



# Pleckgate HIGH SCHOOL

# A Newsletter featuring Pleckgate High School's achievements

## JULY 2023

# NEWS



# Holocaust Survivor Anne Super Meets Year 7 Ambassadors



Pleckgate is one of 10 Anne Frank Trust Link Schools in the UK, promoting a society safe from prejudice and discrimination and working closely with the Trust to do this.

The Fed is a Jewish Social Care Charity which launched My Voice, a project recording the lives of Holocaust survivors and refugees in their own voice through a storybook.

Anne, who lives in Manchester, has had her book of her life published through My Voice and she spoke about it to Pleckgate's Anne Frank Ambassadors in Year 10 and the Anne Frank Exhibition Guides in Year 7.

She told them that her first memory is of being in a cot in around 1941 and seeing green, the colour of the German officers' uniform. Then she remembers her mother crying and being rounded up with other Jews and taken outside. Her mother, knowing what was to come, pushed Anne through a hedge and told her to run and she was picked up by a local milkwoman. She never saw her parents again and knows they were taken to a concentration camp and were murdered.

She lived with the milkwoman's family for several months and said she probably only survived because of her blue eyes and blonde hair but it was a battle for food and they didn't want her permanently. She was then put on a train aged four to live with an aunt and a railway worker risked his life to take her to Warsaw to be with her aunt. She had to sit on the top of the train as inside was reserved for Germans only.

While in Warsaw, she was still hiding from the Germans and Anne only just survived tuberculosis. Then an uncle contacted the Red Cross looking for his family and found his niece, Anne, was still alive.

In 1948, she went to South Africa to live with him and, in her words, 'then life began.' This life took her to Namibia, Edinburgh and eventually Manchester. Along the way she married and had three children and opened an opticians. She didn't talk about her early life, not even with her children, until the Fed encouraged her to tell her story recently as part of the My Voice project.

The Pleckgate pupils admitted they were shocked by her story.

**Anne Super said:** "The Pleckgate pupils were knowledgeable and interested, all that you would want."

**Maryam:** "It was such a powerful story and at times so emotional. I feel privileged to be here to hear the story. It has had an impact on me and I think it is something I will never forget.

I am an Anne Frank Ambassador at Pleckgate and Anne's story made me realise people are capable of overcoming the worst of hardships."

**Yusra:** "It was a really powerful talk and it made me realise you always have hope."

**Zainab:** "It made you appreciate what you have today and what you take for granted."

**Ahmed:** "It was shocking. How would you feel having a gun pointed at you? It shows how cruel people can be and you shouldn't discriminate or be prejudiced."

**Zaibaa** designed a special artwork for Anne depicting her life.

"I read her book and thought about how far she had come as a child in Warsaw to having children and loving her children the way she couldn't be loved by her parents growing up and how she brought her life together. I designed it showing Warsaw, South Africa and Manchester, significant places in Anne's life."

**Headteacher Mrs McGinty:** "I feel honoured and privileged to hear Anne's story. It's so difficult to understand and appreciate what Anne went through, and the vision of a four-year-old on top of a train will stick with me, but she has shown amazing resilience in life. It's a moment that will stay with all the pupils who heard it and I am proud of the questions they asked."

# Srbrenica Memorial Tournament

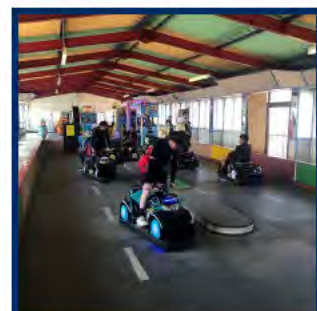
On a beautiful March evening 94 Key Stage 3 footballers altruistically played in a football tournament to remember the massacre at Srbrenica in Bosnia in 1995, whilst many of them were fasting for Ramadan. During the war in Yugoslavia 8000 Muslim men and boys were tragically murdered on a football pitch in an act of genocide. The players were reminded of how prejudice, racism hate and discrimination can lead to such acts of horror and how football and sport has the power to unite people of all races and religions. The players paid £1 to enter, which will be split between Nightsafe (who help the homeless in Blackburn) and the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. The tournament, organised by Mr Haworth and Mr Livesey was won by a Year 9 team but played in a superb spirit with the players a credit to their year groups, school and community.



