



Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Conefrey

Our great wish as we embarked on the academic year 2021/2022 was that we would experience a more 'normal' year. We were excited, yet a little apprehensive, that there might be more interruptions to the smooth running of school. If we learned anything in education throughout the pandemic, it was how important school life is to young people. Many of our wonderful students struggled throughout this time and the academic year 2021/2022 focused not only on learning but on re-introducing our high expectations to the child and their families. The overwhelming majority of students responded well to the return to school and there have been great moments of celebration and happiness. We still have much work to do to re-engage all our families and school attendance will continue to be a major focus in September 2022.

I thank the whole staff body for their continued commitment to Kirkby High School. When everyone works together to achieve our aims, the improvements are tangible. I have no doubt that the sense of pride in our school will continue as we move forward in all that we do.

This year we have experienced external reviews into our attendance processes, our safeguarding practices, and our SEND provision. The reports provided showcase the hard work and expertise that exist in our school. We excitedly await the Ofsted report which will be published in September 2022.

Included in this newsletter is just a flavour of what goes on in school, highlighting events that are additional to the daily academic activities, but no less important.

Somebody said "the only constant in a school is change". At Kirkby High School we embrace change. So, as we come to the close of another year and sadly say goodbye to our year 11 students and some colleagues who are moving onto the next stage of their lives, we look forward to welcoming the new year 7s and any new staff members who are about to begin their KHS journey.

I thank governors, Trustees, RLT executive team and RLT central team who provide challenge, hold us to account and clear the decks to allow us to get on with the job of improving life chances for the children of Kirkby High School and opportunities for the whole school community.

Mostly I thank parents, carers and students for your commitment to our wonderful school and I look forward to the new academic year in September.

Have a great summer.

Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher

Personal Development

These past couple of terms have been very busy in terms of personal development at KHS, with lots of exciting learning taking place.

Our monthly form time sessions have covered topics such as careers and money management, the importance of voting in elections, LGBT History Month and British Values. In personal development, one class created a series of paintings on the theme of

gratitude which were exhibited in the school's creative arts showcase. Meanwhile, a group of students from across the year group submitted their own artworks which made KHS joint winner of a LJMU Respect competition.

Older students have been learning about a variety of topics in their Wellbeing sessions – from relationships to stress management, as well as work experience preparation in advance of their placements in May.

Outside of the classroom, the school was successful in gaining re-accreditation for The Proud Trust's Rainbow Flag award after successfully showcasing all the excellent work we do in supporting and celebrating young people of all identities and genders. If you'd like to know more about their excellent work supporting young people across the North West, you can visit their website:

<https://www.theprouddtrust.org/>

Our Rainbow Club continues to grow and still meets every Thursday, producing a newsletter every half term distributed by faculty reps, and this year for the first time, we even created a podcast which you can find on the school's website.



Representatives from Chasing the Stigma, a local mental health charity, also came in to speak to a group of young people and we hope to be working with them next term.

Have a very happy, and safe, summer!



Dance Leaders Award

**Dance
Leader**

In March, our fantastic Year 9 Performance classes spent time planning and preparing how to be a great Dance Leader. Over the course of the sessions, they explored what skills made a great leader, what Kirkby Child Skills helped contribute to being a leader (confidence, hard work, keeping healthy) and planned two different styled dances to lead with the Year 7 classes. They successfully took part in the

assessment and spent 40 minutes leading a whole group of Year 7s through a warmup and dance session. The girls worked extremely hard and all passed with flying colours. Miss Cowley and Miss Hamer were extremely proud of them!



LIPA Visit

Year 9 had a wonderful time at LIPA Liverpool exploring workshops in dance, drama and music. All students involved worked with industry professionals and had the opportunity to consider next steps after they leave Kirkby High. #thinkingfutures

Drama News

This summer term has been an exciting time in drama.

Well done to all of our year seven students who created their own silent movies. Year eight who have worked hard uncovering the mysterious world of "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde", and year 9 who have explored acting for TV and film. From Stranger to Friends, it was great to see so many amazing performances.

