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Happy talk
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Year 8 excelled at the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition.

Fashion capital,
p.14

Students appreciate art and culture on a visit to the V&A Museum.

NEWSLETTER

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FASCINATING FLORENCE

Sixth Form students enjoyed culture, art and architecture in the Tuscan capital on 13–16th February, writes Year 12 Freya Richards.

Day 1: **Amazing architecture**

After an early morning start at Manchester Airport, the trip was in full swing. Arriving in Florence the first stop was to explore the city. At Piazza del Duomo, students ventured into shops to experience the local cuisine

and take in the surroundings of the incredible architecture around them.

The evening was spent going round the Santa Maria Novella, which is one of the oldest pharmacies in the world, dating from 1221! We then spent some time exploring the market square

where local craftsmen were displaying their products.

Day 2: Appreciating the art

Waking up to rain wasn't the ideal start to one of the most adventurous days of the trip. After a short walk across the city, we arrived at the Uffizi Gallery where we had the

FLORENCE

opportunity to spend a couple of hours going through, and exploring, the gallery with its vast array of works from a range of different artists. Some of the most famous pieces in the gallery included *'The Birth of Venus'* by Sandro Botticelli and the *'Madonna del Cardellino'* by Raphael, as well as pieces done by artists such as Hans Holbein, Michelangelo and Da Vinci.

Lunch was spent exploring the Mercato Centrale market where we

were able to further explore the local food and other Italian delicacies. In the afternoon, we visited the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze where we were able to see Michelangelo's *'David'* as well as the *'Tree of Life'* by Pacino Di Bonaguida.

We then walked back into the centre of Florence where we spent a few hours in the Piazza del Duomo taking in the history of the city and dining at a local restaurant. We then headed up to the Piazzale Michelangelo to look out over the city lit up at night before heading back to the hotel.

Day 3: Walking in the sunshine

Waking up to sunshine and slightly warmer weather was a plus to a sensational day. The morning started with a short walk across the city to the Salvatore Ferragamo store: the leading shoe designer of his time. We then explored the Mercato di Sant' Ambrogio,







sampling the local foods and fresh produce. Next, we made our way over to the Boboli Gardens. We enjoyed walking round the gardens in the sunshine, looking at the views across the city and exploring the different styles of architecture. To finish the day, we spent the evening on the Ponte Vecchio and the surrounding areas whilst the sun set across the city. We then ended with a trip to the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner before heading back to the hotel for the evening.

Day 4: A fond farewell

To wrap up a sensational trip, the final morning was spent visiting the Gucci Museum, which showcased a range of different statement pieces from different decades. For example, the equestrianism movement, tennis collections and the silk scarves, as well as a floor-to-ceiling room of the different styles of bags, which had been out on sale over the years.

To end the trip in Florence we spent some time exploring the city taking any last-minute pictures and food before heading back to the airport to land in a very cold Manchester.

What an amazing way to finish the half term. It was a trip to remember!



Following Kindness Week last term, we started collecting nominations for this year's Wall of Kindness. Here are the next set of worthy winners.

- **Emmy Scoffin, Alanna Whelan, Ella Hibbert, Martha Roberts, Sienna Coutler, Nell San Martin and Tom Higginbottom** from Year 8 went above and beyond in providing and creating gifts for the Manchester Street Angels collection for the homeless.
- **Mia Ryan** from Year 8 has been raising money for the Air Ambulance Service (AAS) after her grandma had an accident and had to be rescued by the charity.
- As part of our Tolerance theme for this term, Year 7 students **Tiwa Awolumate** and **Fredie Walker** have set up a small business selling sweets in order to raise money for the Seashell Trust. This is a charity, which supports people with complex disabilities.





PUBLISHED AUTHORS

From October to December 2024, Miss Melia ran a creative writing club for students in Years 7–9.

During this club, students were tasked with writing an engaging narrative of only 100 words. Students were then invited to submit their written accounts to a national writing competition, created by the company Young Writers.

