

SUMMER 2016



INSIDE:
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, POLAND, OXFORD,
SCHOOL SHOWCASE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



Hilbre

ENDEAVOUR

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Summer edition of the Hilbre Endeavour.

What a year it has been. When I took over as Headteacher in September, it was already clear and known to me that Hibre is a fantastic school. Having worked here as Vice-Principal since 2010, I could see just how good our students were and the full potential locked within them. Equally, I felt that there was some true lock-picking to do, so that the fullest potential of all our young people was unleashed!

In September, we moved swiftly to focus on our key targets, the improvement of outcomes for our disadvantaged students and the improvement of student attitudes; we worked as a team consisting of all members of the school community to ensure that these targets were on course to be met.

The most visually notable change to students and staff was our immediate decision for students to spend their breaks and lunches outside and in designated areas. Despite some initial resistance, this strategy resulted in a monumental change, with students better exercised, better focused and more appreciative of our school environment. With our insistence on no-litter, the appearance of Hilbre now reflects our status as a school. We are clean, sharp and purposeful! Equally, we are healthier and happier!

In the classroom, we have continued our focus on ensuring that our teachers have the highest expectation of pupils. At our core is the belief that every student must be stretched to achieve the absolute best, as seen in the excellent questioning skills that are utilised to deepen our students' learning. We have tight control of attitudes in the classroom with high expectation of the best behaviour and our reconsidered incentives to ensure that this remains the case.

As I write, the vast majority of our students are participating in end-of-year trips as our thank you to them in celebration of their achievement and attitude over the year. Conversely, we have a few who remain in school and are learning the hard way that expectations are to be met and not thwarted!

In June, we were inspected by Ofsted. A particular pleasure was the opportunity for inspectors to see the sterling work we do in our SEND community. I was thrilled to see how well-received was our Resourced Provision; a true model of our inclusive Hilbre community.

When Ofsted conducted a particularly close scrutiny of our Sixth Form and recognised the high expectations we place on our older students, it was a pleasure to behold and I am delighted that they have recognised the quality leadership and hard-work from all in our Sixth Form community.

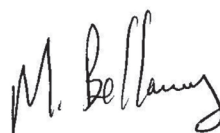
To give a truly positive closure to this academic year, I am delighted to cite the Ofsted Inspection Report, which we received recently. It is a testimony to the hard-work and positivity we have at Hilbre, that we have the judgement of 'good' for all areas:

Overall effectiveness:	Good
Effectiveness of leadership and management:	Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment:	Good
Personal development, behaviour and welfare:	Good
Outcomes for pupils:	Good
16 to 19 study programmes:	Good

Of course, our journey is never-complete. We close this year with Ofsted telling us we are a good school but take heed of their advice about what we need to do to become an outstanding school.

Hilbre High School is truly going places. We are a thriving school and we will get better and better.

Let us all enjoy our summer holiday and meet again in September, when our journey continues...



Mark Bellamy,
Headteacher



HILBRE HIGH WINS DISCOVERING DEMOCRACY AWARD

Our Librarian, Mrs Phelan, recently visited the Houses of Parliament to receive a Discovering Democracy Award on behalf of the school. Here she tells us of her day...

Tuesday 22 March

12:45 pm my adventure begins!

Sitting on the train at Liverpool Lime Street, I must admit I'm a little apprehensive travelling to London today – in the aftermath of the bombings in Brussels this morning. But, it's quite ironic that my trip is to accept a "Discovering Democracy Award" for our work on promoting democratic participation in our school – 1 of only 64 schools nationally to have won an award.

This may all sound very official, but what have we actually won, and how did we do it?

To start with: the "Discovering Democracy Awards" are funded by the Cabinet Office, supported by H.M. Government and are awarded to secondary schools that "create a positive culture of citizenship and democracy and help develop youth participation in society". This is not something new we have only just introduced into our curriculum; our Citizenship programme, led by Mrs Fleming and delivered by the Humanities staff is forever changing, reflecting global issues and world politics.

The journey began back in October 2015 when we took part in the "Make Your Mark" ballot, which is a national vote on issues the British Youth Parliament members have chosen to debate in the coming year of office. Now I'm on my way to; Committee Room 9, Houses of Parliament, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA, to the awards presentation hosted by John Penrose M.P., Minister for Constitutional Reform.