Our GCSE students have been working hard preparing for their devised pieces.

Our musical theatre club focused on musicals and also created a thought provoking piece called 'The Bully'. Miss Gill and Miss Cowley are so proud of you all.

The hard work and effort of all our students has been amazing to see. Keep up the hard work next year.



Year 11 News

This has been a busy year for year eleven students. They have worked incredibly hard to prepare for their examinations. Their dedication and focus have been exemplary. As well as focusing on their present studies, students have also begun to plan for their futures. Considering best career paths, academic studies and what they need to do get to their chosen destination have been a



focus in form time, careers interviews and assemblies. Many students have also taken time to visit Mr Jackson in our careers' hub, gathering all the information they need when applying for college.



Also, as part of their exam preparation year 11 were very lucky to be joined by Steve from @humanutopia for an inspirational day. Our year eleven students benefited enormously as

they headed towards their GCSE exams. It was great to see the whole year group sharing their thoughts, taking part in team building and supporting one another.

Our form reps, prefects, and school leadership team have also worked hard this academic year. Our students have taken their roles very seriously and demonstrated commitment and dedication throughout this term. Our prefect and senior leadership team participated in break duties, assemblies, meetings and they also worked hard to gather the thoughts/opinions of the students at various points throughout the year.



Well done to Lewis who was our year eleven attendance winner in our 'Always determined, always kind' competition. Lewis won a bike for his outstanding attendance.

Our Prom 2022 took place at Aintree Racecourse on Thursday 30th June 2022. This was an amazing event where we had the opportunity to celebrate year 11's last five years at Kirkby High School.



Ethical Ambassadors

A big thank you to our Year 11 Ethical Ambassadors who collected Easter eggs to give to the homeless. They have done a great job over the year with different projects, and we will be sad to see them leave. We wish them all the best in the next stage of their life, and we hope that they carry on being Ethical Ambassadors outside of school. They have shown amazing qualities of compassion, confidence, and empathy for others in their role.

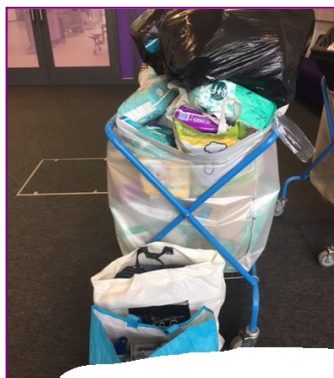


Other projects that they have been involved in:

Collecting groceries as part of the Harvest festival to donate to Knowsley foodbank.



Collecting items to help refugees affected by the war in Ukraine.



RE News

Environmental Youth Summit

A group of year 10 RE students took part in an Environmental Youth conference based in Huyton's Leisure and Culture Park. They listened to a variety of lectures on climate change and the need to help the environment. They learned about bee keeping and the environmental issues affecting the oceans. They considered practical ways to make a difference. During their dinner-time, they had a chance to get involved in activities such as planting seeds, graffiti art, practical aspects of bee keeping and meeting the celebrity guest, Chris Packham. The students represented Kirkby high in a mature and sensible manner and will hopefully be able to put what they learned into action.



Charity Fundraiser

During the summer term, the staff (past and present) and their families completed a 5K fun to raise money for our Assistant Headteacher's sister who was diagnosed with cancer. Tiffany Black lives abroad, and is having to pay for her own treatment. As a staff, we rallied together to walk, skip, jog and run around the course and raise as much money as possible to help.



Inclusion News

The inclusion faculty has further developed this year with the introduction of the “Kirkby Child Room” this student-centred intervention room has worked to ensure all students can access mainstream lessons despite any needs and concerns that they may come in to school with. This room has been a positive reintegration for students with long term absences as well as a safe space to discuss feelings and emotions. Our literacy and numeracy interventions continue to close the gap for students who joined us significantly behind their peers, with many students now able to access their full timetable thanks to the support of our specialist advanced level teaching assistants.