The competition was open to all 11–18-year-olds in the UK. Successful students receive the opportunity to have their narrative published in a collection of work in April and can officially say that they are published writers.

Nine of our students submitted their work for judging, and it was absolutely incredible to hear that all nine have been chosen to be

published. The students are:

- Lexiie Atheron – Year 9
- Mia Guest – Year 9
- Lauren Caton – Year 8
- Imogen Ferrie – Year 8
- Kate Shaw – Year 7
- Saffy Smith – Year 7
- Aimee Paul – Year 7
- Eliza Walton – Year 7
- Sophie Lee – Year 7

“The work that the students created was so

impressive”, said Miss Melia. “Each narrative demonstrated excellent crafting of plot and inventive creation of characters. It was wonderful to see them gather as a group each week to support one another with the planning and writing process, as well as inspire each other to keep on improving their work.”

“It has been a real joy to work with them and we are all really proud of them for their success!”

Each of the students received a certificate and bookmark.

Young Writers also sent a letter with the certificates for the students, and in it they say:

“Having all your pupils’ work chosen is something to be proud of, it doesn’t happen every day! We were impressed with their writing and it’s clear they have been really inspired and engaged with creative writing!”



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YEAR 8 DOMINATE AT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Lymm High recently had the honour of participating in the annual Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition called Youth Speaks.

This is a prestigious event that challenges students to demonstrate their eloquence, critical thinking and presentation skills. This is our second year entering the competition, and following our victory at last year's district final, we were eager to impress once again.

Two teams of Year 8 students each took on a unique and thought-provoking topic. Competing against other schools, such as Great Sankey High School and Newman High School,

our students showed exceptional maturity and professionalism in what is a very formal event. Each team was assigned specific roles, including a Chairperson, Speaker, and Proposer of Vote of Thanks, in line with their skill sets.

The first team, consisting of Lauren Caton, Ella Hibbert and Dolly Tasker, took to the stage with a compelling presentation on the role of slang in society. They raised the thought-provoking question: Does slang

create communities or destroy young minds? Their insightful discussion and well-researched arguments captivated the audience, and their assured, polished performance won the admiration of their peers, teachers, and even the Mayor of Warrington, who praised their eloquence and maturity. Despite their outstanding performance, the team secured a well-deserved second place.

Meanwhile, the second team, made up of Ted Cullen, Maggie Andrews and Lily-Rose Milby, tackled the impact of advertising on young people. Their strong, well-structured arguments and confident delivery earned them first place, and they will now progress to the regional finals on Wednesday 12th March.

Mr Hayes and Mrs Feast, who attended the event, were thoroughly impressed by the professionalism and maturity shown by our Year 8 students. They were especially proud of the



compliments they received from teachers at other schools, event organisers and the Mayor, all of whom were impressed by the exceptional quality of speeches delivered by our teams.

“We are immensely proud of our students and their achievements, and we wish Ted, Maggie and Lily the best of luck as they head to the regional finals”, said Mr Hayes. “The future of public speaking is bright at our school!”

21 FOR 21

Libby Edwardson is raising money for Down Syndrome Cheshire by walking 2.1km for 21 days in March. Why 21? This is because people with Down Syndrome have three copies of the 21st chromosome.

“In the past for World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March, I have given up three things (tea, chocolate and bread) for 21 days”, said Libby.

But this year, the Year 10 student is taking on the ultimate challenge of walking! Mum, Yvonne, says that Libby is not a fan of walking, so getting her out the door every day will definitely be quite a challenge. If you'd like to join in and help keep her motivated, please consider a small donation to Down Syndrome Cheshire by [clicking here](#).

“The charity has been a true lifeline for us and so many families in Cheshire, and we've gained so much from their incredible support”, says Yvonne. “Let's help Libby crush this challenge!”



YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Our Chinese New Year celebrations continued with a lantern-making workshop to mark the start of the new lunar calendar year.



