



The

Pleckgate High School Newsletter

Autumn term 2023



Miss Bland Wins New Teacher of the Year!

Miss Bland has won the New Teacher of the Year award at the prestigious Education Today Awards.

Miss Bland joined Pleckgate in September 2022 as an Early Career Teacher and was presented with her award at a glittering ceremony at the Riverbank Park Plaza Hotel in London.

She said: "I already felt so honoured that my school even thought to nominate me in the first place and I was ecstatic when it was announced that I'd won the award!"

"It truly was a magical, unforgettable evening and I am so lucky to work with such a brilliant, supportive team who constantly strive to lift each other up. I love being part of the Pleckgate family."



Mrs McGinty said: "Charlotte's passion, enthusiasm and joy in teaching English is seen every day in her lessons. She is a well deserved winner, the department and the whole school could not be more proud of her."

"Although Charlotte is new to the teaching profession, her hard work and commitment is already having a great impact on pupils' lives. Pupils often comment how much they learn and enjoy Miss Bland's English lessons."



The BBC 500 Words Competition

We have an amazing seven entries which have made it through to the next stage of the national competition BBC 500 Words. The competition was first launched by the BBC Breakfast show in 2011 and there have been more than one million entries over this time.

Children are encouraged to use their imagination to write a story in 500 words which they would love to read! The BBC 500 Words team said: "We received thousands of entries and only around 5,000 go through to the second round of judging by the Reading Agency. You should be very proud!"

Well done to Aushah, Iqra, Muhammad, Atika, Khadijah, Hamza and Rida! The short-listed stories will be announced in January.

The Headteacher's Breakfast



Headteacher's Breakfast every Friday morning is a popular part of Mrs McGinty's calendar.

Selected pupils from each year group are invited to have toast and fruit juice along with a chat with Mrs McGinty.

Pupils say it is good to have the opportunity to share their feedback about school and their suggestions. They enjoy putting forward new ideas and having a voice in school.

Pupil on a Quest to End Period Poverty



Period Poverty is a topic that Year 11 pupil Subaiah wants to speak out about and raise awareness that no pupil should not have access to the products they need when they are on their period.

Subaiah feels strongly that these products should be available to all girls free of charge, no one should be in a position where they are too embarrassed to ask for products, instead they are readily available in toilets and changing rooms for everyone.

Pupils at Pleckgate have access to products whenever they need them.



'Commended' for The Stephen Spender Prize

We were delighted when we found out that one of our Year 8 pupils, Tasneem had been recognised with a commended award for her work in the Stephen Spender Award in which pupils are asked to translate a poem from any language other than English. Tasneem chose the poem 'Mona Remona' which was written in Bengali.

Tasneem said: "Bangladeshi poetry has been an important part of my childhood and I feel that learning these poems has helped me to hold on to my culture even when living in the UK."

"When we discussed this poem together recently, my mum stated you will not get the humour because of the difference of generations. However, this lit a spark in my brain... one of the reasons why I chose this poem is it reminded me about how time and age can change many things."

Pupils at Pleckgate submitted poems through their poetry club in languages from Arabic, Bengali and Gujarati and are proud of being multilingual. Tasneem's success will be acknowledged in the Stephen Spender Prize Booklet which will be available in print and online early in the new year and will also be published on www.stephen-spender.org



Class of 2023's Annual Achievement Evening



Headteacher Mrs McGinty praised the special and highly successful class of 2023 for their outstanding results in the 2023 GCSE examinations at this year's Achievement Evening in November. Pupils, parents and special guests came together to celebrate a range of awards acknowledging pupils' success across a range of subjects.

It was a wonderful evening of celebration and joy as pupils met with their former teachers, form tutors and proud Head of Year, Mrs Millest, who said about the tremendous success of her year group:

"Not only have they achieved exceptional GCSE results, they have also shown kindness, maturity and have always supported each other. They have respected and celebrated each other's achievements and have been role models for our younger pupils."

The guest speaker was Education Partnership Trust Finance Director Jonathan Georgy who spoke about his own career path and inspired pupils with the value of hard work, determination and self belief in being the key ingredients to success.



Inter Faith Day 2023

Year 8 Anne Frank Ambassadors took part in a Blackburn with Darwen Inter Faith Day at Blackburn Town Hall as part of Inter Faith Week.

Yusra, Khadijah, Daniel and Umair said that they really enjoyed listening and learning from other members of the Inter Faith Forum, representing Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism.

Daniel said, "I felt lucky to be able to have this experience and learn about other religions and cultures."

Community Cohesion Event in Partnership with BwD Council



Year 7 pupils were selected to take part in a Road Safety Community Cohesion event at Roe Lee Primary School.

The event was organised in conjunction with Road Safety Week, run by road safety charity, Brake, who are working hard to make streets and communities safer for everyone.

Pupils were joined by the Deputy Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Cllr Jim Shorrocks, Lancashire's Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Pratt, PCSOs and police officers, as well as members of the council's community safety team who organised the event.

