Weatherhead High School

WEATHER REPORT

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

Spring 2016

Historic Football Double

U13 squad

U14 squad

Weatherhead celebrated a historic first as both the U13 and U14 squads brought the *2015 Merseyside Schools' Cup* over the water to the Wirral for the first time!

After a promising start in the tournament with a 10-0 win over *Holy Family Catholic High School*, our U13s beat off stiff competition to face *St. John Bosco Arts College* in the final. The girls meant business from kick-off, securing a comfortable 7-0 lead by half time. The opposition came out fighting but our girls proved too much for them, demonstrating some fantastic football skills and teamwork to win 9-0.

The path of success ran smoothly for our U14s who continued Weatherhead's winning streak. The final against *Cowley International College* got off to a frantic start with two goals scored within the first three minutes of play. *Cowley* responded quickly and were awarded a penalty which they converted with ease. Our girls worked incredibly hard throughout the first half, playing into a brutal headwind to keep the opposition at bay and hold the lead at half time. The girls showed a magnificent display of hard graft and a touch of flair, fully deserving the 4-1 win after a tough season. Manager, Miss Lilburn, praised both teams' performances, "I am so proud of the girls. We played and trained so hard all last season and these results are well deserved."

Poetry in Motion

To listen to a recording of Jess reading her poem, please visit the school website www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/latestnews

Congratulations to Year 11 poet Jess Carney, who beat off stiff competition to win the age 11-16 category in the *Chris Salmon Poetry Extravaganza*. Jess was invited to attend an award ceremony, where she was in the running to become Wirral's *Young Poet Laureate* 2016/2017. Jess was delighted to take the title and was presented with a silver trophy, £100 cash prize and was crowned overall winner with her entry *Music in its Colour*. Staff were treated to a recital by Jess, for which she received a standing ovation.

Music in its Colour

The conductor's baton is a paintbrush
Executed with a swift flick of the hand
External echoes of rises and falls,
Painting each vibrant hue of sound.

A spectrum of tempos and textures
Trances of sentiment and disorientation.
Inducing states of euphoria and zest,
The complex arrangements of notations.

Each feeling is a crescendo of passion
Melodies flowing through tides of monotony
Auras of instrumentation intertwine
The mellifluous sounds of harmony.

A glorious sky of ivory fragments
Bursting into constellations of emotion,
Now a twinkling, glorious sonata,
Music: the soul's last devotion.

Ofsted Outstanding School 2012|2013
Weatherhead Teaching School Alliance
ENGAGE • FACILITATE • DEVELOP • EXCEL
SPORT ENGLAND
Leadership Partner School
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
arts colleges
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD
Youth Sport Trust
Healthy Schools Wirral
Eco-Schools
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Headteacher's Welcome

I am delighted to present this Spring Edition of Weather Report. Our school goes from strength to strength and the opportunity and talent of our students is represented in this edition. Many new developments to enhance our school have taken place or are in the process of being completed. We have recently refurbished our Learning Resource Centre (Library) and have also secured a grant of £40,000 to enhance the facilities for our Sixth Form. I am proud that so many of our students involve themselves in the wide range of activities available in school. The health and well-being of students is enhanced when they take part in sport, arts activities, charity work, Duke of Edinburgh and other opportunities beyond the classroom. We will continue to strive for academic excellence, balanced with a rich and varied extra-curricular programme. My thanks to parents and students for your on-going support and commitment to making Weatherhead such a special school.

Everyone's a SuperStar

Winners 7REL

Each year, the Performing Arts department select a charity to support in conjunction with school events. This year, money raised at the *Evening of Performing Arts*, sales of *SuperStars* tickets and the Christmas concert raffle and tuck shop was donated to local charity the *Open Door Centre* in Liscard. The centre makes the treatment of mental health accessible to young people through music workshops, traditional counselling, meditation, art classes and offers a unique drop-in facility with support from young peer mentors. Charity Director, Lee Pennington was delighted to receive a cheque for £1,000 from Sixth Formers involved with the centre together with Performing Arts students and musicians who were involved in the performances.

The return of *SuperStars* provided the perfect festive end of term event with over 50 acts entered with shows over seven lunchtimes. The judging panel, made up of Year Leaders, staff, Arts Ambassadors and Sixth Formers had a tough job but were able to put eleven acts through to the final. The finalists put on a fantastic show and after much debating and deliberating, 7REL were crowned winners and were treated to *Domino's*.

Going for Gold!

Almost 70 students from Years 10-13 collected their *Duke of Edinburgh Award* in a special awards ceremony organised by DofE coordinator, Mr Owen and Mrs Moretta. The students spent months learning new skills, volunteering, planning their expeditions, learning to read maps and pitch tents and their hard work certainly paid off! 31 Bronze, 28 Silver and a record 10 Gold awards were presented by Operations Officer for the North of England, Donna Harding assisted by stalwart DofE Unit Leader Chris Vernon-Jones. Many students will continue onto their Silver and Gold awards whilst this year's Gold awardees will be invited to Buckingham Palace for the official award ceremony with the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

World Champ

Talented Year 9 student Lani Bruce took the world by storm at the *World Taekwondo Championships* in Italy last year. Lani, who trains with Wirral and Chester Taekwondo, is currently the reigning World Champion Gold Medallist in her division and was successful in winning a silver medal. Lani's main focus is now on the *2020 Olympics* and when not training in martial arts, Lani can be found free running with the Liverpool based urban sports facility *Airborne*, who are also her sponsors.

Swimming Sensation

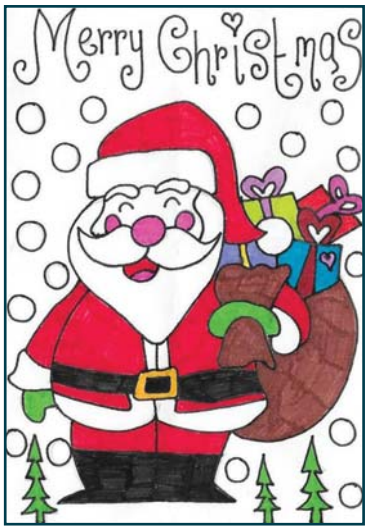
Year 11 swimmer Tori Sopp has been busy competing in local and national competitions and secured seventh place in the 200 meters at the *Manchester International Meet* despite a strong field in which she was one of the youngest competitors. Inspired by double Olympic Gold medallist Rebecca Adlington, Tori is extremely dedicated and trains nine times a week with *Wirral Metro* swimming club and is shortlisted to compete in the *World School Championships* in Turkey.

