

March 2024

Cardinal Allen Catholic High School



School Newsletter

Happy & Holy Easter

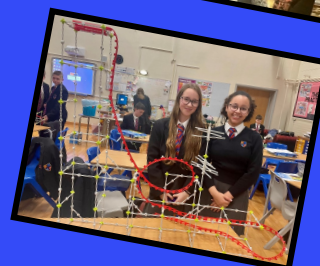


Also in this edition:

Department News

Scholars News

Celebration of Music





MFL



On Thursday 11th January, we were delighted to invite Ana González (all the way from Tijuana, Mexico) and Jay Stott (from la Costa del Fylde) into school to ask and answer questions in Spanish with our Year 10 and Year 8 students. Students were able to ask Ana questions including "What do you like to do in your free time? (¿Qué te gusta hacer en tu tiempo libre?)" and "Do you like England? (¿Te gusta Inglaterra?)". Thank you very much to Ana and Jay for giving up their time to help our students in their Spanish learning.

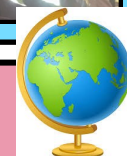


Music & Drama



Pupils went on a trip to see Hamilton at The Palace Theatre, Manchester. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the show and other staff members even heard them discussing this on the courts the next day - how is that for Cultural Capital?! Thank you to the pupils for being so well behaved, they were absolutely delightful and a credit to themselves, parents and the school.

Special thanks to the staff who went along, Mrs Mitchell, Miss Roberts, Mrs Taylor and Mr Winstanley.



Geography

8 of our pupils attended the Lancashire School's Climate Change conference at the Wyre Civic Centre. It was a fantastic morning, learning more about the issue of climate change within our community and contributing ideas of how to best tackle the issues on the Fylde Coast, our Year 8s and 9s did us proud!



English

Local author Nathan Parker has been in school delivering creative writing workshops to our KS4 pupils. He has worked with our students on story mountains, use of the senses and descriptive techniques to improve their exam skills. Nathan's books are currently available on Scopy at a discounted rate if pupils would like to purchase a copy. He will personalize and sign them.



Art



The Art department were delighted to help with the designing and painting of Elmer! The competition for the design of Elmer was won by Freya and this design was used as the basis for the final outcome! The lovely volunteers from all year groups added on their own ideas to further develop Elmer and I think you will agree that the finished article looks fantastic! I would like to thank ALL students who helped make this happen on a very quick turnaround and to Mrs Bateman for organising the whole event!



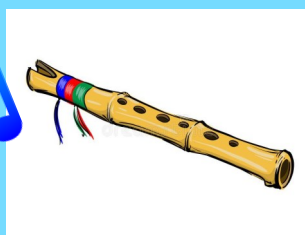
Celebration of Music

Well done to all pupils who took part in The Celebration of Music at the Opera House on Thursday 12th March. You were absolutely fantastic. A huge thank you to Miss Roberts, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Taylor for working with the pupils on Sister Act. We look forward to presenting the full show for you on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July. A HUGE shoutout to our leading lady last night, Emily - ONE of our talented Deloris! You should all be so proud of yourself. Mr Cafferkey was beaming with joy and pride!



Music

Congratulations to Year 9 student Jessica for achieving her ABRSM grade 6 distinction on flute and Year 10 student Arianna for achieving her ICMA grade 8 piano, also with distinction.



English—Upcoming Trips

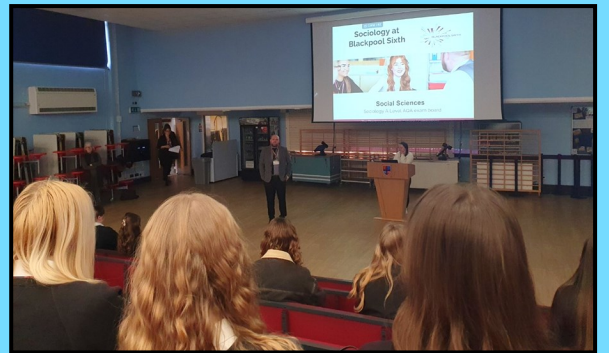


Keep an eye out on Class Charts for our forthcoming school trips to see these live performances!

