



# Maghull High News

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**Hello** and welcome to Maghull High School News. The first term of this year has been an exceptionally busy one for us and we hope you enjoy reading about just some of the things that have been going on. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and restful festive period and will see you on the 4 January.

## Sixth Form China Trip



Around October half term, twenty year 12 students and four staff left early on Monday morning for ten action packed days in China. After the mammoth journey, we arrived in Beijing worn out and weary and were whisked out on the first of our many visits and tours. The Temple of Heaven Park and Qianmen Street filled our afternoon and then with dinner safely attempted – all using chopsticks I might add – we went to bed. Wednesday brought with it the Imperial Palace and the Summer Palace, both beautiful places and all mysteriously shrouded, as was the rest of Beijing, in a smog which it turned out was one of the worst that they've suffered for years. We actually didn't see the sun for the first six days that we were away! The next day brought with it the big one... the one everyone was waiting for – The Great Wall. It did not disappoint and our students made the heroic effort to climb some very steep sections of The Great Wall as it snaked across the hillsides into the distance. After lunch, a flying visit to the Ming Tombs, the Bird's Nest Stadium and Olympic Village followed.

Friday and it was high speed train day... five hours at 300km/h from Beijing to Shanghai. Travelling by train in China is a bit like airline travel here. Pre-booked seats,

passports, baggage checks etc. but after fighting our way through like good tourists, we settled in to a very pleasant journey. The scenery, once again shrouded in smog (for the entire journey), was pleasant and showed a side of China which we would probably not have seen otherwise: small farms, tiny villages and local industry; a far cry from the cities of Beijing and Shanghai.

Shanghai found us in the company of the most incomprehensible tour guide ever. He may as well have spoken Mandarin for most of the tour! Still, the Chenghuang Temple and cruise on the Pujiang River were a delight and then it was back to the Disneyland Hotel, the rooms decorated in the most psychedelic colours imaginable. The tours of Shanghai were marred by very heavy rain and mist. We can all describe the inside of a cloud now, from the 88th floor of the Jinmao Tower!

Another bullet train and after a couple of hours we were in our final destination, Ningbo. Here we were to undertake the most interesting part of the tour, the homestay! The students were picked up as soon as we arrived and they disappeared into the night. We had three days and nights in Ningbo visiting our link school, Minggang High School. We undertook tours and visits, spent time in lessons and made friends with the students and staff there. This is the way to really experience China. The food, lifestyle and daily activities of the Chinese people. It was fascinating but difficult, fun but awkward – every type of emotion as our two cultures met over those three days.

We learned so much on our tour, made friends, visited world renowned heritage sites, experienced things alien to us but also somehow familiar – it was the most enjoyable and exciting thing some of us may ever do. The long trip back flew by and before we knew it we were back to school, the journey just a blurry memory behind us. We would all like to thank the staff and students of Minggang High School; our sponsors Aintree Races and Liverpool 1; Etihad for enjoyable flights and our headteacher and governors for allowing us to go. Minggang are coming here in 2017 and we are looking forward to it already!

**A report by Mr Hurst, our Chinese Link Ambassador**

## Maghull Civic Awards



We were extremely proud when six of our year 11 students attended the Civic Awards ceremony at Maghull Town Hall on October 20 to receive a Youth Award. The award was in recognition of three year's hard work as Anne Frank Ambassadors. Trained by the Anne Frank Trust, they have developed an in depth knowledge and understanding of the Anne Frank story and have run and delivered workshops in school and in partner primaries sharing their knowledge with younger and older students. They have also run sessions tackling issues such as prejudice, racism, genocide and the holocaust. Well done Megan Corness, Matthew Dickinson, Summer Esterson, Megan Kinsella, Daniel Ormrod and Louise Sefton. You are amazing role models for our younger students.

## Sefton Shining Star Awards

We would like to congratulate Louise McLatchey from year 10 as she was nominated for a Sefton Shining Star Award. Louise will attend an awards ceremony on 6 December and we are hopeful that she will win the 'Inspiring Change' award. Louise only joined our school last year, so this is an amazing achievement in such a short space of time.

## Financial Literacy

We were invited to help Aintree Davenhill celebrate their recent award for becoming a centre of excellence for financial literacy. Mrs Wallis and some of our students ran a stall with some year 6 looking at how we have combined learning about fair trade together with understanding what our needs and wants might be when it comes to our spending habits - especially when chocolate is involved.

## Dates for the diary

Return after Christmas - Wednesday 4 January  
Year 7 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 18 January  
Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 25 January  
Year 8 Parents'/Options Evening - Wednesday 1 February

## Sports Update

### Cross Country

We took a small team of runners to Birkdale Common to represent the school competing against top runners from schools across Sefton. Notable performances were from Joshua McLoughlin (Yr7) Declan O'Connor (Yr8) Hannah Doyle (Yr9) Emma Doyle (Yr11). Well done to all who took part.

### Netball

Our under sixteen team competed recently in the Sefton tournament and played extremely well in cold, wet conditions. They enjoyed representing the school for the last time and we would like to thank them for all of their support and participation. The year eight team competed this half term in a friendly tournament against Deyes and Maricourt, winning 4 out of 6 matches. Well done to all involved.

### Football

The year seven football team are having a good run in the National cup football competition, having beaten Ellesmere Port Catholic High School and Bishop Heber School from Chester. Well done boys on a fantastic start to your football career at Maghull High School!