YNWA

The U13 football squad came up trumps again in the 6-a-side Schools' Final held at *Select Security Stadium*, Widnes - home of *Liverpool Ladies FC*. The play-offs included five teams who had finished top in their local stages across Merseyside. Our girls came out blazing and kept their momentum, looking completely at home in their impressive surroundings. They showcased their best football of the season with an array of goals that wouldn't have looked out of place in a premiership game, including 2 goals from our goalkeeper! Weatherhead met the *Heath School* in the final and managed to crank it up another gear to triumph 5 - 1 and win the *Liverpool FC Cup* presented to them by players, Maz Pacheco and Natasha Harding. The girls will now go on to represent *LFC* in the *National Premier League Cup* at *Goodison Park* later in the year.

'Tis the Season

Christmas came and went with a flurry of activity for students within school and the community! Students and staff took part in Christmas Jumper Day, KS3 girls entered a Christmas card design competition raising £70 for *Claire House*, the Christmas Band performed to residents at *Mariners' Park Care Home* and once again the PTF organised the Christmas Craft Fair.



Winning Christmas card design

Christmas craft fair

Chamber Choir perform at craft fair

Musicians at Mariners' Park

Christmas Concert stage crew

Christmas Concert performers

Box of Delights

Miss Brough and her army of Year 7 helpers spent weeks collecting and wrapping gifts and making cards to deliver to *Sandrock*, *Victoria House* and *Eaton Court Nursing Homes* in the run up to Christmas. Over 200 gifts were given out and students joined in carols with residents before chatting over tea and mince pies. Miss Brough commented, "The students make such an effort and really want to show the residents how much they are valued. Our girls see this as a chance to make a difference, which is what our school's values are all about." One student shared that her grandparent had recently gone into a nursing home and knew how much it meant to residents to have visits and see young faces.

ART & DT

Artist in Residence

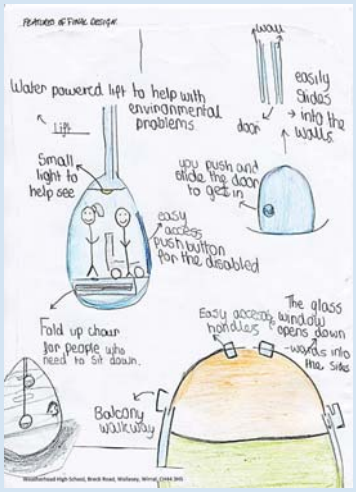
We were delighted to welcome back artist Ian Murphy to work with our A level students. Ian brought in his recently exhibited oil paintings, demonstrated techniques and gave each student individual support. The students experimented with oil paint, developed their understanding of tone and colour and produced a piece of work to add to their portfolios. Ian also delivered a workshop to primary pupils themed around architecture. After viewing Ian's sketchbooks to gain inspiration, they developed their own pieces of art using newspaper, brown paper, tissue paper and drawing with a biro.

Students Go Mad for *CAD*

Sixth Form design students visited *West Wirral Works* to view state of the art *CAD* technology and software in practice, which uses computer programs to create 2D and 3D images. Students benefitted from the wealth of specialist knowledge and direct access to laser cutters, UV and 3D printers. The group produced their own *CAD* designs which were then developed into products - an excellent addition to their portfolios.

Year 8 Rise to the Challenge

Libby Birkett, Lucie Callister-Edge and Annabelle Dewhurst tested their design skills when they entered the *Alu DT Challenge* competition to design a garden building for a creative home worker - focusing on an aluminium construction. The girls produced a sustainable design having considered the three crucial Rs - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** and although they missed out on winning a 3D printer for the school, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt many new design skills.



ENGLISH

Crystal Clear

English Language students enjoyed a lecture by world-renowned linguistics expert Professor David Crystal OBE at *Liverpool Hope University*. His lecture entitled, 'Where have all the dialect words gone? Hopkins and a disappearing dictionary' was thought provoking and opened the group's eyes to the wider use of language. The students were also given the chance to meet Professor Crystal and ask questions regarding language change and development which they found very interesting.

Theatre in the Round

Year 9 and 10 English students were privileged to watch a performance by the *Young Shakespeare Company*, who came in to perform a shortened version of *Romeo and Juliet*. For some of our girls, it was their first experience of 'theatre in the round' in which the audience surround the stage, bringing the actors into the same space as the audience and encouraging audience participation. Students not only experienced live theatre, they also had the opportunity to review the literary approaches in Shakespeare's plays in a Q&A session with the actors.

Lord of the Flies

30 Year 8 students were treated to a visit to the *Liverpool Playhouse*, to watch a performance of the literary classic *Lord of the Flies*. The play helped the girls enormously to understand the story line, plots and characters in their preparation to study the text during the Summer term. They also loved the concept of the twisted storyline and how it was portrayed on the stage.

ICT & BUSINESS

Students Crack the Code!

During *Computer Science Education Week*, the Business and ICT department launched their own *Hour of Code* challenge (a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics). Hundreds of students joined the activities during lunchtimes with Year 7 leading the way on the 'wall of fame' with certificates stretching right down the corridor to the LRC!

Coca Cola Challenge

Eight Business and Communications Systems students were selected to represent Weatherhead at the *Coca Cola North West Regional Real Business Challenge* final, competing against 850 schools to secure their place. Throughout the day, the girls worked closely with a business mentor to produce an anti-litter campaign App in the style of a *Temple Run* game, a bus stop poster targeting the local community, a mascot and a presentation. The biggest challenge was planning a launch event with a £30,000 budget including venue, catering, entertainment, celebrity appearance, administration support and promotional costings. Whilst they did not secure a place in the national final, the girls were committed, professional, mature and worked very hard! Well done Freja, Rita, Hannah, Airren, Joy, Lucy, Tabitha and Rachael for taking part.

MATHS

UKMT Challenge

Year 9 students Lucy Cook and Emma Hesketh and Year 8 students Polly Lucking and Leah Pulford competed against 15 schools in the *UK Mathematics Trust Junior Team Challenge* hosted by Birkenhead School. The girls took part in four rounds, including a group challenge, a cross-number puzzle, a shuttle quiz and a relay race, which tested their interpretation, problem solving, team work and logic skills thoroughly.