2021-22 has seen a record number of students with Educational Health Care Plans accessing mainstream education at Kirkby High School. We currently have 29 students with Educational Health Care Plans and are currently awaiting assessments for 6 other students. This highlights what an inclusive hub Kirkby High School is for our community.



Congratulations to our students who were champions of the Tri-Golf competition that was held at Kirkby High School last half term. It was a tough competition, but each student displayed great determination which

was rewarded by them gaining a medal for first place. The students are eagerly awaiting the next sporting competition that they will participate in as part of the inclusive sports games.



It was a night of celebrations for the SEND students at Kirkby High School. We were delighted to hold our third celebration evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all students and families who attended. The night showcased some of the fabulous pieces of work produced by the students and gave them the opportunity to display their amazing talents through quizzes and performances. It was a joy to see so many of our students enjoying themselves and every child left school acknowledged by a certificate and prize. We can't wait for next year.

September will bring a fantastic new cohort of students to Kirkby High School. Some of our more vulnerable intake have enjoyed two afternoons working in our inclusion department to support their transition to secondary education. This successful transition event has seen them explore the Kirkby Child, their own creative skills as well as providing them opportunities to discuss their fears and worries about their transition to “big school”. Our passionate Kirkby High School students who access the inclusion faculty were fantastic in showcasing the new starters around our wonderful school building, highlighting key areas such as the calm room and the Kirkby Child room. We know this valuable experience will allow our new Year 7 starters to come into school confident that they have a welcoming and nurturing environment at Kirkby High School.

Community Engagement



Merseytravel

Merseytravel: Local Transport Plan project

Some of our year 7 students were chosen to suggest some ideas to contribute to Knowsley's Local Transport Plan which will be implemented over the next 30 years. The session was run by staff from Merseytravel and the students received a certificate for completing the project.

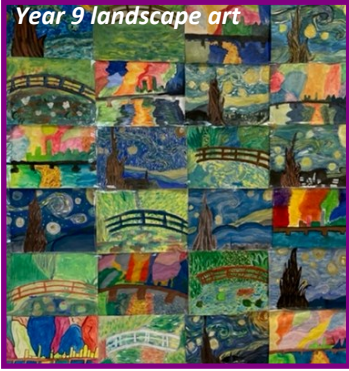
Cabbage Patch Kidz

As part of our “Greener and Cleaner” project in school, some students helped to plant some tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages and onions. The student have also made some artwork for the allotment which will be put on the site before the end of term.



Art Department News

Year 9 landscape art



It been a fun, busy year in the art department with lessons resuming back to normality.

Year 7 students settled into their art lessons very quickly in September and enjoyed the wealth of equipment available at Kirkby High School to create robots, African art, bugs and insects and colour theory.

Year 8 students have been inspired by local historical architecture, using perspective techniques to create stylised images of the three Graces and homework that enabled older members of their families to get involved by discussing their thoughts of Liverpool past and present.

Year 9 students were able to delve back into art history looking at landscapes and Impressionism.

We are looking forward to welcoming sixty of the year 9 students into GCSE art next year.

Extracurricular sessions saw students taking part in the *Knowsley Borough of Culture 2022* art exhibition where owls and cats have been decorated and are currently on tour around Knowsley. They can be seen at the Kirkby gallery at the moment. We are really looking forward to the owls coming to Kirkby High School, especially 'Kirk the Kirkby Owl' who was decorated and named by our year seven students based on the themes of the Kirkby Child values.

Year 7 and 8 students also took part in designing artwork to be displayed on the hoardings of the new Kirkby train station while it is being built. The themes focussed on

environmental sustainability and safety on and around the rail network. The organisers were very impressed with the standard of the work and the key messages behind them. We look forward to our student's work being displayed in such an prominent public space.

Kirk the Kirkby owl



Some of our students had their work displayed in the Tate Art Gallery for the 'Tackling the Blues' programme. We were lucky enough to go down and see the exhibition.