Students in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a wonderful mindful hour with Winnie from the Manchester Chinese Centre making traditional Chinese lanterns.

The students were able to take the lanterns home with them. "A couple of them commented that they couldn't wait till next year's workshops", said Mrs Tasker.

This was the third of our special workshops celebrating the Chinese New Year and follows the Chinese calligraphy and paper folding sessions.



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you need and practical tips from
young people just like you.

YOUNGMINDS



On Tuesday 4th February, Lymm High had the privilege of welcoming back former student, Zara McGillivray, who delivered an inspiring series of talks to current students about the advantages of learning languages.

LOVING LANGUAGES

Zara, who has just spent the last 6 months in Mexico working as an intern in a marketing company shared her experiences of how studying languages has benefited both her academic and professional journey and initiated so many exciting opportunities.

The visit was organised by the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department and included sessions with students from various year groups. Zara engaged with students through interactive discussions, personal anecdotes and demonstrations of language use in real-life scenarios. During the sessions, Zara highlighted several key

benefits of language learning:

- **Enhanced Career Opportunities:** Zara explained how proficiency in foreign languages had opened doors to international job prospects and increased employability in a competitive job market.
- **Cultural Awareness and Travel:** The pupils learned how languages facilitate deeper connections with different cultures, making travel experiences more enriching and meaningful.
- **Cognitive and Academic Benefits:** Zara discussed research showing that language learning improves memory, problem-solving skills, and overall academic performance.

Increased Confidence and Communication Skills: The ability to communicate in multiple languages boosts self-confidence and strengthens interpersonal skills.

Students found the talks highly motivating and asked insightful questions. Many expressed newfound enthusiasms for studying languages and were particularly inspired by Zara's journey.

Zara is now off to Lisbon for the next 6 months of her year abroad from her studies at Newcastle University. Zara studied both Spanish and French to A' level and has since picked up Portuguese to add to her ever-growing catalogue of languages.

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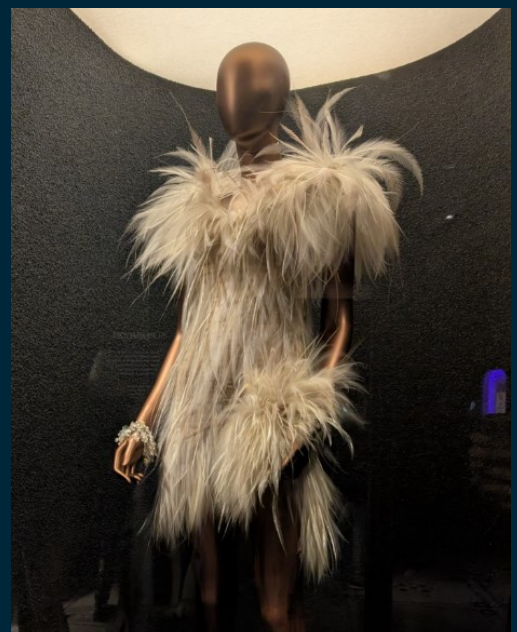
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FASHION *Capital*

On Thursday 6th February, Year 10 Textiles and Fashion students embarked on an exciting trip to London's V&A Museum.