15:00 Approaching Euston – nerves setting in as I'm pretty bad at negotiating the Tube. Studying the map I decide to make my way by bus and ditch the Tube – wrong move!! Traffic terrible, got off and walked! Soon found that walking through London has it's own dangers – tourists with selfie-sticks!!!!

16:30 Gone through security, visitor badge around my neck I'm now standing staring up at Big Ben on the brink of entering such an iconic building.

17:00 After climbing up the numerous stone steps and negotiating the maze of corridors I find myself sitting outside Committee Room 9. Watching people come and go it's very easy to daydream about the powerful people who have walked these corridors. We are ushered into the Sir Robert Peel Committee Room – a little disappointed that there wasn't a cup of tea waiting for us.

17:30 The proceedings begin – our certificates are handed out. John Penrose, M.P., Minister for Constitutional Reform, joins us. The opening speech is then delivered by Jon-Rhys Foster, Chair of the BYC, who describes the award as a way of recognising the importance and excellence of democracy in schools. He said, "It's essential young people are involved at a young age so their voices can be heard at every level. All award winners should be really proud!"

John Penrose M.P. congratulated us all and was very enthusiastic to get our opinions on the importance of youth engagement in politics and the importance of activism in the community. Describing the significance of the awards, he said "Democracy is only as healthy as the people involved in it; the huge variety of democracy shown in these schools will bring democracy back to life through participation and involvement". This is where it gets a little surreal; he wants our opinions on how we can improve young people's participation in democracy; here I am joining in a debate in the Houses of Parliament – this is my chance to have my say!

19:00 Leaving the Houses of Parliament I'm greeted to the amazing sight of Big Ben all lit up and the London Eye in the background – a truly inspiring place.

In May our local M.P., Margaret Greenwood, came into school to help us celebrate winning the award. She said, "It is a real pleasure to present the Discovering Democracy Award to the students and staff of Hilbre High School Humanities College, in recognition of the work they have done to promote a positive culture of citizenship. This is a real achievement and one of which the school can be very proud." Mr Bellamy said, "We encourage our young people to be thoughtful citizens who will go on to make a positive contribution to society. Winning such an award demonstrates that they are already making a significant impact!"



By Sandra Phelan, Specialist School Support Assistant

Our most successful apprenticeships evening ever!

On the evening of Thursday 28th January, Hilbre High School held an apprenticeship evening for pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 along with their parents and guardians, in the Sixth Form block at school. The event was extremely well attended by pupils, parents and guardians from both Year 11 and the Sixth Form.

Margaret Greenwood, the local MP for the area, attended the evening and was highly impressed by the range of training providers and employers attending the evening. The aim of the event was to raise the profile of apprenticeships as a realistic option for students, to allow them to explore this career option further and to make informed decisions.

The event was of particular relevance to Year 11 students who were not planning to progress onto academic study in the Sixth Form at Hilbre High School Humanities College and who wish to explore employment and training options further.

Additionally, many sixth form pupils could be considering high level apprenticeships as a possible alternative to university and so attended the event, in order to speak directly to companies and training organisations.

Organisations in attendance were varied and included:

- Vauxhall Motors
- Capenhurst Nuclear Services

- Wirral Metropolitan College
- Little League Sports
- Carillion Construction
- TTE – Chemical Engineering Training
- Liverpool Chamber Training
- Hybrid Gas & Electrical Training

Feedback from the event, both by pupils, parents and employers was extremely encouraging.

100 % of pupils indicated that their satisfaction rating for the event was either excellent or very good. The level of satisfaction from the employers was the same and they have all requested to come back next year! In particular many commented that it was the busiest careers event they had ever attended, and they felt the presence of parents and guardians meant that the evening was even more effective.

The quality of information provided and the organisation of the event, were all rated as excellent according to the completed evaluation forms.

Mr. Francis Trought, Careers Education and Guidance Development Co-ordinator, Hilbre High School



Sixth Form Leadership Team

We were delighted to appoint the following students to the Leadership Team for the academic Year 2016/2017:

Head Boy : Ben Ikin 6JCH

Deputy Head Boy : Elliot Montieth 6KHO

Assistant Head Boy : Tom Hughes 6KHO

Head Girl : Jaz Farnworth 6CLO

Deputy Head Girl : Ashleigh Lawrence 6AJO

Head Girl, Jaz Farnworth has said that she would like the Sixth Form students to mix between the year groups and be responsible role models for all students.