# St Anne's Crazy Golf Trip

## Pleckgate Samba Magic Dazzles the Fylde Coast!!!

A group of 45 Year 9 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. The pupils quickly put the crazy into crazy golf but all played in a superb spirit and improved massively. After a trip to the arcades and fish and chips pupils were given the choice of arcades or beach football. The pupils chose to dazzle the beach with samba skills and weather matching those seen on the Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro!! 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.



## Year 8 in Courtroom Drama!

More than 30 Year 8 pupils became 'legal eagles' for the day when they took part in their very own Mock Trial at Manchester Metropolitan University.

They took on the roles of a real state of the art courtroom, all organised by the National Justice Museum. Barristers and solicitors battled it out, under the watchful eye of our resident judge and jury.

The mock trial was based on a real life knife crime which saw a 16-year-old boy stabbed in Manchester.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty and the accused was sentenced to six years in prison, a harsher sentence than the real life result.

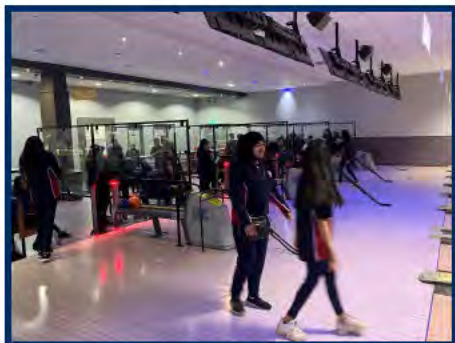
Pleckgate pupils were given an authentic experience of the different jobs and processes involved in a legal trial. Year 8 certainly rose to the challenge, with some great questioning and quick thinking throughout the trial!



## Bowled Over!

### Year 9 Bowling Trip

A group of 60 Year 9 pupils were rewarded for gaining the highest achievement points or their tutor appreciating their super attitude to school. Pupils chose to go bowling at Tenpin Bowling in Blackburn. The pupils got into the swing of bowling, with a number of strikes and pupils achieving triple figure scores. The pupils then enjoyed the arcades, including air hockey, basketball, driving games and the punch machine. Many pupils said that picturing Mr Clegg's head on the speedball gave them added inspiration. The pupils left realising that hard work and a positive attitude will be rewarded in life.



## Year 10 EMELBI Digital Art Workshop

Digital artist **Emelbi** came into school to deliver two fantastic full day workshops to our Year 10 artists and photographers. All pupils had lots of fun designing amazing digital self-portraits using Procreate, Pixlr and Snapseed. We are extremely proud of their positive attitude and engagement throughout the days and the high standard of work that they produced. Both days were a huge success!



## Anti-Bullying Parent Information Event

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors organised an event for parents on Tuesday 27th June, focusing on digital wellbeing and cyberbullying support. The pupils talked to the parents about the support available to pupils and their families at Pleckgate and explained the work they had done at Pleckgate and in the EPT this year to raise awareness of the Anti-Bullying Campaign. We were fortunate to welcome a **guest speaker Faz Sidat and ex-colleague Sophia Karolia from the local charity IMO (Inspire Motivate Overcome)**, to talk to parents about supporting teenagers online and Issues related to social media today.



## Year 9 QUIZMASTERS

**Year 9 pupils Nick (MST), Hooriya (CJA), Laila (AZA), Mehdi (MBA) and Alayna (SMU)** were Blackburn with Darwen team runner-ups, losing by a single question to QEGS in a University Challenge style quiz amongst all the schools in Blackburn, many of them fielding Year 10 teams. Pleckgate's Year 9 QUIZMASTERS held their own and did Pleckgate School very proud, well done!!



# Climate Summit 2023

On 5th of June 2023 nine members of our school's eco community had taken part in the Climate Summit event hosted by the Youth MP and BwD Youth Forum. For World Environment Day they completed a series of interactive workshops on fast fashion, recycling with BwD council & flooding by the Environment Agency.

## Can you stop flooding?

Over the course of the workshop the eco members had participated on the topic of flooding: causes, defence and how we can stop them from taking place in the future. At least one in six people in England are at risk from flooding from rivers and the sea, with many more at risk from surface water flooding.

