

# A **Newsletter** featuring Pleckgate High School's achievements March2023

# **Easter Edition - March 2023**

## **Charity - Bake Sale for Earthquake Disaster**

Pleckgate's Anne Frank Ambassadors helped to fundraise for Turkey and Syria after the recent earthquake.

The Ambassadors decided to hold a bake sale to raise funds for the disaster.

Computer Science teacher Miss Hamid also got involved, asking pupils to wear red – the colour of the Turkish flag – and donate money.

Head of Religion and World Views Mrs Savage said: "Our pupils are always so generous, so we are sure we will raise lots to help those suffering."

Hudaa said: "We share the same home, earth, and can't just stand by and let people living in our homeland be in pain and suffer. We are all a community and, as the Pleckgate community, it's important to be involved."

Pleckgate Pleckgate

Maryam said: "It's important to help other people. There is so much suffering and we have the opportunity and it's a privilege to help others."

# CHARITY - Tug of War Raises £324.49!!

#### Tug of War to raise money for charity

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 272 Year 9 pupils packed into the sports hall to take part in an inter-tutor Tug of War to raise money for charity. A knock-out competition organised by Mr Haworth saw some fierce competition between the tutor groups, who learned the value of teamwork and always trying your best. After some epic contests AZA were crowned Premier League Champions and, perhaps drained by their efforts, lost the Champions League final to PMU.

The atmosphere in the sports hall was electric with all pupils getting involved, dealing with victory and defeat with grace and sportsmanship. The professional photographs were taken by ace photographer Mr Stokes.

The year group showed their class and generosity **raising £324.49 which will go to Benefit Mankind** to build water wells in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the rest going to the food bank in Blackburn. All involved should be really proud of themselves.





#### **University Taster Day for Budding Female Mathematicians**

On Tuesday 10 January, ten Pleckgate pupils from Year 11 eagerly ventured into Lancaster for a unique opportunity at Lancaster University. The Florence Nightingale Days are part of Lancaster University's continuing efforts to promote mathematics and statistics to young women in Years 10 and above, who are soon to be making crucial choices in their career paths. For me and my peers, this presented us with an opportunity to see successful women in mathematics at various stages of their careers and witness the true significance of mathematics within the modern world. Upon arriving at our destination, we were immediately greeted and ushered into the main seating area after receiving several welcome gifts from the institution comprising of tote bags, pens, notepads and a timetable which outlined the upcoming events of that day. Me and my peers were already raring for the day to begin as we waited for the masses of both high-school and A-level students to enter. It wasn't soon after that we were being led into the lecture hall for our very first lecture of the day, delivered by Professor Rachel McCrea.

The professor gave a strong start to the day as she vividly delved into how mathematics has enabled her to estimate the size of hidden populations. Specifically, the type of data that can be collected from sampling populations and further explained how statistical models can be fitted to this data in order to estimate the size of the population of interest. For example, in ecological settings, knowing how many animals live in a given area, and indeed how the population size has changed over time, which is critical to understanding the conservation status of a particular species, or to determine whether an implemented conservation policy has been successful. We listened attentively, and for many, it opened their eyes to the extensive and diverse nature of career paths that studying maths offers. Following our first lecture, we headed back into the seating area for both refreshments and lunch.

During the second half of the day, each school was given the same set of difficult mathematical problems which combined analytical cognitive skills with the theory and methodology taught within the GCSE and A-level mathematics curriculum. We took the 'divide and conquer' approach and managed to collectively achieve 9/10! This placed us in second place among all the schools, despite the majority of which being sixth forms whose pupils were currently undertaking A-level maths! As a prize, we were each gifted with a copy of either "The history of mathematics" or "Big Data" from the Oxford University press series very short introductions.

This was followed by two more lectures. The prior was conducted by a PhD student currently studying mathematics at Lancaster University, who shared her fascination with the mathematical power of predication. She discussed her interesting approaches of combining her love for maths with her love for fiction within the realms of Shakespeare's Hamlet, all the way to Game of Thrones! She used mathematics and data to deduct the most' successful' story outcomes for the producers of each of the respective works and thus demonstrated how creativity can be analogous with mathematics! The final lecture was delivered by Dr Anastasia Ushakova who explained how to make sense of large and complex datasets. She illustrated examples from her research which she had the privilege to contribute to, in areas such as domestic energy use, developmental psychology and healthcare research. These helped her to develop and apply methods to generate insights from complex and large datasets in order to answer research questions in areas such as cancer, mental health and literacy research.

