



LYMM
HIGH SCHOOL

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Spotlight on STEM
p.18

Students had success with both Rockets and Robots this term.

Trophy winners
p.34

Our U15 Netball team has been crowned National Champions.

NEWSLETTER

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WINNING AT ARTS!

Staff and students are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Platinum Artsmark Award.

The Performing Arts and Visual Arts departments received the Artsmark accreditation earlier this month. Artsmark is the only creative quality stand-

ard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It transforms teaching through creativity, empowering teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture

and creativity across the whole curriculum, and is proven to support student outcomes and wellbeing. As of September 2024, 51% of Artsmark schools have



Annual Visual Arts exhibitions showcase students' stunning work.

achieved Artsmark Silver, 40% Artsmark Gold and Lymm High is among just 9% of schools that hold Artsmark Platinum status.

To achieve the prestigious Award, Lymm High had to create a 2-year plan to develop its arts and cultural provision across a broad and ambitious curriculum. Some professional support was also provided through an immersive learning programme from Artsmark's delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London.

Artsmark schools gain access to exceptional resources as well as networks of the country's most treasured cultural organisations, helping them develop and strengthen their arts provision. As such, Artsmark can help unlock the

potential of young people, help to develop character and talent, and increase their knowledge and understanding.

"The Platinum Artsmark Award is the result of the hard work and dedication of our wonderful students and teachers who continually showcase how important the arts are in education, and in personal development", said Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Richards. "Our Arts ambassadors are advocates for creativity, exploration through artistic expression and leadership, and they are the reason why the arts are thriving at Lymm High School. We are all very proud of their commitment and achievement, and this award is thoroughly

deserved by all!”

The Artsmark Assessor commended Lymm High on its student-led approach to a successful Artsmark journey. Student representation, voice and ownership were key elements in the strategy. Arts ambassadors, for example, take an active role in activities undertaken particularly with community and external partners. The Performing Arts department’s collaboration with Chester University on its *‘Dreams of a generation’* performance was highlighted as demonstrating the power of collaborations and the ongoing potential of the student-centred approach.

Performing Arts ambassadors lead workshops, dance and drama clubs, and direct productions. Mrs Richards said: “We have three Year 12 students who are directing *Animal Farm* with a cast of Year 9 and 10s. They do all the rehearsal schedules, organisation,

directing, costumes, and even run the tech team for shows.”

Visual Arts ambassadors help with the larger whole-school projects, such as the annual Fashion show, Remembrance Day installa-

tions and community-led projects, such as the Christmas Tree Festival and Care Home art projects.

Mrs Taylor, Head of Visual Arts, said: “Visual arts play a vital and transformative role within the school, creating an environment

where creativity, confidence, communication and individual expression can flourish. Students build resilience and independence as well as learn to take creative risks, reflect on their progress, and embrace experimentation, all of which positively impact their wider learning. Art also contributes significantly to students’ wellbeing and provides a space for mindfulness and emotional expression.”

Lymm High is among just 9% of schools that hold Artsmark Platinum status.



Performing Arts ambassadors lead workshops, dance and drama clubs, and direct productions.



Mrs Taylor. “Ultimately, visual arts empower our students to think critically, see differently, and engage more deeply with the world – skills that will benefit them far beyond their time at school.”

On receiving the award, Mr Williams said: “We’re extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Platinum Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education.”

Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, said: “I would like to congratulate Lymm High School on their Artsmark Award. Creative activities and cultural experiences enrich our lives, open our minds to new possibilities

A few samples of our talented students’ artwork.

Students’ artwork enhances the school environment, celebrates diversity, and sparks meaningful conversations. Annual exhibitions and displays, such as the one in main reception, give students a platform to be seen and valued. “This reinforces a culture where creativity is recognised and respected”, said



The Artsmark Assessor commended Lymm High on its student-led approach.

and help us make sense of the world around us. As an awarded Artsmark school, you're demonstrating that by offering a broad, ambitious and creative curriculum, your young people will develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."

To find out more about Artsmark, [click here](#).



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Dance students collaborated with Chester University on its 'Dreams of a generation' performance.

VOICES THAT LEAD:

A NORTHERN TRIUMPH FOR OUR YOUNG ORATORS

Following on from last month's celebration of success at the Grand Final of the Youth Speaks public speaking competition, we are delighted to share even more extraordinary news from the next stage of the journey.

Having secured first place and runner-up positions at the Grand Final, our Year 7 and Year 9 teams progressed to the North of England Final – an arena that brought together the very best young speakers from across the region. Facing such high-calibre competition, both teams rose magnificently to the occasion, delivering performances of remarkable poise, clarity and conviction. Feedback from parents, staff and representatives from other schools was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising not only the quality of speaking but also the maturity and presence of our students.

Our Year 9 team, presenting on the theme of *'The Power of Service'*, delivered a compelling and thoughtful performance that





The Year 9 team were crowned Champions of the North of England.

ultimately saw them crowned champions of the North of England. Their ability to engage and inspire marked them out as exceptional communicators.

Meanwhile, our Year 7 team spoke eloquently on the impact of music and language, demonstrating insight and confidence well beyond their years. Their outstanding performance earned them the runners-up position, completing what can only be described as a 'clean sweep' for the school – an achievement we believe may be unprecedented in the history of the competition.

This success is not only a testament to the talent and dedication of our students but also to the strong culture of mentorship within the school. Building on a legacy of success in previous years, our Year 9 students have played a pivotal role in supporting and guiding the Year 7 team throughout the process, which

began back in September. Their encouragement, feedback and leadership have clearly made a lasting impact.

The Youth Speaks competition, organised by the Rotary Club, remains a cornerstone of our school calendar, providing students with invaluable opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, and the ability to communicate effectively in front of large audiences. The glowing feedback from judges, teachers and other schools has been both humbling and heartening.

In recognition of this success, Mr Hayes was invited to present at a Warrington Rotary Club meeting, where he spoke about the school's approach. He expressed his pride in representing the town and extended sincere thanks to Rotary Club members for their continued sponsorship and support. He also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the



The Year 7 team were runners-up.