## Do you recycle?

One other major problem faced by governments all over the world is the lack of recycling. Only 9% of plastic waste is recycled. As a school we are going to make it our mission to recycle as much of our waste as possible to prevent it from ending up in landfills. Reuse, recycle, repurpose. We learnt about what goes in which bins in BwD and how we need to help educate others. Why don't you give their game a go and see if you know your bins?:

<https://recyclebwd.org/drag-drop-game/>

## Do you support fast fashion?

Over the last century fast fashion has increasingly become more popular; did you know it's estimated that more than two tonnes of clothing are bought each minute in the UK, more than any other country in Europe. That amount produces nearly 50 tonnes of carbon emissions, the same as driving 162,000 miles in a car. Fast fashion is a way of producing cheap clothing without really paying attention to its impact later. To help the environment, stop buying cheaper clothes and wearing them only once, buy better quality clothes and wear them regularly! Or buy second-hand from charity shops or apps such as Vinted to reduce the amount of clothes going into landfill.



# Biodiversity at Pleckgate High School

The Eco Club surveyed the school grounds during a meeting using the Merlin Bird ID app on their iPads. They used the data to find the best locations for ten bird boxes made by past pupils. They discovered Goldfinches at the front and Dunnocks, Willow Warblers and Jackdaws at the back of the school grounds. The Eco Club even spotted our resident Oystercatcher that nests on the school's living roof each summer. We hope the bird boxes encourage more species to thrive around the school.



# Eco Club at the NW Sustainability Learning Conference 2023

16 members of the Eco Club attended the NW Sustainability Learning Conference at Ewood Park on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June with Mrs Banks and Mrs Patel. They had the chance to explore different ways to be sustainable in our schools and interacted with different organisations for a better future. The Eco Club had a stall to share their achievements from the year and offering ideas for others to use. They proudly showed off their Green Flag with Merit award which will be proudly flying at the front of school.

The Year 8 representatives took part in the 'Production Line Challenge' against many other teams. The aim of the challenge was to experience what life would be like working in a sweat shop or factory in a NIC (Newly Industrialised Country). They had to work on a production line, making an item and each person in the team had individual roles. It was important they worked together to produce the items as there were many surprises along the way. They did an amazing job and won £100, which will be used to bring their eco ideas to life in the next academic year.



# Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Complete BRONZE Award

Year 9s have been busy preparing for and completing the expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have been learning to plot coordinates, create route cards, navigate on practice days at Witton Park and Darwen Moor and learn how to use Trangia stoves and pitch tents. They have then independently put their new-found skills into practice to complete their qualifying expedition and pass this challenging section. Well done everyone!



# Schools Linking Project

Year 9 pupils from both Pleckgate and St Bede's High School met for the first time to conclude on their Schools Linking Project.

The initiative linked the two classes in order to aid their exploration of their identities, communities and diversity. Pupils were able to discover a sense of unity with children who they would have otherwise perceived as different, as the two schools have quite diverse demographics.

The pupils collaborated to design a symbol that represented their shared ideals and they were able to share their thoughts with the rest of the class. An excellent afternoon of friendship-making and creativity!





# Pleckgate's Mrs Savage Short Listed for TES AWARD

Mrs Savage, was one of eight nominees in the category for the Subject Lead of the Year (Secondary) and attended a glittering awards ceremony held in London in June. Mrs Savage admitted she was 'blown away' by the nomination after Pleckgate's Headteacher, Mrs McGinty secretly put her forward.

"I didn't know anything about it, I was shocked and never expected it," said Jenny, who began teaching at Pleckgate in 2007 as a Religious Studies teacher and became Head of Department in 2015. "I didn't know if I wanted to be a teacher when I studied Religious Studies at University as I was nervous about standing up in front of my peers but once I started as a teacher, I realised how much I loved teaching and that has stayed with me to this day".

"This is the nicest thing which has happened in my teaching career and I was in floods of tears when I read the testimonials from the pupils which were part of the entry.

"Sometimes you get caught up in the craziness of day-to-day teaching and you don't realise that you are a role model, you are an inspiration and that you touch the lives of your pupils so much. This is a validation of the work we do at Pleckgate and I can't quite believe it!"