This concluded our day at the lovely Lancaster University. The selected pupils were immensely grateful for the opportunity and would highly recommend this experience to others. For pupils such as myself, this trip helped me understand how maths is the metaphorical doorway for many career opportunities and the wide range of fields it Interacts with.

#### By Aisha and Amani



#### **Pleckgate School Council**

The School Council attended the Senior Leadership Team meeting on Monday 20th March to raise the issues discussed in the year group council meetings for Years 7-11 this term. They discussed a range of topics including equipment and facilities, the curriculum and the environment. All the information and action plans will be shared with pupils in assembly after the Easter holidays. Well done to all the pupils involved in the year group council and School Council this term.

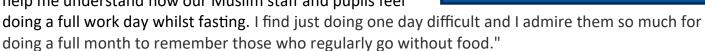


#### I'm Not A Muslim But Will Fast For One Day

As part of an award-winning community cohesion initiative, One Voice Blackburn is inviting individuals and organisations to fast for a day in 2023.

'I'm not a Muslim but I will fast (for one day),' is now in its 9th year, with members of the public, officials from major local organisations from the public and private sector, and One Voice members taking part.

Some non-Muslim staff will be taking part on **Wednesday**, **29th March.** Mrs Savage said: "I do this one day each year to help me understand how our Muslim staff and pupils feel



Some of the staff taking part are Mr Bajkowski, Mrs Belshaw and Mr Clegg.

More information can be found here on the One Voice website if you want more details:

https://www.1vblackburn.org/fasting-project/





# **Duke of Edinburgh**

Congratulations to Shalim and Zainab in Year 11 who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award this term.

Congratulations to all of these pupils in Year 10 who have also completed their award this term: Zain, Sadia, Safa, Uzair, Amaani, Rida, Iram, Rayyan, Aliza, Razeenah, Zara, Maya, Danyal, Mohammed Ali and Damien.

Having completed the expedition section last year, they have worked really

hard on completing their other sections of volunteering, physical and skills - well done! 42 pupils in Year 9 have successfully been accepted onto the programme and are busy working on their sections. They are looking forward to training, practice navigation days and their Bronze Award hiking and camping expedition in the summer term.





#### Geography - Young Green Britons Challenge

Pleckgate High School was selected as just one of 16 schools in the UK to take part in an eco pilot scheme. It's the Young Green Britons Challenge, an initiative of the Ministry of Eco Education. The aim is to enable and celebrate youth-led school based climate action.

All Pleckgate's Year 7s had to come up with a eco-friendly idea which will help to change Blackburn. Pupil Mohammad said: "I think we need to make a law that you have to recyle or else the council won't pick up your garbage." Hakim said: "We need to stop plastic pollution, we need more recycling bins and stop overusing plastic. It's bad in Blackburn, there is rubbish everywhere." Aaminah's group were looking at wasted resources. "We are focusing on the fact there is a lot of littering, we are cutting down too many trees and we need to stop wasting food." Yazeed said: "Deforestation is a big problem in Blackburn, to make way for houses; we need more greenery for oxygen, plants and animals."

Madiha's group were focusing on stopping mining fossil fuels. She said: "We need to create solar panels that sucks the carbon and gives new and healthy electricity for our devices. In school everyone has an iPad so we need electricity to be good for the environment."

Another group's idea is to make Blackburn Rovers have their kit made using recycled materials, similar to Forest Green Rovers whose owner Vince Dale is involved in the Ministry of Eco Education. Kat Crisp, founder of Social

Innovation for all and part of the Young Green Briton's Challenge team, said: "This is a pilot scheme and it's great that Pleckgate have got all their Year 7s involved. There have been some great responses, everyone is really enthusiastic and engaged."





Mrs Banks said: "Many pupils at Pleckgate are climate conscious and want to help form a sustainable future. Within the Geography curriculum we have discussed the future of farming, fast fashion, coastal erosion, water demands, and many more, to build an awareness of and tackle real world challenges. Through the Young Green Briton Challenge we are nurturing, supporting and celebrating our pupils' sustainability ideas. I am excited to see their ideas come to life".