English Department for their guidance and mentorship, along with Ms Hill and Mrs Feast, who accompanied and supported the students throughout the competition. The parents of the students also need recognition for listening to the speeches on countless occasions!

With such a strong tradition of excellence and a growing culture of peer mentorship, we are confident that our older students will continue to inspire and guide the next generation of speakers, ensuring that our voices remain strong for years to come.

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COMMUNICATION



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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Monday 20th April



To celebrate World Book Day and the National Year of Reading 2026, and to encourage reading for pleasure, the ILC ran a lunchtime 'Book Giveaway' of new and pre-loved books in the library.

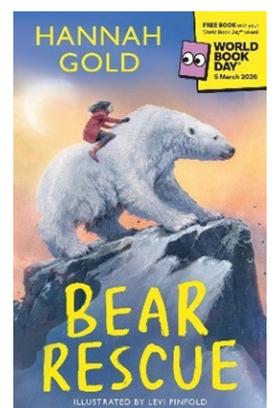
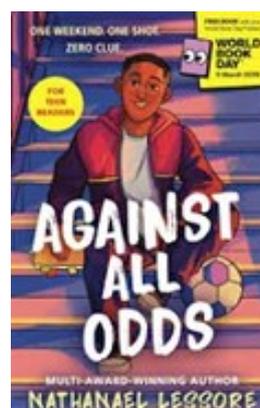
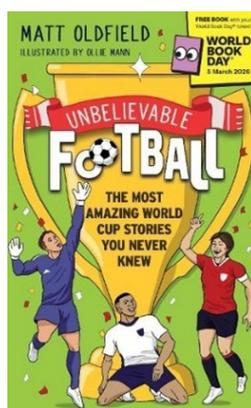
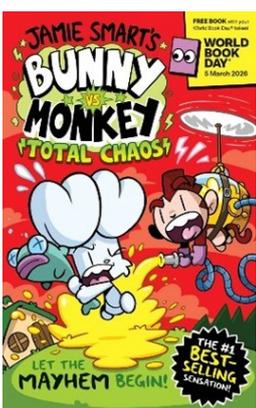
WORLD BOOK DAY

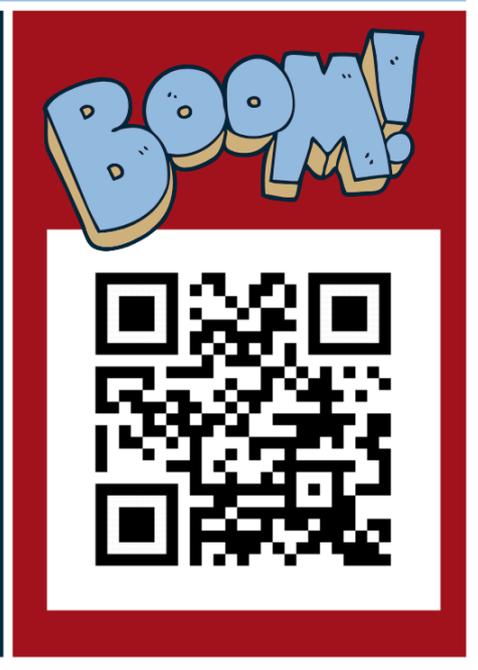
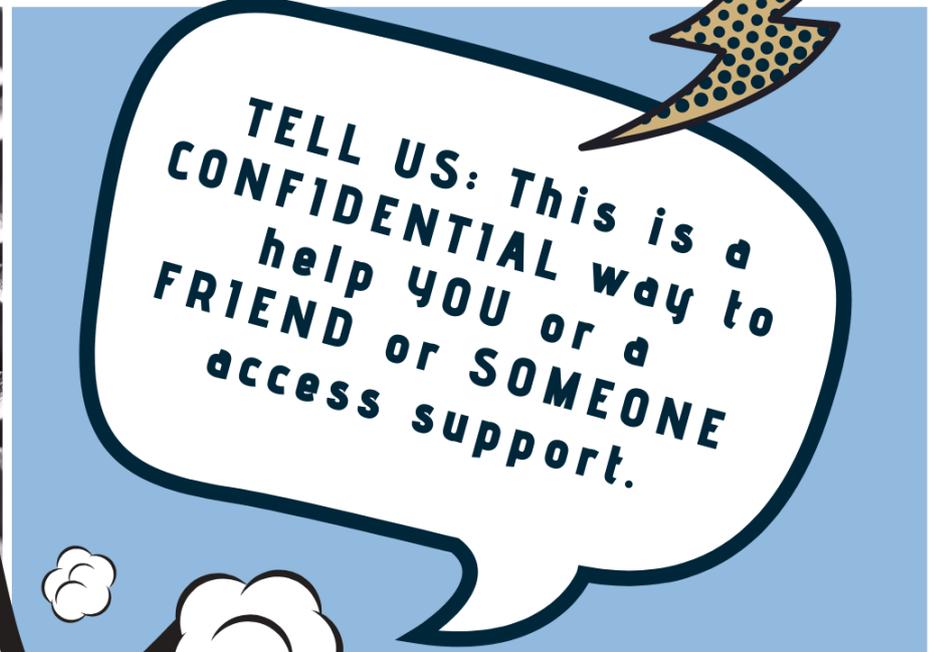
Students were invited to choose and take home a book from a wide range of titles that had been removed from the library collection. They could also choose one of the specially published World Book Day books.

