

December 2023  
ISSUE 03

**Fisher More's Expansion  
Begins with New State-  
of-the-Art Classrooms**

see page 10

**SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE RC HIGH SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**



LET ALL OUR BRIGHT COLOURS SHINE

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## SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE RC HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



# NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

### Dear Fisher More Community,

As we approach the end of another enriching term, it is with great joy and warmth that we extend our heartfelt greetings to each and every member of our school family. The Christmas season is upon us, and it brings with it a sense of unity, generosity, and goodwill that resonates throughout our school community.

**A Term of Achievements and Growth:** this Christmas term has been a time of significant achievements and growth for our pupils and staff alike. From academic accomplishments to artistic endeavours, athletic achievements, and community service initiatives, we are immensely proud of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by our pupils. As we reflect on the past few months, we celebrate the spirit of collaboration and excellence that so clearly defines our school.

**Festive Decorations and Activities:** throughout the week leading up to Christmas break, we have planned a series of exciting activities and events to capture the magic of the season. From

Christmas Adornment Day, Mrs Brown's Christmas Extravaganza to our Christmas liturgies, there will be ample opportunities for everyone to come together and celebrate.

**Expressing Gratitude:** Christmas is a time to express gratitude, and we want to take this moment to thank our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, most importantly, our incredible pupils for making Fisher More a vibrant and thriving learning community. Your commitment to education and personal growth is what makes our school truly exceptional.

**Holiday Closing and Well Wishes:** as we prepare to close for the Christmas break, we extend our warmest wishes to each member of our school community. May this holiday season bring you moments of joy, love, and laughter, surrounded by family and friends. We encourage everyone to take this time to rest, recharge, and create lasting memories.

**Looking Forward:** as we look forward to the new year, let us carry the spirit of Christmas with us into the future. May the lessons learned, friendships forged, and achievements celebrated this term serve as a strong foundation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

On behalf of the entire Fisher More family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the holidays be filled with warmth, peace, and the company of those you hold dear.

Warm regards,  
**Clare Hayes**  
Headteacher

# FISHER MORE TRIUMPHANT

## in the Great Lancashire Debate

### A Stellar Victory at Preston County Hall

In a remarkable display of skill and eloquence, the pupils of Fisher More High School recently journeyed to Preston County Hall, where they shone in the final round of the Great Lancashire Debate. This prestigious event, hosted by the Lancashire County Council, brought together some of the brightest young minds in the region, and our pupils proved to be exceptional.

### Securing the Trophy

It is with immense pride that we announce Fisher More High School has won the Local Area Awards trophy for Pendle. This accolade is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our pupils who participated in the debate. Their ability to articulate thoughts, present arguments, and engage in intellectual discourse was unparalleled, setting a high standard for future competitors.

### Special Commendation

Special congratulations are in order for Patrick, one of our outstanding pupils, who received an individual commendation for his excellent speaking skills. Patrick's performance was not just a personal triumph, but also a shining example of the calibre of pupils Fisher More nurtures. His poise, clarity of thought, and persuasive speaking style left a lasting impression on the judges and audience alike.

### School Pride

The entire Fisher More community is brimming with pride over this significant achievement. Our teachers, staff, and fellow pupils have all played a part in nurturing the talents that were so brilliantly showcased at the debate. This victory reflects our school's commitment to academic excellence, critical thinking, and effective communication.

### A Note of Gratitude

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Lancashire County Council for hosting the Great Lancashire Debate. Their efforts in organising such a stimulating and educational event provide a valuable platform for pupils to develop and showcase their debating skills. We also send thanks to Miss Herbert and Mrs Bowdin, who worked with the group in the run up to this fantastic debate. This experience has undoubtedly contributed to the personal and academic growth of our pupils.

The triumph at the Great Lancashire Debate is a milestone for Fisher More High School. It underscores our dedication to fostering a learning environment where pupils can excel not just in academics, but also in extracurricular pursuits. We celebrate this victory today, and it motivates us to strive for even greater heights in the future.



# HONOURING ARMISTICE DAY: A Day of Reflection and Remembrance

This November, Fisher More High School immaculately observed Armistice Day with a series of heartfelt and poignant events, bringing together our school community in a spirit of reflection and remembrance.

## Prayer Cards: A Personal Touch of Remembrance

Adding a personal dimension to the day's observance, pupils from across the school participated in the creation of special prayer cards. These cards, adorned with thoughtful messages and symbols of peace, served as a tangible expression of our collective hope and prayers for a world without conflict. As part of a prominent display in the school, they served as a daily reminder of the importance of peace and the cost of war.



## The Faith Leaders and Musicians Lead the Way

A highlight of the day was the involvement of our Faith Leaders and the school's talented musicians. They led a poignant remembrance ceremony, infused with music and reflective readings that deeply moved everyone present. Their dedication and passion in organising this event was a powerful demonstration of our school's commitment to honouring those who have served and sacrificed.



## A Day of Lasting Impact

As we moved through the day's events, it was clear that this Armistice Day would leave a lasting impact on our school community. It was a day not just of looking back, but also of looking forward with hope – a hope for a world where the lessons of the past guide us towards a peaceful future. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated and made this day a meaningful tribute to those who have fallen in battle.

In closing, we are reminded of the words of Laurence Binyon: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

Fisher More High School remains committed to fostering a community of peace, remembrance, and hope for the future.

If you want to share remembrance of a family member, friend or loved one, please contribute to Fisher More's book or remembrance: [\[click here\]](#)



# EMBARKING ON AN ADVENTURE: Year 9 Pupils Begin Their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Journey

We are thrilled to announce that thirty of our Year 9 pupils have officially commenced their journey towards achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. This marks a significant milestone in their personal development adventure.