#### **Geography - Ribble Rivers Trust**

Ribble Rivers Trust conducted five sessions with Year 9 Q band on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Each session included an introduction and some theory on the history of the Darwen River and the problems with pollution. All pupils completed a practical activity where they test the water sample for nitrates, ammonia and phosphates levels. Each group revealed their findings and discussed the potential problems and solutions.







#### **Geography - Going with the Flow**

Mrs Brennan is very pleased to report on the four day visits undertaken by Year 10 GCSE Geography pupils that took place in March 2023. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their fieldtrip and river study, despite the wet weather.

Their new GCSE course that started in September has a focus for the field work for an assessed element on paper 3 – a study of the River Wyre. Over the four days all seven classes, 181 pupils, travelled to Abbeystead in the Trough of Bowland for a river study and further develop their Geography skills.

Pupils were geared up with waterproofs and travelled an hour to get to the study sites. Instructors there demonstrated how to collect data using specialised equipment. Pupils worked in groups and practised and perfected the techniques so they could collect their data. It took a while to get the hang of catching the float to measure the speed of the river and some pupils had 'butter fingers' whilst catching the float and several were lost downstream! The afternoon saw pupils travel to Garstang to view the flood defences for the town including a large mechanical hydraulic floodgate and man-made levees.

For some visits, the weather was not kind and the forecast was for persistent heavy rain. The weather had made the river almost bank full with water and very fast flowing. Despite the wet weather spirits were high and the day was a success, even though everyone had wellies full of water!

The groups worked well together and enjoyed the opportunity to use their geographical knowledge in the outdoors – after all, Geography is not a classroom subject, it's about the world around us.

So much data had been collected between the groups that the collation will take place back in the classroom along with data analysis, graph construction, drawing conclusions and evaluation.

Overall, there were four days of successful trips where the GCSE classes represented the school well. The Hothersall staff commented positively on the keen attitude and how the group demonstrated application of their knowledge from the classroom in the real world.

Many thanks go to the staff that helped on the trip especially the staff from Hothersall and to everyone who helped from the Pleckgate staff including Mrs Banks, Miss Birchall, Miss Cuthbert, Mr Hamilton, Miss Johnston, Miss Taylor, Mrs Jassat, Mrs Gilleade, Mrs Robinson, Mr Nuttall, Mrs Idrees and Miss Laher.







#### Pleckgate Fish Heroes

We're one of 250 schools to have received Alaska pink salmon - pupils have been learning about the different types of fish, the nutrition of fish and have had the experience of cooking salmon.

On Tuesday, members of the Year 10 Hospitality and Catering group cooked a range of dishes using salmon, including Salmon Egg-Fried Rice, Salmon Pesto Traybake, Salmon and Leek Pastry with Minted Potatoes and Parmesan Crusted Broccoli, Salmon Tarragon Tart and Salmon and Sweet Potato Soup with freshly baked bread. Pupils also learnt how to remove the skin.













#### PE: Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team beat TIGHS 5-4 in their recent league match.

Player of the match - Yellow team - Aleena

Player of the match – Green team – Sophie

Players; Zaina, Ayisha (Yellow Captain), Aysha, Maryam, Zaira, Simrah, Zaimah, Aminah, Halima, Ana (Green Captain), Sophie, Duha, Sehr, Hiba, Khadija .



Congratulations to the Year 7 netball team who **beat DACA 10-1** in the Blackburn with Darwen netball league.

The girls dominated the match and played really well as a team.

Player of the match was Sophie.

Umpire's best player was Aminah.

Well done to the whole team!



The Year 7 Yellow netball team put in a strong performance to **draw 2-2** against St Bede's RC High School.

**Team Captain Sophie was awarded Player of the Match** by the pupils. **Mrs Robinson's star player was Duha.** 

Team; Hiba, Zaira, Zara, Duha, Maryam, Sophie, Ayisha and Safa.

Well done to all players!



#### PE: Year 7 & 8 Boys' Badminton

A brilliant evening of sport as Pleckgate welcomed several schools from the borough to compete in a Year 7 and 8 badminton festival.

Pleckgate pupils represented themselves and the school excellently as they played in a number of competitive matches played within the spirit of the game. All Pleckgate pupils had a series of strong performances and congratulations to Danish who managed to stay undefeated throughout the festival!