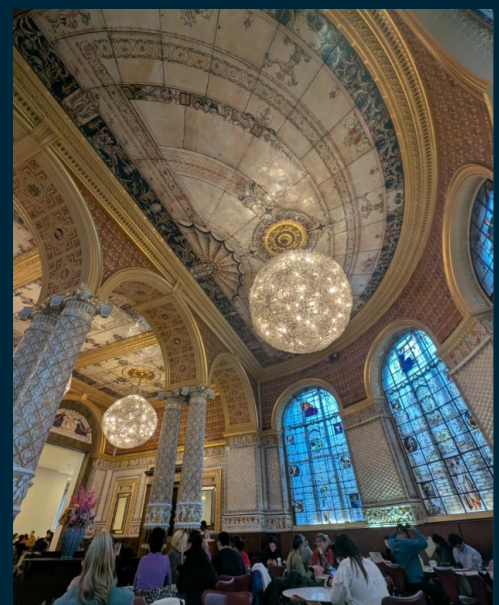
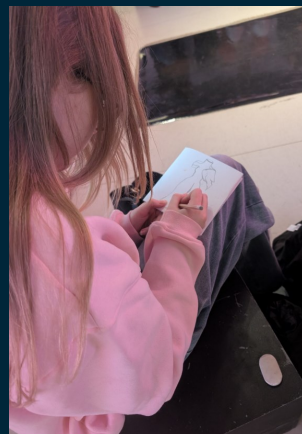
The highlight of the day was the NAOMI exhibition. The exhibition is a spectacular showcase of the iconic career of Naomi Campbell, one of the most renowned supermodels in fashion history. The exhibition offered a rare and in-depth look at her incredible influence on the fashion industry over several decades. The show included a stunning array of garments that she has worn throughout her career. For staff and students, it was a rare and exciting opportunity to see legendary pieces up close, many of which have graced international runways and magazine covers. The exhibition not only highlighted Naomi's influence on the fashion industry but also gave students a glimpse into the craftsmanship and artistry behind these extraordinary outfits.





The students were truly immersed in the exhibition, with many taking the chance to photograph and sketch the pieces they found most inspiring. Armed with their cameras and sketchbooks, they explored every corner of the V&A, eager to gather ideas for their own future coursework projects. It was clear that the experience made a lasting impact on the group. Aside from NAOMI, the students had the opportunity to explore a range of other fascinating exhibitions at the V&A, discovering a wealth of creativity and design in various forms. From textiles to photography, the museum's diverse offerings ensured that there was something for everyone.

The trip to London was a huge success, providing the Year 10 Textiles and Fashion students with invaluable exposure to the world of fashion at one of the UK's most prestigious museums.



BRINGING LANGUAGES TO LIFE!



Throughout February, our students had the fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre in French, German and Spanish, thanks to the incredible performances by the Onatti Theatre Company.

The visiting theatre group, known for their engaging and immersive productions, performed three different plays – one in French for Year 7 and two others in German and Spanish for Years 8 and 9.

What made these performances particularly valuable was that all three plays were delivered entirely by native speakers. This provided an authentic linguistic experience, helping students improve their listening comprehension, pronunciation and confidence in engaging with the languages they are learning.

Teachers were thoroughly impressed by how well students understood and participated in the plays. The performances were designed to be accessible and entertaining, incorporating plenty of visual storytelling, expressive acting,

and interactive moments to keep students engaged. It was wonderful to see students responding to the actors, demonstrating their comprehension, and even joining in at times.

The visit from Onatti Theatre Company was a resounding success and we are already looking forward to welcoming them back next year for another inspiring and educational experience!



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BOOM!



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CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

We are continuing our proud journey as an Eco-School, having successfully retained our national environmental accreditation since our first application in 2023.



The Eco-Schools programme is a prestigious environmental recognition that celebrates schools committed to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

In October, our Eco-School team, led by Year 13 Martha Parkinson (Senior Eco-Rep), took an important step in advancing our sustainability



goals with our annual environmental review. During this review, we were joined by Mr Hendrie, our Site Manager, and Mr Marsden, our Finance Director, who helped guide the discussions around our progress and areas for improvement.

Following the review, our Eco-Reps were split into two teams to focus on different environmental challenges. The first team, led by Dr McCombs, is dedicated to promoting **Biodiversity and School Grounds**, ensuring that

our outdoor spaces remain healthy, vibrant, and home to a variety of plant and animal species. This team is focused on creating green spaces that foster biodiversity, which also serves as an educational tool for students to learn about ecosystems and conservation.