Yr 7 Competition Winners



A group of YR7 students recently won a competition set by LJMU by designing a poster about Respect during their Personal Development lesson with Mr Greenbank. They were selected from many entries from lots of other schools. They were invited to a graduation ceremony at the Anglican Cathedral and received an Amazon voucher as a prize. The students had front row seats, met

and chatted with the vice chancellor and his associates, and had individual photos taken with them. The vice chancellor also treated them all to a drink and a snack in the café! Our students truly epitomised every Kirkby Child value and their behaviour was exemplary.



This summer Knowsley Council is again participating in the DfE Holiday Activities and Food programme. The scheme is designed to provide eligible children and young people with free, fun activities this summer.

More details will be published soon <https://www.oneknowsley.org/snap-free-healthy-living-activities/>

Music

In September, the music department ran a trip to the British Music Experience in Liverpool for years 10 and 11 GCSE students. This was finished with the matinee performance of "Beauty and the Beast", as well as meeting the actor who performed the role of *Beast* at the time. A lot of our students are interested in musical theatre, so this was extremely exciting for them; whilst for others, it was the first time they had been in a theatre!

December was a busy month for us, with us being awarded the Music Mark award for the fourth year running whilst working with the Drama Department to produce a performance of "Matilda Junior". This was performed to a variety of students. In the new year, we hosted our first concert for parents since Covid. This included a wide range of music, from drumming to choirs and musical theatre.

Finally, in June, as a faculty, we collaborated to put on a Creative Arts Celebration Evening, showcasing the Art, Music, Drama and Dance work of over one hundred students. Over 75 students have accessed our extra-curricular lunch time clubs, and over one hundred have taken peripatetic instrumental lessons at some point during the academic year. We have been delighted to see students enjoying practical music again.



English News

During this year, the English faculty made further developments to their provision of extra-curricular activities with the introduction of Miss Kelly's *Podcast Club*, Mr Roose's *Creative Writing Club*, and the *Wednesday Word Up Club*. Take up for these clubs



was extremely high and we hope to continue and expand this provision into the new academic year.

During form time, year 7 students visited the Reading Zone to choose books to read at home and this has continued with

students revisiting the zone to exchange books.

More awards were given to students this year with Mrs Gibbons' *Star of the Week* competition and display where weekly winners received a postcard home and were entered into a half-termly draw to win a bag of goodies consisting of sweets, stationery and gifts.

Year 11 students were at their studious best during weekly revision sessions in order to prepare for their exams and even ate breakfast with us on the morning of their exams for some last minute tips and advice.

Planning is in place to develop more trips and visits, especially to see the famous *Blood Brothers* at the Liverpool Empire in November and *A Christmas Carol* at the Shakespeare in the North Playhouse.



Maths News

With no more government restrictions, we have finally been able to teach a full year of our schemes of work. We have enjoyed face to face training from Whiterose on how to fully utilise their resources in our classrooms.

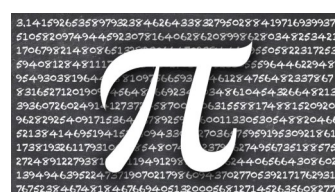


The mathematics faculty have continued to enter 20 students in the Junior Maths Challenge and 20 students into the Intermediate Maths Challenge, with the UKMT. Students from year 7, 8, 9 and 10 sat a 1-hour challenge paper in full test conditions. The paper encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting

problems. The problems on the mathematical challenges are designed to make students think. We are very proud of how much effort the students made with this challenge.

Students who are in the top 40% nationally receive a bronze, silver or gold award and we are pleased to say that in our Junior Challenge, Kayden Chambers in year 8 gained a silver award and Skye Buckley, Alex Dumbell and Maddison Hulme in year 8 gained a bronze award. In the intermediate event, James Duckworth in year 10, gained a silver award and Casey Magee-Lindop in year 10 gained a bronze award.

We have been able to celebrate maths and numeracy in abundance this year. We celebrated national maths week in November with lots of photographs of maths in different context. Students and staff were asked the question 'Where's the maths in that?'. This produced lots of conversations and debates.