#### 'Inspirational' Manchester Thunder Trip

Friday 3rd March saw 24 eager Pleckgate pupils travel down the M66 to watch Manchester Thunder in action for the first time. It was the opening home game of the season for the Black and Yellows and they did not disappoint with their performance. Thunder stormed to a 62-55 victory, delighting the Pleckgate faithful who thoroughly enjoyed the visit. On the trip one pupil stated "It was an action-packed match and couldn't have been any better', with another claiming, "It was an amazing trip and the players really inspired me".



# Year 7 Reward Trip to Tenpin Bowling

This term we have had the pleasure of rewarding hundreds of pupils due to positive attendance, behaviour and effort in and around school. Over 45 pupils have recently participated in a trip to Tenpin in Blackburn in recognition of their efforts. Year 7 pupils have been working exceptionally well and we will look forward to arranging many more trips/visits in the near future.



#### "Riyad it and Weep!!" - Pupils go to ETIHAD STADIUM

#### Manchester City 4 v 2 Tottenham Hotspur

On a bitterly cold January evening 44 excited Pleckgate pupils were rewarded for their commitment to school football with a trip to the Etihad stadium to witness the thrills and spills of the most exciting league in the world. A scintillating second half display from Algerian wing wizard Riyad Mahrez saw Man City fight back from two goals down to win 4-2 to cut the gap to leaders Arsenal to 5 points, in what could be a pivotal moment in this season's title race.



A capacity crowd of 53, 000 flocked to an expectant Etihad and Pleckgate pupils

were able to see the City superstars like Haaland, Bernardo Silva and De Bruyne arrive in their space-age coach. It seemed like City had failed to turn up in an uncharacteristically lacklustre first half display with only 18 year-old Rico Lewis displaying the composure and class which has made him Pep's first choice ahead of England full back and City stalwart Kyle Walker. At the end of the first half a sloppy pass from the usually impeccable Ederson handed the opening goal to Spurs livewire Kulusevski. In time added on, Rodri, the finest defensive midfielder in the world, lost a challenge to England Captain Harry Kane, whose fierce drive was parried to Emerson Royal who finished with a cool header.

Guardiola's post-match rant about City's players and fans lacking passion hinted at the half-time "hairdryer" that inspired City's second half comeback which swiftly turned the Spurs fans jeers to tears. After mesmerising work down the right flank from Mahrez, hardworking Argentine World Cup winner Julian Alvarez pulled one back in the 51<sup>st</sup> minute with a cool finish after a scramble in the box. A flowing move with Alvarez playing a clever ball to Mahrez whose clever header found Haaland who buried his header ruthlessly to draw City level. Excited Pleckgate pupils joined an electrified Etihad in roaring City on for the winner.

What followed highlighted the fine margins which define football matches and life! After great work from Kulusevski his cross found Croatian World Cup hero Perisic whose shot was defected onto the bar by City starlet Lewis. City immediately countered and a jinking run from Mahrez saw him lash the ball past Lloris in the Spurs goal. French international and World Cup winner Lloris will be disappointed to have been beaten at his near post. A long ball from the laser-like boot of Brazilian keeper Ederson found Mahrez who clinched the win for City with an exquisite chip. Mahrez was rightly given the Man of the Match after having a hand in all 4 goals in a display which lit up the night more then the amazing light show before the kick off.

The behaviour of the Pleckgate pupils was a credit to the school and hopefully the learning experience will live with them for the rest of their life and inspire them to play the beautiful game for years to come. Pupils left the stadium wholeheartedly agreeing with the City fans chant, "City, tearing Cockneys apart again!!"



An eagle-eyed Mr Haworth spotted Manchester United legend and Sky Sports analyst Gary Neville making a clandestine entry into the stadium of their bitter rivals, but he kindly agreed to pose for a photograph with two star-struck Pleckgate pupils.

#### **Pupils go to EWOOD STADIUM**

# Promotion hopes Loum-ing after hard-earned win over Reading Blackburn Rovers 2 v 1 Reading

This fabulous report was put together by **Abdurrahman CJA** after Mr Clegg's journalistic attempt was rescinded by the chief editor.