“The Biodiversity Team have got started, now that the weather is more amenable to working outdoors”, said Dr McCombs. “We agreed that our Bug Hotel, which is now nearly 4 years old, needs some TLC, and so that should be our top priority.”

“We also investigated the school allotment, which has recently been cleared and could be a really exciting thing for us to get stuck in to.”

Meanwhile, the second Eco-Rep team, led by Miss Cucuz, is addressing the critical issue of

litter. Their goal is to reduce waste around the school, increase recycling efforts, and encourage everyone to take responsibility for keeping our environment clean. This group is embracing the national ‘Great Big School Clean Up’ initiative and has been working on raising awareness about the importance of waste management and organising campaigns to ensure that our school grounds are free of litter.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our students, staff and community in working towards a greener, cleaner and more sustainable future. As an Eco-School, we believe that every small action counts, and together, we can continue making a positive impact on our environment.

Stay tuned for more updates on our progress, and a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this exciting journey!



Some of the Litter Eco-Reps.



GIRLS FOOTBALL GOALS

Our Year 7 football team have had fantastic success this season, says Mrs Slater.

They made it to the last 16 of the ESFA National Cup, which is a fantastic achievement. They were knocked out by Thomas Telford on sudden death penalties. The girls represented themselves fantastically and gave absolutely everything.

“Mr Powell and I were incredibly proud of them”, said Mrs Slater. “I’m sure we will have future Cheshire Cup winners next season!”

In addition to this we have some of our Year 7 girls play-

ing up a year in the Sisters in Sport Competition. This is a





new tournament that we have entered for the U13 girls.

“Good luck in the next round girls!”

Our Monday after-school football club has been popu-

lar with over 70 girls attending from Year 7 alone! It really does show the progression of the sport. We have also entered the Warrington League, which sees us play some of

the local schools. We have had over 40 girls represent the school in football.

“What an amazing year group.”



STRONG LEADER HELPS EVERTON REACH QUARTER FINALS

Gabriel Gyepi-Garbrah has just returned from a tour to Barcelona with Everton FC.

The Year 9 student has been playing for the team since U5 and is now on the U14 squad. Gabriel was awarded the Captaincy for the tournament, which was held in Camp de Futbol in Calella. The team progressed out of the group of five, scoring 42 goals and only conceding three. Gabriel scored four goals and made 16 assists.

Progressing into the Round of 16, they played Oxford United and won the game 5–4.

In the Quarter finals (the fourth 40-minute game of the day), the team encountered Real Zaragoza U15. Gabriel led the side out under the floodlights to a cheering crowd. With an end-to-end game, tired legs and playing a year up, it was a tough game for Everton. Gabriel scored Everton's only goal with a first-time strike 20 yards out. "We battled hard", said Gabriel, "Unfortunately, it wasn't our day and we conceded in the last minute 2–1".

"I am proud of my team. We showed teamwork and didn't panic under pressure. I was a proud captain", said Gabriel. "Football takes me on many journeys over the years and I am ready for the next challenge whatever it may look like."



Gabriel's favourite position to play is Right back.



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ENGLISH MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION!

Huge congratulations to Jake Sands who is now the National Kickboxing Champion in the 16–17-year-old age category (<78kg). The Year 12 student won the title at the ISKA National Kickboxing Championships in Birmingham on Sunday 16th February.

Jake's Fight Camp preparation for the event saw him cut 10kg of body fat and take his fitness to the highest level yet through sparring 10 rounds every week for several weeks.

"This is a significant achievement. Well done!", said Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Neesam. "Jake, I hope you are enjoying a well-earned rest now!"



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 10th March
Year 9 Choices deadline

Art Residential
to Ty'n-y-Felin

Thursday 13th March
Year 9 Poland trip

Monday 17th March
DofE Silver and Gold
Practice Expeditions

Thursday 20th March
Year 12 Parents'
Evening

Thursday 3rd April
Year 10 Parents'
Evening

Friday 4th April
Chester Zoo
Rewards trip
Doughnut Day

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