Pi day in March was celebrated with a form time activity and video clip. We are currently in the process of sorting out activities and prizes for these events, to make next year unforgettable.

Year 7 News

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their journey here at Kirkby High School. They have shown a positive attitude, great enthusiasm and dedication to our Kirkby Child values since starting in September. This has only strengthened in recent weeks due to our focus on the Kirkby Child month. These values were reflected when there were changes to their year team and they showed nothing but resilience and respect for the situation.



At the start of the year, our students had an amazing opportunity to take part in team building days with their form group, tutor and mentor. They displayed so much confidence by putting themselves out of their comfort zones and made memories that will last a lifetime with their peers. The most adventurous task being out on the lake and working in teams!

It was received by the students so successfully that the trip will run again for the next year 7 cohort.

Since their team building, year 7 have fully immersed themselves in life here at Kirkby High School with many teachers praising their efforts in and out of the classroom. Students have really enjoyed learning new skills from new subjects such as drama which they had little experience of from primary school.

We also really tried to promote our extra-curricular clubs as they might have missed these opportunities in the past. Our 'Word Up' club in English has an extremely high intake of year 7 students who come to play various word games



such as 'Scrabble' and 'Articulate' weekly. Another group of students were recently taken on a BMX trip by the PE department as a part of the Commonwealth Insight Project. Also, the year 7 boys came first in all of Knowsley for Athletics. A great accomplishment! We have continued with Beth Tweddle's gymnastic club after school which many students have enjoyed participating in.

We are eagerly looking forward to another trip together as a year group to Blackpool which celebrates their hard work and attendance to school. The year team have very high expectations of each and every one of our students and we believe that we have and will continue to guide and support our current year 7s towards an extremely successful and fulfilling experience here at Kirkby High School.

Year 8 News

Year 8 have transitioned back into school well: our first full year at Kirkby High School! Year 8 have enjoyed forming strong bonds with their form tutors and subject teachers over the current academic year. Year 8 have conducted themselves brilliantly this year, earning nearly 300,000 positive points to date.



Year 8 have made a positive contribution to our school through the student parliament. Each form has their own form representative who attends parliament meetings to discuss with senior members of staff. These students have

suggested changes to the lunch menu, how we can improve

mental health, rewards in school amongst other things that have been enacted in school.

Students have participated in art, music, and humanities clubs during their

lunchtimes and have got fully involved in our sports clubs after school. Our boys and girls have participated in football matches with the girl's team coming second in a tournament. We have also had boys and girls representing Kirkby High school in a recent athletics competition with the girl's team coming second across Knowsley.

Head of year Miss Pimblett, mentor Miss Magenis and the year 8 form tutors are extremely proud of our year group's achievements this year. We have got high expectations of each and every one of them and feel that they are developing the Kirkby Child values that will take them through into year 9. It has been a pleasure to be their head of year and to watch them grow this year.



Year 10 News

Year 10 have made the transition from KS3 to KS4 with great maturity and focus towards their GCSE exams. A number of travel and tourism, and Cambridge National Sport students have already sat their first GCSE exam, and displayed exemplary behaviour in the exam hall, alongside the year 11s. All students have now completed their mock exams and have a thorough understanding of what their GCSEs will entail next summer.



As we move towards year 11, students have taken a greater focus on gaining careers advice, through both careers' interviews and personal development sessions. Students will soon be heading out to Knowsley Community College to spend the day trialling courses and planning for their future studies.

Alongside gaining advice and guidance on future careers, year 10 also took part in a week's work experience, organised by Mr Jackson. Students attended primary schools and engineering companies, as well as retail outlets and finance companies. Students' behaviour, manners and work ethic shone, with some students even receiving the opportunity to continue with part-time employment.

Mr Barton continued with year 10 intervention sessions, taking a group of year 10 boys to Anfield Stadium on a 'Knife Savers Campaign'. The LFC Foundation teamed up with the lead surgeons within the Royal Liverpool Hospital, with the aim to educate young people on how to administer first aid to others, if they ever find themselves in a life-threatening situation.