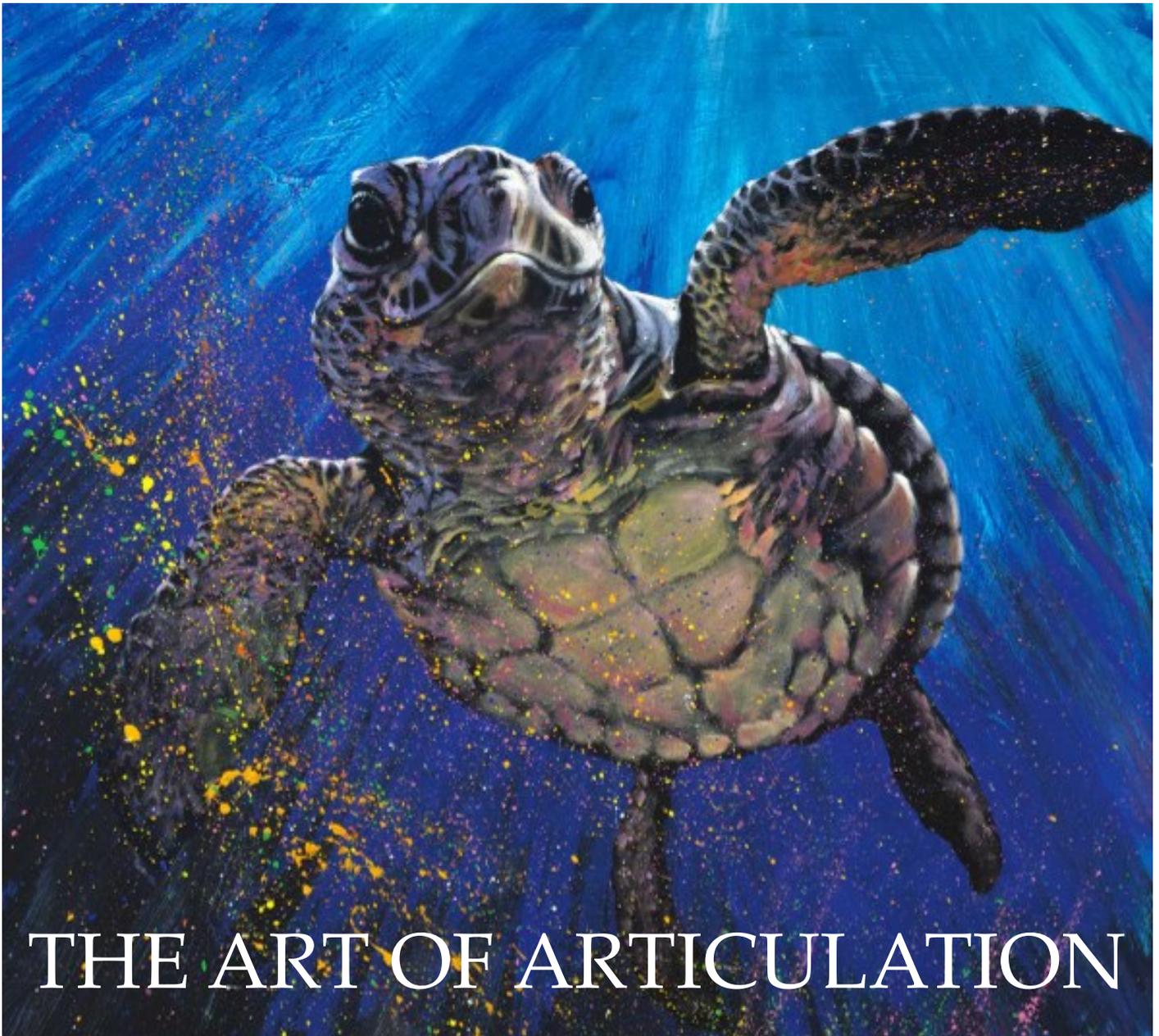
"The books available were completely free", said Ms Timpson, "and we hoped to encourage reading with as wide an audience as possible by giving them away". This was a popular event, and student library volunteers helped out on the day.

Students who couldn't make the event were encouraged to call into the ILC and pick up a free copy of a World Book Day book from the display stand by the library desk.

World Book Day tokens were also distributed to all Year 7 students during Form time and students from other year groups were encouraged to pick up a token from the ILC.







THE ART OF ARTICULATION

Huge congratulations to Neve Chetwyn who was in the regional finals of Articulation – a competition run by the National Gallery.

The Articulation Prize is a nationally acclaimed annual event promoting the appreciation and discussion of art. The Prize engages post-GCSE students in full-time education with art, regardless of background or experience, and develops their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and ideas. Each student delivers a 10-minute illustrated presentation to an audience about a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice. Adjudicators then assess each presenta-

tion as a whole, looking at content, structure, delivery, the originality of the speaker's approach and unique potential.

Year 12 Neve spoke about a piece of artwork by Stephen Fishwick called *Kemps Ridley*. Her talk highlighted the importance of conservation and her time in Costa Rica saving turtle nests. "The judges were very impressed with Neve and she was just pipped to first position by a 'cats whisker'", said Mrs Taylor.

YEAR OF THE HORSE

As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, students have been welcoming the Year of the horse at Lymm High with a paper folding workshop.



For the fourth year, we were pleased to welcome Winnie from the Manchester Chinese Centre, who helped our Year 7 and 8 students make a fire-horse themed wind chime. Students also added a message of hope in Chinese onto their wind chimes.

“The students really enjoyed the workshop and fully embraced the cultural and creative aspects it offered”, said Mrs Tasker.

The fire horse is an especially important animal in the Chinese zodiac as it only occurs once every 60 years. We would like to wish all of our families in Lymm who are celebrating Chinese New Year ‘Kung hei fat Choi!’



SARAH'S STRANGER SAGAS SUCCESS

In the recent Young Writers '*Stranger Sagas*' competition, students were tasked with writing a saga that combined suspense, mystery and supernatural events. The greatest challenge, however, was to accomplish this brief in only 100 words.

Congratulations to Year 7 Sarah whose thought-provoking entry exploring the consequences of social media image filters, has been selected for publication.

This is a tremendous achievement. Well done Sarah!



CONSIDERING CAREERS

A group of students spent the day at the Engine Rooms in Birchwood as part of a new and exciting careers initiative.



Future Ready' has been organised by Warrington Careers Hub and aims to support students and help them to think about what they might like to do when they leave school. Mrs Tasker and Ms Varewdee accompanied the 13 Year 8 students.

Students started the day learning about a company called Medline who are a global producer of medical equipment to hospitals. They learnt about some of the products Medline sell and how these are used in hospitals. They also got to try on a surgeon's gown!