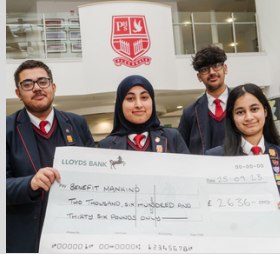
Pupils from different schools worked together prior to the event decorating poles to measure height for those needing a booster seat when travelling.

Year 7 pupil Khaled said, "I am honoured to have been selected for such an important event on how to make our streets safer. I enjoyed working with other schools in our community."

Pupils Raised an Incredible £2,636 for Charity!

Generous Pleckgate pupils raised £2,636 for Blackburn-based charity Benefit Mankind to raise funds following the recent humanitarian crisis in Morocco and Libya.

Pupils put on a number of events in school, including selling sweet cones made by the Senior Prefect team, wearing green or red accessories to school and a raffle to win a Nintendo Switch, kindly donated by The Adhan Group.



Ian Murphy Workshop

Ian Murphy visited Pleckgate to lead a mixed media Art workshop with our very talented Year 10 GCSE Art Pupils.

Ian is best known for his powerful, tonal drawings and atmospheric, mixed media oil paintings of architectural places.

Pupils enjoyed working with Ian and exploring his techniques & processes.



Mrs Wilson, Head of Art said: "Pupils should be extremely proud of their productivity, creativity and high quality outcomes throughout the day."

Eco-Club Make Animal Sculptures for a Community CVS Event



Mrs Banks and the Eco-Club have been using recycled products to make animal sculptures which will be displayed at King George's Hall.

It's part of an event where Community CVS in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have invited all the schools in Blackburn with Darwen to enter a competition to design centrepieces for this year's Community Volunteer Awards.

The Theme is "Nature" and the brief was to create a centrepiece, up to one metre high and 30cm in diameter, of any shape and materials with the theme gold, silver, black and white.

Pupils have been busy making their designs and Aiman said: "We have been doing this at lunch time for a couple of weeks and the idea was to make different animals out of resources which were left over. We have used recycled bottles and material such as cardboard."

Maths Inspiration Trip

In November, Year 11 pupils attended a Maths Inspiration Talk at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Pupils from across Lancashire listened to three experienced speakers delivering topics ranging from pollution to artificial intelligence.

Year 11 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and talked about the power of maths in impacting global problems such as climate change, pollution and plastics.





Blackburn Rovers vs Birmingham City Trip

Pleckgate pupils braved the freezing conditions to see their home team achieve an excellent result with a 4-2 victory over the visitors, Birmingham.

Pupils were invited onto the hallowed Ewood turf to wave the legendary Rovers Rose flag. The motto on the flag, "Arte et Labore" "Through Skill and Hard Work" is why the pupils had been selected for the trip due to their commitment to school sport.

Pleckgate pupils celebrated their team's victory with songs of Szmodics' 'on fire, your defence is terrified' about man of the match, Sammie Szmodics, who scored two of the goals.

Hopefully, Pleckgate pupils will be inspired to play sport for life and get down to Ewood Park to roar Rovers on for a play-off push! A special thank you to the best team of the night the dedicated Pleckgate staff whose altruism on a freezing winter's night allowed Pleckgate pupils to have such a fantastic experience – Mrs S Patel, Miss Laher, Mr Wakeman, Miss Bland, Miss Sim, Mr Hussain, Mr Haworth, Mr Pickup, Mr Ainsworth and Mr Livesey.



Futsal Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who competed in the Year 7 Futsal Tournament hosted by Pleckgate High School in November.

The girls showed huge amounts of enthusiasm and determination in their first football game of the year.

Year 9 Football Team

Our Year 9 B team participated in a prestigious football festival in November. The team was a credit to the school and themselves, scoring some outstanding goals.

St. Bede's Roman Catholic High School in Blackburn served as the event's host.

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 team!



Boccia

Boccia has made a huge difference to the lives of so many people who otherwise would not have access to the benefits sport can bring.

Boccia is a totally inclusive sport and can be played by anyone regardless of age, gender, ability or disability.

Boccia is the only sporting option for many SEND pupils or pupils with limited motor skills. We have had a fantastic opportunity to compete in two major Blackburn tournaments, whereby some of our KS3 pupils had the chance to compete against other schools within the borough.

All of the pupils involved were an absolute credit to themselves and the school.

We look forward to next year's competitions and as the Boccia motto goes... 'Improving lives through Boccia is driven by our belief that through the power and inspiration of Boccia, real change can be achieved to people's lives'.



Sports Hall Athletics



Our pupils had an excellent evening of athletics as our Year 7 & Year 8 pupils competed in the annual sports hall athletics competition against several local schools.

The pupils put in a number of strong performances.

They represented themselves and the school immaculately!

Our Brand New 3G Pitch

After months of construction work, the state-of-the-art 3G artificial grass pitch at our school has been completed.

Although the pitch will be available to the community to use outside of school hours, the new pitch will be predominantly used by our pupils.