## A Special Launch with Jon from the DofE

The official launch of this exciting journey was led by Jon, a representative from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award organisation. His presence and guidance were invaluable in setting the tone for what promises to be an enriching and transformative experience for our pupils. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jon for his inspiring introduction to the programme.



## Understanding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is more than just an extracurricular activity; it's a prestigious programme founded in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Aimed at 14-24 year-olds, the DofE programme is designed to foster skills, confidence, and resilience in young people, helping them navigate the challenges of adult life. Participants can progress through three levels: bronze, silver, and gold, each level bringing its own set of challenges and rewards.

## The Journey Begins

Our Year 9 pupils are embarking on the bronze level, which involves developing new skills, participating in physical activities, volunteering in their community, and undertaking an adventurous expedition. These activities are not only fun and challenging but also instrumental in developing key life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance.

## Looking Forward

As our pupils start this exciting chapter, we look forward to witnessing their growth and development. The DofE programme is a journey of self-discovery and personal achievement, and we are confident that our pupils will make the most of this incredible opportunity.

We encourage the entire Fisher More community to support our Year 9s as they embark on this adventure, one that promises to shape them into well-rounded, responsible, and capable young adults.

Fisher More High School is proud to be a part of this transformative journey and we eagerly anticipate the accomplishments our pupils will achieve in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award programme.

# CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT:

## Maisy Roseby's Journey to British Sign Language Excellence

Fisher More High School is thrilled to share the outstanding achievement of one of our own, Maisy Roseby from Year 11. Maisy has recently received the British Sign Language (BSL) Level One Award, marking a significant milestone in her journey of language and communication.

Over the past year, Maisy has dedicated herself to the study of BSL, driven by a deep passion and a clear vision for her future. Her journey began with a spark of inspiration from watching Rose Ayling-Ellis, a renowned figure in the deaf community, use sign language on the popular show "Strictly Come Dancing." This exposure to the beauty and importance of sign language ignited Maisy's interest and set her on a path to mastery.

Maisy's foundation in BSL was laid during her primary school years, thanks to the guidance of her beloved teacher, Mrs. Cavis. Mrs. Cavis introduced Maisy to the basics of sign language, an experience that left a lasting impact and steered her towards her current achievements.

Reflecting on her accomplishment, Maisy shared, "I am extremely proud to have reached this point. BSL is more than just a language; it's a way to bridge gaps and connect with others. My journey has been challenging but incredibly rewarding."

Looking ahead, Maisy is already preparing for her Level 2 BSL award, which she plans to complete in college. Her dream is to use her skills in sign language to make a difference, either by teaching BSL to help deaf children or by pursuing a career as an interpreter.

Fisher More High School celebrates Maisy's dedication and success. Her achievement is a testament to her hard work and the support of our school community. We are excited to watch her continue to grow and make an impact in the world of communication and inclusivity.

Congratulations, Maisy! We are all extremely proud of you.



# A SPANISH CULTURAL IMMERSION: Fisher More Students Enjoy 'La Bamba' in Blackpool

This month, Fisher More High School embarked on two remarkable trips to Blackpool, each filled with the vibrant beats and captivating story of the musical 'La Bamba'. These excursions provided our pupils with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish culture and language through the arts.

## First Trip: A Successful Start

The first group of pupils had the pleasure of experiencing 'La Bamba' under the guidance of Mrs Kegg and Ms McClelland, who organized the trip meticulously. The pupils were enthralled by the performance, which brought to life the rich tapestry of Spanish music and dance. This excursion was not just an entertainment outing; it was a valuable educational experience, offering pupils a dynamic way to connect with the Spanish language and culture.

## Second Trip: Continuing the Musical Journey

The second trip saw another group of 15 Year 9 and 10 pupils heading to Blackpool for their turn to enjoy this great musical. Accompanied by Ms McClelland and Mr Flynn, this group also returned with rave reviews of the performance. Their excitement and appreciation for the show were palpable, and the experience certainly enriched their understanding and enjoyment of Spanish culture.

## Appreciation for Organisers and Accompanying Staff

These trips were made possible thanks to the diligent planning and enthusiasm of our staff. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Kegg, Ms McClelland, and Mr Flynn for their efforts in organizing and accompanying the pupils on these enriching cultural excursions. Their dedication to providing such opportunities is a cornerstone of the holistic education we value at Fisher More.

## The Impact of Cultural Experiences

Through these trips, our pupils not only enjoyed a spectacular musical performance but also deepened their appreciation for the Spanish language and culture. It's experiences like these that broaden our pupils' horizons, complementing their classroom learning with real-world cultural immersion.

We are proud of our pupils for embracing these opportunities with such enthusiasm and look forward to offering more such enriching experiences in the future.





# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:

## Year 11 Mock Interview and Career Networking Day

Fisher More High School recently transformed its Sports Hall into a hub of professional growth and opportunity for our Year 11 pupils. The hall buzzed with activity as we hosted a Mock Interview and Career Networking Day, an initiative designed to prepare our pupils for life after Fisher More. The event saw the participation of 17 esteemed employers from the local area, each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with our pupils.

### A Morning of Mock Interviews

The day began with a series of mock interviews, providing our Year 11 pupils with a taste of real-world job interview scenarios. These sessions were invaluable in giving pupils first-hand experience of what to expect in future interviews, offering them a safe space to practice and receive constructive feedback. The employers, with their diverse backgrounds and industries, provided realistic and varied interviewing experiences, helping pupils understand the nuances of different professional environments.