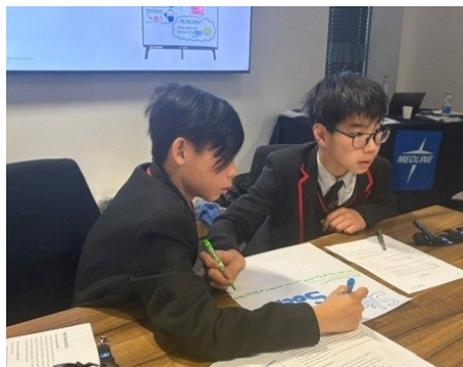
A talk by United Utilities came next, followed by a very interesting presentation by the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dan Price. Mr Price spoke about his career and gave the students some tips on thinking about what they would like to do later on in life.

Daresbury Laboratories provided a really fun activity, which was an escape room where students had to solve puzzles related to particle acceleration in order to solve a riddle.

At the Balfour Beatty/Vistry talk, students learnt the process of building a large building, such as a school, and how to organise the build schedule to complete the job within 48 weeks.

The final talk was from Amentum who gave students a really interesting insight into the world of engineering and innovative technology solutions related to space defence and renewable technology.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for the students", said Mrs Tasker, "and one that will continue over the next 3 years; by which time they will have gained a myriad of skills to support them in their next steps!"





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MAGNIFICENT MILAN

and Gelato



During the half-term break, 13 Visual Arts & Technology students set off from Manchester Airport bound for the vibrant city of Milan, writes Miss Simms.

The students, who study A' Level Photography, 3D Design, Fine Art and/or BTEC Fashion, were visiting Milan to gather invaluable primary research for their current projects.

Beyond this, the trip offered students the chance to experience historical art firsthand, while also exploring what contemporary artists, designers and creatives are producing today and what our students themselves can aspire to in the future. In addition, with the Winter Olympics being hosted in the city, there was a real buzz in the air.

The first day began at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Milan's renowned gallery of 19th and early 20th century art, housed in a beautiful neoclassical villa. Students explored an impressive collection of paintings and sculptures, spending time sketching and photographing key works to document their visit and gather visual inspiration.

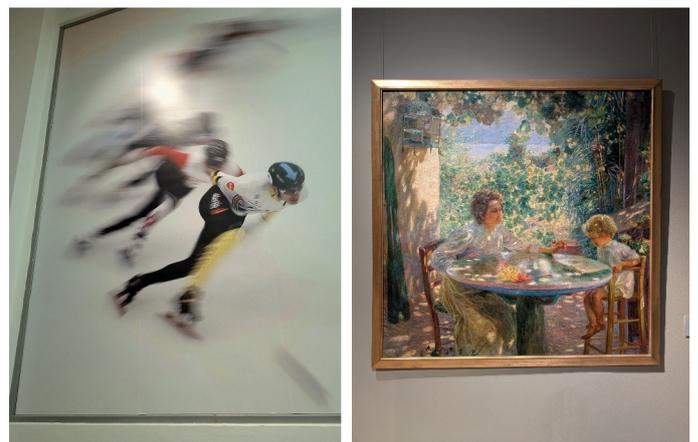
Next, the group visited Palazzo Morando, where they experienced a fascinating exhibition exploring the history of menswear. This provided rich insight into the evolution of tailoring, textiles and style, which was particularly valuable for our fashion and design students.

The day continued with a visit to the incredible Fondazione Prada. This vast contemporary arts venue, made up of multiple striking buildings, showcased a range of temporary exhibitions spanning art, design and culture. Students explored thought-provoking installations before taking the panoramic lift to enjoy breathtaking views across the city of Milan, with the mountains visible in the distance.

To round off an already unforgettable day, students took part in a pasta-making workshop. They learned traditional techniques for crafting fresh pasta by hand before enjoying the fruits of their labour, sampling two delicious pasta dishes. This was a perfect end to a busy day.

Saturday began at the Pinacoteca di Brera, where students viewed the Giorgio Armani exhibition displayed alongside the gallery's permanent collection of classical paintings. The exhibition showcased a wide range of garments, and students were particularly interested in how the curators carefully paired colours, textures and details from the fashion pieces with elements in the surrounding paintings. The way the garments interacted with the grand architectural setting of the gallery sparked thoughtful discussions about presentation, context and design.

Following this, the group enjoyed a guided tour at the Triennale di Milano, Italy's leading museum of design, architecture and contemporary culture. The venue hosts major exhibitions exploring modern creativity across multiple disciplines. A particular highlight was an intimate exploration of the life and work of designer Ettore Sottsass, told through thousands of personal film photo-



SCHOOL NEWS

graphs. This ended with an immersive experience of his design work through the Casa Lana installation, allowing the group to step inside his creative world.

The fashion inspiration continued at the Armani Fashion Museum, where students and staff were stunned by the beauty, craftsmanship and attention to detail in the garments on display. Seeing such iconic design work up close was a powerful experience for everyone.

The final visit of the trip was to the magnificent Duomo di Milano, an iconic landmark and architectural masterpiece. Its intricate design provided a perfect conclusion to an exceptional few days.

Throughout the trip, students fully embraced every opportunity. Although they certainly walked their feet off exploring the city, they made the most of every visit, workshop and exhibition. They will return to school with sketchbooks full of research, cameras packed with photos, and minds full of ideas.

We would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Miss Simms. She has not only organised this memorable trip but many others over the past 8 years. We are so sad she is leaving but wish her the best of luck with her future career.