The Religion and WorldViews Department at Pleckgate has the prestigious Gold Mark and the school is one of just ten schools in the United Kingdom which is an Anne Frank Trust Link School, promoting a society safe from prejudice and discrimination. They also have strong links with the Olive Branch Awards through Solutions not Sides, which is about conflict resolution and has given pupils the chance to go to Lancaster University to take part in workshops and discuss issues with other young people.



Continued .....

# Pleckgate's Mrs Savage Short Listed for TES AWARD

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Mrs McGinty said: "The impact of Jenny's work is far reaching. She is a positive role model for all young people at Pleckgate as a teacher, leader, mentor and form tutor. Jenny is a leader who places the needs of the pupils at the centre of everything she does, she creates opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, she builds confidence, she has empathy and she genuinely tries to create pupils who have moral values and principles as she role models these values herself. The RE Department under Jenny's leadership is outstanding, the department also achieved fantastic results with 19 Grade 9s in 2022.

Mrs McGinty selected a number of quotes from pupils to support Mrs Savage's application. There were many willing pupils who were very keen to share their views about Mrs Savage and were delighted to make a contribution towards her nomination. They described Mrs Savage's teaching as 'unique and helpful,' 'she constantly pushed us to move forward', 'passionate, hardworking and dedicated' and 'a supportive, organised, thoughtful, caring and amazing teacher.'

Jenny and her colleague Mrs Millest, who also contributed to the nomination, thoroughly enjoyed the awards ceremony. Whilst Jenny was not announced the winner, everyone at Pleckgate was delighted that she had been shortlisted - underscoring the fact that Jenny is a leader in raising the standards of education and making a positive impact on the personal and academic success of pupils.



# Jodrell Bank Trip

In May, 36 of our Year 7 pupils went to Jodrell Bank. They had a brilliant time learning about space and seeing how Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology is used in real life. Two Year 7s commented on the trip:

**Sehr:** "My favourite part about going to Jodrell Bank was seeing the actual telescope and seeing the whispering dishes."

**Abdulrahman:** "I really enjoyed the activities in Jodrell Bank. The giant telescope was absolutely spectacular to see in real life and the views of nature were amazing. I could see beautiful flowers while enjoying my food in the café, which had an outdoor seating area that had the perfect atmosphere to see the humongous telescope."



# UKMT Mathematics Challenge

Some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the UK Mathematics challenge where they compete against students across the country.

A massive well done to all of our pupils who took part, but particularly to the following pupils, who received a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award in the challenge; they've all a bright future ahead:

**Year 7 Bronze:** Simrah, Zain, Sufyan, Daniel (Best in year)

**Year 8 Bronze:** Subhaan, Safia, Rubina, Rayyan, Juwairiyah, Hasiba, Faizan, Bilal, Adam

**Year 8 Silver:** Mehak, Sheraz, Sumaiya, Abdelrahman

**Year 8 Gold:** Hamza (Best in School)

The biggest congratulations go to Hamza who then competed in the Junior Kangaroo challenge.



## OUTSTANDING ARTWORK KS3



Fantastic work created from our Year 7s in Art! We studied an artist called Ron Magnes and created our own compositions inspired by his work.



## OUTSTANDING ARTWORK KS3



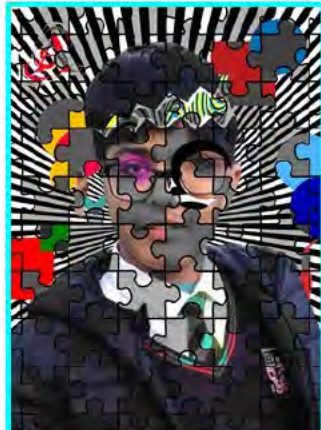
Year 8 self-portrait project shading and blending with graded pencils. Very proud of our students in year 8 working on this challenging topic!

Outstanding artwork produced by Year 9 pupils in art exploring the theme Steampunk.



## OUTSTANDING ARTWORK KS4

Exceptional work produced in Photography by our GCSE pupils. Pupils have been using Adobe Photoshop to edit their photographs and create original pieces of work inspired by a range of artists and photographers.



## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY



MALHAM TRIP - GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS VISITING JANET'S FOSS AND GORDALE SCAR AS PART OF THEIR CREATIVE LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

## RELIGIOUS ART FESTIVALS WORKSHOPS



KS3 pupils have been attending the Religious Art Festival workshops each week and have been producing some fantastic pieces of work. Each half-term we have focused on a different religious event and produced amazing art pieces.

## IAN MURPHY WORKSHOPS



Practising artist Ian Murphy delivered an amazing full day workshop to our talented GCSE Art and Design students.

## Headteacher Gives Cookery Demonstration

Mr Stoke's Year 9 Catering class were surprised to find one of their lessons being taught by Mrs McGinty. As part of the Fish Heroes programme Headteachers were being encouraged to cook a fish dish for some pupils in the hopes of winning a competition that was being run.

Mrs McGinty demonstrated how to work hygienically, skinned a salmon fillet, prepared a sauce and chopped vegetables ready to demonstrate making Salmon Egg Fried Rice.

Unfortunately, Mrs McGinty was unable to complete the demonstration as OFSTED phoned to announce their arrival to inspect the school. Many thanks go to Mrs Ferguson who completed the demonstration allowing pupils to taste the finished dish.

The class then made the dish for themselves the following lesson, with some well-made dishes.



## Year 10 Hospitality & Catering Trip

Last term the Year 10 Hospitality and Catering class had the opportunity to visit Warburtons bakery in Burnley. They had a guided tour of the bakery, saw muffins and pancakes being produced and other stages of the making, packaging and delivery process.

Pupils also saw a trial production run of a new product being released for sale very soon.

It was an interesting and informative experience linking food production and possible career options for pupils. Pupils ended the visit by receiving a goodie bag of Warburton products.

Thanks to Miss Blears for organising the trip and to Gary Dugdale at the bakery for such an interesting tour.



# Food Technology News

## Year 8 Trip to Cadbury World

38 Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to go to Cadbury World Chocolate factory in Birmingham.

On arrival we were treated to 3 free bars of chocolate and had an interesting tour of where cocoa beans are bought from, how they are made into chocolate and how the different chocolates are made.



We had time to look at information on the history of Cadbury, which started in a grocer's shop in 1824. It was interesting to hear about the social history behind Bourneville where the first factory was built along with houses for the workers, green spaces, sports facilities and there were medical and dental facilities for the workers.

Cadbury produced its first Easter egg in 1875 and Dairy Milk chocolate was introduced in 1905 and we learnt about when other famous products were launched.

Pupils were able to use melted chocolate to create doodles or write their name and also to try their hand at tempering chocolate.

But they got most excited at the range of chocolate on sale and the cheap prices – meaning there was a large amount of chocolate brought back on the coach and some very delighted pupils.



Watching bespoke chocolate teapots being decorated



Tempering chocolate



One of Cadbury's chocolate creations

## CONGRATULATIONS! Technology Department Awarded STEM Club Quality Mark BRONZE AWARD

The Technology Department are proud to announce that they have been awarded a STEM Club Quality Mark, Bronze Award, for their work in STEM Club and technology. Our STEM Club has been working very hard this year and created some fabulous projects. Next year, we are aiming for our Silver Award!



# Geography Fieldwork Summer Term

All pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 have had the opportunity to investigate a new challenge this half term.

As part of new and engaging curriculum content new topics and fieldwork tasks have been created so pupils can formulate enquiry questions and hypothesis, select methods to complete a fair test, risk assess to ensure a safe study, go outside and use equipment, collect data, analyse results, construct graphs and develop conclusions.

**Year 7** investigated the biodiversity of plants on school grounds by identifying, classifying, and counting species in a quadrat in two contrasting areas.

## Year 7 Photos:



**Year 8** have undertaken a litter survey to tally the type and number of products discarded as litter on our school grounds.

**Year 9** looked at features of the weather using an anemometer, thermometer and estimated cloud cover to decide where would be most suitable for a solar panel or wind turbine.

## Year 9 Photos:





# Climate Conference at Stonyhurst College

With the international COP28 Climate Conference taking place later this year, students aged between 13 and 16 attended the first student Climate Conference of Ribble Valley Schools – CORVS1 – on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Stonyhurst College. Four delegates from Year 9 Eco Club were invited to attend and take part in the workshops, lectures and pledges throughout the day.