Our Head Boy Ben Ikin would like to introduce more sports activities for all Sixth Form students.

They all performed well at interview and we know that we have a very strong team to lead Hilbre Sixth Form from strength to strength!

Head Boy, Ben & Head Girl, Jaz pictured outside the Sixth Form Block.



Oxford University Teachers' Conference

Sutton Trust, an organisation that works towards widening the participation of students to access leading universities, recently funded a Teachers' Conference at Oxford University.

The two-day residential conference was aimed at staff from state-funded schools which have relatively few students accessing highly selective universities. We sent Mrs Devonport from our Sixth Form Team to gain up-to-date knowledge and accurate information on how to stretch and challenge our most able students, and equip them with the best possible advice and guidance on selective university admissions.

The conference comprised of a variety of sessions, including information about the Oxford admissions process, classroom pedagogy, as well as subject – specific academic workshops, led by tutors, focusing on humanities and social sciences subjects.

There was also an opportunity to hear from current Oxford students about their experiences of University life. Delegates stayed overnight in Brasenose College and enjoyed meals in several of the colleges including Queen's, St John's and Oriel.

We will be working closely with the Oxford outreach team to ensure that we can 'raise aspirations' and ensure that our most able students have the opportunity and support required to continue accessing selective universities.



8SFL's Review of the Year

Last year we were newcomers through Hilbre's door,
But in Year 8 we're not newbies anymore.

It's been a year full of changes,
But despite the rumours, we've not been locked in cages!
At break and lunchtime we head outside,
Getting lots of fresh air so we're ready for lesson five.

New people have arrived and some've gone away,
Adam, Callum, Katie, Dan and Collette from the USA.
But it really was a sad, sad day when we had to say
Goodbye to Joe Byrom on his last day.

We've had lots of visitors and trips out too,
the Synagogue, Ready Steady Cook, the Slavery Play,
and 'Our Day Out' to Chester Zoo.

We had great fun, and there was nothing finer,
Than Fin coming back with his face painted like a tiger!

We've done loads of things fundraising for charity,
Blind Football, Cake Sales, The Race for Life,
But the one that got the biggest shouts and cheers
Was our first Non-Uniform Day for about fifteen years!

We got a new Headteacher this year.
We think Mr Bellamy's doing really 'swell'.
As well as making us work hard,
He rewards our efforts as well.

We got to watch the England game,
Bale scored a brilliant goal for Wales,
And tomorrow we're going Bowling and to Laser Quest,
To celebrate us doing our best.

Our sporting teams are still going great,
In cricket, football and rugby we're leading the field,
Beating Pensby, Woodchurch, and Oldershaw.
We'll keep striving for more and more.

It's been a pretty busy year,
So we're ready for a holiday.
Soon the bell will be ringing for the final time,
But we're sure we'll be fine in Year 9.

The collective efforts of 8SFL and Miss Fleming



KRAKÓW, POLAND – FEBRUARY 2016

On the 25th of February 2016, years twelve and thirteen students left to take the trip to Krakow, Poland. We left Hilbre High School and headed towards John Lennon Liverpool Airport to take the three hour flight to the city of Krakow. Led by Miss Fleming, Miss Rhodes and Mr Tollet, we visited the eye opening concentration camp, Auschwitz and also Oscar Schindler's Enamel Factory Museum.

Visiting Auschwitz has been truly unforgettable. When seeing the thousands of shoes, suitcases and glasses that belonged to the persecuted prisoners, the horror that had occurred here during the Nazi occupation really hit home. Seeing how people had lived, how they were treated and how they had to dress, brings tears to your eyes. You can read about Auschwitz in history books or listen to its history in a classroom, but you never really realise the trepidation of what happened here until you see it with your very own eyes.

When returning back to Kazimierz, we wrapped up in the cold winter and ventured to the beautiful Jewish quarter. With beautiful lights and an extraordinary bell tower that took our breath away, we shopped away and bought gifts for our family and friends back home. From there onwards, we reached a restaurant and ate a beautifully made full course Jewish meal and also had the sounds of live music playing for everyone there.