### Afternoon Career Networking Sessions

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to career networking, where pupils had the opportunity to engage in more informal discussions with the guest employers. These sessions allowed for deeper conversations about career paths, industry insights, and professional development. Students were encouraged to ask questions, seek advice, and learn about the various career opportunities available in the Pendle area.

### Gratitude to Guest Employers

We extend thanks to all the guest employers who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in this event. Their dedication to guiding our pupils and sharing their expertise was instrumental in making the day a success. Their involvement not only provided practical interview experience but also opened doors for future networking and career opportunities for our pupils.

### A Day of Learning and Growth

The Mock Interview and Career Networking Day was more than just an exercise in interview preparation; it was a day filled with learning, growth, and inspiration. Our Year 11 pupils left with enhanced interview skills, a clearer understanding of the job market, and valuable connections with local professionals.

At Fisher More High School, we are committed to providing our pupils with holistic education that extends beyond the classroom. Events like these play a crucial role in preparing our pupils for their future careers and lives as responsible, informed citizens.

We look forward to continuing such initiatives and supporting our pupils in their journey towards professional and personal success.



# EMBARK ON A NEW JOURNEY

## of Fun and Learning in the New Year!

As the festive season wraps up and we step into a fresh new year, Fisher More is thrilled to offer a variety of engaging and exciting extracurricular activities for our pupils. Here's a taste of what we've got to offer:



- Sharpen Your Mind with Chess: the **Chess Club** in the Learning Resource Centre is the perfect place to challenge your strategic thinking during lunchtimes.
- Sing Your Heart Out: our **Choir** group meets after school, inviting all pupils to join in and harmonize in an ensemble of voices.



- Unleash Your Inner Actor: the **Drama Club** in English Room 1 offers a stage for those passionate about acting and theatre, gathering every Monday at lunch.
- Dive Into the World of Comics: **Comic Club**, meeting in English Room 1 every Tuesday at lunch, is a haven for comic lovers to discuss, create, and enjoy comic art.
- Musical Mastery: **Instrumental practice sessions** after school are a great opportunity for musicians to hone their skills.
- Be Part of Our Drama Production: **after-school rehearsals** are in full swing for pupils interested in participating in our upcoming drama productions.
- Explore the Wonders of Science: **Science Club** in Science Room 1 opens its doors after school on Tuesdays for budding scientists.



- Get Ahead with Homework Club: need a quiet space to study after school? Our **Homework Club** in the LRC is here to help.
- Strategize and Conquer in the Strategy Club: tailored for Years 8-10, **Strategy Club** is where minds meet to develop critical and strategic thinking.
- Cheer and Shine: **Cheerleading Club** in the Drama Studio brings energy and enthusiasm to after-school sessions.
- Crack the Code: **Code Breaking Club** in Maths Room 6 is a lunchtime adventure into the world of ciphers and puzzles.
- Artistic Expressions: whether it's during lunchtime in **Art Club** or after school on Thursdays, there's always room for creativity and artistry.



- Chart Your Future at Careers Drop-ins: St. Michael's hosts our **career guidance** sessions every Friday at lunch, providing valuable advice for future paths.
- Move and Groove with Dance Club: Open to all years, **Dance Club** meets after school on Fridays for a rhythmic end to the week.

The new year at Fisher More is filled with opportunities to explore, learn, and grow. We encourage all pupils to participate and make the most of these wonderful activities!

# TEACHER FEATURE: A Chat with Mrs. Helliwell, Leading the Way in Religious Education

In this term's edition of the Fisher More High School newsletter, we're excited to bring you a special segment of our "Teacher Feature." This time, we had the delightful opportunity to catch up with one of our most esteemed educators, Mrs. Helliwell, the Subject Leader for Religious Education. Known for her inspiring lessons and her unique ability to make complex topics accessible and engaging, Mrs. Helliwell has been a pillar of wisdom and guidance in our school community.

Sitting down with Mrs. Helliwell, we sought to uncover more than just her educational insights. From her hidden talents and humorous classroom anecdotes to her dreams beyond the school walls, our conversation ventured into the colourful and often surprising facets of her life.



**MRS. HELLIWELL**

## **Q** If you could have a superpower in the classroom, what would it be and why?

**MRS. H** The power to mute individuals -- pupils and staff -- I'm not mentioning any names though! Plus, the ability to create black pens out of thin air -- it's amazing how many of these go missing!

## **Q** What's the funniest answer you've ever received on a test or assignment?

**MRS. H** One time, we were preparing for a test, and a pupil said, "Miss, I seriously cannot remember you teaching me this. However, I will inform you of the team I think Dyche (Burnley manager at the time) will play in this weekend's game against Liverpool." Obviously, a few seasons ago now!

## **Q** If you weren't teaching, what would be your dream job?

**MRS. H** I always either wanted to be a teacher or a Police Officer. However, I think a job working outside in conservation would be good. Something like the National Trust or Parks Authority.

## **Q** What's your go-to karaoke song?

**MRS. H** There are too many, however here is a snippet of my tastes: Love Shack - B52s, Dolly Parton - 9 till 5, Killers - Mr Brightside. I also won the student union karaoke competition one year singing Shirley Bassey - Hey Big Spender. Christmas karaoke was always the Pogues - Fairytale of New York. However, being an RE teacher I feel I need to put a couple of hymns that I

love singing. Colours of Day and Lord of the Dance just remind me of primary school.

## **Q** Which historical figure would you love to have as a student in your class?

**MRS. H** Martin Luther King or Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education activist who fought for the right of girls having access to education.