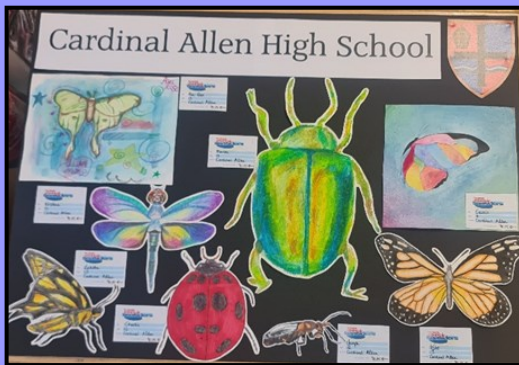


Geography & Sociology

Earlier in the term, our Year 10 Geographers were fortunate enough to sit in on a talk by Alex Burgess, lecturer in Sociology at Blackpool Sixth. It was a brilliant morning of discussion centred around Sociology and Green Crime, which link to aspects of their GCSE. Pupils were also able to get a better idea of the opportunities available to them, should they decide to continue their studies at the Sixth Form.



Art Competition



This half term The Art Department held an insect illustration competition. We were overwhelmed with a fantastic range of entries from Years 7, 8, and 9. Well done to all those who submitted their work, particularly the 23 students whose work has

gone on to be exhibited in the Young Seaside Exhibition, held at Blackpool School of Art's Gallery. A huge congratulations to our two overall winners Verity and Ebony, and our four highly commended, Harriet, Brooke, Kristina and Marika.



Scholars

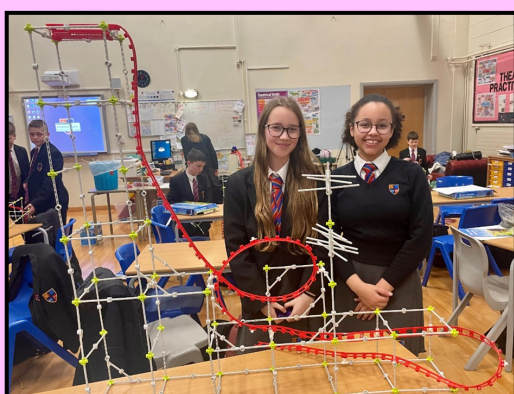


As usual, the Scholars have been very busy. We have had a two-day visit from Andy Griffith; The Year 8 & 9s have had a 2 hour Philosophy session based on the book they have been reading this term; 'The Obstacle is the Way' by Ryan Holiday. The Year 10s have finalised their presentations and are excited (and a bit nervous!) about presenting them to parents, staff and younger scholars on 16th May at our Presentation Evening.

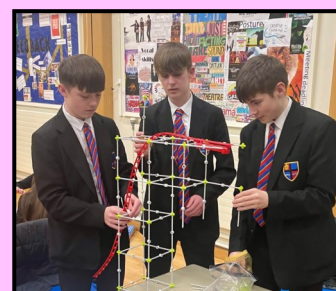


On the 22nd January, we welcomed Peter Wright from Blackpool Sixth Form. He gave us an inspirational talk about aiming to join the Excellence Programme at the college. If you would like to learn more, please follow this link.

[Excellence Programme - Blackpool Sixth Form](#)



On 6th February all the Scholars joined in a stem activity morning. They had challenges to complete in teams. Firstly, using only paper straws and limited cellotape they had to build a 'strong structure' that could hold a weight (rolls of cellotape!) the winners had 15 rolls balanced before collapse! Secondly, they learnt about the forces affecting rollercoasters and were then challenged to build their own. The roller coasters were then tested by our



visitors (some were more successful than others!)

On 12th March, we all visited Chester University, with a tour around their beautiful campus and quizzes and games to introduce university life (did you know there are more than 50,000 different degree course in the UK?). Finally, we had a wonderful talk from Dr Gareth Nye, a very successful medical researcher. He told the Scholars about the many varied degrees and careers available in the medical industry. If you would like to find out more about Chester University or Medical Science, please



follow this links.

