



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

Summer 2023



**Hands-on experience
for students' science**

Talented performers compete for musical prize

Young Musician of the Year

A celebration of our students' exceptional musical talent returned for the first time in four years, with the Young Musician of the Year show.

There were performances from school ensembles including the Signing Choir, Guitar Club and the cast of this year's show, *Matilda*. An added treat this year were inspiring performances from our talented staff musicians, including a 'showstopper' from Mr & Mrs Barker, before the main event!

Five talented performers had made it through to the final celebration following dozens of excellent solo performances across the school. Head of Music Mr Corrigan had the unenviable task of deciding the finalists, and those chosen covered piano, percussion, guitar, brass and voice. New for this year was an audience vote following all of the performances, combined with the scoring of the panel of judges.

Mr Corrigan said, "I am incredibly proud of all of our musicians who demonstrated once again that they are absolute professionals and that The Radclyffe School is a beacon of excellence for the Performing Arts."

At the end of the evening there had to be a winner, and the votes determined that it was Year 9 student Chloe Carrigan. Chloe gave a stunning performance of the song *Driver's License* by Olivia Rodrigo. She will now go on to perform at various events over the next 12 months as well as recording her own EP.

Many congratulations Chloe, and well done also to all the other finalists; drummer Jaime Clough, pianist Thomas Jackson, baritone horn player Keavy O'Brien and guitarist Amanda Luste.



Students discover the delights of longshore drift

GCSE Geography fieldwork

Education outside the classroom offers something out of the ordinary, and that was what our GCSE Geography students found out with a visit to Lancashire's Fylde coast.

Field work is a compulsory part of the course, and the visit explored the evidence for coastal erosion and measures that are put in place to combat this. In the seaside town of Cleveleys, students also examined land use along the seafront and how this is changing. The day was completed with a trip up Blackpool Tower, with views as far as the Lake District and North Wales.



Targeted support enables students to progress

Tutoring programme

Students are discovering that 'lost learning' needn't be lost forever. A national project to pair young people with a tutor, who they would meet online has been a great success in the past year.

The time in school that was missed during the pandemic caused real concern that young people might have missed out and fallen behind in their study. During the past two years we have been part of the tutoring support scheme, offered free to students.

For students working up towards their GCSEs, the experience of 15 weeks of direct support has seen them boost their confidence in Maths and English, and it is very likely this will be reflected in their exam grades this summer. We have been delighted to see 132 students take advantage.

The support is not only available in Key Stage 4; students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have worked in small groups, three students and one tutor and again in Maths and English. Hearing back from the students it is clear that the support was enjoyable and effective.

Ruby in Year 7 was keen for the sessions to start again. "I really enjoyed them, they were fun and I learned loads."

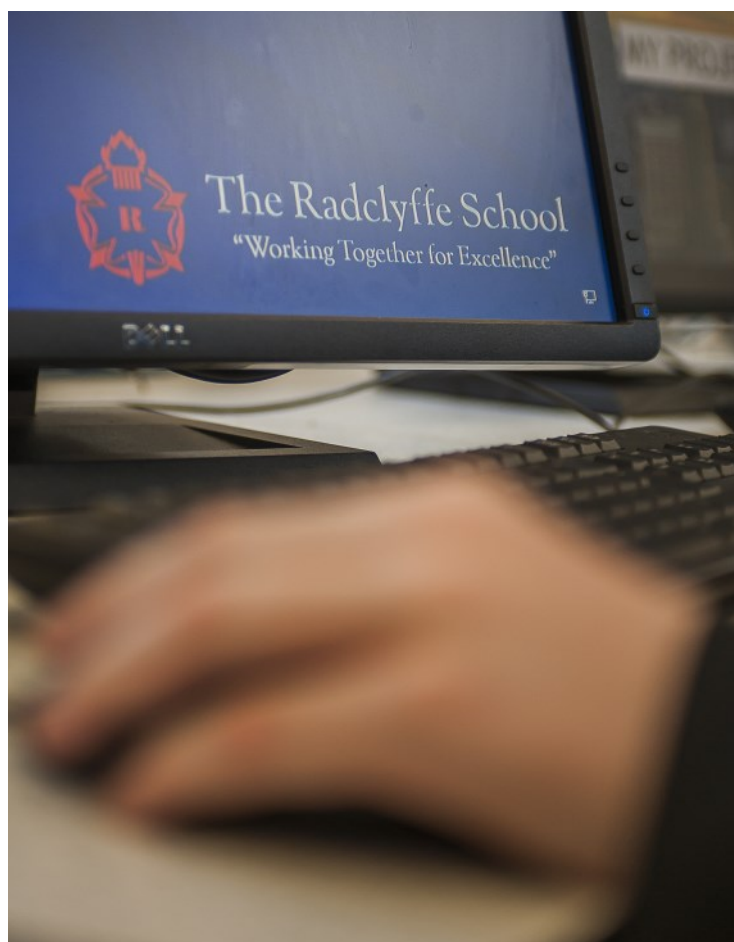
We are grateful to parents too for their feedback. One commented that her daughter in Year 7 had more confidence and has improved in her English.