The following day, we began a tour around the city of Krakow and the history it had to offer. We visited the Krakow ghetto where Jews would be held and where they would live. We also visited an abandoned synagogue which was still standing in the heart of Kazimierz. We then reached Oscar Schindler's Enamel Factory museum; an interactive and detailed museum, filled with Poland's rich history during 1940 to 1945. From start to finish, it had the whole group gripped on the realisation of the events that occurred inside and outside the factory walls.

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit these historic museums and how it had impacted upon us in such an extraordinary way. Some of our fellow students and staff gave their opinions on this remarkable experience. "Thought provoking, moving and a memorable experience" – Miss C. Rhodes. And from a fellow student: "It was humbling and makes you realise how lucky you are" – Rebecca Ireland.

Written by Olivia Williams



CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Congratulations to all The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants who successfully completed their final assessment up Moel Famau and around the Clwydian Range. Thank you to Mrs Hogan, Mrs Bullingham,

Miss Rooney, Miss Jones, Mr Herbert, Miss Diamond and Miss Holmberg for all their hard work and efforts.



Let Us Hear from our Head Girl Liz Wilkinson

The time between arriving at Hilbre as a small and nervous Year 7 student and leaving as a mature Sixth Former has flown by. I remember being excruciatingly excited to start my high school education at Hilbre after my Year 6 Induction Day and September of the new school year couldn't come quickly enough for me! Now I look back upon my time spent here and the memories I have gathered on the way with fondness.

Little did I know when I started here that I would become Head Girl in the last year of Sixth Form. It was a role that I could only imagine myself in and I did not believe that I would someday take on this role. As a result of the warm and welcoming environment that this school provides, I have developed into the person I am today and it has given me the confidence to take on new and demanding challenges.

The teachers at Hilbre have always been very supportive of me and for that I will forever be grateful. Their support allowed me to believe in myself and improve my outlook on my academic ability, which allowed me to obtain the GCSE results I thought I would never receive and apply to university this year. So I thank those who have taught me over the years and those teachers who have kept me level-headed this exam season, as I completed my A-Level exams.

During my year as Head Girl, the Sixth Form Leadership Team has organised several events to raise money for various charities and trips. Last summer we hosted a Sixth Form Sports Day in memory of fellow student, Matthew Tjon. Money was raised to help fund a memorial for Matthew and the day was a success. Fun was had whilst the school body eagerly watched as the teachers went against the Sixth Formers in a giant Tug-of-War on the field.

November saw our annual Prize Giving Evening held at the Floral Pavilion once more where we welcomed our guest speaker Malcom Kinney who spoke about the hardships he endured and how he overcame them. We believe this supplied a valuable life lesson to all those who attended the evening. Myself and the Head Boy, Mark Porschke, delivered a speech reflecting on the previous academic year and the successes Hilbre had experienced. It was a very rewarding experience to stand on the stage and I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking on behalf of the school at several events that we have held.

In addition to this, the Sixth Form Leadership Team held a political debate to inform Sixth Form students about the European Referendum. Several political faces joined us such as, Margaret Greenwood, local MP, and Afzal Khan, MEP. It proved to spark a great debate between our panel and the Sixth Form body. Refreshments were served and other Wirral Sixth Formers came to join the debate. Little did I know that being Head Girl would lead to me spending hours in the kitchen baking cupcakes for the events that our team have held!

The academic year has been packed with a fine balance of work and play. Organising the Year 13 Prom has proved to be an experience I'll never forget and has almost been a dream job that came with the responsibility of being Head Girl. It is another step taken into the future that is ahead and another post that signifies that our time at Hilbre High School has sadly come to an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hilbre for the experiences it has given me as I leave this school for the summer for the last time. Thank you Hilbre for the memories that will last a lifetime.

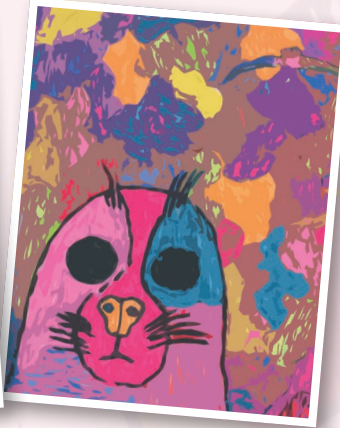
Elizabeth Wilkinson Head Girl



LET THERE BE (COLOURFUL) LIGHT!

