



Pleckgate
HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS

**A Newsletter featuring
Pleckgate High School's
achievements**

July 2022

BUMPER PACKED END OF TERM EDITION

Farewell but not goodbye

As we near the end of another successful academic year, I am writing to you for the last time as Headteacher of Pleckgate High School. As I am sure you are now aware, from September 2022, I will be taking up the position of Director of Secondary Education at The Education Partnership Trust, of which Pleckgate is a member school. In this role, I will continue to work with Pleckgate and the other secondary schools within the Trust to continue to support the delivery of the best possible education for all our young people.

I took up post as Headteacher of Pleckgate in January 2016 and I have been incredibly proud to serve this community and lead such a talented team of pupils and staff. The school is in a stronger position than ever, and this is down to everybody's hard work, commitment and support. Over the past twelve months, I have worked closely with Mrs McGinty and the new senior leadership team to ensure as smooth a transition as possible, ready to hit the ground running in September.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been involved with the success of the school over my tenure; quite simply, we could not have achieved what we have without everybody coming together and pulling in the same direction for the benefit of our young people.

Pleckgate will always hold a special place in my heart, and truth be told, was a key factor in my decision to continue working with the Trust. I will be a regular visitor to Pleckgate and will continue to work as hard as I can with staff and pupils to ensure the school goes from strength to strength.

I hope you all enjoy reading the latest edition of this newsletter and I look forward to our continued journey together.

Wishing you a restful summer break.

Kind regards

Mr M Cocker



Pleckgate Pupils Win GOLD at Physics Olympics!!

Congratulations to Pleckgate pupils who won first prize at this year's Physics Olympics, hosted at QEGS. The Pleckgate Physicists saw off competition from fellow Year 9 pupils representing St Bede's, BCHS and hosts QEGS. Each team completed a variety of challenges, including tower, bridge and boat building. In a dramatic conclusion to the day's events the eventual champions from Pleckgate defeated St Bede's in a final challenge showdown tie breaker quiz. The event, which is in partnership with the Ogden Trust, was a great success, with all pupils enjoying the opportunity to test their practical skills and to pit their wits against the best pupils from other schools in the area.



**Champions! Huda, Daud, Yaseen
& Mubeen**



**Going for Gold! Physics Olympics pupils: Huda (DJH)
Zaibaa (FMU) Daud (LDO) Yaseen (SWO) Hafsa (FJO)
Mubeen (FMU) Sadia (LTA) Razia (MPI)**



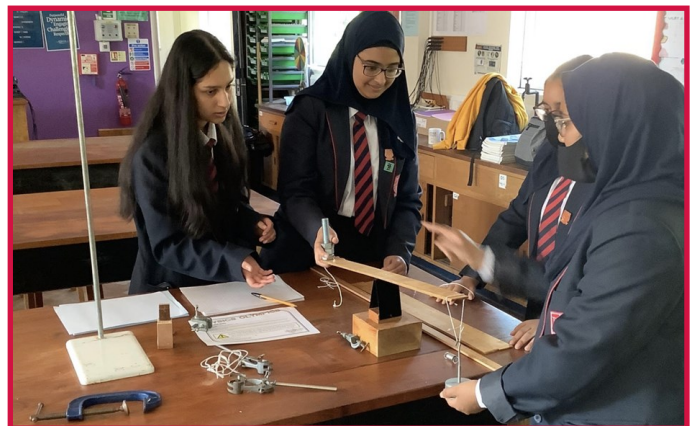
**Give me a minute! Pupils had to design
a one minute timer**



**A bridge too far? Pupils designed
a bridge using straws**



**Sink or swim? Pupils designed a boat to hold
as much mass as possible**



**How's your balance? Pupils finding the mass
of unknown objects**

Year 8 Inter-Tutor Rounders and Cricket

Around 100 pupils were involved in Inter-Tutor sport this half term, organised by **Miss Blears**, **Mrs Robinson** and **Mr Haworth**. The competitions were played in a fantastic spirit and talent on show bodes well for the Pleckgate teams competing against other schools. MBA won the rounders in a close-run final, winning a football for their efforts. AZA won a thrilling cricket final against a well-drilled NJK team, with both teams winning a football for their efforts.



AZA Cricket Champions

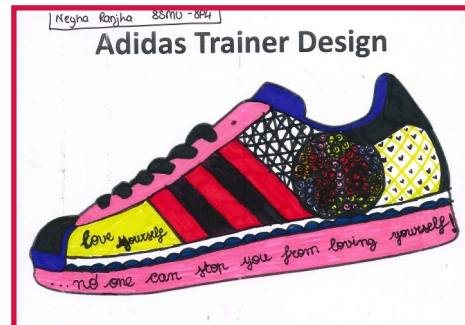
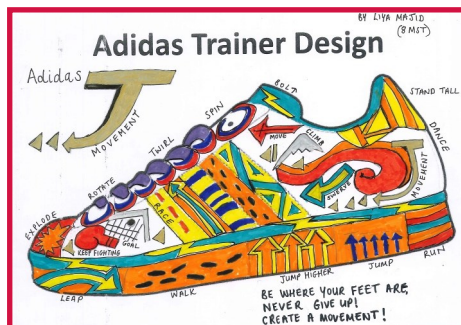


MBA Rounders All Stars

Trainer Design Competition Raises £269!!