Another parent praised the effect the tutoring has had on her son in Year 8. "He has really enjoyed all the sessions and made massive improvements with his score and confidence. It has been fantastic, thank you!"

Zohaib in Year 11 said he felt he didn't understand Maths and had struggled in class. His tutor had provided a variety of strategies, which meant that now he felt confident that he will get the grades he needs in his exams.

Across all the students who have taken part, everyone has made progress after taking part in the lessons. We are very grateful to the tutors for the excellent support they have given. Working online links our students with the tutors' expertise often at long distances - the tutors have come from diverse backgrounds, but all are graduates who achieved A* or A at A level in the subject they are tutoring.

With funding from the Department for Education, we will continue to be part of the tutoring programme in the autumn. Students will be given more information and will be able to register in their Welcome and Wellbeing sessions in the autumn. Students who received maths tutoring this year are welcome to make use of English tutoring next year, and vice versa.



Students test their talents and determination to achieve

Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2023

For students in Year 10, completing the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award remains an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and boost existing ones. This year has been no different.

To achieve the award students complete three components; demonstrating a skill that they either have learned before or are taking on for the first time, completing a project where they volunteer their time to help in a wide range of settings, and the expedition, an extended walk involving camping skills, map reading, leadership and teamwork.

Amongst skills that students took up or took forward were learning to play a new musical instrument, getting creative in art and dance, learning to cook and improving knowledge in science. The choice is as wide as students' imagination and the work so far has seen some excellent work done.

Hundreds of hours of volunteering has helped not only the students but local charities and other organisations - from Oldham's Lyceum theatre, the Scouts, British Heart Foundation, Age UK, and the Eclipse Gymnastics Club.

Whilst at the Radclyffe School the students can undertake the Bronze award, often at sixth form and other places they have the chance to achieve the Silver and Gold awards too. For the three components, two are completed over three months and one over six months - it involves a substantial commitment in time and discipline.

The undoubted highlight of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was the expedition. While students gain skills of map reading and navigation, more important are the challenges of leadership, self-reliance and teamwork that are required. The expedition this year travelled to Crompton Moor, walking over 28km and camping at Dog Hill Scout Camp.

For some students this was their first experience of walking in the countryside - stepping outside their comfort zones, especially as the weather was wet.

Mr Howarth who co-ordinated the programme said, "The students demonstrated a fantastic resilience throughout, maintaining a positive outlook and persevered right through to the end."

Congratulations to all our students who have successfully completed their award this year.



Performers bring musical magnificence to Roald Dahl classic

Matilda the Musical

Revolting children in school? It could only be the performances of *Matilda the Musical*.

After months of rehearsals, songs, lines and choreography to learn, the finished result was an outstanding success from a cast that combined experience with the enthusiasm of new performers.

Based on the popular story by Roald Dahl, Matilda is enjoying something of a revival at the moment and our students put their talent on display to appreciative audiences.

The show was jointly directed by Mrs Taberham and Mrs Groves from our Drama team. In their programme notes it was recognized that students who audition each year are not always the most obvious or even most confident, but they soon become the most committed and hard working group of young people. "When it is late on a Sunday afternoon and you are exhausted, but need to keep rehearsing, these students will lift you with their wit, energy and desire to improve their performances."

Congratulations to the entire cast who have performed with confidence and humour. Many of the young actors are likely to return for future productions.



Did you know?

The rotating scenery comes from ancient Greek theatre tradition. Each piece is known as a Periakatos, which move to indicate the changing scenes. The Periaktos was revived as part of Italian theatre from around 1500, and on the English stage in the 17th century.

Time to get green fingered and growing

Garden Club revives the Legacy Garden

The arrival of Summer after what was a cold and wet Spring has seen something growing in the school garden - students' enthusiasm for planting, sowing, weeding and seeing the results of their efforts emerge from the ground.