MFL

European Bake Off

The MFL department once again organised staff a fantastique *European Day of Languages*. Staff enjoyed a continental breakfast of French croissants, Spanish tortilla, German rye bread, Italian olives and salami to start the day courtesy of the MFL team. Students were invited to bake a European themed cake with some show stopping bakes including an *Eiffel Tower* which took first place, an Italian pizza and cupcakes decorated with European flags. Well done to the Languages staff and all the students for making this day go with such va va voom! Merci! Danke! Gracias!

Traditionelle Deutsche Küche

Mrs Hepke's usual German class transferred to the Food Tech rooms for a more practical lesson. By only speaking and reading in German, the girls successfully followed a recipe for traditional German dishes which they were able to take home. The girls enjoyed testing and using their language skills in a totally different way.

PERFORMING ARTS

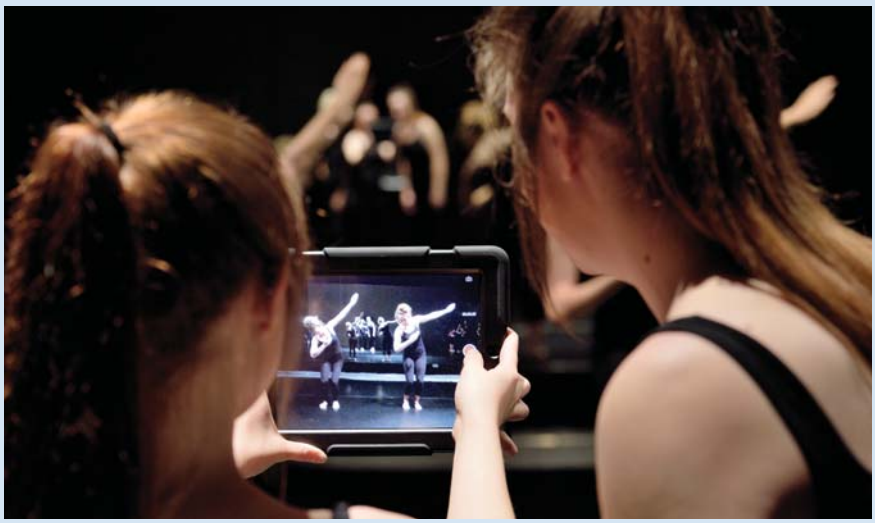
Another busy term for the Performing Arts department with a Flash Mob, Christmas Concert and evening performances! As well as Dance trips to see the *English National Ballet* and *Rambert*, Music students enjoyed a *Baroque Masters* concert at the *Philharmonic* whilst GCSE and A Level Drama students saw the internationally acclaimed *War Horse* and the *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. 30 KS3 students also enjoyed the stage version of the much loved classic *Annie* with Sandy the dog the star of the show!

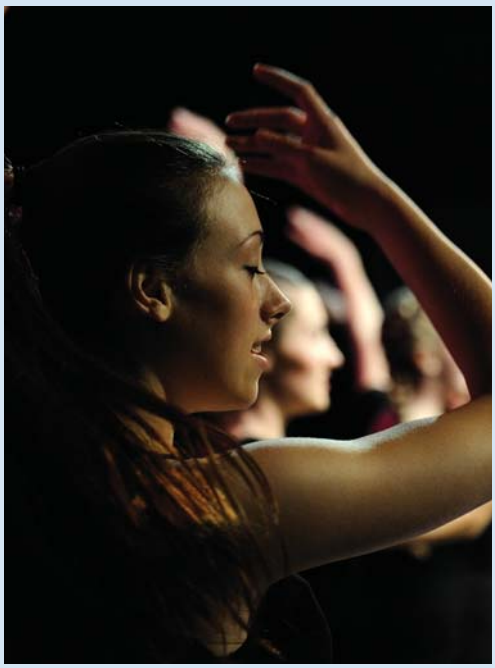
Arts Award

We are delighted that 49 students from Years 9, 10 and 13 achieved their *Bronze Arts Award* which they worked on during their Performing Arts lessons. One Year 13 student completed their *Silver Arts Award* as part of their enrichment option. The *Arts Awards* encourage young people to embrace the arts, set a challenge to learn a new skill, complete a leadership task and research the arts.

Dance Workshops

GCSE and A level dance students enjoyed visits from industry professionals who ran master classes and workshops covering solo, group and contemporary choreography. Dancers from *The Hammond School of Dance, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Wirral Youth Theatre* and award winning *Jamaal Burkmar* also spoke to our girls about post-18 dance training and career paths.





BREAKING NEWS...

Mrs Henderson is delighted to announce that the next school production will be the ***Wizard of Oz.*** More information will follow in assemblies, auditions will take place in May and June with three nights of performances from Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th December. Keep an eye out on the Performing Arts notice boards for more details.

PSHCE

Inclusion & Aspiration

Our PSHCE syllabus delivers a comprehensive programme of education on a range of complex issues faced by young people today to educate, foster well-being and confidence. Year 8 were given a thought-provoking theatrical production by the *Open Door* to inspire, raise aspiration and get them thinking about their future opportunities. Year 10 enjoyed workshops by *Diversity Role Models* to develop greater tolerance, educate and prevent bullying.

SPORT

Trampolining

Our U14 and U19 squads made a fantastic effort in the *Regional Schools' Trampolining Championships*. Lucy Cook, Ellie Gordon, Ella Greaves and Maylin Tsang in the U14 squad took 2nd place (as a team) against 120 competitors and the girls went through to the Zonal Round in Newcastle.

Each member of the squad bounced with elegance and grace transferring all of their hard work into their routines. The team finished in 3rd place and narrowly missed out on a place in the finals.

For full details of fixtures, results & the latest Sports News, please visit the school website www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/extracurricular/PE

Netball

Some excellent results for all our netball squads this term with some impressive wins in friendly matches against Birkenhead Academy, Birkenhead Park, Ridgeway, St. Mary's, Upton Hall, Wirral Grammar and Woodchurch as well as excellent results in local tournaments.

Years 7 & 8 squads

Year 8 squad

Year 10 squad

Year 11 squad

U14 squad

Football

Back of the Net!

Our Sixth Form boys' football team played their first competitive game against *Hilbre High School* in the preliminary round of the *Wirral Cup*. The team didn't know what to expect as this was the first time they had played together. The game started brightly with Adam Jones scoring a corker into the top right hand corner, midway through the first half to put us one nil up. Despite a couple of missed opportunities and outstanding defence from goalkeeper, Daniel Richards, *Hilbre* went 2-1 up in quick succession. Regardless of their defeat, the boys (and coach, Mrs Ellis) were very proud of their performance and are looking forward to the next match!

