

High-Kicking Pupils

Pleckgate pupils **Emaan and Hamza** are making their mark in the Kickboxing and Taekwondo world.

The brother and sister have been attending Bolton Dragons and British Taekwondo School (BTS) Bolton since they were little as 'their mum wanted them to do something.'

Emaan, 13, is on Team GB for Kickboxing while Hamza, 11, is hoping to secure a place on the Junior Olympic Team for Taekwondo this year.

Emaan said "All my friends think it's really cool, I love representing Team GB and we train together once a month. The World Championships are in Serbia next year and I want to do well in them too. There are talks about Kickboxing becoming an Olympic sport and my dream is to go to the Olympics."

Both are Black Belt 1st Dans and have competed all over Europe, with their next big event the Golden Glove in Italy in January. Emaan recently won a bronze medal at the WAKO European Kickboxing Championships in Budapest, representing Team GB in the -42kg category and is No 1 in GB in the same weight division.

Emaan said "I was so proud to win a bronze medal. Hamza likes Kickboxing and Taekwondo and, as Taekwondo is already an Olympic sport, he is hoping to seal a place on the Junior Olympic Team." He has won a host of medals and trophies this year including winning the YOKOSO Dutch Open and he also came second in the British Taekwondo Championships in Manchester in the -32kg category.

He has won the first of three GB Grand Slams in Kickboxing and, if he does well in all three, he will be called up to the Team GB squad like Emaan.

Hamza said "We have cardboard boxes full of medals and trophies in our house. It's good that we get to travel all over Europe doing something we enjoy."



End of Year Message from the Headteacher

At the end of a busy and productive year, it is good to reflect on our successes as a school. 2019 has been a fantastic year for Pleckgate High School. In January the school was judged as Outstanding by Ofsted. This is testament to how far the school has come and a great way to recognise the efforts of our community. The 2019 Year 11 leavers achieved fantastic results, with 46% gaining a grade 5 (grade B) or above in English and Maths, compared to a national average of 43%. The overall progress 8 score of +0.17 has remained positive for the fourth year running and is once again significantly above average. Progress in Mathematics continues to be well above average and progress in English was very good as well. History was another area where students performed very well, at nearly half a grade above their counterparts nationally.

Since we have returned in September there have been a number of school events that showcase the wide range of activities and experiences students are able to participate in and enjoy. Recently, representatives from Pleckgate attended the Remembrance Day service at Blackburn Cathedral and laid a wreath at the war memorial in Blackburn. The school also held assemblies all week about Remembrance and the sacrifices made during World War 1.

In October, the school raised funds for a national charity during a week of fundraising events that included students and staff baking cakes to purchase and also a 'Sponge the Teacher' event. Students in Year 7 also celebrated National Poetry Day, learning how to put their feelings into words and read their poems to an audience of peers and staff. Their subjects ranged from climate change, to school life, to their parents – any topic they felt close to.

There also continues to be a large extra-curricular programme, including school teams and clubs that run after school. A special mention should be given to our Year 7 and Year 8 boys' football teams that have both won their local leagues and secured promotion to the Premiership. We also have a wide range of trips and visits that continue to run all through the year, including Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, a History trip to Belgium and a Modern Foreign Languages trip to Paris.

I am very pleased with how our Year 7 students have settled into school life at Pleckgate. The number of parents choosing Pleckgate has significantly increased yet again, and it is fantastic to see the school is full. Initial projections from admissions suggests the demand in the community has grown again, a sign that Pleckgate is the school of choice for our community.

All that is left for me to do is wish you a restful break and a Happy New Year!



Mr Cocker - Headteacher

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



Pleckgate News

A newsletter featuring Pleckgate High School's achievements

ISSUE 5

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Class of 2019 - OUTSTANDING!

Pleckgate celebrated their Outstanding Class of 2019 at their Awards and Certificates Evening.

Awards were presented to last year's Year 11s for their Outstanding GCSE results, in individual subjects for achievement and effort as well as special trophies.

The Headteacher's Award was given to last year's **Deputy Head Boy Inaam** for his 'steely motivation, working tirelessly and being a role model.' **Inaam said** "Pleckgate has given me a lot. I have had so much support from the teachers, my confidence has grown greatly, especially when I was made Deputy Head Boy, Pleckgate will always have a special place in my heart."



The Chair of Governors' Award was given to **Ayesha** who achieved Grade 9s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics and Grade 8s in Religious Studies, English Language and Literature and an A* in Further Maths.

The Commitment and Perseverance Awards went to **Muhammadzayn and Faeza**, who made fantastic progress in their five years at Pleckgate.

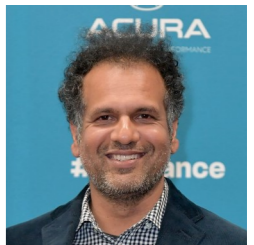
The Education Partnership Award for Positive Contribution to the Community was awarded to **Head Boy Zain** who helped to raise £58,000 for the East Lancs Hospice, where his grandfather was cared for. **Zain said** "I loved my time at Pleckgate. I formed friendships which will last forever. I enjoyed the trips and the lessons and I think our results showed the teachers were right to believe in us as a year group."

During their five years at Pleckgate, the school was graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It was hailed as a 'Beacon of Success' by the Institute for Public Policy Research and they have continued to have a positive Progress 8, which means their pupils are progressing better than expected in eight key subjects.