## **Q** If you could be any character from a book or movie for a day, who would you be and why?

**MRS. H** Where do I start, there are so many good films and books. In the Lord of the Rings - "Return Of The King" Éowyn disguises herself as a man so she can go into battle as a warrior of Rohan and comes face to face with the Witch King, the lord of the Nazgul. He states a prophecy stating no man can kill him. Éowyn removes her helmet to reveal her identity and proclaims, "I am no man." before she drives her sword into the Witch-king, effectively killing him. Totally feminism in action there.... Black Widow in the Avenger films. I love the fact that she kicks backside, her humour and one-liners in the franchise but also her humility with her final action. Don't want to give away any spoilers if not watched the final films. Going back to a classic, Bathsheba Everdene from the novel Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy is a beautiful classic and ironically has a slightly happy ending for a Hardy book!

## **Q** WHAT'S YOUR SECRET TALENT THAT PUPILS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT?

**MRS. H** I was Lancashire Shot Put Champion – twice! But don't mistake me with the Trunchbull as she threw the hammer and javelin.

## **Q** Can you tell us about a time you made a hilarious mistake while teaching?

**MRS. H** I make mistakes all the time. Mixing words up when my mouth is going faster than my brain. However, I always find the hilarious moments are when we step out of our comfort zone and do something silly or for charity such as "trying" to be gangster in the Fisher More video - Mr Walmsley put me in my place. Whilst we are talking about charity, I have said to my Year 11s that in the spring I will run Alkincoats 5k parkrun with them. For every pupil or member of staff that turns up I will donate to charity! See you there!



**MRS. HELLIWELL**

**Q If you could teach a class on any topic you're not currently teaching, what would it be?**

**MRS. H** Human Dignity covers so much and was one of the topics taken out of GCSE which I was gutted about. It covers medical ethics, stewardship and the abuse of human power (for example, the mining of cobalt (this is in all of our electrical devices) and the amount of children working in mines when they should be in education). It also covers relationships, war and peace and was a great unit for debates and allowing the pupils to really give their opinions.

**Q What's your favourite school lunch from when you were a student?**

**MRS. H** Shepherd's pie was a classic when I was younger with tonnes of gravy. The cook made that much gravy that she used to put metal jugs of it on the table for us to top up our plates with. Followed by sponge and custard, a proper stog fest. Some parents may have worked out that I am a Child of the '80s with this lunch!

**Q Which school subject would you be terrible at teaching?**

**MRS. H** MFL – I was advised to give up French in Year 9 when picking my options as I was that bad at it! However, I think science would be hard to teach as there are so many areas that it covers, never mind 3 subjects within it!

**Q Can you share a fun fact about yourself that almost no one knows?**

**MRS. H** When I was cycling/travelling with Mr Helliwell, we found ourselves in some sticky situation. One was dealing with the altitude as we cycled over the Andes and a 4,818 m pass. Which is well high!

Getting caught out at border crossing and sleeping on a bench in "no-man's" land between Laos and Vietnam until the border opened. We tried to get over a mountain pass in southern Spain in April with the bikes but got caught out with the dark, cold and snow as we set up camp. We then heard machine noise during the night. We woke up to find ourselves next to a ski slope, -10 degrees but some of the most stunning sunrises above the cloud line surrounded by the Sierra Nevada mountains. If there is one thing I always encourage every pupil to do that I have taught, it is to go and explore the world around us - locally and further afield. It's an amazing place!

**Q WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL ITEM YOU KEEP IN YOUR DESK OR CLASSROOM?**

**MRS. H** I have a picture of Daniel Craig (aka James Bond) next to my desk, but don't tell my husband. Along with the photos of the Helliwell motley crew.

## FISHER MORE HIGH SCHOOL EMBRACES COMMUNITY SPIRIT WITH CHRISTMAS ADORNMENT DAY

On December 15th, Fisher More High School celebrated its Christmas Adornment Day, reflecting the school's commitment to charity and community spirit. This special day, part of the school's Advent activities, aimed to support local charities, namely Curry on the Street and The Open Door Centre.

Students were encouraged to wear Christmas-themed items, like jumpers and headbands, in exchange for bringing donations such as tinned foods, pasta, rice, toiletries, cereals, mince pies, and chocolates. These donations were geared towards helping those facing social, economic, or emotional distress in the community.

The success of the day not only highlighted the generosity of the Fisher More community but also reinforced the school's ethos of supporting those in need during the holiday season.



# A MILESTONE MOMENT: Fisher More's Expansion Begins with New State-of-the-Art Classrooms

It's a time of excitement and anticipation at Fisher More High School as we celebrate a significant step in our long-awaited expansion project. The arrival of the mighty piling auger on our school grounds marks the beginning of construction for our new classroom block, a development that symbolises growth and progress for our entire community.



## LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE FUTURE

The new classroom block, set to be built at the front of the school, represents more than just a physical expansion; it's a testament to our commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for our pupils. As the piling auger roared into action, our pupils gathered to witness this historic moment, applauding as the first foundations were dug. This enthusiastic response reflects the collective excitement for the new opportunities and experiences that this expansion will bring.

## REPLACING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

This new block will replace the existing Religious Education classrooms located at the back of the school, signifying a transition from the old to the new. With state-of-the-art facilities and modern design, these new classrooms will enhance the learning experience for our pupils, offering spaces that are not only functional but also inspirational.

## EXPANDING MORE THAN JUST CLASSROOMS

In addition to the new classroom block, the expansion project includes a significant enlargement of the canteen area. This upgrade is set to provide a more spacious and comfortable dining experience for our pupils, accommodating our growing school population while fostering a sense of community and togetherness during meal times.

## CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND LOOKING FORWARD

The start of construction is a moment to celebrate the progress we've made as a school community. As we watch our school transform, we are reminded of the bright future that lies ahead for Fisher More.