Kinder+ Sport Futsal Cup

The U16 squad took part in the finals of the *Kinder+ Sport Futsal Cup* at *Tranmere Rovers*. Futsal, a fast and furious form of football, was new to all of our players who grasped the rules quickly to win the tournament! Weatherhead progressed to the next stage of the competition to represent *Tranmere* at the *FA Headquarters* at *St Georges Park*. Despite an excellent record of three wins and just one defeat in the heats, it was *Wolverhampton Wanderers*, the only team to beat *Tranmere*, who lifted the trophy and progressed to the national finals.

All our teams from U13 through to U18 have had an excellent season winning many friendlies, tournaments, trophies and cups!

Under 15 squad

Under 16 squad

Under 18 squad

Tranmere's 6-a-side Competition

Tranmere Rovers' striker, James Norwood and defender, Ritchie Sutton visited school to congratulate the U13 squad on winning *Tranmere's* 6-a-side Competition as well as meet the U16 Futsal winners. Miss Lilburn was delighted that two U13 teams qualified for the final stage and whilst both teams put in a determined effort it was the B team who were the surprise victors.

All our students have the opportunity to attend a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs. Activities on offer range from radio, drama, dance, football and trampolining to film making, cookery and pottery!

Ceramics Club

Ceramics Club has been running since the start of September as part of the Year 7 *Extra Curricular Plus* programme. The girls have produced a variety of beautiful and interesting clay work and even had a go on the Potter's wheel! During the run up to Christmas, the girls made Christmas tree decorations and last half term made key fobs inspired by ceramic artist, Claire Baker.

The girls have been enthusiastic, hard-working, have increased their creative knowledge, made new friends and had lots of fun.

STEM

Since Christmas, Year 7 have had the opportunity to develop their STEM skills with Mrs Kirby and Mrs Pearson. The girls have learnt about the science of electricity and the practical side of electronics, including soldering and setting up a circuit board to make a torch! Now, they are embarking on a design project for a carnival mask with built in electronics, which will test their new found knowledge and skills.

For more information & the latest Extra Curricular timetable, please visit the school website www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/extracurricular

When in Rome...

Year 11 Geographers enjoyed a visit to Italy to bring their GCSE subject material to life. The girls toured the capital city and visited famous religious, historical and cultural landmarks including the *Vatican City*, the *Colosseum*, the *Roman Forum* and *Palatine Hill*. Rome gave a fantastic insight to the issues that urban environments face and also the significance and impact of tourism, given Rome is an integral part of Italy's tourism industry. The group travelled south to *Sorrento* to visit *Mount Vesuvius*, *Pompeii* and *Capri*. Visiting the *Bay of Naples* illustrated the impacts and hazards of living in a volcanic region and the group experienced a shallow volcanic crater with its jets of steam and sulphurous fumes at Solfatara.

Hasta la Vista Madrid

Eight Sixth Form linguists headed to Spain's capital to take part in a language immersion weekend. Each day the girls attended a four-hour language class and also took part in cultural activities which included Flamenco dancing and visiting the *Prado museum*. The trip allowed the girls to practise their aural skills in preparation for their exams, whilst taking in the culture and traditional foods (including churros) and a great time was had by all.

Ciao Regazzi!

Further down the coast, Sixth Formers were on an Italian exchange in Salerno! Students from *Liceo Regina Margherita* played host to the group for five days and laid on a fabulous tour of the wonderful sights along the Amalfi coast including a tour of the beautiful cobbled harbour town of Salerno and a visit to the cathedral and museums. Highlights of the visit were a trip along the famous coastline to the town of *Amalfi* and visiting *Pompeii* in the shadow of *Vesuvius*. We look forward to welcoming our amici to the Wirral soon.

Weatherhead Goes Dutch

We were delighted to welcome students and staff from *Bonaventura College* in the Netherlands who wanted to experience the British education system and develop contacts with English students. Our Sixth Formers were delighted to host the group, taking them to a range of lessons and were happy chatting and sharing experiences in education and teenage life. The visit was coordinated by Miss Cooper, in conjunction with *Liverpool University*, where the group also attended lectures in English Language and an appreciation of 'Scouse!'

Another busy term with a plethora of trips across the curriculum! Years 7 and 8 enjoyed trips to the panto to see *Dick Whittington* and *Aladdin* and Year 8 took part in the *Rush* project at the *Maritime Museum* (1). Language students enjoyed tapas at *La Tasca,* Science students visited *Martin Mere* (2), *Chester Zoo* and Anglesey (3&4), Geography students completed field work at *Long Mynd* (5) and *Lightspout Hollow* whilst Photography students worked in the photography studio at *Wirral Met* (6).

1

2

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4

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6

Clothes Show Live!

Miss Stewart and Mrs Freckleton took a group of girls to the *Clothes Show Live* event at the NEC. The girls had a great day, with plenty to see and do, a fantastic catwalk fashion and dance show, lots of exhibitors and not forgetting those important celebrity sightings. The girls came home laden with bags of freebies and goodies.

Students in the Pink!

Year 12 and 13 Health and Social Care students put together a fantastic day of activities for the annual *Pink Day* charity fundraiser. As well as dressing up in pink and cake sales, students coordinated a lunchtime show with performances from *Chamber Choir*, Year 11 guitar trio Jess Carney, Emily Lockhart and Becky Bennett, Sixth Form dancers and musicians. The highlight of the afternoon was a fully inflatable assault course which Sixth Formers were let loose on! Staff and students raised a whopping £2,000 which was donated to the *Clatterbridge Cancer* and *Breast Cancer Care* charities.

Recruitment Consultant, Joanne Finnerty

International Women's Week

In celebration of International Women's Week, students were visited by five inspirational women from various walks of life, organised in collaboration with Wirral's *Young Chamber*. Year 13 student Taslima Begum who has flourished at Weatherhead regardless of being partially sighted inspired Year 7 girls. Local entrepreneurs in the fields of recruitment, training, law and sales and marketing spoke enthusiastically about their path to success, the difficulties they faced and gave our girls the motivation and inspiration to be successful in life.