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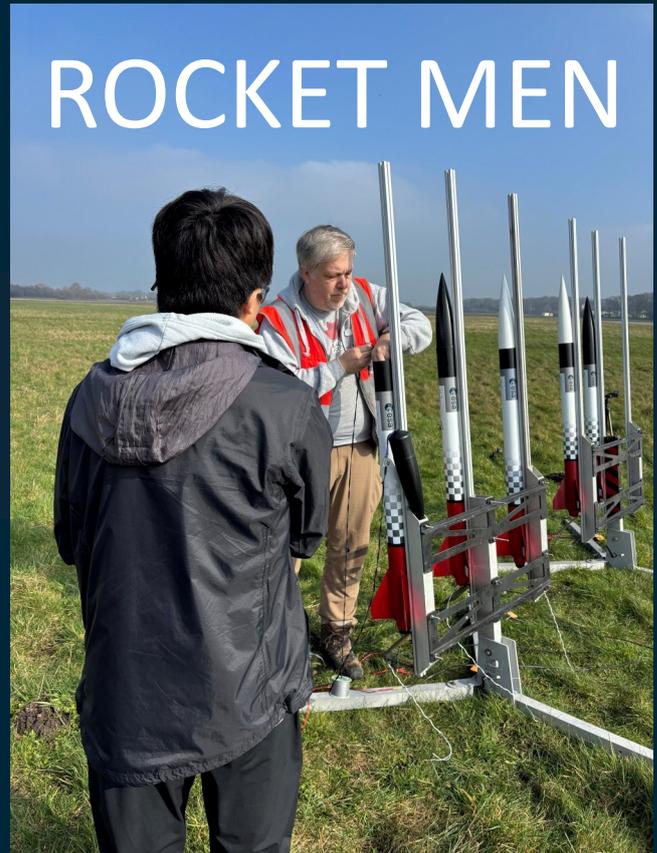
It's all About **STEM**

Our school's passion for STEM has truly taken flight this year with an exciting entry into the CanSat Rocket Competition.

Since October, students Jayden Chan and Daniel Lewis have been hard at work designing and building their very own miniature satellite, engineered to fit inside a rocket.

The challenge was to create a functioning satellite capable of collecting data during flight, while also designing a reliable parachute system to ensure a safe and controlled descent back to Earth.

After months of dedication, testing and problem-solving, the team travelled to York for launch day. Despite encountering unexpected



ROCKET MEN

electrical issues, the night before, Jayden and Daniel showed incredible resilience and determination. They pushed through the setback and successfully prepared their CanSat for launch.

There was some doubt from judges about whether the parachute would be strong enough, but the team proved them wrong. Against all odds, their satellite deployed perfectly and glided safely back down to the ground, completing its mission.

“This achievement is a testament to the hard work, creativity, and perseverance the students have demonstrated over the past few months. Their commitment to STEM excellence is something we are incredibly proud of”, said Mrs Spellman.

Well done, Jayden and Daniel! We can't wait to see what you accomplish when you take on the challenge again next year.

VEX ROBOTICS SUCCESS



This year has been another exciting and successful one for Lymm High in the VEX Robotics Competition, with two dedicated teams representing our school at regional events in Manchester.

Across both competitions, our students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, technical skill and resilience. Special congratulations go to Ethan Rankin, Ned Martin, Alex Smith and Ben Shaw, who earned a Teamwork Award at our second regional event – an excellent recognition of their collaboration and performance.

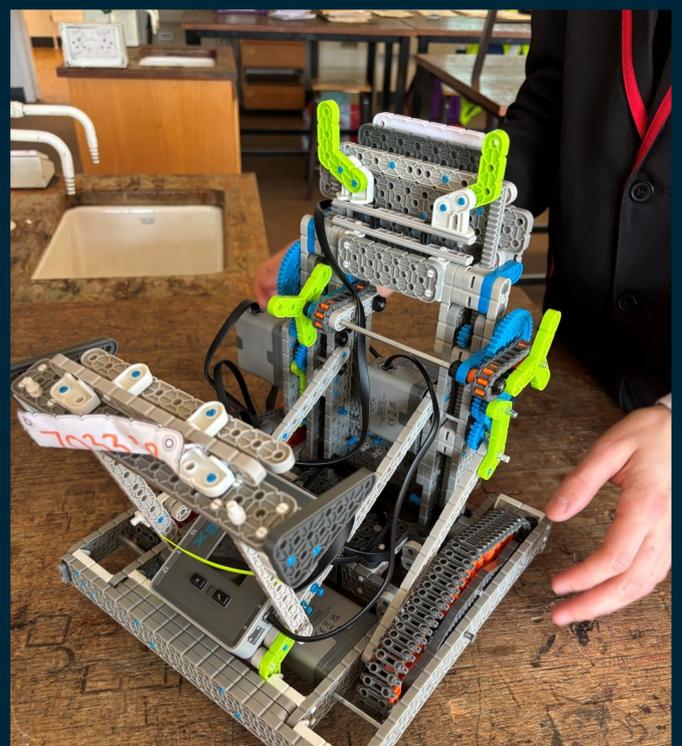
In an incredible milestone for our school, we qualified for the English National Champion-

ships in Telford for the very first time. Representing us at this prestigious event were Huw Ellis, Samuel Hamilton, Declan Richardson, and Oliver and Maxwell Rose. Competing against some of the best teams in the country, they rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly, finishing an impressive 16th overall after two intense and exhausting days of competition.

We could not be prouder of both teams. The countless hours spent designing, building, coding and practising – often under pressure – have truly paid off. Their dedication and perseverance embody the very best of STEM learning.

With the next competition season starting in June, preparations are already underway, including training new team members. If you're interested in getting involved, be sure to speak to Mrs Spellman for more information.

Well done to everyone involved. We can't wait to see what next season brings!





Following Kindness Week last term, our Wall of Kindness has now been updated. Here are the next set of worthy winners.

- **Charity bakers**

Many of our kind students have raised funds for their chosen charities by selling cakes, doughnuts and other baked goodies at breaktime. **Ethan Collier, Caspar Newns, Isaam Sami, Oliver Mitchell** and **Harrison Royston** raised £175 for Prostate Cancer UK. **Aoife Wood** raised over £160 for Cancer Research UK. **Zoe Liput, Ginny Wong** and **Brook Barnes** raised £190 for the mental health charity MIND.



- **Animal defenders**

The German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, said: "*We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals*", and these students have shown themselves to have very big hearts. **Noah Blizard, Caitlyn Burton, Sofia Karalius** and **Ella Matthews** are nominated for their



kindness to animals, both locally and internationally. This includes nursing native wildlife, donating to animal charities, and raising awareness of endangered species.