[Home | University of Chester](#)

[BMedSci Medical Science BMedSci | University of Chester](#)

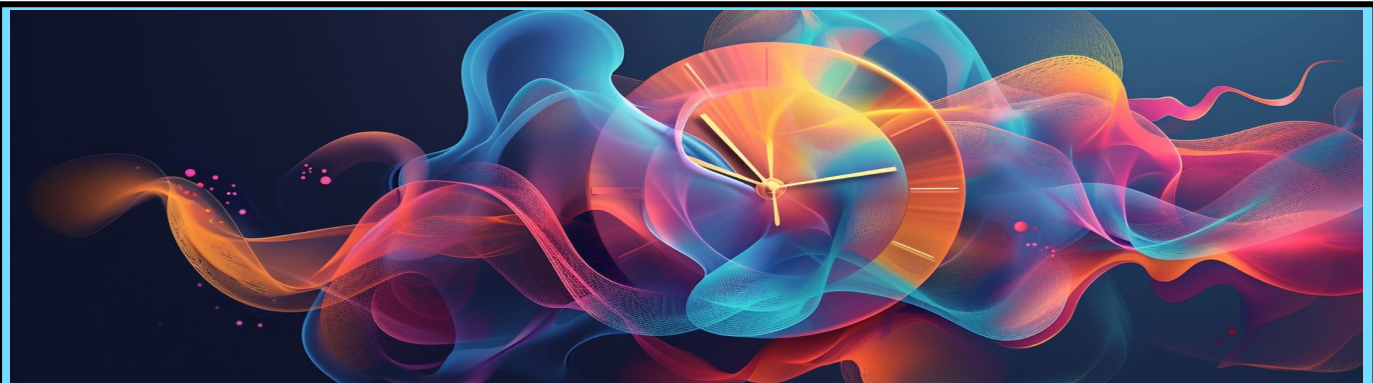
We then spent a lovely afternoon in Chester city centre, we walked along the ancient city walls, through the Roman Gardens and into the remains of the Roman Amphitheatre. Finally, we walked to the impressive Cathedral. As usual, the Scholars behaviour was impeccable, and I am so proud with how they represent Cardinal Allen wherever we go.

Also, this term, the Year 8 & 9 Scholars received some revision cards with advice on how to use them, I hope the extra revision has paid off in your recent exam week! The Year 10s received a study guide with many revision ideas to help them with their mock exams, good luck!

Next term we look forward to our Presentation Evening on 16th May, I hope you can all make it to watch our wonderful Year 10s tell you all about what they have learnt during their time in this group.



Science News



As we wrap up another jam-packed half-term including an exciting British Science Week, we're thrilled to share some highlights of the incredible activities and achievements within Science.

During British Science week pupils were invited to participate in a poster competition, showcasing their creativity and scientific knowledge.

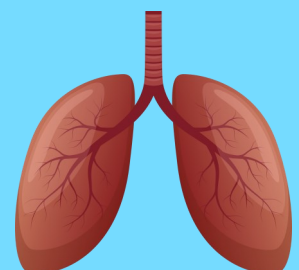
Various departments across the school embraced British Science Week by incorporating fascinating science facts into their subjects, creating enriching cross-curricular experiences. The Science department hosted engaging after-school sessions, including a thrilling paper aeroplane making competition to determine the fastest design. Congratulations to all participants! Pupils also took part in practical work, delving into the factors influencing the rate of chemical reactions and factors that affect diffusion. Both were insightful and hands-on learning experiences. Form groups across the school participated in literacy activities and a quiz, fostering teamwork and scientific knowledge. Stay tuned as we announce the winning form group soon!

Thank you to all our dedicated pupils, teachers, and staff for making British Science Week a resounding success! Together, we continue to inspire curiosity and a love for science within our school community.