Safer Internet Day 2016

Weatherhead celebrated Safer Internet Day to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. This year's theme, 'play your part for a better internet', focussed on the creative and positive things that young people are doing online, as well as the role that we all play in helping to create a better internet.

Disability Awareness Week

Disability Awareness Week was hugely successful giving our students much food for thought. A guest from *Guide Dogs for the Blind* and his guide dog gave Year 7 students a better understanding of the issues faced by the visually impaired. This was supplemented by a workshop on how to read *Braille* and use a *Braille* machine. Afghan war veteran and Paralympic skier, Pete Dunning, talked about life with disability and the *Dark Horse Theatre Company* featuring disabled and non-disabled actors laid on a great performance.

Learning Braille

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2016

The Science department launched *British Science Week* with a bang! The latest developments in Science were shared with our students including *NASA's New Horizons* probe which has lifted the veil on Pluto, self-drive cars, technology of the future, latest developments in the treatment of breast cancer. Our students had an exciting opportunity to plant seeds sent by astronaut Tim Peake and will observe how they grow.

Anti-Bullying Week

Weatherhead students got behind the *Make a Noise About Bullying* campaign during Anti-Bullying Week. A week of assemblies, led by an ex-teacher and diversity role model, focused on the serious mental health consequences for children as a result of bullying in schools. The week also explored homophobic bullying, encouraging our students to be a voice for change and work together to promote the anti-bullying message and create safer environments in which everyone can live, grow, thrive and learn.

Make a NO!SE about bullying
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

A Little Light (Sports) Relief

Students needed little encouragement to bake a sports themed cake for *Sports Relief* with some impressive entries! Staff were invited to act as an impartial judging panel and vote for their favourite cakes. Many of the cakes were sold off to students and staff raising a fantastic £300. Well done to the 'Paul and Mary's Gymnasts' themed cake created by Freya Bates and Issy Haley which took first prize. Second place was awarded to Lia Bates for her 'Chicken Football Match' with third place went to Pippa Liston and Emma Crosbie for their 'Multi Sport' themed cake.

To burn off some of those calories, over 200 students and staff made a contribution to *Sport Relief* to run (or walk) a mile on the Astroturf during lunchtime raising an additional £200! At different points around the course there was a giant skipping rope, hoola-hoops and obstacles to overcome. Thank you Miss Thomas, the PE team, Food Technology staff and students for all their hard work.

Sports Relief winning cake

Awards for All

The PE department hosted the 7th annual Sports Awards Evening with over 85 prize winners recognised in many disciplines. Awards were presented by Sophie Cox who represented Team GB in Judo at the Olympics in Athens and London who gave a motivational speech describing the triumphs and difficulties faced throughout her career. Guests were treated to a performance by the Elite Gymnastics squad and videos showcasing our students' successes. This year has been particularly successful for the department with two football titles under their belt, top performing gym and trampolining squads and many up-and-coming netballers!

Senior Awards Evening

Academic achievement and endeavour was recognised at awards evening with guest speaker and former student, Dr Tessa Bonnett presenting students with certificates, medals and trophies in recognition of their achievements. The evening included speeches by the SSLT, performances by Chamber Choir and Dance Company and a recital by Poppy Leigh-Heron. Dr Bonnett, a Consultant Obstetrician at *Sheffield Teaching Hospital*, gave an inspiring speech touching on her memories of school, her volunteer work in Africa and encouraged students to follow their dreams. She delighted the audience telling them that her sewing skills she learnt in Year 9 are a crucial skill in her current role!

An Eventful Time...

1. Franken-tastic Halloween disco
2. Girls excelled in their Year 8 Skills Tests
3 & 4. Students and staff went spotty for Children in Need and helped Pudsey raising over £400
5. Number Hunt winners
6. Wise Minds celebrate Chinese New Year

Inspiring a Generation

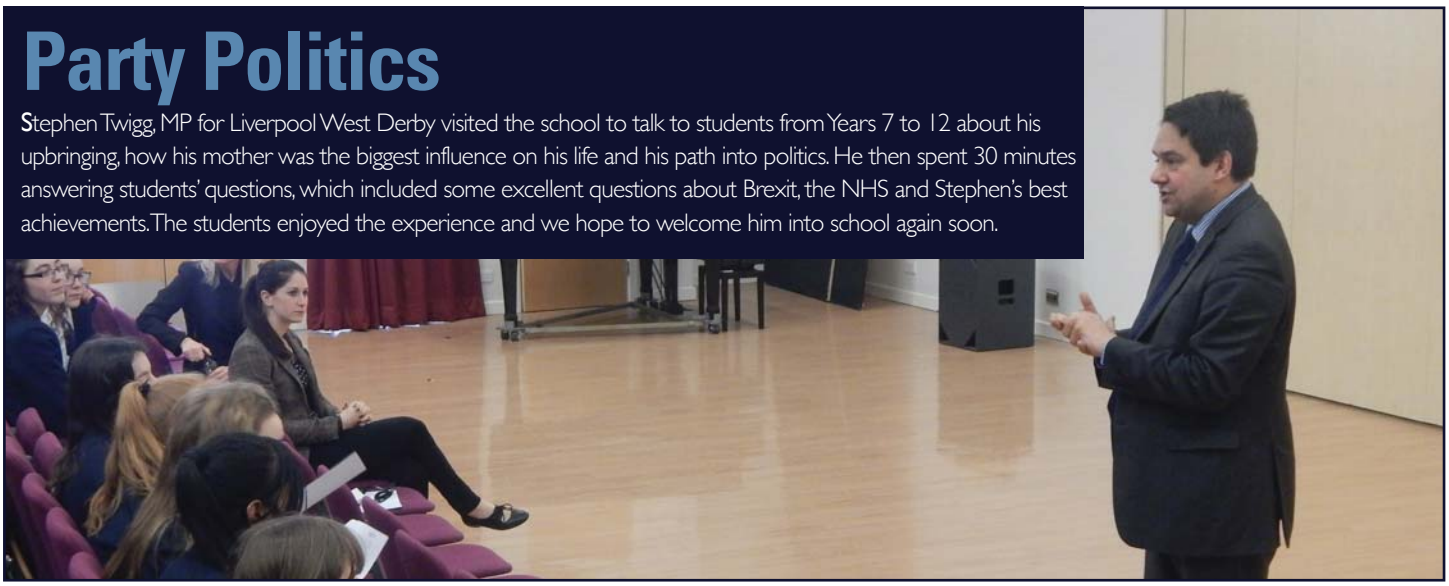
PE students were given an inspirational talk by Taekwondo Olympic Bronze Medallist, Sarah Stevenson MBE. Sarah shared her route to success from Junior World Champion to World Champion and Olympian and talked about her parents' support, her strong Northern roots and overcoming adversity in order to succeed. Sarah commented, "I am so proud of what I have achieved both on and off the mat. I am now committed to pass on my experiences and help other young people gain the life skills and opportunities that I have had over the years".