- **Community champions**

Charity starts at home and these students have all helped to make a difference to their communities.

Emma Thornton has shown kindness to a homeless individual, **Dafiyah Raza** has donated to a local mosque and **Ivan Verkhlopov** has supported a Ukrainian family hub.



- **Eco warriors**

Eco warriors are environmental activists who support efforts to protect habitats and promote eco-friendly lifestyles. **Joel Mackney, Rosie Cottrill, Taylor Craddock** and **Clara San Martin** have all helped to make our environment better by litter picking and helping to clean beaches.

SHOWING POTENTIAL!

Year 13 Subuhi Burhaani participated in the ONS Data Challenge, submitting a project titled '*Exploring the Market Potential for Blackburn*'. Her analysis examined key challenges within the area, identified measurable key performance indicators, and explored how heritage assets could be leveraged to support market development. She also proposed strategies for improvement and included future market forecasting.

In recognition of the high quality of her work, Subuhi was selected as one of the top three finalists and was invited to attend the awards ceremony celebrating her achievement.

We are extremely proud of Subuhi for going above and beyond in her studies and for performing so strongly in a highly competitive national challenge. Her success has significantly strengthened her university application to top-tier courses.



SKIING

During the half-term break, 50 students went skiing in Arinsal, Andorra, high in the Pyrenees.

The Pal Arinsal ski area combines the three resorts of Arinsal, Pal and Arcalis. It is ideal for school ski groups, with a height of 2560m, and 45 lifts serving around 100km of piste. All students had 4 hours of ski tuition each day.

Evening entertainment included an in-house quiz, pizza night at a local restaurant, and bowling in the capital city of Andorra la Vella.

Mr Barnett, Miss Crowder, Miss Beck, Miss Bolland and Mr Mills accompanied the students.

“Snow conditions were excellent”, said trip leader Mr Barnett, “despite one day where some of the resort was closed due to high winds. The progress the students made with their skiing was huge, and students were absolutely flying by the end of the week.”

“Behaviour and conduct were exemplary”, he said. “The students represented themselves, their parents and Lymm High School perfectly.”



WINTER FUN



STUDENTS SHINE IN



We are delighted to celebrate the success of our Sixth Form students in the Economics Olympiad – the world’s largest and fastest-growing global competition in Economics for secondary school students.

Designed to inspire the brightest young minds, the Olympiad challenges students to apply economic theory, analytical thinking and real-world problem solving at the highest level.

In 2025, the competition was brought to the UK for the very first time by Time2Resources Ltd under the leadership of education experts Helen Coupland-Smith and Carlo Mencattelli. This exciting new chapter has opened the door for British students to make history on the international stage.

An incredible 4000 students nationally entered the first round of the competition, including 24 Sixth Form students from Lymm High. We are exceptionally proud to announce that these students progressed to the prestigious second round, hosted at Lancaster University: Harrison Haase, Ralph Ashford, Joel Doubleday, Haydn Wood, Matilda Marsland, Deen Raza, Akshith Gulapally, Charlie Lomas and Josh Cooke.

“To have nine students advance to the second round from such a competitive national field is a remarkable achievement and reflects both their dedication and the strength of Economics at Lymm”, said Ms Hill.

We are especially thrilled to share that Josh Cooke and Ralph Ashford have been success-

ful in progressing even further to the National Round, which will be held in June in London. They will be representing the North West, alongside 12 other students from schools across the region – an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to their academic excellence.

The journey will ultimately culminate in Ancient Olympia, Greece, where the top five UK students will represent their country at the International Final in August 2026. There, they will join exceptional young economists from around the globe in a truly inspiring celebration of talent and achievement.

We wish them every success!



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#HAF2026



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BULLS-EYE BONANZA



LYMM HIGH Darts

The oche has never been busier as our brand-new Premier League Darts competition bursts onto the scene, expertly organised by Mr Gornall in response to the overwhelming enthusiasm generated by our Inter-Hall darts events.

What began as a popular pastime has now evolved into a fully-fledged league, with an impressive 120 competitors battling it out across three divisions. The structure of the league introduces promotion and relegation, adding an extra layer of excitement and jeopardy to every fixture. With a doubles format at its core, the competition not only sharpens individual skill but also fosters teamwork, communi-

cation and a healthy competitive edge – values that sit at the heart of our school ethos of participation and personal development.

Supporting the smooth running of the league are four dedicated Year 9 Darts Ambassadors: Dexter Grace, Ted Cullen, Oliver Edwards and Finn Hill. Their contributions – ranging from setting up equipment to managing scoring and logistics – have been invaluable. More important-

ly, they have set a fantastic example for younger students. Year 7 students such as Viktor Vychodil, Tate Yarwood, George Sands and Alex Nash have already stepped up, demonstrating maturity, responsibility and a genuine commitment to the club.

On the competitive front, each division is already delivering drama and standout performances. In League 3, Oscar Allen and Logan

Broome have emerged as early frontrunners, though exciting newcomers Eris Coxon and Raven Kwan are quickly making their presence felt, pushing seasoned players all the way.

League 2 has been set alight by Evelyn Matthews and Ivy Smith, whose blistering start – winning seven of their first nine matches – has marked them as serious contenders

for promotion.

Meanwhile, in the top division, the surprise package of the season has been the Year 7 pairing of Tate Yarwood and Alex Nash.

Competing against more experienced opposition, they have shown remarkable composure and skill, proving that talent and determination can outweigh experience.

As the season progresses, the stakes continue to rise. With promotion, relegation, and league titles all on the line, we look forward to the closing stages of the competition as matches increase in intensity and importance.

One thing is certain: the darts revolution at our school is well and truly on target.

YOUNG MAGISTRATES MOCK TRIAL

Over the past few months our Year 8 and 9 scholars have worked hard in preparation for a mock trial, which took place on Saturday 14th March at Queen Elizabeth II's Law Courts in Birmingham.