During this half-term, Year 7 pupils had a blast exploring our new microscopes, conducting cheek cell swabs, and identifying key organelles within the cells. It was an educational and fascinating experience for all involved.

Additionally, pupils in years 8 and 11 had the opportunity to try their hand at a dissection of lungs and heart respectively. While some students initially found the prospect daunting, many bravely took the chance to explore the inner workings of the human body up close. In particular, Year 8 pupils had the chance to dissect lungs... leaving some pupils breathless with excitement! While Year 11 students tackled the complexities of the heart. Despite initial apprehension, numerous students demonstrated remarkable courage as they engaged directly with these vital organs, holding them in their hands and gaining invaluable insights into their structure and function.



Some reminders -

Year 10 and 11 Science Revision Guides: A friendly reminder to all Year 10 and 11 pupils to consider purchasing the Science revision guides if they haven't already done so. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding ordering these guides, in the near future.

Year 11 Revision Sessions: Year 11 pupils, please remember that revision runs after school on Mondays and Wednesdays, following the school revision timetable. Keep an eye out for updates on Easter holiday revision sessions.

Developing a Lifelong Love of Reading



Children Who Read Go on to Succeed!



Children who read

Are more likely to overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities



Are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem



Are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum



Are more likely to develop empathy and creativity



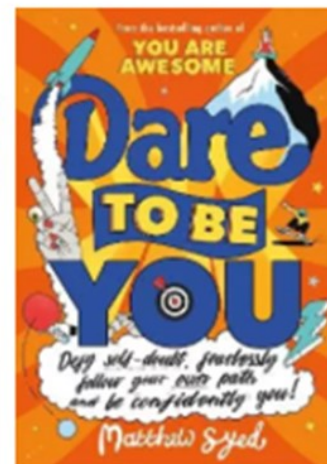
Recommended Reads for International Women's Day



Developing a Lifelong Love of Reading



Pick up a Book during the Easter Break!



Talking About Communication at Cardinal Allen



Oracy Outdoors!

Spending time outside can help your students develop a better understanding of the environment, enhancing their engagement with learning and supporting their physical and mental health. Outdoor learning also presents opportunities for developing students' oracy skills, providing meaningful contexts for talk and authentic reasons to collaborate.



LET'S GET TALKING

Debate Club...

Where? Room 7

When? Every Wednesday from 3.10pm

Who? Everyone is welcome!

What pupils say... 'Debate club is great, you can meet people from other year groups, chat about interesting topics and we have loads of fun'.

Why is building vocabulary so important?

MIND THE WORD GAP

The "Word Gap" is the **difference** between the extent of a child's vocabulary when entering education and the expected vocabulary for their age. Research shows that it is not limited to those entering primary school, but continues into secondary education and beyond.

The word gap affects 49% of Year 1 and 43% of Year 7 pupils and it's getting bigger



Percentage of teachers who say that Year 1 and Year 7 pupils have a limited vocabulary to the extent that it affects their learning (OUP)

The word gap is caused by a lack of reading and words learnt at home

Easter Wishes

We would like to wish all associated with our school a very Holy and restful Easter. At Easter, Christians celebrate the salvation won for us by the Lord Jesus through His suffering, death and resurrection. I hope this season is a time of spiritual renewal for all and that you are filled with the peace of the Lord.

Mr Cafferkey

Next Attendance Trip

Our final attendance rewards trip of the year takes place on Wednesday 17th July to the Pleasure Beach. Once again we will be rewarding pupils who have achieved 97% attendance. This will be taken from 1st March to 4th June and invites will be sent out after the 4th June.

We very much hope to invite as many pupils as possible on this fantastic end of year trip. Look out for the invite on Class Charts and don't miss the deadline!

Key Dates 2024

School closes for pupils after school	Wednesday 27th March
Good Friday	Friday 29th March
Easter Monday	Monday 1st April
School re-opens	Monday 15th April
May Day Closure	Monday 6th May
Mid Term Closure	Monday 27th May— Friday 31st May
School closes for Summer	Friday 19th July

Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness
Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end
Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death
Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.