Following a 3-2 loss to Stoke City, the team were expected to deliver a good result for home fans against 16th place Reading FC. With John Buckley out for the remainder of the season due to a knee injury, Morton took his place in the starting eleven, and one of the previous games' scorers, Ben Brereton Diaz was given a start, after coming on as a substitute against Stoke and scoring.

The game started off to a quick start, with Rovers playing fast passes, making runs, forcing the opposing players to put an even bigger shift in to keep Rovers at bay, but they failed to do so, with Rovers scoring in the 2nd minute, Ben Brereton Diaz getting on the scoresheet yet again. Rovers continued to dominate the game in all areas of the pitch, with numerous chances being created, but the Rovers attack were unable to produce an end product.

As the second half kicked off, Reading were aiming at an equaliser, with them keeping pressure, creating chances of their own. They played football perfectly, with beautiful moments of passing, and these moments lead to Cesare Casadei managing to equalise, with a superb finish after a brilliant pass. This sparked hope in the Reading players, who needed a win to push them away from the relegation zone. But Rovers manager Jon Dahl Tomasson had other ideas, as he brought Tyrhys Dolan and Ryan Hedges onto the field. Dolan looked very confident on the pitch, bursting with energy, ready to spring at an attack. But it was the Welsh substitute who grabbed the winner from a beautiful backheel from Sam Gallagher. This won Hedges his first Championship goal since his move from Scottish club Aberdeen in the January transfer window.







With this goal almost killing off the game, Mamadou Loum, Reading's Senegalese midfielder saw red after disgustingly headbutting Sam Gallagher, which also started a brawl between both teams. Loum had diminished every ounce of hope in the Reading fans, as they were reduced to silence from then on, while on the contrary, the Rovers fans were roaring, delighted with their winner.

Rovers kept their heads and hopes high, with Sammie Szmodics and Lewis Travis leading by example, putting on marvellous displays of attacking and defending football, earning Szmodics the Man Of The Match award, and earning Blackburn Rovers the 3 points. The Rovers' next game was the FA Cup quarter finals against another Championship side Sheffield United, after Rovers' had defeated Leicester City 2-1 in the previous round. Jon Dahl Tomasson and the Blackburn Rovers team surely believe in the FA Cup dream, and hope to reach the final and win the trophy, against all odds. But for now, they had secured a victory against Reading, putting them in 5th place, and continuing the long journey to promotion.

#### **Library News**

#### **Author Of The Month - Rick Riordan**

#### January 2023

Rick Riordan is most well-known for the Percy Jackson series. His other series include The Kane Chronicles, The Heroes of Olympus, Magnus Chase and Trials of Apollo.

From Norse and Greek mythology to the legends of Ancient Egypt he explores some impressive, imaginative worlds through his books.

Throughout this month the library focused on this author's books and our display board featured his series of books.



#### February 2023

February is Harry Potter month. Around the world, *Harry Potter* fans young and old celebrate and share their love for the book series by taking part in a wide range of activities, both online and in bookstores and libraries.

**Book Of The Month - Harry Potter** 

The seven fantasy novels written by British author J.K. Rowling follows the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends, all of whom are pupils at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

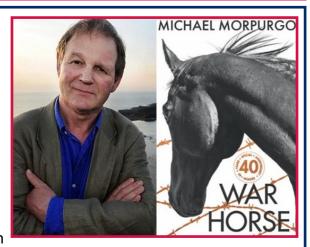
Throughout this month the library will be promoting the Harry Potter books.



## **Michael Morpurgo Live Event**

Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to watch a live reading event with the famous author Michael Morpurgo. This formed part of the many activities we enjoyed for World Book Day.

Celebrating 40 years since the first publication of 'War Horse' in 1982, Michael read extracts from his book and recalled how he was inspired by accounts told directly to him by First World War veterans and by witnessing first-hand the connection between animals and a young boy at his 'Farms for City Children' charity founded by himself and his wife. 'War Horse' is a powerful story of friendship and humanity on



both sides of the war, which follows Joey the horse from the fields of Devon to the deadly chaos of the trenches during the First World War.

Ms Kaye, English teacher and Assistant headteacher said "Morpurgo proved just as fascinating an orator as he is a writer. Our pupils were captivated about his tales and inspirations for War Horse."