Over recent weeks, under the leadership of Mr Dalglish and Mrs Capron, the school has trialled a lunchtime gardening club which is producing positive results.

Already this term the students have:

- ♦ made sure that the raised beds were watered and weeded; and that the raspberry bush was watered too.
- ♦ sown carrots, French beans, peas, and some flowers (Calendula, Forget-me-nots, and Nasturtiums).
- ♦ planted on French beans, tomatoes, peas, and sweetcorn.
- ♦ nurtured the plants in the greenhouse – aubergine, chillies, ginger, peppers, potatoes and tomatoes.

Some students have also sown the seeds of an Arabian coffee plant (*coffea arabica*) with a view to the plant flowering next season (around April or May).

As the summer term comes to an end, the pond has been refilled after some small repairs were completed. We can now expect more wildlife to join the dragonflies, bees, ladybirds, robber flies, and newts that have already graced the garden this year.

During this trial period the school garden has been open at lunchtimes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and has enabled students from all year groups to get involved - digging out weeds, keeping paths clear, planting and watering.

When we return after the summer there are plans to visit Northern Roots, the incredible new urban farm taking shape alongside Alexandra Park in Oldham, and also to the Royal Horticultural Society's Bridgewater garden in Salford, benefiting from our membership of the RHS School Garden Scheme.

The benefits associated with gardening are becoming increasingly well known, and not just for the physical exercise. Gardening gives a boost to people's social and mental health, and teaches the young people about the natural world and where their food comes from. The garden club will take positive steps to enhance the local environment, which students can be fully involved with.



Magnificent raptors

Birds of Prey on display

There were end of term Science lessons with a difference as a cast, a cauldron, and even a kettle arrived in school. These are all collective nouns for birds of prey, and the birds from Cheshire Falconry helped students to learn about these magnificent hunters.

The Year 7 and 8 classes were treated to a display of the birds' flying skills. They learned about the hunting habits and feeding fashions of the Barn Owl, Harris Hawk, European Eagle Owl, and Britain's largest bird of prey, the White-tailed Sea Eagle.

Teacher of Science Mrs Begum said, "The young people were thrilled to stroke the birds' feathers and to have them fly so close over their heads. The day was a great example of hands on learning that the students will remember for a long time."



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News in Brief

As the summer term comes to a close, among the staff starters and leavers we celebrate a group of long serving members of staff, who between them have a century of employment experience (almost) at The Radclyffe School.

SEN Co-ordinator Jill Williams, Deputy SENCO Andrea Smethurst, Year Manager Gail Thompson, General Operations Manager Gillian Barker, and Headteacher's PA Sue McCannon are all taking retirement this year (combined total of 95 years). Add Pastoral Support Manager Neville Barker, who also retires this year, and they reach the ton!

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A magnificent seven students set off for Norfolk to take part in the latest MiSST music residential event.

The students met up with peers from schools across the country at Gresham's School, developing their skills in playing their instruments, and leading up to a final performance together.

Student leadership gets whole school transformation

Changes to how the team works

We're making changes to how our Student Leadership Team works, to enhance how our students develop leadership skills. The existing pattern of a single small team will change from September, and will enable a larger number of students from all year groups to gain experience of leadership and contribute to the life of the school.

The reason we have a Student Leadership Team is to give students the opportunity to develop their leadership by organising and carrying out school activities and projects.

Students will stand for election to a new Student Leadership Council each autumn. Students in Year 11 who are elected to this Council will be able to stand for two posts of Head Student and two of Deputy Head Student, chosen by election in October.

Student Leaders will join teams within the Council, together with representatives from PLG groups, which will focus on six particular issues - Charity and Community, Health and Wellbeing, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Safety, the Environment, and Equality and Diversity. Each group will be invited to present an action plan to the school's Senior Leadership Team and then share these with students across the school.

We will continue to offer opportunities for students to serve as Ambassadors and as Faculty Prefects supporting the activities in each subject area.

To help with the changeover to this new format, we have appointed two new Head Students this term - congratulations on their appointment to Waaiz Tufail and Intia Hossain.



What does the Student Leadership do?

Miss Parkinson is leading the process of choosing the new leadership team. She explained, "Student leaders have an important role in representing the views of all our students. They share ideas and concerns about every aspect of life at school, and take part in school-wide activities."

"Being part of the leadership allows students to give something back to the school, in creating a positive climate and ensuring events and projects run smoothly. At the same time they are building their own skills and experience to benefit them in the future."

How will we choose the team?

With the new term in September, students in all years will hear about the changes in their assembly, and if they wish to apply, complete an application form.