Students' Artwork to Become Stained Glass Windows in our Library!

These stunning designs are soon to be turned into stained glass windows beside our school library. We feel they represent the spirit of our happy school.



News from the Science Department

Over the last few months, the Science Department at Hilbre has offered students numerous enrichment opportunities, designed to enthuse and inspire them with the world of science.



Year 7 students visited the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham in March.



Year 8 and 9 students were invited to attend medical workshops, run by Newcastle University in March.



In November, we hired a mobile planetarium and gave students and staff the opportunity to view the night sky.

Our annual trip, in June, to Chester Zoo was this year offered to Year 8 students. The day was a great success and our students proved themselves to be wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Our 6th form students attended a series of Christmas lectures at Liverpool University. The Physics students were full of praise for "The Wonders of Relativity" which gave them a valuable insight into some extremely complicated theory!

Finally, thanks to Hilbre being in partnership with the Ogden Trust, we were able to offer students the opportunity to visit the world famous particle physics research facility at CERN. 12 students and 2 staff members visited in April and were treated to a guided tour of CERN.



Congratulations must also be given to 2 of our students, Hannah Cardwell in Year 12 and Ollie Gartland in Year 10. They were both nominated by their teachers for an Ogden Trust Physics Prize and both were successful!

Hannah will be receiving hers in an awards ceremony, co-hosted by the Ogden Trust and Liverpool John Moores University on 19 July at Spaceport Centre, Wallasey.

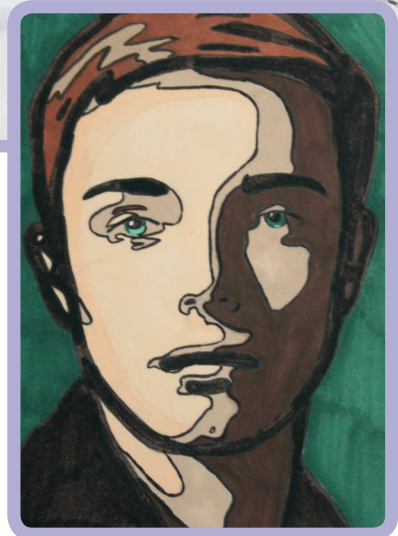
Ollie received his during assembly and was presented with it by Mr Hellier.

Many congratulations to both of you!



Our Stunning Art Work on Display!

Pictured are superb examples of our Key Stage 3, GCSE and A-Level Art & Design, Graphic Communication and Fine Art, produced over the last school year by our school's students. The work shows a range of responses in scale, material and technique, covering digital manipulations of drawings to print-making to traditional drawings and paintings.



Year 8 History – The Slave Trade

On Tuesday 21st June, all of our Year 8 students watched the performance of a play delivered by visiting theatre company – Say Two Productions about the Slave Trade.

It fitted in really well with work they have been doing in class and explained to pupils the horrors of the middle passage and life for African slaves after arriving in America.

The play was followed by a workshop session in which pupils could participate in discussions and role plays. It proved to be a very moving, yet enjoyable experience for pupils and staff.

Here are some comments by our Year 8 students:

'It was an interesting and insightful representation of the slave trade, consisting of accurate historical events with a theme aimed at children of our age. It was also very interactive with bits for pupils to share their opinions, discuss ideas and gather information provided by the excellent theatre company Say Two.'

Thomas Austin (8TMA)

'After watching the Year 8 slavery play, I have learnt a lot about what it was like for people around this time. I really liked how we had the option to perform as well, at the end of the performance. I was one of the many students who took part and really enjoyed it!'

Maisie Hill (8AEL)

'I really liked the play! The actors interacted with the audience and they produced a factual production. I learned how long it took in the middle passage and the terrible torture the slaves had to go through.'

Katelyn Gilbert (8SBU)

'I really liked the Slave Trade play because I liked that it was interactive and educational towards the audience. I thought it was a really creative idea of how Obar survived the Slave Trade and I enjoyed watching it.'