Organised by the [Ribble Valley Climate Action Network](#) (RVCAN), students listened to expert policy-makers and climate scientists, debated sustainability and climate issues, and discussed changes they could make in their own school communities.

**The lead organiser for CORVS1, David Rawkins, said: “Given climate change will affect us all, it is vital that younger people are engaged in the policy issues and feel empowered. Our pupil delegates were eager to understand not only the challenges we face, but also how they can make a difference.”**

Students from Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, Ribblesdale High School, Bowland High School, Pleckgate School, St Cecilia’s School, Oakhill College and St Augustine’s High School all took part in creating pledges to tackle environmental issues in their own schools.

The keynote speakers – Miranda Barker OBE, an environmental consultant and Chief Executive of the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce; and Stephen Sykes, the Chamber’s Director of Sustainability – shared their insights from their attendance at COP26 and COP27, as well as the green initiatives under way in Lancashire, such as developing sodium batteries and recycling nappies.

Jack Spees, Director and CEO of the Ribble Rivers Trust, spoke to students about using salmon and trout numbers as indicators of water health, and how vegetation on the Ribble’s banks act as crucial barriers to both increasing water temperatures and the increasing risk of flooding.

Asiya Patel who represented Pleckgate High School said: *“It made me realise just how much more and how much of an impact our school can make to improving the environment.”*

Pleckgate’s pledge was to investigate the possibility of ‘Meat Free Monday’ meals in the canteen and food service areas. Reducing your meat intake can save water and energy and has many health benefits too.

Following the success of this year’s conference, the CORVS conferences are set to become an annual gathering, expanding to more schools across the region from 2024.



# Model United Nations Conference

On Tuesday, three of our Year 10 pupils headed to Lancaster University to participate in a two-day Model United Nations conference alongside pupils from other schools. To "Create a roadmap to peace for Israel-Palestine" will be their main objective.

Thank you to The Olive Branch Award's Solutions Not Sides programme for giving our pupils the opportunity to participate in such an interesting event!

**Tuba said:** "The MUN has been really intense and has given us an insight into politics. It has been so engaging and we have learnt so much about what is going on around the world. It has been a great way to develop our public speaking skills as well as collaborating with other students across the UK. We would really recommend this experience to others."

**Subaiah said:** The Model United Nations Summit was a 3-day event hosted by peace organisation 'Solutions Not Sides'. The entire experience was confidence boosting and taught me to be open-minded regarding particular sections of the conflict. I learnt a great amount in the short time, like issues regarding religion and illegal settlements. I felt that this opportunity was an interesting way of building for me a range of new beliefs regarding the Palestine/Israel conflict.



# Voices for Equality at Pleckgate

On Monday 19th June and Tuesday 20th June me (**Hafsa**) along with many of my peers took part in the Voices for Equality program. During these two days a visitor named Jonathan came in to teach us.

We learnt about the key aspects of Anne Frank's life prejudice and discrimination in our society, different stereotypical views on each other and so much more! We took part in many fun activities which helped us all connect with one another. We enjoyed taking part in this as it gave us all a chance to speak up and to say what we believed was right. It helped us realise that our voices can make a difference. It was

inspiring to see that everyone was respectful and understanding about your views even though they might not feel the same way you did. At the end we were all given the opportunity to become Anne Frank Ambassadors. We also became very creative and designed poems, posters, slideshows etc. about what we had learnt during these exciting days.

Thank you to Jonathan and Mrs Savage for giving us all the opportunity to do this!



# John Muir Environmental Award Scheme

We are taking 21 Year 8 pupils on a two night residential to Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales to complete the John Muir award on Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th July 2023.

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

**There are four main aspects to achieve the award:**

1. Explore
2. Discover
3. Conserve
4. Share

**JOHN  
MUIR  
AWARD**

*wild places:*  
DISCOVER  
EXPLORE  
CONSERVE  
SHARE



# Year 9 Pupils Raise £500 for Charity BENEFIT MANKIND

Benefit Mankind thanking Year 9 pupils for raising £500 for two wells displaying the Pleckgate logo in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The wells will provide clean water to local people.

Pictured are the winners of the design which raised the money - a mobile phone case. The winners received a framed copy and Amazon vouchers.