“Impossible is Nothing!”

This event was inspired by the Liam Gallagher concert for Nightsafe at King George’s Hall organised by Blackburn-born trainer designer **Gary Aspden**. Gary works for Adidas, is famous for his Spezial range and uses local names in his works - there is even a “Pleckgate” tracksuit. A competition was organised to inspire the creativity and imagination of Pleckgate pupils in Year 8. Pupils paid £2 for a template sheet then put their own design on the trainer with a tagline to rival the current Adidas one of “Impossible is Nothing!” and there were some amazing entries. This, combined with a charity football tournament, **raised a fantastic £269** to go to **Nightsafe, a charity** which does amazing work helping the homeless in Blackburn. Every pupil who entered won a prize of stationery or a tennis ball. The winning pupil **Asiya** in 8 SMU won a £50 voucher and the 15 best entries won £10 vouchers for JD Sports. Hopefully, the competition has made pupils think about charity, helping those less fortunate and inspired the next generation of trainer designers to follow in Gary’s trainer steps!!!



Some of the amazing trainer designs!

Thackray Museum Trip

A group of 58 Year 8 historians from 8P1 and 8P2 inspired by **Mr Bajkowski** and **Miss Wetton's** teaching were rewarded for their hard work and superb attitude in school with a trip to Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. The coach journey over the M62 was punctuated by the beautiful singing of the "Backseat Girls". Pupils also greeted the Cathedral of football at Elland Road with howls of derision and chants of "Glory, Glory, Man United!!!" much to the disgust of **Mr Clegg**.

At the museum pupils learned all about the progress of medical history, including a foul-smelling Victorian street, complete with privvy, water pump and a pig! This will prove invaluable if they choose history at GCSE for their Health and the People Unit or if they choose a career in medicine. Members of museum staff and members of the public commented on the exemplary behaviour of pupils, who were a credit to their year group, their school and their families.



Photos of the trip to Thackray Museum

St Annes Crazy Golf Trip

A group of Year 8 pupils were rewarded for gaining the highest achievement points or their tutor appreciating their super attitude to school. Pupils chose to go and play crazy golf and putting at Minilinks at St Annes-on-Sea. And the owner had a board on the promenade wishing a warm welcome to "Pleckgate". The pupils quickly put the crazy into crazy golf but all played in a superb spirit and improved massively. After a half time ice-lolly the pupils got to grips with the immaculate Pennine putting course, with **Saad** and **Muhammed** scoring a hole in one!! **Alayna** was selected as a future Tiger Woods and won a pen putter!! After a trip to the arcades and fish and chips the pupils left with a better knowledge of the world on their doorstep and realising that hard work and a positive attitude will be rewarded in life.



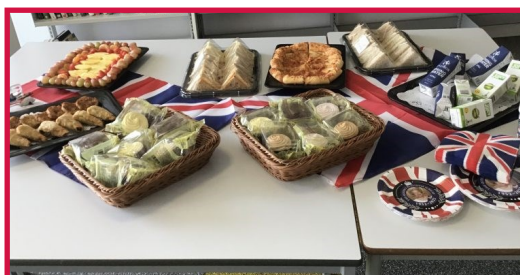
Congratulations to Year 10 Rounders Team

Congratulations to the Year 10 rounders team who finished 3rd overall in the Blackburn Schools' Rounders Tournament. They beat DACA 5-2 and Witton 7-2. All pupils were a credit to the school.



Jubilee Sponsored Readathon Raises £332!!

As part of our Jubilee celebrations in school, pupils from Year 7 and 8 took part in a sponsored Readathon. The top fundraisers in each year group were treated as Royalty and became the King or Queen of their year group. They were invited to a Royal Jubilee Lunch with a friend and will receive a book of their choice to keep. We have **raised £332** for the charity 'Read for Good' who supply brand new books and storytellers for children staying in UK hospitals. Well done and thank you to everyone who donated.



Anne Frank Ambassadors

A number of Year 9 pupils went through a tough selection process to become prestigious Anne Frank Ambassadors, as they try to promote a society safe from prejudice and discrimination. Pleckgate is one of just ten schools in the United Kingdom which is an Anne Frank Trust Link School.

Anne Frank was one of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. She was just 15 and wrote a diary during her time in hiding and her life is used by the Trust to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice.

Pleckgate pupils had the chance to apply to become Ambassadors and Head of Religion and Worldviews, **Mrs Savage** said they had to go through a rigorous process.

"First of all, they took part in a programme from the Anne Frank Trust called 'My Story' with their class, they then applied to enhance this experience with a visiting author who came into school to help them work on a written piece.

