensely proud of Mysha's achievement and her commitment to pursuing her passion for medical research. We wish her all the best during her placement at Alder Hey Hospital. Congratulations, Mysha!

Please join us at the Barrow Hall College Book Club—3-4pm on the first Friday of the month!

A Recent Read—Set against the brutal backdrop of the Nigerian Civil War, this soaring epic entwines three deftly drawn characters in a web of faded colonialism, racial antagonism, and vexed romance. Conjuring a richly evocative image of a complex, violent West Africa, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a magnificently accomplished and emotionally engaging novel. Ugwu, a boy from a poor village, works as a houseboy for a university professor. Olanna, a young woman, has abandoned her life of privilege in Lagos to live with her charismatic new lover, the professor. And Richard, a shy English writer, is in thrall to Olanna's enigmatic twin sister. As the horrific Biafran War engulfs them, they are thrown together and pulled apart in ways they had never imagined.





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