Headteacher Mr Cocker said "Our Class of 2019 have been role models, set the tone for the pupils coming through and set an excellent example. We now have our largest intake of Year 7s, 270, demonstrating that our reputation in the community is high and showing we are a school of choice for many. We had fantastic results last year, 66 per cent of our pupils achieved a Grade 9-4 in English and Maths. We are not just about results though, we encouraged pupils to get involved in extra curricular activities and community events where they thrived."

The **Guest Speaker was influential journalist, broadcaster and screenwriter Sarfraz Manzoor** who shared his experiences of growing up in Luton and chasing his dreams. Sarfraz has written the film 'Blinded by the Light,' which is about his early life.

Sarfraz said "My family came over from Pakistan in the early 60s and I grew up in Luton. I was a dreamer, I didn't want to follow the path I was expected to and I was ambitious. I heard the music of Bruce Springsteen and it inspired me to do something different. My parents wanted me to go into medicine but I wanted something different. I wanted to live for the day, travel and meet interesting people and I did. I have travelled, made films and met famous people. Sometimes you have to be courageous to follow your passions and dream big."



BBC Bitesize Roadshow Welcomed to Pleckgate

It was great to welcome the BBC Bitesize Roadshow into school.

Students in Year 8,9,10 and 11 learned a little more about careers in the media and creative arts industries.

Alisha said "I really enjoyed the BBC Bitesize Roadshow because it was very informative. It made me think more about my options in the future and the best career to pick for the future I may want. It also made me think about the subjects I enjoy and what I'm good at. I found it a very inspiring event."

All the students gained a lot of valuable information and were grateful to **Mrs Blears** for organising the event.



Congratulations to Year 8 Football

Congratulations to the Year 8 football team, pictured below before their resounding 7-0 success against Our Lady & St Johns. Another starring performance from **Zayn**, scoring 4 of the goals from centre midfield.



Baking for Charity

Pupils had a tasty treat at breaktime as Pleckgate went crazy for Islamic Relief and Unite Our Powers charity. An array of cakes were baked and sold, with a group of helpers assisting teachers. The money raised will go to help children around the world who are suffering.



Pleckgate Pupils in the Under 14's Blackburn with Darwen Badminton Competition



Congratulations to **Hafsah, Hannah, Hannah and Emaan** for coming 2nd place in the under 14's Blackburn with Darwen Badminton Competition.

Remembrance Day

Headteacher Mr Cocker and History teacher Mr Clegg attended Blackburn Cathedral with senior prefects and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. They joined the rest of the country in a 2 minutes' silence to commemorate the sacrifices of veterans in all conflicts. At Pleckgate, everyone stopped to join the country at 11am to mark the silence held on Armistice Day. "For the Fallen" was read out in each classroom to start the silence.



Pupils Going Green at Pleckgate

Some very caring pupils at Pleckgate went GREEN to inform the rest of the school about dropping litter by making a litter mountain from litter that was dropped by pupils in school. They made it to show everyone and make them think twice before they dropped any litter. **Ali (SWR) said** "I think that all plastic rubbish should be recycled." **Gulfrana (AHA) said** "Throwing litter on the floor is bad manners. Don't be a litter lout, put your rubbish in the bin." **Zainab (DJH) said** "Pupils should put all their rubbish in the bin."



Sponge The Teacher! National Charity Week

It was revenge time for pupils at Pleckgate High School as we held a "Sponge The Teacher" charity event for The Islamic Relief Organisation and #UniteOurPowers campaign to raise funds for all children who are suffering all over the world. Pleckgate held a week of events to raise money and pupils and pupils could pay £1 to "Sponge The Teacher" - something the pupils were relishing. History teacher Miss Slater seemed favourite for a soaking.

Aleena said "I want to sponge Miss Slater because she made me sit next to a boy!" **Furkan said** "It's Miss Slater for me too, just for fun!" Headteacher Mr Cocker was also a popular choice. **Shalim said** "I was late one day due to the one way system he has introduced so it's Mr Cocker for me." **Zayn said** "Definitely Mr Cocker because of the one way system."



Pupils Represent Pleckgate at the "Great Debate" Competition

Malaz and Aisha were proud to represent Pleckgate High School at the "Great Debate" held at Bolton High School. Both girls delivered fantastic speeches and were highly commended by the chief judge.



Pleckgate Collection for NIGHTSAFE

Mrs Parry and Mrs Harrison organised a staff collection of food and toiletry items for a Christmas party for the young homeless at **NIGHTSAFE**. This has been a tradition at Pleckgate, started by Mrs K Emery many years ago, which has successfully continued thanks to the generous staff. We wish the young people a safe and happy Christmas.



Year 11 Pupils visit National Apprenticeship Fair at Bolton Arena

A group of Year 11 students accompanied by **Mr Clegg** attended the National Apprenticeship Fair at Bolton Arena. The students got an insight into apprenticeships from different employers and found it very useful.



Geography Field Trip

The Geography Department successfully organised field trips for Year 10 pupils. They enjoyed their day recording velocity, depth, width and load particle sizes along the River Wyre.



Pupils Keeping Fit at Lunch Time

Mr Pickup from the PE Department organised a badminton club at lunchtimes for pupils. **Mr Pickup** said "It was great to see so many people interested and turn up."



Duke of Edinburgh

27 pupils across Year 9 and Year 10 have successfully applied to complete the **D of E Bronze Award**. They will be receiving their login details so they can begin uploading evidence for their volunteering and physical skills sections.



Pupils Receive Award for 100% Attendance

A huge congratulations from the Attendance Team to all 603 pupils who will be receiving a certificate for their 100% attendance throughout the first half term. Keep it up and we will have even more in the next half term.