This expansion is not just about building new structures; it's about creating an environment where every student can thrive, learn, and grow. We eagerly anticipate the completion of this project and the many benefits it will bring to our pupils and staff.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue on this exciting journey of growth and development.



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING



**MRS B SHARMAN**

Hi there! I am Barbara the Health and Wellbeing Support Manager for Fisher More High School.

I was a paediatric nurse for the NHS and have worked in the community setting as part of the school nurse team. I am proud to say that I have completed 25 years in these roles, and now I am able to put all my experiences and achievements into the position I now undertake within school.

**It's estimated that 1 in 6 young people in the UK have a diagnosable mental health problem.**

Statistics also suggest that 50% of people that suffer from ongoing mental health problems experience their first symptoms by the age of 14.

It's important to make sure that the right education, advice and support around mental wellness is readily available to young people.

Well-being is the experience of health and happiness. It includes mental and physical health, physical and emotional safety, and a feeling of belonging, sense of purpose, achievement and success.

Well-being is a broad concept and covers a range of psychological and physical abilities. Five major types of well-being are said to be:

- Emotional well-being – the ability to be resilient, manage one's emotions and generate emotions that lead to good feelings
- Physical well-being – the ability to improve the functioning of one's body through healthy eating and good exercise habits
- Social well-being – the ability to communicate, develop meaningful relationships with others and create one's own emotional support network
- Workplace well-being – the ability to pursue one's own interests, beliefs and values in order to gain meaning and happiness in life and professional enrichment
- Societal well-being – the ability to participate in an active community or culture.

## **What is a school wellbeing worker?**

**MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB:** To provide a high-quality counselling service to pupils experiencing a wide range of emotional problems. To work collaboratively with school staff, pupils, parents / carers and external agencies etc.

in raising the health, welfare and well-being of children and young people at the school.

## **CORE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

- To provide a high-quality counselling service to pupils experiencing a wide range of emotional problems.
- To be responsible for maintaining appropriate and confidential records.
- To provide regular audit information such as numbers, age range and types of problems to the relevant member of staff.
- Develop, deliver and co-ordinate a comprehensive emotional support and well-being programme for pupils who experience certain difficulties which create barriers to their learning.
- To provide support, guidance and advice to parents, carers and school, on matters relating to emotional health, welfare and well-being.
- To have a thorough knowledge of the Mental Health provision locally and nationally
- To continually review and evaluate the service.
- Responsibility for assessments of emotional well-being and joint working with CAMHS, CAMHS Crisis Team and other external agencies.
- Deliver and evaluate mental health / welfare related workshops for identified pupils.
- To provide advice on health promotion to pupils, parents/ carers and staff.
- To be committed to Continuing Professional Development and to keep up to date with national and local issues which effect the social, emotional and mental health of young people and issues relating to their education.
- To take a proactive approach towards managing own work and caseload. This may occasionally require working outside normal office hours.
- To maintain up to date records in accordance with agreed procedures and to provide written and verbal reports for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

## **How can schools promote emotional wellbeing?**

By supporting pupils to better understand their own mental health, how to take care of it and how to talk about it, schools and colleges can encourage more open discussions and help break down any stigma around mental health. Providing access to a range of reading materials that discuss mental health and wellbeing.

PHEW!

The list sounds endless, but it gives me the greatest joy if I can holistically help and support a pupil or a family through their difficult challenging times.

## **All the best!**

Barbara

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# FESTIVE SUPPORT

## from Autistic Students

As we embrace the festive season, it's important to consider the unique needs of our autistic youngsters. This year, help Fisher More High School by adopting inclusive strategies to ensure a joyful and comfortable holiday experience for all.

Rebecca, Robbie, Aiden, Leuan and Lucy share their top tips for how everyone can make the festive season more inclusive for autistic people.

- "Dim the lights and have a quiet area." Robbie
- "Explain to me what type of present I will be receiving, for example a craft kit or food." Lucy
- "It helps to work up to the full Christmas arrangement, for example by eating together more frequently before the actual day." Aiden
- "Don't force autistic people, or anyone, to do something and let them have a rest or quiet time if needed." Rebecca
- "I need access to sensory spaces if I am overstimulated." Leuan
- "Please don't play loud music in public areas." Lucy
- "Keep Christmas lights and decoration to a minimum. If this cannot happen, have at least one room (at home, school or the workplace) that doesn't have any Christmas decorations that an autistic person can go to if they need to get away from everything." Rebecca
- "We leave Christmas decorations up for a bit longer - after one Christmas, we even just kept up some LED lights around the house to make it easier to walk around the house in the dark!" Aiden
- "I ensure I take time for myself to recharge my energy after doing more things than usual." Leuan
- "In advance of Christmas parties or events either at work or in school, talk through the changes that are going to be happening with the autistic person so they can prepare and suggest changes if necessary." Rebecca
- "Try to limit flashing lights at home." Lucy
- "I ask people what they want and tell them if there's anything that I want for Christmas and have defaults to fall back on." Aiden

### FOR MORE DETAILED TIPS AND INFORMATION

visit the [Ambitious about Autism](#)

website: [\[click here\]](#)

Tips: [\[click here\]](#)

Resources: [\[click here\]](#)

## SEND PARENTAL/CARER FORUM

**(Thursday 1st February from 4 - 5.30 pm)**

Join us for the SEND Parental/Carer Forum at Fisher More High School! Scheduled for Thursday, 1st February, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, this forum is an invaluable opportunity for parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to connect, share experiences, and receive support. It's a perfect platform to discuss concerns, learn about resources, and collaborate on fostering a more inclusive educational environment. Your insights and participation are crucial in shaping a positive future for our pupils.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# EMBRACING DIVERSE ART

## Forms Across All Years

Fisher More High School is a vibrant hub of artistic talent, where pupils from all year groups engage in a diverse array of artistic endeavours. From intricate sketches to dynamic pastel works, the school brims with creativity and artistic expression.

