



22nd December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Please see below some updates from the autumn term.

Farewell

Miss Potter, who has been an art teacher at our secondary phase for almost 30 years, is retiring today. She has encouraged an appreciation of art and an understanding of Consciousness-based Education in many pupils over three decades and we wish her well in her retirement. Mrs Cleary will teach KS3 art and CbIDS from January. Mr Foley, who has been our caretaker for the last six years, is moving on to pastures new. We wish him well in his new role.

OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning)

Thank you for all of the Opal Bingo donations we have received so far. Please continue to donate any items that may be of use – our pupils are really enjoying using the new equipment. We will be adding a slide and climbing frame in the New Year.

Fundraising

The primary phase Mince Pie Mingle raised £811.41, including the raffle. Many thanks to all who attended and bought raffle tickets. The Festive Film Night raised £389. This was a lovely evening which really got us all into the festive spirit. The choir performance at the Concourse raised £49.32. Thanks to everyone who came along to support the pupils. We plan to use these funds to further develop the OPAL play area. More details soon.

We are delighted with the landscaping of the primary phase grassed area. In the New Year, we will get a quote to do the same with the area to the left of the Qube. Once we know how much it will cost, we will begin fundraising in earnest and finally banish those muddy uniforms for good!

Autumn term activities

Our reception children have settled in well and recently enjoyed a Nativity Trail and Santa Camp at the Wayfarer in Parbold; year 1 enjoyed their first Mad Science assembly and recently produced an amazing Nativity video, complete with a Siberian tiger (!?); year 2 enjoyed a trip to Liverpool for their history topic – Lively Liverpool – and became the first class to fill their OPAL Bingo sheet; year 3 earned a class reward – popcorn and a movie and are looking forward to a visit to the Catalyst Museum in the New Year; year 4 reached the finals of a National Spelling Competition (alongside Y6) and are looking forward to their Ancient Egyptian workshop in the New Year; year 5 have been working towards gaining their pen licences, they enjoyed a creative writing workshop at Edge Hill and have enjoyed being the librarians for all the other year groups; year 6 enjoyed their Maya

Civilisation workshop delivered by Heritage Learning and are very proud of their classmate, Alfie, who was voted Prime Minister of the Pupil Parliament by pupils from the other participating schools.

Secondary phase pupils rehearsed and performed a musical extravaganza for their peers which was enjoyed by all; pupils attended the autumn term rewards trip to watch Wonka at Capitol Cinema in the Concourse; the new Crochet Club has proved very popular and is well attended by experienced and new crocheters; Dungeons & Dragons Club remains popular and is currently led by one of our Y11 pupils; the first term of the Youth Leadership Award has been incredibly rewarding and pupils have made excellent progress in developing their leadership and teamwork skills. Pupils in years 7-9 are looking forward to adding weekly music and computing lessons to their timetables from January.

Pupils at both phases thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus and his helpers during our Christmas lunch last week. Friends of the Earth Club have been very busy with two litter picks this term - on one occasion, a passerby was so impressed they donated £5. The group also enjoyed tree planting at the recent Beacon House Open Day.

Extra-curricular activities next term

Primary phase clubs

- Friends of the Earth Club
- Music Club
- Eco Club
- Board Games Club
- School Council
- Tuck Shop - coming soon

Secondary phase activities:

Y11 Spanish revision
Y11 maths revision
Y11 extra art
Y9 & Y10 Youth Leadership Course
Dungeons & Dragons
School Magazine (The Inspirer)
Duke of Edinburgh Award
School Council - coming soon

Coming soon - SENCO Surgery

In the New Year, our SENCO team will be introducing SENCO Surgery. There will be regular 20 minute appointments available to book to meet with one of the team to discuss any SEND-related concerns you may have, find out what we have available in school and what is available within the community that we can signpost you to.

With festive wishes



Lisa Edwards

“The desire to evolve, the desire to grow is there, this is the nature and purpose of living. And it happens through change, because, without change, one cannot evolve, one cannot become better.” Dr Tony Nader (chosen by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi to lead the Transcendental Meditation movement [Dr Tony Nader](#))