They then had to apply to the Anne Frank Trust explaining why they want to work against prejudice and discrimination and make a difference.

In the application process, they had to write a creative piece and film it.

We were delighted that so many of our pupils want to be part of this – being an Anne Frank Link School is a big part of Pleckgate life."

New ambassador **Alisha** said: "I just want to make an impact; everyone deserves to be treated correctly."

Shaheen added: "I wanted to be an ambassador to challenge the prejudice people face, to get rid of any shackles which are holding people back and make sure our society is multicultural and tolerant."



Follow the Leader! – Waddow Hall

A group of 12 Year 8 pupils with Leadership potential were selected by their tutors to visit Waddow Hall activity centre near Clitheroe.

The group did a number of mind-boggling activities which dumbfounded the staff, but with team work, communication and resilience the group were able to successfully master every challenge set to them. Particularly impressive was the speed and collaboration they showed in mastering carrying the egg (no, not their Head of Year!) and in setting a new Waddow record for the Tap challenge of 18 seconds!!!

The group finished the day with grass sledging, almost succeeding in pushing the staff into the beautiful River Ribble flowing at the bottom of a very steep hill.

Hopefully the day has developed pupil confidence and inspired them to work together and be the leaders of the future for the school, their community and the country (we need them!!)



Dementia Friends

Pleckgate will have around 500 new 'Dementia Friends' thanks to Blackburn charity One Voice. **Nazia Khan**, a specialist radiographer at Royal Preston Hospital and Health Leader in Blackburn, has been visiting the school to talk about dementia.

It's part of Pleckgate's focus on a global development topic and pupils are learning through the curriculum that, with an ageing population, dementia is more prevalent and so they are hearing about facts and figures, as well as how to deal with dementia.

Nazia said: "We hope to have 500 new 'Dementia Friends' at Pleckgate from Years 7, 8 and 9.

The pupils will also take a pledge to raise awareness, and that is important."

Pupil **Maryam** said: "I have learnt that one in 14 people will get dementia."

Peter said: "We have been learning how to help people with dementia."

Naeema added: "It alters the person's perception so it's important to understand what is happening."

Head of Geography **Miss Swales** said: "We decided to use some of our geography lessons to welcome Nazia into school and increase our number of 'Dementia Friends' in the Pleckgate community."



Duke of Edinburgh

This half term, Year 9 have been busy working on their expedition section for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They have completed navigation practice walks at Witton Park and Darwen Moor, created route plans and practised pitching tents and using stoves and are now completing their qualifying expedition and overnight camp at Rivington and Anglezarke. This year, pupils from Years 11, 10 and 9 have all successfully completed their Bronze Award or are well on their way to completion. Well done to them all!



Pleckgate Cricket Team are CHAMPIONS!

A HUGE Congratulations to our U15s (Y9/10) Cricket Team who became Blackburn Schools' Cricket Champions!

The boys defeated St Bede's and BCHS last week to qualify for the Finals, with standout performances coming from **Bhamjee, Ubaid, Jalgaonkar and Anas!** On Finals Day the boys swept aside both St Wilfrid's and Westholme to win the competition, with captain **Pardesi, Juayl, Arafat and Armaan** producing excellent performances.



The entire team played hard and fair throughout and represented the school with class and skill. Very well done boys - we are all immensely proud of them!

Eco-Schools

The Eco-Committee has been working hard throughout the academic year with Mrs Banks, conducting weekly meetings, establishing eco-projects and attending the North West Sustainability Conference. We are proud to announce that Pleckgate High School has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

The Eco-Schools programme empowers young people to introduce and lead environmental actions and education in our school. Becoming an Eco-School clearly demonstrates that the hard work and achievements of our young people is appreciated. It has provided them with the confidence and motivation to continue actively engaging with environmental issues now and throughout their lifetimes. It has created the next generation of innovative, inspirational environmentalists who are actively engaged in protecting our planet.

We are looking forward to receiving our flag, made from recycled plastic bottles, now we have achieved our official Eco-Schools Green Flag status!



Well Done! Year 8 Rounders Team

Finally, we got to play some rounders this summer. The Year 8 team did extremely well at the tournament on Monday 27th June 2022. They were second in their group and just missed out to OLSJ in the semi final.

Well done to all girls that played and also the girls who had been coming to training.



Transition Day WELCOMES our new Year 7s!!

It was a special day as we welcomed 280 Year 6s who will start at Pleckgate High School in September.

Firstly, there was an assembly, where current Year 7s Aisha and Yassin talked about their experiences at making the move from primary to secondary school.

Head Boy Mohammed and Head Girl Hafsa, along with deputies Laiba and Taha, led a team of prefects who gave tours around the school and answered any questions.

The Year 6s met their form tutor, had a look around the school and took part in classes and activities.

Head of School Mrs McGinty said: "It was lovely to see the Year 6s who will be joining us in September. We are full, with a waiting list, and it's great to have the chance to show off our school. We can't wait to see them all in September!"