Here are a selection of creative works from across the school!

**YEAR 7**



**YEAR 8**



**YEAR 11**



**YEAR 9**





# TRIUMPH AMIDST THE ELEMENTS: Fisher More Shines at Pendle Schools Cross Country Championships

Earlier this academic year, in what can only be described as the epitome of a true cross country challenge, our Fisher More runners showcased remarkable grit and endurance at the annual Pendle Schools Cross Country Championships. Battling wet, windy, and exceptionally boggy conditions, our athletes not only competed but excelled, bringing home numerous accolades and honouring our school with their exemplary performance and sportsmanship.

## Outstanding Individual Performances

The event was marked by some outstanding individual achievements:

- **Max Unthank** led the way in the Year 7 boys' category, securing a magnificent first place.
- **Leyla Appleton** and **Bella Handford** made a fantastic showing in the Year 7 girls' category, clinching second and third places respectively.
- In the Junior Boys' race, **Elliott Shackleton** emerged victorious with a first-place finish, closely followed by **Tom Jackson** in second place, a remarkable feat considering he was a Year 8 student competing against Year 9s. **Marcus Mckendrey** also put up a strong performance, finishing fourth in the same challenging category.
- **Lucy Machin** impressed everyone by securing second place in the Junior Girls' category, another Year 8 student who held her own against older competitors.
- The Intermediate category saw **Tristan Fitzpatrick** earn a well-deserved second place in the Boys' race, while **Isabelle Perry** triumphed with a first-place finish in the Girls' race.

## Team Achievements

Our teams also performed exceptionally, demonstrating great teamwork and determination:

- The Junior Boys and Inter Boys teams were crowned Pendle Champions, a testament to their collective strength and strategy.
- The Year 7 Boys, Year 7 Girls, Junior Girls, and Inter Girls teams all earned the title of Pendle Runners up, showing remarkable consistency and team spirit.

## A Celebration of Team Spirit and Dedication

This event was not just about individual and team triumphs but also about the spirit of sportsmanship and the dedication of each participant. Every runner who represented Fisher More did so with commendable poise and determination, embodying the values we hold dear as a school community.



Congratulations to every runner and helper involved in this event. Your hard work, perseverance, and team spirit have made us all incredibly proud. Your achievements reflect not only your athletic prowess but also your commitment to excellence in all endeavours.

Fisher More High School looks forward to supporting our athletes in their future endeavours and celebrating their successes as they continue to represent our school with distinction.



# ST. PATRICK'S TRIUMPHS

## Amidst Controversy in First House Competition



In an eventful start to our House competitions this year, St. Patrick's House emerged victorious in a dramatic turn of events, clinching the first win of the season. The competition, which saw over fifty Year 7 boys and girls donning their new House bibs, was marked by excitement, skill, and a touch of controversy.

### The Thrill of House Football

The first Inter-House competition of the year was the much-anticipated House Football tournament. The event was a display of spirited competition, with teams showcasing not just their football skills but also their House pride. St. Andrew's House initially claimed victory on the pitch, demonstrating impressive teamwork and strategy throughout the tournament.

### A Twist in the Tale

However, the celebration for St. Andrew's was short-lived as St. Patrick's House filed an official complaint, leading to a thorough inspection of the recorded results. It was discovered that an error had been made in the recording of one of the matches. The game between St. George's and St. Patrick's had been incorrectly noted as a win for St. George's, when in fact, St. Patrick's had secured the victory.

### Rectifying the Results

This error significantly affected the final standings, as the correction awarded additional points to St. Patrick's House, propelling them to the top of the leader board. With the revised results, St. Patrick's House was rightfully declared the winner of the first House competition of the year, with St. Andrew's coming in a close second.

### Accountability and Moving Forward

The official results recorder, upon recognizing the mistake, has been reprimanded and has vowed to ensure greater accuracy in future competitions. This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of diligence and fairness in all aspects of school life.

### Celebrating Sportsmanship and Team Spirit

Despite the controversy, the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie shone through. The House Football competition was not just about winning but also about bringing together our pupils in healthy competition, fostering teamwork, and building House spirit.

Congratulations to St. Patrick's House for their well-deserved win and to all the houses for their enthusiastic participation. We look forward to more exciting and fair competitions in the future.



# CELEBRATING the Distinguished Alumni of Fisher More High School

Fisher More High School has been a fertile ground for nurturing talents that have gone on to shine brightly in various fields. Here are some inspiring journeys of some notable alumni, showcasing their remarkable achievements and how they continue to inspire the current generation.

## POLLY BRINDLE

Polly Brindle's story is a tale of versatility and determination. From the northern reaches of England to the glitzy realm of Orange County, Polly's journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. Beginning her career as a model at the tender age of 15, Polly graced the fashion industry for over two decades, working with prestigious brands like Lancôme, Dior, and Aston Martin. Her modelling career took her across Europe, from Paris to Milan, igniting her passion for design and architecture. In 2011, Polly shifted her base to Los Angeles, where she delved into the realms of business and design, working as a Senior Business Manager for a luxury clothing brand and in management at an architecture firm. Her foray into real estate began with obtaining her license in May 2021, leading her to join The Oppenheim Group Real Estate. Today, Polly is a familiar face on Netflix's "Selling the OC," where her expertise in luxury real estate shines through. Polly's story is a testament to the power of reinvention and the pursuit of diverse passions.



moving internationally to work with Gulf News in Dubai, and then returning to Lancashire to work at the Lancashire Evening Telegraph. Livesey notably spent 18 years at Sport Newspapers, where he was editor-in-chief and managing director of the Daily Sport and Sunday Sport newspapers. His media presence extended to television as well, with appearances on BBC North West Tonight and hosting programs. Livesey's diverse career showcases his adaptability and expertise across different media platforms, making him a prominent figure in British journalism.