In the Sefton Cup our year seven team beat Hillside 9-1. Goal scorers were Kyle Johnson 3, Anthony Kelly 2, Joe Nuttall, Bayley McDonald, Dan Brisco, Reeve Owens. Congratulations on an amazing performance lads!

### Basketball

Our year ten basketball team drew with Maricourt 22-22. Well done to Jaydan Duffy, Michael Payne, Jack Shire, Joshua Garside, Jared Seasman, Calum Prendergast and Ben Rowan.

## Sefton Music Service Concert

On Tuesday 29 November, we hosted a concert which welcomed 90 primary students and teachers to our school to perform specially written songs supported by the Sefton Music Service. The schools attending were St Thomas', Westvale and Summerhill. The opening performance was delivered by our own Lucy Hayles and Alex O'Hare from year 9 and Mr Dutch and his technical team coordinated the event.



## Clay Primary Masterclasses



A massive thank you goes to Miss Jones and Miss Garnett from our wonderful art department who gave up time recently to work with students and parents from local primary schools on Thursdays after school. Our visitors were taking part in clay master classes and thoroughly enjoyed their experience. You can see some of the outcomes of their work in the photographs above. We are already looking forward to what next year's group might achieve.

## Unplugged



Our annual Unplugged Night took place on Thursday 1 December and was an extremely successful event, with a full to capacity audience in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. A large number of pupils from music classes, Years 7 to 11, performed instrumental, choral and individual music. This further developed their performance skills, which are so necessary for their examinations. Feedback from the audience was exceptionally positive and recognised not only the high quality musical skills, but also the superb commitment and attitudes demonstrated by all those involved. Thank you to all staff and the technical team who supported this event and thanks also to our PTFA who provided a bar and refreshments on the night. Congratulations to each and every student (and staff member) who contributed and a special thank you must go to our dedicated peripatetic staff who were invaluable on the evening. We look forward to the next one.

## Children in Need



Thank you to all students and staff who supported our recent non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. We are pleased to say that £644.07 was raised and deposited in the TSB after school that night to make sure it was added to the total for the evening show. Good effort everyone!

## Science Club Update



In science club recently there was a raffle for a huge pumpkin grown by Mr Hurst. They have also been fortunate enough to welcome a guest speaker from Liverpool University with a PhD in nanoscience. As well as this, five of our year 9 and 10 science club girls have completed the first round of a competition run by Unilever with other schools to win a work experience placement. The competition involves creating ways for third world countries to easily wash their hands to prevent the spread of bacterial infection. Good luck girls!

## Book Fair

Thank you to Mrs Christian who once again organised a brilliant Book Fair. The fair ran for a week in November and gives us an annual opportunity to secure some free stock for the library. The fair was supported by staff and students throughout the week, with the 'Name the Mascot' competition being won by Amy Cubbins from year 7. Hopefully our students will get lots of new reading material for Christmas. It's important to maintain good reading habits as **our next round of reading tests comes up immediately after the Christmas break.**

## Work-related Learning Opportunities

Our 6 week Learn to Earn course has started again with the amazing staff at HMRC Netherton and our group of students from year ten. In the first week their ice breaker involved building the tallest free standing balloon tower, and it was interesting to see how competitive the two teams were. Over the six weeks the students will learn how to write a CV, fill in an application form for a job and experience a mock Interview. They will also job shadow some staff who work in processing tax credits and learn a little more about wages, income tax and national insurance contributions. Thank you to HMRC Netherton.

### Year 10 Business Breakfasts



For the fifth year running we have welcomed business men and women to share breakfast with members of our year 10. Over coffee, biscuits and bacon sandwiches, they chat about their job, their aspirations, school life, possible career paths, and also what's happening in Strictly or I'm a Celeb. This event helps our students develop their communication skills, and allows them to chat freely with people from the world of work. Thank you to all our guests, especially HMRC who always fully support our events.

## Flawless



Our annual dance show took place on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 December. As always there were a large number of pupils performing. A range of staff and sixth form students supported the choreography, with some pupils choreographing their own dance pieces. There was a wide range of genres included in the programme, including ballet, tap, street dance and contemporary. This year pupils from three local primary schools were included in the performance following the head of dance and a number of sixth form students working with the primary children during this term to support pupils in preparation for the show. It was a delight to welcome students from Melling, Summerhill, Aintree Davenhill and their parents. As ever the show was a sell out and the quality and creativity throughout both shows was exceptional. Thank you to Miss Griffiths and her team for an amazing effort and congratulations to all who took part.

## Ben Morris



We congratulate former student Ben Morris on his one year contract with St Helens rugby club which started in November. Ben recently had the opportunity to play for Wales as his grandma came from there. He played in a recent friendly against Jamaica at Wakefield, before travelling to Italy to play in a World Cup qualifier. The team triumphed 2-14, with two tries being scored by Ben, which qualifies them for the World Cup next year in Australia. We are extremely proud of Ben's success in his chosen career so far and wish him the best of luck for the future.

## Sally Tallant



Sally Tallant, Director of the Liverpool Biennial, a festival of contemporary art, came to talk to all of our year 12 students and our art students from years 10 and 11 about her work. Through the medium of images, videos and slides, Sally explained how The Liverpool Biennial 2016 unfolded through the landscape of the city. It was organised as a story narrated in several episodes: fictional worlds sited in galleries, public spaces, unused buildings and online, which draw from Liverpool's past, present and future. Sally was an excellent presenter and was able to hold a frank and open discussion with the students about working in the arts.