Get Your Skates On!

As a mentor for the *Sky Sports Living for Sport* programme, World Inline Skating champion and ten times British Champion, Jenna Downing paid us a visit. Jenna spoke to students about the 'six keys to success' which are designed to help young people develop valuable life skills that will help them now and into the future. Jenna spent the afternoon with our Year 12 *Community Sports Leaders* which included a lesson in inline skating!

Party Politics

Stephen Twigg, MP for Liverpool West Derby visited the school to talk to students from Years 7 to 12 about his upbringing, how his mother was the biggest influence on his life and his path into politics. He then spent 30 minutes answering students' questions, which included some excellent questions about Brexit, the NHS and Stephen's best achievements. The students enjoyed the experience and we hope to welcome him into school again soon.



Students meet Amy Alward

Author Week

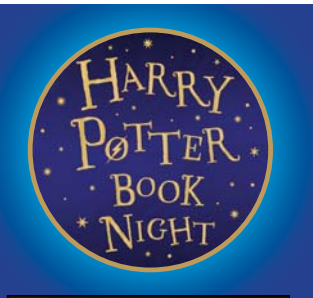
Yet again, *Author Week* was a fantastic event, with five visiting authors bringing something different to Weatherhead. On **Monday**, students found out all about spy gadgets and the heroic women who inspired Sarah Sky's *Model Spy* novels. Tamsyn Murray joined Year 7 and Year 8 classes on **Tuesday** and told them how her own family life helped shaped her *Completely Cassidy* books. *YouTube* favourite Amy Alward came in on **Wednesday** and talked through the process of writing *The Potion Diaries*, as well as reading an exciting passage from the book to a captive audience. We welcomed debut author Katherine Woodfine on **Thursday**, who discussed her *Carnegie Medal* nominated novel, *The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow* and gave students a chance to create some heroes and villains of their own. The week was perfectly rounded off by Julian Sedgwick who visited us on **Friday**. Julian not only entertained us with stories about his life and his brilliant new book *Ghosts of Shanghai,* he also dazzled students with a display of sword juggling!

Julian Sedgewick signs autographs

WBD 2016

English staff celebrated *World Book Day* by dressing up as their favourite book characters which included *Cruella de Ville*, *Miss Haversham*, the *Queen of Hearts*, *Cat in the Hat*, *Harry Potter*, *Hermione Grainger* and an *Oompa Loopa*! Over 400 students entered a character treasure hunt to correctly guess who each English teacher was dressed up as and the winner was Megan Williams in Year 7. LRC Manager, Miss Grainger, who was dressed as David Walliams' *the Demon Dentist*, coordinated a successful book fair raising £350 worth of free books for school as well as writing and drawing competitions. WBD was a resounding success celebrating reading and championing books.

Muggle Magic



A spell was cast over the LRC, as 60 girls came together to celebrate *Bloomsbury's* official *Harry Potter Book Night*. The party was one of 12,600 held around the world, showing that the magic is still as strong as ever. The night began with a traditional sorting hat ceremony to pick the house teams followed by a visit from Terry at the *Moonshine Owl Sanctuary* who brought in three owls and shared interesting facts about the Barn Owl, the Tawny Owl and the Eagle Owl. The teams took part in a variety of classes, including levitating a feather in Charms and concocting elixirs in Potions! In keeping with this year's 'A Night of Spells' theme, the girls voted for their favourite entries from the 'Tell-A-Spell' competition. The night was rounded off with food and butter beer and the news that *Hufflepuff* had won the House Cup. LRC Manager, Miss Grainger commented, "After the success of last year's event it was fantastic to be able to double the celebrations this year. The visit from the owls certainly helped to make it a magical night to remember".

Sorting Hat ceremony

Book Worms

Pupils from Somerville Primary School visited the LRC dressed as their favourite book characters and took part in some exciting activities. Miss Grainger helped them to create their own stories using creative storytelling software to generate stories based on characters and places suggested by the children. They created their own book characters, listened to a reading from *The Demon Dentist* and completed *Roald Dahl* and *Harry Potter* themed crosswords and word searches. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, were delighted to meet some of our Sixth Form Literacy Leaders and went away with goodie bags filled with bookmarks and pencils.

Competition Winners

Miss Grainger runs regular drawing, writing and poetry competitions which attract hundreds of entries, here are a few of the deserving winners:

Author Week
Winner: **Jessica Lawler 7HCR**
Runners Up: **Emma Baldwin-Quirk 7REG, Amber Gallagher 8SEV**

Chills & Thrills
Winner: **Miranda Scully 9VW**
Runners Up: **Annabel Valentine 7RHN, Grace Ward 7RHN**

Let It Snow
Winner: **Millie Nicholls 8SPO**
Runners Up: **Hollie Bee 7REG, Hannah McArdle 7HCR**

Tell-A-Spell
Winner: **Caitlyn Hughes 8JJ**
Runner Up: **Amaris Acebillo Jones 8 KE**

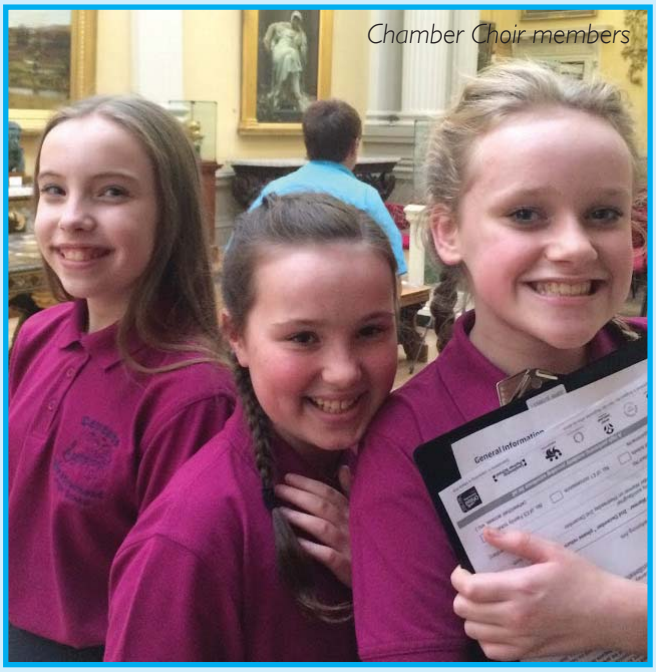
Book It
Winner: **Ella Barlow 7REG**
Runners Up: **Lucianna Cartwright 7JWI, Eva Chatten 7HCR, Emma Coles 8JT, Nancy Silcock 7ED, Sara Singh 9SP**