The students analysed a fictional court case of a stolen phone. The Lymm High students took on the highly skilled roles of magistrates, an usher, a legal advisor, court reporters, a court artist, a defendant, a witness, prosecution lawyers and defence lawyers.

“During the first court against Christ Church School, we were prosecuting the fictional defendant and although Lymm students made some valuable points, unfortunately the defence side won”, said Year 8 Kate Shaw.

After a short break, the students were against Alcester Grammar School on the defence side.

After many convincing arguments from both schools, it was a split decision between the magistrates. This meant that the lead magistrate had to decide the verdict and they declared the defendant guilty.

Many thanks to Miss Cucuz who played a brilliant role in ensuring everyone was prepared, and for organising the day perfectly.

Although the students didn't win, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their day.



Year 8 Poppy Wee was the court artist and did a tremendous job.



DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS

On Friday 20th March, staff and students wore odd socks and bought cookies for 'Odd Sock Day': an initiative to raise awareness and celebrate individuals with Down syndrome.

The day encourages everyone to wear odd socks as a fun and visible way to show support and promote understanding. Gingerbread 'odd sock' biscuits were also sold at break and lunch for £1. In total, £223.42 was raised for Down Syndrome Cheshire. For more information on Down Syndrome Day, [click here](#).



In addition, after successfully completing 21 days of walking 2.1km to celebrate World Down Syndrome day last year, Libby Edwardson's latest 213 challenge is to run for 21 days. The Year 11 student has already smashed her target and has, so far, raised £1180 for Down Syndrome Cheshire. To find out more, and donate, [click here](#).



Worried about how you're feeling?

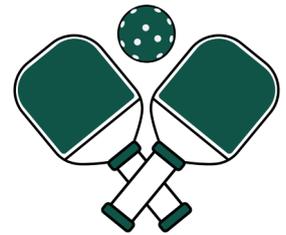


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YOUNGMINDS



IN A PICKLE



The Key Stage 4 and 5 Inter-Hall Pickleball Doubles Competition took place from 9–13th March, bringing together students from across the Halls for a week of competitive and enjoyable sport, writes Year 13 Jack Griffin.

A total of 10 doubles teams entered the tournament, showcasing strong participation and enthusiasm for pickleball within the Inter-Hall community.

The competition followed a structured tournament format, allowing teams to compete across several matches throughout the week. Players demonstrated impressive teamwork, quick reflexes, and strategic play as they progressed through the rounds. Matches were closely contested, with many games drawing support from fellow students who came along to watch and encourage the competitors.

As the tournament progressed, several teams emerged as strong contenders. After a series of competitive matches, Tatton came out victorious with Year 12 Sam Spencer and Tom Matthews advancing to the final round, where they delivered an excellent performance.

Alex Smith and Ned Martin from Year 10 put up a strong battle in the all-Tatton final with their strong coordination, communication and consistent shot placement, but Sam Spencer and Tom Matthews were ultimately crowned Inter-Hall Pickleball Doubles Champions for the second year in a row. They finished the tournament unbeaten and demonstrated a

high level of skill throughout the week. Their success reflected both strong individual ability and effective teamwork.

Overall, the event was a great success, promoting friendly competition, social interaction, and increased engagement in recreational sport across the Halls. With positive feedback from both participants and spectators, the Inter-Hall Pickleball Doubles Competition proved to be an enjoyable highlight of the Inter-Hall sporting calendar.

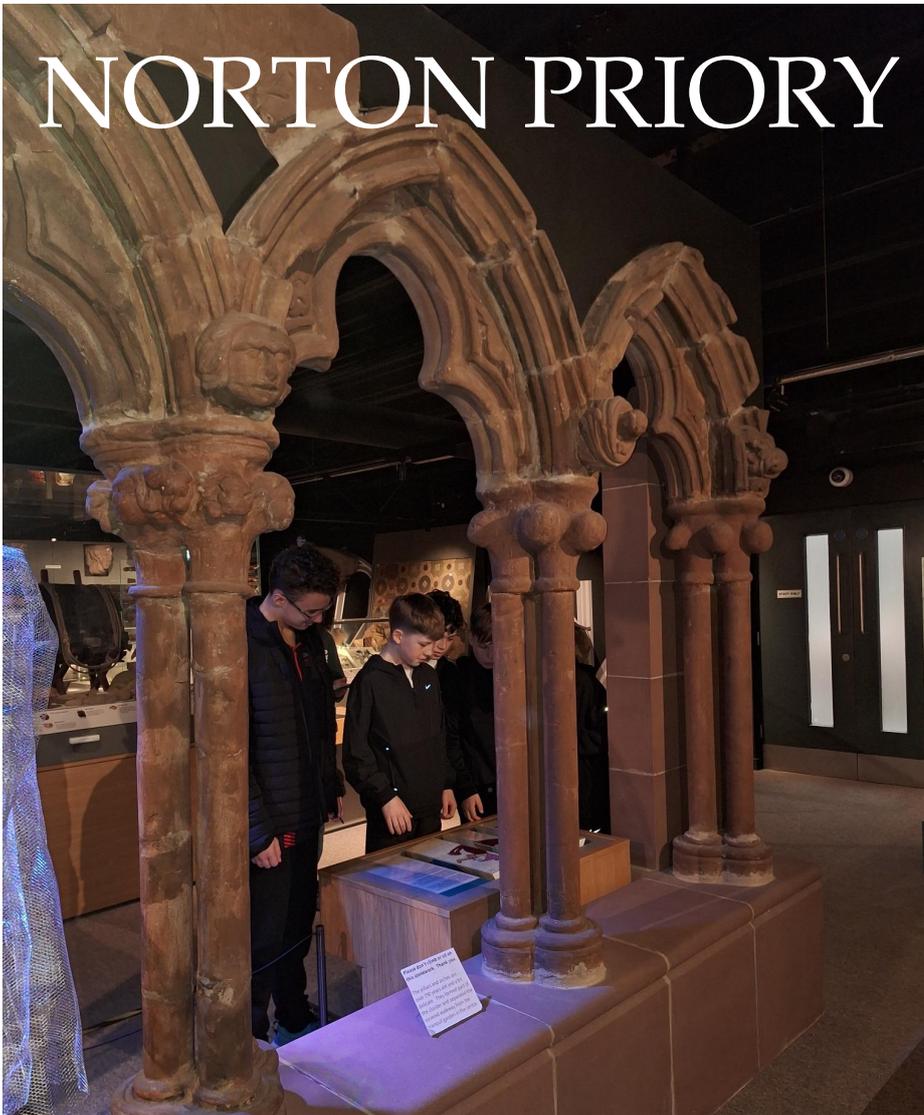
The Year 13 BTEC Sport students, who organised the tournament, would like to thank everyone who took part or was involved with it. We look forward to seeing the Key Stage 3 students and staff in the summer term for the next competition.