Will Fennah (8SBU)



Our Superb School Showcase

Back in February, Dan Taylor, one of Hilbre's technicians put on a 'School Showcase' to raise money for the school. It included acts from the drama, music and dance departments, which presented the sheer talent and passion that students at Hilbre hold.

I was a part of the music band that opened the show with "Say It Ain't So" originally by Weezer, and closed it with "Little Lion Man" by Mumford and Sons.

The performers in the band were Josh Mackenzie on drums, Lewis French and myself on keyboard; Tom Evans on bass guitar, Adam Charo on first guitar, Jacob Thierry-Simpson on guitar and vocals, and Jake Lumb, Alanah Herlihy and Jasmine Farnworth on vocals.

Before going on stage, we were all getting ready back in our music room. Adrenaline was high through nerves and excitement. Everyone wanted to perform well, being first on stage, we wanted to set a high standard for the opening.

Going on stage, we were slightly apprehensive, however once on stage when the curtains opened exposing us to the audience, everyone got into their zones, working in perfect harmony.

Afterwards the audience told us, "It was very good and very well organised. The acts were thrill-seeking."

Another band member confessed, "It was terrifying. Although once I started it, I got used to it and it became easier and more relaxing to perform."

On Friday the 15th of July, the school held another musical performance show along with a barbecue on the back field. many people attended, enjoyed and listened to the live music provided.

By Ellie Williams





Year 12 Mock Interviews

On Monday 11th July, Hilbre High School ran a mock interview day for Sixth Form pupils, to prepare them for job, apprenticeship and university interviews.

A large number of pupils decided to take advantage of this opportunity. Nine employers including Randstad Education, Merseytravel, RAF, HMRC and two local universities kindly sent staff along to interview the pupils.

The aim of the day was to offer pupils the chance to experience the full benefits of applying for and being interviewed for apprenticeships, by representatives of industry.

Feedback from the event by both pupils and employers has been excellent. Pupils represented the school in an outstanding way, with several employers mentioning how articulate our pupils were, and how interesting some of their work experience had been.

Several of the employers were able to give specialist advice to pupils on the day and to clarify suitable opportunities for them to consider in the future. All pupils indicated that they had found the day beneficial and that they had received useful feedback from the employers. All of the employers found the morning enjoyable and indicated that they would like to take part again next year.

Mr. Francis Trought, Careers Education and Guidance Development Co-ordinator, Hilbre High School

ROCK 'n' ROLL HERO

Dan Taylor: Arts Technician and 'Loved Ones' Rock 'n' Roll Hero!

Our very own Visual & Performing Arts Technician, Dan Taylor, is set for a busy 2nd half of 2016 with the forthcoming release of his band's second album. Harness by Loved Ones is due out later this year. It was recorded at their studio in West Kirby, Brookhouse Studios and Parr Street Studios in Liverpool.

The band, who describe their style of music as 'combining electronica, pop and ambient', met as students at the SAE Institute for Creative Media in Liverpool. Their debut album, The Merry Monarch, was released in 2013 and garnered praise from music magazine Mojo and The Sunday Times.

Later that year they won the first GetIntoThis (GIT) Award for new Liverpool music, after submitting demos that would become their debut album. They were nominated alongside other Wirral acts including Hilbre High's ex-student Bill Ryder-Jones, eventually winning the award at a ceremony at Liverpool's Leaf.

Dan joined the band in November after a quick interview in The White Lion in West Kirby. They have recently played their first live shows in almost four years, and have just finished hosting a mini festival in Liverpool, aptly named 'Strandonbury' as part of the International festival of Business.

For more on the band, and to watch the video for Cartridge, the first single to be released, then head over to www.facebook.com/wearelovedones



SCHOOL MEALS

Hilbre operates a cashless system for school meals. All pupils and staff are issued with a 'swipe card' and given training on how to use the system. Therefore no cash can be accepted at the food counter.

For your convenience and to assist us in our administration of the service, a method of payment by cheque has been introduced. Please note cheques should be made payable to "Chartwells". Upon request, a print out of your child's menu choices is also available.

Cash notes can also be accepted by our Catering Manager during break and lunchtimes. Payment by cash coins can be accepted by using the automatic cash terminals.

Pupils who are in receipt of free school meals will receive an identical card to that issued to paying pupils. The free school meal card will automatically be credited daily with the cost of a free school meal.