Year 10 were excellent ambassadors for Kirkby High at the Knowsley Environmental Youth Summit with Mrs Maloret. Two of our students displayed the confidence to speak via a microphone in the Q & A forum, in front of all the high schools in Knowsley. Students were a credit to our school.

Finally, year 10 students are currently in the process of applying for senior prefect roles. We have had an outstanding response with applications from many students. The application process will continue and a new Head boy and Head girl will be selected in time for the new academic year.

PE and Dance

Our key stage three students have enjoyed returning to a curriculum that has allowed them to access a full range of sport and performance activities after the more limited activities offered during the pandemic. We have been able to offer a full range of clubs such as netball, football, basketball, handball, dance, boxing, Beth Tweddle gymnastics and rounders.



We have taken part in a wide range of local competitions and secured many first and second places enabling the students to feel a sense of pride and connection to our school and PE department. It has also been amazing to watch our dance club, run by Miss Turner, flourish and perform in a school showcase and also a Kirkby collaborative primary school event. They were an absolute credit to our school.

Well done to our Year 7/8/9 athletics team who took part in the Knowsley Athletics after school this term. We placed first for the year 7 boys and year 8 girls and overall came

second. The students did amazingly in very hot conditions and did a wonderful job of representing Kirkby High School.



One highlight of the year was the year 11 OAA trip that the students attended as part of the Sports Studies course. All students visited the River Weaver in Frodsham and took part in a day of canoeing which brought much fun and a sense of adventure to all students as well as securing that element of their assessment. We were very proud of their behaviour and attitude during this trip.

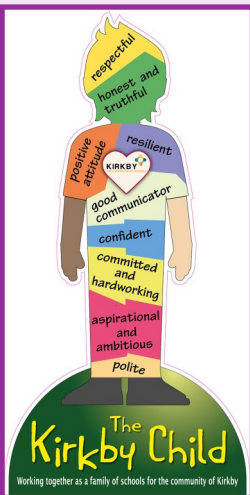


Our close links with Knowsley School Sport Partnership (KSSP) has seen our students have opportunities to take part in activities and competitions that not only target our top-level athletes but allow our SEND students to experience success in a competitive environment. We saw our selected students win the Tri Golf tournament and the PE department and the Inclusion department was extremely proud. A Year 7 female football player has also been selected as an ambassador for girls' football and is taking part in a programme driven by the KSSP and the Youth Sport Trust to promote girls' football in our school and community. We are very proud of all her efforts in this programme.

Congratulations to year 7 football team who won the KSSP tournament last



Kirkby Collaborative Celebration of Achievement



The Kirkby Collaborative is the family of fourteen schools that work in partnership in Kirkby. The Collaborative provides educational opportunities to over 5000 Kirkby children.

In the past, Knowsley Local Authority held an annual Celebration event for all schools in Knowsley; however, they no longer have the capacity to organise such an event. The Headteachers of Kirkby felt it was important to retain the tradition of recognising and celebrating the achievements of the pupils of the town and took the decision to arrange an event for Kirkby Schools in 2013.

The 2022 event will be the ninth annual Kirkby Collaborative celebration and was held at Kirkby High School on Tuesday 21st June 2022. This was a momentous occasion which included amazing performances by our creative arts students, who have since been invited by the Knowsley Assistant Executive Director (Education) to perform at this year's Knowsley ceremony taking place at the new Shakespeare in the North Theatre. Our students were a credit to our school.



Guest of honour was actor Philip McGuinness and former Brookfield School student who presented the awards to the students. Congratulations to all our award winners



Holiday Pattern 2022-23

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 Holidays
 Bank Holidays
 Inset days

Thursday 1 st September	Staff Training Day	All Staff
Friday 2 nd September	Year 7 Induction Day	Year 7 ONLY
Monday 5 th September	All Years return to school	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11