Elections will follow, with all students having the right to vote. When the new student leaders are announced they will choose which of several committees and their work will begin.

For those applying to be Head or Deputy Head Students, they will need to write a letter of application and if chosen will be interviewed by member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The letter needs to explain the student's skills and qualities, what they have achieved so far and what will make them a good member of the team.

Student Leadership - what will the teams do?

Charity and Community

The Charity and Community Team works hard to support social action locally, nationally, and internationally. They will be responsible for organising fundraising and community events throughout the year.

Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Team's role will be to support the physical, mental and social needs of all our students.

Quality of Education

The Quality of Education team will support the development of the school curriculum provision across all subject areas.

Behaviour and Safety

The Behaviour and Safety Team will seek to ensure every student feels safe and happy here at school, whether at social times or in lesson time.

Environment

The Environment Team will ensure that students are aware of and know how to contribute to increasing the sustainability of the school.

Equality and Diversity

The Equality and Diversity Team works to ensure we create a respectful, understanding and diverse community here at TRS.

Faculty Prefects

The important role of prefects to help out in each of our ten faculties will continue.

Faculty Prefects act as ambassadors for each of subject area, supporting faculty events, and in the coming year helping out at lunchtimes as assigned by the Head of Faculty.

Throughout the year the Faculty Prefects will help to lead assemblies linked to national awareness days and campaigns, helping to raise interest and understanding of these important issues.

Miss Parkinson concluded, "Taking on these roles builds our students' confidence and leadership qualities. They learn to work on their own initiative, solving problems and improving their communication."



First steps for new Year 7 to find their way around

New Parents' Evening and Induction Day

For our new students who will be starting at the school in September, the chance to have a gentle introduction to life at the Radclyffe School is an important annual milestone. We were delighted then to welcome students to their Induction Day, with the school quieter than usual.

In what we hope will be a helpful change, the New Parents' Evening has moved to be before the Induction Day, giving parents their own opportunity to ask questions and find out all you need to know. Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend.

Coming from a total of 35 different primary schools across Oldham, the children got to know the routines of the school, and toured the building so they will be familiar with how they make their way around from September. Guided skilfully by the Peer Mentors Team, the focus this year was on the support they will gain from our unique Personal Learning Guide system.

The children also got a taste of our fantastic PE facilities, and enjoyed several musical performances from instrumental groups, our new Young Musician of the Year, and the cast of Matilda.

Every student in school meets as a small group under the guidance of their Personal Learning Guide, a member of staff who will act as a coach and mentor to them throughout their time at The Radclyffe School. Over the past two years we have built on this support by combining PLG groups in pairs for each morning's Welcome and Wellbeing time, while retaining the one-to-one meetings that help to address students' individual needs.

The new PLG team for Year 7 are looking forward to getting to know our new starters in September – among them will be several members of staff who are new too!



Staff changes mean new teams for Welcome and Wellbeing

PLG changes

Throughout the school, our Personal Learning Guides make a big difference to students' experience at school, offering support and advice and helping our young people to get the most out of being here.

As staff move on, it is necessary to make some changes to how the PLG network is working. From September, the number of PLG groups will reduce from twelve to ten in each year group. This will mean that some students will become part of a new PLG group. We will continue to provide the one-to-one support that is at the heart of the Welcome and Wellbeing.

Students study religion with a local flavour

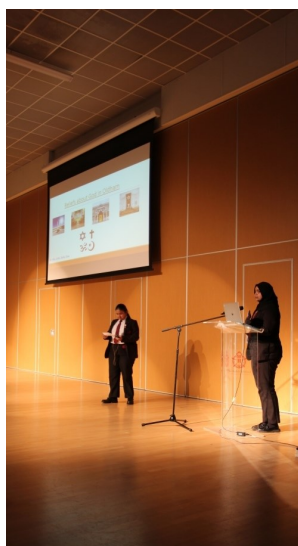
Faith in Oldham

Lessons in Religious Studies for Year 9 have taken on an Oldham focus this term, in partnership with the borough's Interfaith Forum. Visits from representatives of the varied faith groups in Oldham have helped to educate the students and also to broaden understanding for members of staff.

Learning about how the religious communities operate and interact locally, the students carried out their research into Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism, with the help of a priest, a mufti, a rabbi and a Hindu leader. The young people put together presentations about what they learned, choosing from six options, including the holy buildings of Oldham, the Afterlife, and belief in God.