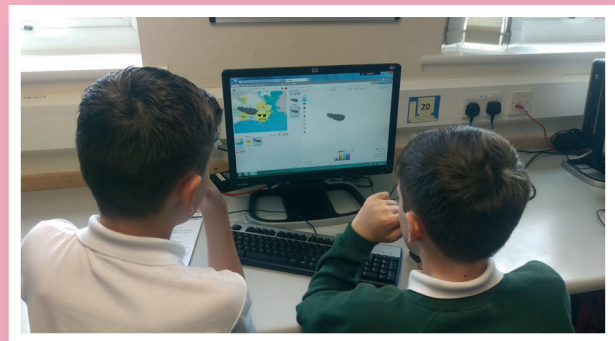
If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you have not registered, please collect a form from our School Office or alternatively contact the Local Authority on 0151 606 2002 or click on the website link below. If you do not claim this entitlement, the school receives less money and obviously this affects the education we can provide for your child – fewer books, fewer computers, less staffing etc. Therefore, if you are entitled to claim a free school meal for your child, we would be grateful if you would complete the application.

Please click on the link below to register for Free School Meals.

<https://ww2.wirral.gov.uk/ECS/scripts/ECSMain.asp?nextpageid=DisplayIntroDetails>

Further information regarding school meals can be found on our website: www.hilbre.wirral.sch.uk





Welcome to our Future Year 7s

On Wednesday 6th July we welcomed September's new Year 7 pupils to Hilbre for Induction Day.

Some pupils were clearly nervous, others clearly very excited about this big step. Pupils came from far and wide, visiting from over twenty feeder primary schools. Pupils took part in a number of lessons including English, Maths, Science, ICT and Food Technology; they took part in activities such as designing weather forecasts, constructing earthquake proof buildings, making chocolate chip cookies and all manner of scientific experiments involving bunsen burners and loud bangs.

Our new Year 7's seemed to fit in perfectly with the rest of the school, as they had the opportunity to explore Hilbre at lunchtime. By the end of the day there were some very tired but happy faces. We look forward to welcoming them in September. **Mr Morris**

Visit from Dr Glen Godenho: Egyptologist

We recently invited Dr Glen Godenho, a senior lecturer in Egyptology from the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures at the University of Liverpool, to deliver a presentation to our Sixth Form and Year 10 students.

He is an inspirational speaker who shared his life experiences with students, urging them to work hard in school and to be aspirational and focused upon their studies!

He related well to our students and spent some time with our Sixth Form students in the Common Room!

We would like to thank Dr Glen for taking the time to visit our school and we look forward to working with him in his role as Admissions and Widening Participation Lead for the University of Liverpool.



Who Knew our Trees were a Memory...and our Lectern Too!

As told by Mrs Brenda Davies:

The school's trees planted on either side of the path to the road were planted by Wally Bruce, the Headteacher at the time. When he left, it was immediately dubbed Wally's Way. The elm trees in the little copse opposite the 'Wirral Works' were planted when the Dutch Elm Disease was rife. They are disease resistant and 11 were planted in the hope of three to maturity; we grew six!

At that time, we put on a performance of 'Noyes Fludde' to raise money for them and the people who lived around us joined in. Phyllida Milne was the musical director and the driving force behind the project. They are now protected because when the school was rebuilt they wanted the main entrance where the trees were and we, all who knew about them and their rarity including the people living in the road, objected and so the entrance was left as it was.

The three trees by the gym/sports hall when you go out the door by G16 were planted in the memory of Ted Boyd who was a deputy here in the 60's and 70's. They were planted by his wife and there was a plaque on the wall. That disappeared when the school was rebuilt. The lectern in the main hall is in memory of a Maths teacher, Ian Harding, who was killed on the railway line near Manor Road in Hoylake. It was carved by the 'Son in Law' of a Hilbre English teacher - Ruth Wilcox.

Brenda

OUT AND ABOUT

It has been a busy year for geography and geology students who have been out and about applying their fieldwork skills.

Starting in October, our Year 11 group completed a comparison between Liverpool and Toxteth; a trip that our current Year 10s have also just experienced, although they pulled the short straw on the weather! In both cases, all students were involved in building surveys and interviewing members of the public where they acted as mature ambassadors of the school.