Cover Up
Winner: **Mahtob Dabbagh 7ED**
Runners Up: **Grayce Baker 8KE, Beth Birtles 8KE, Libby Evans 7SWE, Wunzoya Haadi 8SEV, Evie Smith 7ED**

In addition to the numerous leadership opportunities already available within school, this year saw the introduction of Event Leaders who are on hand to help at Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings and school events. Year 12 Literacy Leaders are attached to English lessons in the LRC and volunteer to support events including the *Harry Potter* evening and *World Book Day*. Our Arts Ambassadors continue to support Performing Arts events and Community Sports Leaders have had a busy term coordinating the *Active Playground* scheme and supporting inter-form Football. The success of the Sixth Form Peer Mentoring Programme continues with attendance at Friday morning sessions averaging 80 students who are paired up with mentors to provide help and support with academic and pastoral matters.

Teens Takeover!

FOURTEEN Year 12 students took part in the *Teenage Takeover* day at the *Lady Lever Art Gallery* as part of their Silver Arts Award. The students independently planned a full day of arts events at the Gallery, showcasing Weatherhead talent and enhancing their own leadership skills. The performances varied from a pianist solo piece and songs from Chamber Choir to a ballet piece and a spoken word recital.



Chamber Choir members

School Council News

The School Council attended the *Human Rights School's Parliament* event at the *International Slavery Museum* held in conjunction with the *Broken Lives: Slavery in Modern India* exhibition. Students explored the theme of human rights in relation to young people's lives and slavery in India. The girls took part in creative workshops and Year 9 student, Lucy Bufton, had her creative writing selected for the official blog. The day culminated in a debate in human rights and young people's rights.

All Walks of Life

The School Council enjoyed a visit to *Levenshulme High School* to learn more about difference and diversity. After a tour of the school, our girls heard all about what it's like to be a student in a school where 17 different languages are spoken. Both councils delivered presentations on their achievements, projects and plans for the future. Our girls found the visit informative and found out more about how to promote greater tolerance for difference.

Students' Voices Heard

Years 8 and 9 council members attended the annual *Wirral Youth Voice Conference* organised by Wirral Council which aims is to provide young people with the opportunity to explore issues important to them by questioning senior officers, senior councillors from the Council and senior officers from partner organisations on policy matters, raise questions about and influence service provision. The theme was 'keeping safe' encompassing exploitation, being streetwise, media pressure, bullying, gang-culture and internet safety.

Park Life

Two of our well known Year 13 students who take part in our KS5 Vocational Studies Programme are half way through completing a year long placement at the *Royden Park Project*, taking part in a variety of activities including floristry, coppice maintenance and preparing a site for a new outdoor classroom. Leah and Olivia have gained knowledge of horticulture, conservation and woodwork and passed their Manual Handling course.

Miss Smith, our Guidance Coordinator, has been working closely with Wirral's *Young Chamber* which aims to bridge the gap between education and business and helped coordinate a careers event entitled 'Understanding World of Work' for students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Representatives from *Barclays Bank*, *Vauxhall*, the Army and Navy, as well as local businesses participated in a speed-dating style event in which our students had the opportunity to talk to professionals and find out more about careers, paths into employment and what their future holds.

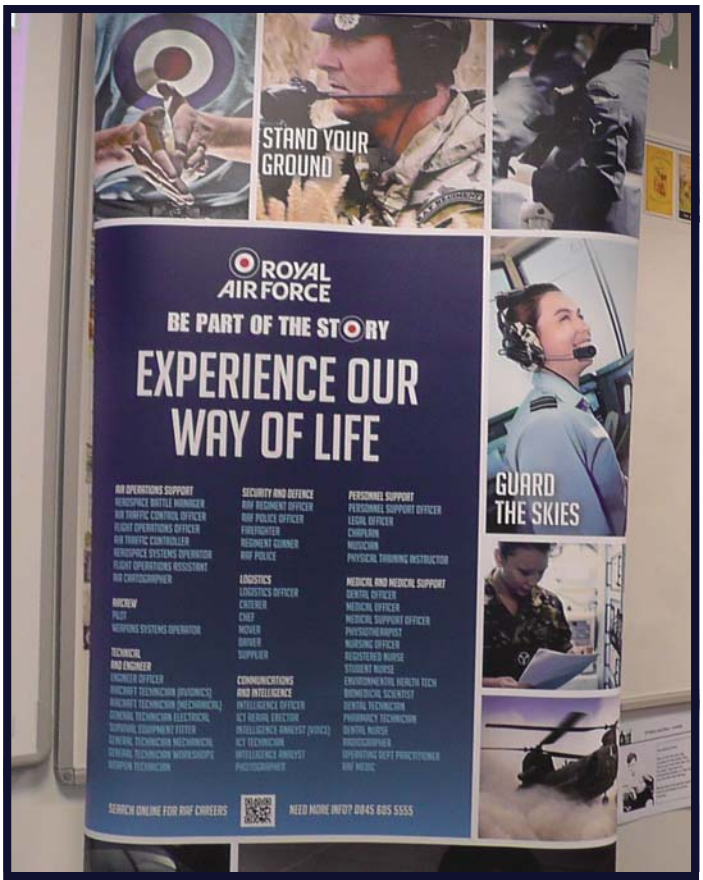
Working 9 to 5

Four of our Year 12 students got to experience working life in the NHS when they completed work experience over February half term. The girls attended the *Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals* and took part in a range of activities including shadowing A&E staff and junior doctors, clinical simulations, pathology laboratory visits, a hospital tour and talks about decision making.

One student commented, "It has helped me to refine my careers choice." All of the students who took part are hoping to gain a place at university next September to study Medicine, Nursing or Midwifery.