At an evening event the students shared the results of their research in front of an audience. The students also heard an address from Rabbi Daniel Walker from the Heaton Park Synagogue, on the nature of beauty and how to disagree well. A performance of Nasheed, Islamic singing was given by Hafiz Mizan Rahman.

We are grateful to Oldham Interfaith Forum for their time in supporting the project, which has been a great benefit to students.



News in Brief

Uniform Exchange

Thank you to everyone who has let us find a new home for their blazers, ties, shirts, trousers and skirts. We've also collected a supply of PE kit for boys and girls.

Thank you also to Kajima Partnerships who have provided items of uniform, alongside some of our local uniform suppliers.

All the clothes donated are cleaned and ironed ready for reuse. We all continue to face financial pressures at the moment, so it makes sense to get the best use out of all items of uniform, especially when students grow and need to replace clothes that no longer fit them.

It is also doing a little bit for the environment to avoid disposing of these items. We will be opening the Uniform Exchange in the fifth week of the summer holiday (from Monday 21st August) and in the first week of the autumn term for anyone who would like to take advantage of the offer. To collect clothing items you must be a parent or carer of a current student at the school.



Speak **R**espectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
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Behave **R**espectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
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Respect School Environment



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
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Respect your own learning



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
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Respect the learning of others



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



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Students find the worth of working

Work Experience Week

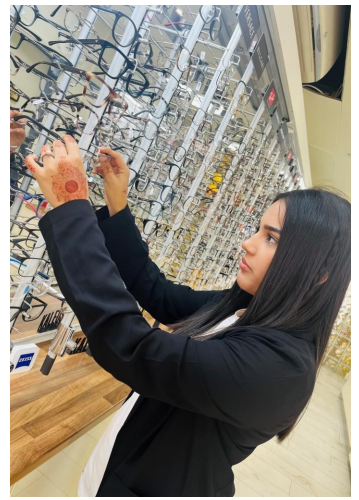
As an important milestone in preparing students for life beyond school, 206 of our Year 10 students spent a week this term completing a work experience placement. This is three times the number of students we have had out on work experience than in previous years, and the students did exceptionally well in a broad choice of job roles and businesses.

Some students had a firm idea of where they wanted to work and the experience they wished to gain, others found the time a useful introduction to the world of work as they decide what they want to do - their 'employers' ranged from opticians to nurseries, solicitors to hairdressers. Other students found theirs in primary schools, a gym, a variety of shops and even in 'back office' functions at school.

Careers Lead Miss Parkinson said, "The employers have had nothing but praise for our students. It has been a pleasure to hear the success stories from employers on how our students have applied themselves and most importantly a number of students now have direction for their future ambitions."

On behalf of the Careers Team, we would like to thank all the employers for supporting our students and providing such worthwhile experiences that all the young people have appreciated greatly!

Work Experience Week is the latest event in our award-winning programme of careers advice and guidance. Students in every year group can take advantage of events with employers visiting school, college and university taster days, and Industry Days, together with bespoke careers support in school from the Careers Team.



School retains Quality in Careers Standard



We know our Careers provision is excellent, but you don't just have to take our word for it.

Following a successful assessment we have retained the National Quality Award for careers education, information, advice and guidance, valid for the next three years.

The Careers Standard judges the school against a range of criteria that will support all learners, whatever the future paths they wish to pursue

Changes to the school day in September

Single lunchtime boosts extra curricular offer

When our students return after the summer holiday they will see some changes to the school day, aimed at boosting learning but also broadening what we can offer for extra curricular activities.

Nationally, schools are being required to extend the length of the school week. As a result, we will no longer have a shorter Wednesday in Week 2. Students' timetables will now involve 50 lessons over each fortnight (keeping the Week 1 and Week 2 pattern).

The main changes that students will see will be a longer Welcome and Wellbeing session each morning, and a return to a 50-minute lunchtime. We are also returning to a single break and lunchtime for all year groups, though there will still be separate areas for students to use in Key Stages 3 and 4.

The longer lunch will accompany a broader offer of extra-curricular activity in school.

With other year groups lessons no longer restricting access to corridors, we expect there to be more lunch time clubs and activities for students to benefit from.

Access to Café Mojo will be staggered by year group during lunchtime to ensure that everyone can make their way through.

The extra ten minutes at lunch will also mean a slightly later finish. The end of each school day will be at 3pm.

8.20am	School opens to students
8.30	Welcome and Wellbeing
8.50	Period 1
9.50	Period 2
10.50	Break
11.10	Period 3
12.10pm	Period 4
1.10	Lunchtime
2.00	Period 5
3.00	End of School Day – Start of extra curriculum activities
3.30	Protected Learning Catch-Up ends

School Day – 6.5 hours (32.5 hours per-week)

Have you booked holiday activities yet?