#### **Lion King Musical - Theatre Trip**

In March 2023, Year 7 pupils at Pleckgate had the opportunity to see Disney's The Lion King Musical at The Palace Theatre in Manchester. With music from Elton John and lyrics written by Tim Rice the musical features all of the biggest songs from The Lion King. The show was directed by Julie Taymor with Richard Hurst as Scar, Jean-Luc Guizonne as Mufasa, Thandazile Soni as Rafiki, Kyle Richardson as Simba and Nokwanda Khuzwayo as Nala. This show has been very popular in musical theatre with the costumes and scenes creating a truly fantastic experience.

Pupils enjoyed the show thoroughly and are now looking forward to rehearsing for our very own stage production of Aladdin featuring all Year 7 pupils.





Pupils in the photo are Halima and Yusra from Year 7

# National Theatre Company Comes To Pleckgate

Pleckgate High School's Year 7 pupils had the chance to see live theatre when the historic **National Theatre Company** came into school.

The London-based company performed Hamlet for the pupils, who had been reading the Shakespeare play in their English lessons.

English teacher **Miss Mulla said**: "It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and a huge privilege to have the National Theatre come to Pleckgate on their tour."

Pupil **Muhammed said**: "Seeing theatre live is really exciting. Reading the play can be quite confusing but I was excited to watch it close up."

Zayd said: "I have enjoyed reading Hamlet and watching it live helped to understand it better."







#### **World Book Day - Decorate a Door Competition**

Year 7, 8 & 9 tutor groups produced some amazing, creative doors for our annual 'Decorate a Door' competition for World Book Day. Well done to all involved!

This competition involves tutor groups decorating their classroom door to represent a book of their choice.

#### The winners were:

Year 7

1st - MCR - Murder in Midwinter

**2nd** – RCA – Tom Gates

3rd - SHM - Charlotte's Web

Year 8

1st – JBA – The Explorer

2nd - GBI - Captain Underpants

3rd - SWR - Sherlock Holmes

Year 9

1st - SMU - The BFG

2nd – AZA – Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

3rd - SRO - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

**Special Awards** 

Most Creative and Iconic – 8MRO – Alice in Wonderland

Outstanding Literary Contribution – SP group – Oliver Twist

Outstanding Staff Contribution – Mrs Patel Year 7 – The Secret Garden



















#### Community Football Coaching at Pleckgate

Pleckgate High School is proving the ideal venue for a recently formed football coaching business as they open their facilities out-of-school hours for the community.

Pleckgate boasts an indoor sports hall, a 2G full-size all-weather pitch, an activity studio and a drama studio - all of which are available for hire.

Soccer HQ, started recently by Kevin Maclaren and Joe Milligan, began using the Pleckgate facilities for their Tuesday coaching sessions, as well as for their school holiday camps and it's proving a big hit.

The duo, who work within the Blackburn Academy, have played football all their lives—Kevin at semi-professional level, winning the FA Vase with Chertsey Town at Wembley in 2019.

Joe said "Myself and Kev have been coaching children within the local area for the past four years and have built up a good reputation within the local community. We decided to set up Soccer HQ as we both have a passion for coaching children and believe we can provide them with a football experience like no other.



Our emphasis is on having fun but we also want to make sure the boys and girls we teach improve and progress as much as possible in the time they are with us. We meticulously plan fun and engaging sessions which help us achieve that.

Our Soccer School during the October half-term was a real success with 65 children attending. It isn't about baby-sitting, it's about strong sessions where children learn something. We had over 10 coaches which meant we could give the children the attention they need.

For the last month we have been running our Soccer HQ Tuesday sessions at Pleckgate where, from 5-6pm, it's small group sessions for Under 6s-Under 7s; from 6-7pm it's small group sessions for Under 7s-Under 10s and then 7-8pm it's elite sessions for Under 8s and 9s. Having only six children to one coach means every child gets that extra coaching detail and maximises their progress in that session.

Pleckgate is the perfect venue as there is an all-weather pitch which we can use all year round, as well as the sports hall, the activity studio room and the dining area. It's a safe environment and ideal for us."

#### For more information on Soccer HQ go to:

soccer\_hq@outlook.com or Instagram @soccer\_hq\_

To hire Pleckgate's facilities go to: pleckgatehigh.schoolhire.co.uk