## MATTHEW MOULDING

Matthew Moulding, a former pupil of Fisher More High School, is a notable example of success and inspiration. Born in Burnley, Lancashire, Moulding attended Fisher More before studying industrial economics at the University of Nottingham and qualifying as a chartered accountant. He founded The Hut Group in 2004, which quickly became a significant player in online retail. Moulding's entrepreneurial journey highlights the potential for great achievements, serving as an inspiring story for current Fisher More pupils. His achievements demonstrate the power of vision, innovation, and determination in reaching remarkable success.



## NEIL HODGSON

Neil Hodgson's journey in motorcycle racing is a tale of grit and triumph. Born on November 20, 1973, in Burnley, Lancashire, England, Hodgson became a notable figure in motorcycle racing. He claimed the 2000 British Superbike Championship and the 2003 Superbike World Championship. His career also spanned a successful stint in the American Superbike Championship, where he achieved a best 5th place championship finish. After an illustrious career, Hodgson retired from competitive motorcycle racing in 2010 due to a shoulder injury sustained in a motocross accident. Today, he continues to share his passion for the sport as a commentator, track day instructor, and ambassador for motorcycle companies, including Ducati.



## NATALIE METCALF

Natalie Metcalf (née Haythornthwaite) is an accomplished netball player from Pendle, Lancashire, known for her skilful play in both the Goal Attack and Wing Attack positions. Her netball journey began at a local sports centre and was influenced by her mother and sisters, who shared her passion for the sport. Natalie's dedication led her to make her senior international debut for the Vitality Roses in 2015 against Trinidad and Tobago. She has since achieved significant success, including winning gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and participating in the 2019 Netball World Cup. Natalie's career also includes domestic triumphs in England and Australia, where she has played for several top clubs. Her journey exemplifies hard work, family support, and dedication to achieving at the highest levels in netball.



## TONY LIVESEY

Tony Livesey, born on January 11, 1964, in Burnley, Lancashire, is a distinguished British journalist and broadcaster, currently known for presenting 'Drive' on BBC Radio 5 Live. His journalism career spans various roles, starting with his time at the Nelson Leader,

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# A SPECIAL VISIT FROM POLLY BRINDLE: An Inspiring Alumni Returns to Fisher More

Fisher More High School recently had the honour of welcoming back one of our distinguished alumni, Polly Brindle. An ex-pupil and daughter of Mrs. Foster, one of our dedicated Teaching Assistants, Polly has made a name for herself both as a successful model and as a star in the Netflix series 'Selling the OC'. Her return to the school was a moment of pride and inspiration for our community.

**Sharing Her Journey with Year 11 Students**  
Polly graciously shared her time with our Year 11 pupils, speaking about her journey since leaving Fisher More. Her talk provided invaluable insights into the varied paths a career can take and the importance of determination and hard work. Her experiences, particularly in the competitive fields of modelling and television, served as a powerful example of how passion, perseverance, and resilience can lead to success.

## A Walk Down Memory Lane

During her visit, Polly also had the opportunity to tour her old school and see first-hand the changes and developments that have taken place since her time here. For both pupils and staff, it was a special moment to see an ex-pupil walk the corridors again, reflecting on her memories and witnessing the school's evolution.

## A Source of Inspiration

Polly's visit was more than a trip down memory lane; it was a source of inspiration for our pupils. Her achievements in the fashion industry and on a globally recognized platform like Netflix highlight the diverse opportunities available to our pupils after they leave Fisher More. Polly's story is a testament to the fact that with ambition and hard work, they too can achieve great things.



## Looking Forward to Future Visits

As we bid farewell to Polly, we expressed our best wishes for her continued success and extended an invitation to visit us again, especially after the completion of our school's expansion. Her visit has left a lasting impression on our pupils, who were visibly inspired by her achievements and her genuine, down-to-earth nature.

Polly Brindle's visit to Fisher More is a reminder of the outstanding potential our pupils possess and the exciting futures that await them. We thank Polly for her time and the invaluable inspiration she has provided to our current pupils.





# FISHER MORE'S CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA:

## A Festive Delight for the Community

This year's Christmas season was made extra special by Fisher More's Christmas Extravaganza, which took place on Tuesday, December 19th, in the school's sports hall. The event, open to the public, was a dazzling showcase of talent and community spirit.

### A Musical Feast and Market Extravaganza

Students from Years 7 to 11 took center stage with their exceptional musical talents. Their performances included a range of festive songs and instrumental pieces, creating a perfect backdrop for the evening's activities. The young musicians serenaded the attendees, adding a touch of magic to the atmosphere while locals browsed through the various market stalls.

Local businesses enthusiastically participated, setting up stalls that offered a variety of goods, from handcrafted items to festive treats. This collaboration between the school and local businesses not only provided a platform for showcasing local talent but also helped in strengthening community bonds.

### Warmth in Every Cup

The event was not just a treat for the ears and eyes but also for the taste buds. Visitors enjoyed a selection of hot drinks and delicious food, creating a cozy and welcoming environment. The warmth of the drinks was matched only by the warmth of the community spirit that filled the hall.

### A Successful Fundraiser

One of the most heartwarming aspects of the Christmas Extravaganza was its charitable angle. The event successfully raised £360 for Pendleside Hospice, demonstrating the community's commitment to supporting meaningful causes.