Holiday Activities and Food

As the summer holiday approaches, did you know there is a packed programme of activity that takes place in Oldham for children ages 5 to 16?

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme offers funded activities during the school holidays aimed to get children who attend to:

- eat healthily
- be more active
- be safe and not socially isolated
- have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- be more engaged with school

The activities are free for families who receive benefits-related free school meals, with small charges for others. For more information and to book places, visit Oldham Council's website;

[HAF website](#)



Holiday Activities and Food

Superb medal haul at Oldham Athletics championships

PE and Sport

An outstanding 'best ever' performance at the Oldham Schools Athletics Championships saw our students come away with 13 medals from the field events to add to three track successes. Home advantage paid dividends as The Radclyffe Athletics Centre was the venue for the event.

Students competed by year group and performed very strongly throughout, as we welcomed students from schools across the borough.

Many congratulations then to bronze winners Umayyah Ali (Year 8 girls' 100m), Millie O'Neil (Y8 girls' 1500m), Tanees Khan (Y9 girls' 1500m), Zaheda Tarin (Y10 girls' 100m), Saimah Ahmed (Y10 girls' hurdles), Jethro Bonsu, (Y7 boys' hurdles), Monal Hoque (Y8 boys' hurdles), Max Wyesol (Y9 boys' 1500m), Monal Hoque, Rayan Uddin, Jude Bonsu, Abdul Habib (Yr 8 boys' relay) and Callum Richardson, Shabaz Khan, Joe Smedley, Connor Bramham (Y10 boys' relay), Muhammed Raza (Y7 boys' discus), Mohammed Hasnain (Y8 boys' high jump), Sam Kavale (Y8 boys' discus), Nathan Cumberbirch (Y10 boys' triple jump), Fahima Begum (Y10 girls' long jump) and Freya Jackson (Y10 girls' high jump).

Taking silver were Holly Dixon (Y9 girls' hurdles), Inayah Khan (Y10 girls' 1500m), Mohammed Aqib (Y7 boys' 200m), Abdul Habib (Y8 boys' 800m), Connor Bramham (Y10 boys' 200m), Joe Smedley (Y10 boys' 1500m **and** hurdles), Emily Austin (Y10 girls' javelin), Lucy Needham, (Y8 girls' discus), Georgie Roberts (Y8 girls' high jump), Harriet Atkins (Y7 girls' triple jump), Connor Bramham (Y10 boys' long jump), Josh Ramsey (Y9 boys' triple jump), Josh Taylor (Y8 boys' javelin), Mohammed Aqib (Y7 boys' high jump) and Jack Thompson (Y7 boys' triple jump).

And across track and field, members of the team came away as Oldham Schools Champions in 9 disciplines - Mia Lucy (Y8 girls' hurdles), Connor Cropper (Y7 boys' 100m), Zac Jones (Y7 boys' 800m), Connor Cropper, Zac Jones, Mohammed Aqib, Lewis Dennison (Y7 boys' relay), Rayan Uddin (Y8 boys' 100m), Callum Richardson (Y10 boys' 100m **and** javelin), Reda Fatemah (Y10 girls' discus) and Camiah Johnson (Y10 girls' shot putt).

Track..



..and Field

School memories that will last

A look back into the archives

July 2019 - Girls take a view of career opportunities

30 Year 8 girls took part in an industry session to gain an overview of Money Supermarket as a tech employer, learning about the job roles, skills and behaviours required.

The interactive workshop introduced them to working in a tech environment and get be mentored and guided by industry experts who work at Money Supermarket.



June 2016 - Students' Chemistry talents solve murder mystery

A team of talented chemists took up the challenge of a murder mystery, and came out winners.

The Year 8 students took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the University of Manchester. They were pitted against schools from across the North-West, where they used chemistry skills to investigate the case. Using chromatography and other scientific techniques, the all-girl team analysed evidence from the 'crime' scene, and carried out experiments precisely to win the prize.



July 2013 - Superb STEM days showcase sandwich success

Creating , packaging and pitching a gourmet sandwich for Manchester's Hard Rock Café was the practical apprenticeship for this year's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Days.

To ensure they got the very best business advice former candidate from BBC tv's The Apprentice Adam Corbally shared his expertise with students. Adam finished third in the 2012 series. He is now a successful public speaker and motivational coach.