Year 7 spent the day at Dibbinsdale in May completing mapwork and river measurement tasks. They also learnt how to build a shelter, though thankfully it wasn't needed! In April, Year 9 went oriental for the day on a trip to the University of Manchester to learn some Chinese language and calligraphy as part of their unit on China. They also enjoyed a Chinese meal, with some braving the use of chopsticks more than others!



Our AS Geography group spent 3 days in Colomendy, North Wales in March, developing their skills in the River Alyn. As a bonus they also managed to complete some caving and the challenge of climbing Jacob's Ladder. The geography students also had a guest speaker from LJMU visit Hilbre to speak to them about sustainable cities. The AS and A2 geologists have also been busy, having spent the afternoon at the University of Liverpool examining geological samples in their new labs in December and then trekked out to Hilbre Island to interpret the geology there, as part of their coursework in March.

And with many of our current GCSE and A level students signed up to visit Iceland in December 2016, it looks like next year is going to be another interesting one!



Hilbre's Sixth Form: A Hive of Activities!

This term, our Sixth Form students have experienced many activities that will hopefully help them to make more informed choices concerning their future careers. We have had visits to universities for study skills and transition days, which were arranged in response to students telling us that they needed more guidance with study, and also universities commenting that students need to be more prepared for the transition from Sixth Form to university.

We held a 'Next Steps' Evening for parents and students during which we gave out many useful information sheets and other relevant literature, including the UCAS guide for parents, and a careers magazine. Presentations were delivered by our Careers Advisor Fran Trought, Chester, Edge Hill and Liverpool Universities, and also NCS the National Citizenship Service, who provide residential courses for our students in the Summer and Autumn school holidays.

We went to the UCAS Fair at Edge Hill University and also attended a Higher Education Preparation Day that included a complimentary BBQ!

We have been impressed by how many of our Year 12 students have become focused, and we look forward to supporting them in Year 13 and seeing students reach their potential at Hilbre High School!





Rugby, Taking Off at Hilbre High

Many people will be aware that rugby has taken on an important profile within the life of Hilbre.

Several years ago, our then Year 9 team led the way by getting to the final of the Wirral Cup and since that time we have seen the establishment of both girls' and boys' teams across all year groups.

Having achieved this first phase of development, the time has come when we need to move forwards again and the academic year 2016/2017 will see some exciting changes and challenges.

Since the re-establishment of rugby at Hilbre, we have operated within the sphere of 'emerging schools' rugby. Next season we will be looking to move on from this and a key element of this move is the development of extensive fixture lists for all years, which will centre on fixtures against schools with long established rugby playing traditions.

Another key development relates to that original Year 9 team, who are now in Year 13 and who, when they are joined by a strong Year 12 group, will form the school's 1st XV.

We are excited about the prospect of having a committed group of players, (many of whom are experienced club players), who will lead the way in representing the school.

A further sign of our development is that, for the first time, we feel able to enter both our 1st XV and our under 16's (Year 11) teams in the national NatWest School's competition.

In addition to these competitions, Hilbre teams will also be playing in the Cheshire Cup and Cheshire Shield competitions, as well as playing emerging schools competitions in the younger year groups and taking on a range of friendly fixtures.

We look forward to the challenges and excitement that the new level of competition will bring!



Bikeability Comes To Hilbre

In June we ran Bikeability Level 3 training for our Year 7 students wishing to improve their cycle skills and safety.

With Newton and West Kirby being such a positive environment in which to cycle, we encourage all our student to ride to school or walk, wherever possible! Let's keep healthy at Hilbre!



Mr Wall Abseils Down Priory Wall and So Does Jack Hopkins Too!

Mr Richard Wall and Jack Hopkins, our Year 10 student, took part in a charity event to raise funds for Wirral Museums and the school's non-curriculum projects.

Mrs Phelan and 9 other students went to cheer them on during their descent. Mr Wall said, "The sponsored abseil down St. Mary's Tower at Birkenhead Priory was a great event to take part in! Hilbre was the only secondary school to take part, which was a real honour. We raised in total £180 with £130 going to Wirral Museums and I would like to thank both staff and students for their generous donations. I would encourage anyone who hasn't visited Birkenhead Priory to do so, 'The small place with a big history'."