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our 30 Gold DofE expedition participants should be extremely pleased with themselves having successfully completed their practice event. Camping 2 nights near Castleton in the Peak District, the Year 12 students put their training to the test, exploring the local hills in their teams, including combatting the challenging Kinder Scout, unaccompanied, on the final day. Instructors were full of praise for their enthusiasm, team work and maturity. Groups took responsibility for their own organisation, including meal plans, accommodation, routes, timings, and remained positive throughout the challenge. This stands them in good stead for May's Qualifying event in North Wales. Let's hope the weather is as kind to them then!





150 students from Year 7 took part in a fantastic trip to Norton Priory to develop their knowledge and learning on Medieval Religion and Healthcare, writes Mrs Douglas.



We had a lovely couple of days where students were able to explore the rich History of the Priory, which had been on the site for about 900 years and is the most archaeologically excavated site in Europe.

After the Tudor Monarch Henry VIII broke with Rome and created the Church of England, the Priory was shut in the 'dissolution of the monasteries' but then became a family home for the Brookes Family up until the 1920s.

Students participated in a museum-led classroom session where they were able to practise their calligraphy skills with a quill. Monks and canons used this technique to transcribe new copies of the bible before printing press-

es. They also used archaeological clues to solve a murder mystery – a body of a member of the Dutton family who were benefactors to the Priory in the Middle Ages had been discovered outside the Priory.

Students studied Medieval medicine with the museum lead who taught them about remedies such as leeches, trepanning, balancing the four humours, and how Medieval doctors tried to work out why you were ill. Finally, they made 'tuzzy muzzys', which was a pouch of mixed herbs people would produce to 'stop' them catching the Black Death as they believed it was caused by miasma (bad smells).

Later in the day, students had a tour of what

remains of the monasteries and investigated the daily life of a canon at the priory. They also completed a fact hunt around the museum exhibition and learnt about the work of archaeologists and how they piece together the past through the artefacts that they find.

We all had such an enjoyable day!



NIEVE'S WATER POLO GOALS

During the first weekend in March, City of Liverpool Water Polo's U17 team successfully qualified for the Swim England Water Polo National Age Group Championships finals following a dominant performance in the qualification rounds at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham. The team secured three impressive wins against Worthing, Cheltenham and Caledonia and finished top of their group.

Year 11 Nieve Folkes scored a total of 11 goals across the three matches including four penalties:

- Liverpool vs. Worthing 20–3 (Nieve scored 5)
- Liverpool vs. Cheltenham 11–6 (Nieve scored 4)
- Liverpool vs. Caledonia 10–8 (Nieve scored 2)

The finals are in Gloucester on the 2–3rd May. We wish the team the best of luck!





Huge congratulations to our U15 Netball team who can now call themselves National Champions in netball having won the tier 2 competition on Tuesday 17th March.

“We were so impressed by their grit, determination and resilience both in the national finals and throughout the entire season, during which they've been undefeated in full-length competition”, said Ms Dixon.

The Year 10 squad who played in the finals at Loughborough University were: Jess Wright (Captain), Lulu Horner, Ellie-Grace Stuart, Evie-May Williams, Sophia Marrable-Wright, Ava Rudkin, Ella Cordingley, Emily Mills, Delilah Wilson and Beth Marrington.



A live stream of the game was shown at lunchtime in the Main Hall for all students to enjoy.

The team also attended staff briefing on Friday 20th March to receive congratulations from all the staff. "We are so proud of them all."



Special mention also to Evie-May Williams who was awarded player of the tournament.



HEADING FOR THE FINAL

Warrington School Girls won their Cup semi-final on Saturday 7th March, 1–0, with Izzy Woods assisting the goal.

The student who is Captain of the Year 7 Lymm High girls football team plays for Altrincham FC and Irlam; and is soon moving to Whittle Hall. She has been playing since she was 5 years old and plays in both Wing and Midfield positions.

The Cup final, which will be held at Stoke Stadium, will be in either May or June. Good luck Izzy!



BEN WINS SILVER FOR TEAM ENGLAND

Ben Ross was selected to represent Team England at the McCullagh International Open Meet as part of the Swim England Diploma in Sporting Excellence programme.

In a packed 3-day event in Dublin, Ireland, the Year 13 student competed in the 800m Freestyle relay, 200m Butterfly and 800m Freestyle events all on the first morning; followed by the 1500m Freestyle on day 2, and the 400m Freestyle on the final day.

Despite the heavy schedule after an intense training camp and a day of travelling, Ben finished 7th overall in 800 Freestyle, after being seeded 15th. In the 1500m Freestyle race, Ben dug deep and hung on to touch 2nd and claim a Silver medal for Swim England: the team's best finish of the Meet in a new Long Course Personal Best (PB) of 16:27.50.

Ben said, "It was an amazing experience to race at a high-profile International competition and to have been able to bring home a medal." Very well done, Ben. We are so proud of you!

UPCOMING DATES

**Friday 3rd to Friday 17th
April**

Easter holidays

Monday 20th April

School back

Tuesday 28th April

Spring Concert

Thursday 30th April

KS3 Celebration
Evening

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

**Monday 25th to Friday
29th May**

May half-term

**Tuesday 2nd and
Wednesday 3rd June**

Animal Farm production

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