Young Chamber

As part of the *Young Chamber* programme local manufacturer, *AEV* delivered a session to DT students to introduce them to the world of business and highlight the links between DT and Science and how to apply learning to the world of work. Managing Director, Jonathan Kemp and Chemist Dan spoke to students about the manufacture of electrical varnishes and resins. The workshop allowed our girls to think about careers in engineering and technology and the global opportunities available to them.



ROYAL AIR FORCES

Year 11 and Year 13 students attended an *RAF* careers talk by guest speaker Sergeant Rachael Collier who currently works within Search and Rescue and has received medals from the Queen. Rachael spoke to the group about the different pathways into the *RAF*, A Level and degree entry requirements required to become an officer and enlightened the group with her experiences of sky diving and helicopter piloting! Students felt better equipped to make an informed decision about a career within the armed forces.

#TEWeek15

Weatherhead joined hundreds of schools and organisations across the UK to celebrate *Tomorrow's Engineers Week*, opening our students to open students' eyes to and inspiring them about careers in engineering. Chloe Powell and John Cryer, from locally based Global organisation, *Unilever*, visited school and spoke to students about apprenticeships available within the company and the benefits of studying STEM subjects.

Tomorrow's Engineers Week

Your Future

Year 9 students attended the *Your Future* Careers Convention at *Tranmere Rovers*, hosted by *Young Chamber*. The event brought together local businesses, further and higher education and training providers, giving our students the opportunity to explore career routes. Amongst the employers was *Jaguar Land Rover*, *Unilever*, *Barclays* and *02* to name but a few. The students were able to ask questions about entry routes into careers and ask questions about what the employers look for in their future workforce and found the event very worthwhile.

Exam Timetables together with Revision Support is available to download at www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk

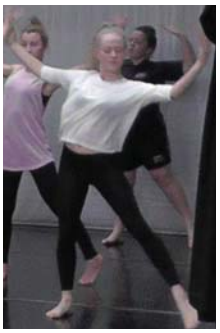
London Calling...

WEATHERHEAD Apprentice George Jones has realised his dream and will be off to London in September to study Drama at the prestigious *Central School of Speech and Drama* whose Alumni include Laurence Olivier and Judy Dench. George beat off competition from thousands of applicants to secure one of only 18 places on the course!

A huge congratulations to former student Emily Williams who has successfully auditioned for the acclaimed *Urdang Performing Arts School* based in London. Emily left Weatherhead last year and has further trained at RARE in Liverpool. It has long been Emily's dream to train at *Urdang* and we are thrilled she has achieved her goal! Break a leg, Emily!

Living the American Dream!

Miss Chappell was delighted to hear that former Dance student, Katy Maddox has secured a Dance scholarship through her dance training at *RARE* Liverpool to work and train in New York this summer! Katy is thrilled at this amazing opportunity and can't quite believe she will be training with the *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre* the company she studied in her A Level Dance lessons! She really is living the American dream!



Former Art student, Christian Watts visited the Art department to talk to Sixth Form students about life at Art College in London. Christian is about to complete his third and final year at *Goldsmiths* and was delighted to return to Weatherhead to inspire our students and give them an insight into what it's really like to study at Art college and live in London.

Since our online Alumni system was launched, we have established connections with just under 500 former students, dating from 1963 to 2015. Expanding our network has benefitted our students in many ways. Girls receive mentoring from Olympic, Boxer Natasha Jonas and Dr Katie Petty-Saphon MBE, Chief Executive of *The Medical Schools' Council*, support with our DofE programme from Law undergraduate, Kathryn Dutton, inspirational speeches at Awards Evening from Obstetrician, Dr Tessa Bonnet and Barrister, Natalie McNamee and visits from ex-students.

We wish the *Class of 2016* all the very best for their future beyond Weatherhead and invite you to share your news and experiences with us at **www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk** (click on the Alumni link) or email **alumni@weatherheadhigh.co.uk**

We offer a comprehensive G&T programme of study, workshops, visits and extra-curricular activities that extend bright and promising students, challenge learning and promote skills development.

For more information on our Gifted & Talented programmes please visit the school website www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/parents/gifted

Crest Award

12 Year 8 girls have been working towards their *Bronze Crest Award* which involves spending 10 hours on a project chosen by the student. By working towards the Award, students experience the project process; improving their problem solving and communication skills. The girls are currently completing their practical activities and hope to achieve the award by the summer.

Students Aim Higher

A group of Year 11 girls visited *Liverpool John Moores University* to open their eyes to Higher Education and nurture their aspirations. They spent the afternoon at the city centre campus where they had an introduction to university life, enjoyed a tour of the facilities (including student digs) and enjoyed workshops in Media and Humanities.

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

It is Rocket Science!

Our Year 9 Gifted cohort visited *Chester University's* research and innovation hub. The girls attended a Pyrotechnic themed event as part of the STEM Outreach programme which offered the opportunity to see what 'real' engineers and scientists do, through practical and problem solving activities. The girls also enjoyed a lecture by a leading pyrotechnician which opened their eyes to the opportunities and possibilities which come from pursuing STEM subjects and careers.

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Open Evening

Everyone welcome

Thursday 16th June 2016: 6pm to 8pm

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Weatherhead Sixth Form

September 2016 - *limited places still available*

Tel: **0151 631 4401**

Email: **sixthformapps@weatherheadhigh.co.uk**

YouTube

Watch out for the launch of *Weatherhead's* own *YouTube* channel which will initially be available for students to access Maths revision resources.

KEEP CALM AND STUDY ON

Good luck to all our Year 11 and 13 students in your forthcoming exams! A copy of the GCSE and A Level exam timetables are available to download at www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk

Key Dates for Your Diary

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June	Half term holiday
Monday 13th to 15th June	Year 7 Residential to Conway
Thursday 16th & Friday 17th June	Year 5 Open Evening & Morning (for parents)
Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd June	Summer Sizzler community showcase
Monday 27th June - Friday 1st July	Year 10 Work Experience week
Thursday 30th June	Sixth Form Prom
Tuesday 5th July	Key Stage 3 Awards Evening
Friday 8th July	School trips (Years 7 - 9)
Friday 15th July	School closes
Thursday 18th August	**A Level Results Day**
Thursday 25th August	**GCSE Results Day**
Monday 5th September	School opens (Years 7 - 12)
Tuesday 6th September	Year 13 students return

Download our mobile friendly app from iTunes & Google Play to access messages, latest news & events. For more information visit www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/apps