### A Team Effort

The success of the event can be largely attributed to the dedicated staff of Fisher More. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Brown, whose organisational skills were pivotal in bringing this event to life. Acknowledgments are also in order for Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cheetham, Mrs. Bowdin, Mrs. Hindmarch, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Hugo, Mrs. Kegg, Mrs. Lomas, and Mr. Bacon for their invaluable assistance.

### Santa's Special Appearance

The highlight for many was Mrs. Fitzpatrick's delightful appearance as Santa Claus, greeting people at the door. Her enthusiasm and spirit were infectious, bringing smiles to everyone's faces and adding an extra layer of festivity to the occasion.



## PRAISE FOR PUPIL PERFORMERS

The Christmas Extravaganza at Fisher More was made truly special by the outstanding performances of its pupils. Each student brought their unique talents and enthusiasm, creating an unforgettable evening. Here's a tribute to these talented individuals:

- Sophie B.
  - Gabriel K.
  - Myles R.
  - Emilia A.
  - Nicole S.
  - Amelia T. S.
  - Lewis S.
  - Lea M.
  - Jessica H.
  - Ayden J.
  - Oliver W.
  - Joseph H.
  - Thea K.
  - Poppy S.
  - Rosie R.
- Kian H.
  - Katelyn B.
  - Maia S.
  - Emily W.
  - Lily M.
  - Maia B.
  - Bella H.
  - Lorenna G.
  - Alan H.
  - Eevee H.
  - Mia L.
  - Ellie L.
  - Alexis M.
  - Isabel G.

Each of these pupils played a significant role in the success of the event, and their contributions to the Christmas Extravaganza were immensely appreciated by all who attended. Their hard work and dedication were evident in their performances, and they should be very proud of their achievements.



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# Fisher More Students **SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER** at Belvedere Manor

In a heartwarming display of community spirit and festive joy, pupils from Fisher More recently visited Belvedere Manor, a local care home, to spread Christmas cheer among its residents.

The pupils, brimming with enthusiasm and festive spirit, sang a variety of Christmas carols, filling the halls of Belvedere Manor with the sounds of the season. Their voices, harmonious and cheerful, brought smiles to the faces of the residents, many of whom joined in the singing, creating a truly communal experience.

After the caroling, the pupils took the time to engage in conversations with the residents. These interactions were a meaningful part of the visit, as they provided an opportunity for the pupils to connect with the older generation, sharing stories and listening to memories of past Christmases. It was a poignant reminder of the joy that simple human connection can bring, especially during the holiday season.

## **A Special Performance by Gabriel**

A highlight of the visit was a special performance by Gabriel, one of the pupils from Fisher More. He played various Christmas carols on the piano, providing a serene background to the afternoon's activities. His talent and dedication were evident in each note, and many residents congratulated him on his wonderful performance, expressing their appreciation for the music that added so much to the atmosphere of the day.

## **A Tradition of Giving**

This visit to Belvedere Manor is part of Fisher More's ongoing commitment to community engagement and service. By reaching out to the elderly in their community, especially during the holiday season, the pupils demonstrate the



true spirit of Christmas: one of giving, sharing, and spreading joy.

The visit was not only a delightful experience for the residents but also an invaluable one for the pupils, who gained insights into the lives of the older generation and the importance of community support. It was a day filled with laughter, music, and heartfelt conversations, a reminder of the power of kindness and the joy of the holiday season.



# IN LOVING MEMORY: Mr. John Driver

## A Tribute to a True Gentleman

John Driver was not only a beloved colleague but also a true gentleman in every sense of the word. His kindness, humour, and loyalty enriched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was admired and held in the highest esteem by colleagues, pupils, and the community alike - a personification of one of life's finest.

## In a moving tribute, Mr. Swarbrick encapsulates the essence of John's impact:

"Trying to sum up so many happy and special memories of John is an incredibly challenging task. John has had such an impact on my life both as a pupil and working with him as a teacher. John taught me Physics when I was at Fisher More; he was an accomplished Head of Year that all pupils looked up to and sought for advice. John was also my Subject Leader when I started at the school as an ICT teacher. John was my colleague for 20 years at the school, but more importantly John was a good friend. I have so many memories of John, some that are inspiring, some that are motivating and some that just make me laugh out loud. John, in every sense, was a truly great man. He would always ask how I was, how my family was. He would take an interest and offer advice when needed. He would make it his issue to seek me out if I looked tired or had a bad day; mostly, just to remind me that life is too short and being stressed was just not worth the time and effort.

John was a true Fisher More legend. He is the one member of staff that every former pupil asks about. He taught thousands of pupils, he ran ski trips, camp schools, science clubs and football teams. Teaching was far more than a job for John, it was his vocation, his passion. In school he was our go-to-person. He knew everyone, families, friends, next door neighbours. Any information you needed, John was the man to give it to you. Our school, this area is a far sadder place without him. Although everyone in the Fisher More family will miss him more than words can express, his legacy will live on for generations to come.



Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine on him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

We have lost a great man. Our colleague, our friend. Rest in peace Mr. Driver."

## Honouring John's Legacy

In lieu of flowers, John's family has shared a Just Giving page set up by John himself to support Pendleside Hospice, an organization close to his heart. Donations can be made at **(John's Just Giving Page)**. This act of kindness would be a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the service of others.

As we mourn the loss of Mr. John Driver, we also celebrate his extraordinary life and the indelible mark he left on Fisher More and the broader community. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts, and his legacy will continue to guide and inspire us.

Rest in peace, Mr. Driver. You will be profoundly missed, but never forgotten.

Love from your Fisher More family.



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