



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Magazine

January 2024



**Students
Celebrate
Performance**

Ghostly Christmas goings on brings dramatic learning

Christmas Carol performance

Christmas came early to The Radclyffe School, with a familiar ghostly tale performed for students.

Quantum Theatre were in school to present Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* – a story that students in Year 10 are studying for GCSE.

The performance took the children back to Victorian London, with the well-known characters of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchitt, and the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas yet-to-come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

The hour-long play featured three actors playing eighteen characters from Dickens' story, with extra Christmas carols adding to the festive feel. The text is part of the GCSE English Literature curriculum, along with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and poetry on the theme of power and conflict.

Head of English Miss Khaliq said, "Watching a Christmas Carol performed as a play adds a powerful new element to students' understanding of the story. We are very grateful to the cast for bringing such a professional and enthusiastic performance."



Dramatic inspiration unlocks ideas

Working with a professional actor acted as inspiration for students in Year 9 considering Drama as a choice at Key Stage 4. They were joined for a special acting masterclass by Year 11 who are approaching their final performances in the subject.

Lisa Whiteside has appeared in *Coronation St* and *Emmerdale*, and runs acting classes through her company *Act on It*. She showed the students how to work with a script and develop their own interpretation, first using just actions then moving onto words.

Students in Year 9 will get to choose their KS4 options in March 2024.



Krystian shares message with Class of '23

Presentation Evening

The Chief Executive of an alternative education provider was the guest of honour at The Radclyffe School's Presentation Evening.

Addressing the leavers of 2023, Krystian Liptrot described his journey since leaving school in Rochdale, where he had been Head Boy of his secondary school.

Of his own progress, he spoke of successes but also rejection, pursuing a career in football that included Rochdale, Gretna and Accrington, but never hit the heights. He was turned down by the Police and the Fire Service, and began a career in music but wasn't satisfied. Working in education was where things clicked, leading to him setting up Life Changing Education Ltd.

Krystian urged the audience to focus on what they can control. He said, "Treat people as you wish to be treated, and do the right thing because it is the right thing."

He spoke of the positives of coming to school, "...where there are so many opportunities on offer, enabling young people to develop your confidence, to make life-long friendships and embed the foundations for future success."



The event was held this year at the school in Hunt Lane, Chadderton. A slimmed down event was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Year 11 students who had coped with the Covid-19 pandemic from their Year 8, and were the first year group to sit a full round of summer exams following the disruption.

The evening was a celebration of the achievement of the whole year group who moved on from The Radclyffe School earlier this year. Year Manager Mrs Imeson told students, "You did it! The journey now continues. Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will."

Alumni stories

Bradley Hall is living the dream after his course took him from Hopwood Hall College to Soapland...

Having joined from The Radclyffe School, Bradley had high hopes when he enrolled to study the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production. This pathway was the perfect springboard towards an exciting career - with Bradley now working as a Second Assistant Director on Emmerdale!

He says: "I made some great friends at Hopwood and the people I met helped shape me into the person I am today!"



Students share a Cumbrian musical adventure

MiSST play day

The chance to join with young people from schools across the north of England in a musical play day saw students from The Radclyffe School travel to Barrow-in-Furness.

The students worked alongside young people from partner schools of the Music in Secondary School's Trust (MiSST), taking part in workshops and rehearsals in their instrumental groups, before coming together to showcase their work in an informal concert to round off the day.

Amongst the musical pieces they rehearsed and performed were Dua Lipa's *Dance the Night Away*, Tito Puente's *Oye Como Va*, and *Byzantine Dances* by Carol Brittin Chambers.

This is the fourth year that the school has been part of MiSST, a programme which enables all KS3 students to learn a musical instrument, with small group tutoring to develop their talent and technique.



Head of Music Mr Corrigan said, "We are incredibly proud to be a part of the fantastic MiSST network of schools and provide our students with some amazing musical experiences. It was an absolute pleasure to spend the day watching our students demonstrate their independence, musicianship and enthusiasm for performance working alongside the other schools that they had only met that day. The performance contained some fantastically challenging music which wowed the audience."

Too many cooks...? Not in our kitchens!

Cooking enrichment shares culinary talent across generations



A special student enrichment activity added an extra flavour this term... inviting parents into school to take part too. Opening the kitchens in Design & Technology to create a meal was enjoyed by everyone who took part.

The pairs followed a simple recipe for lasagne with all the ingredients supplied.

More sessions will be arranged for later in the year, with a maximum of eight pairs for each session. Ideas for future dates could include profiteroles and festive fajitas.

Students in Years 7 to 9 have Food Preparation and Nutrition as part of a rotation in D&T, which gives everyone the knowledge to cook for themselves and understand how important it is to enjoy a good diet.

School offers support for Community Fridge

Students, staff and visitors to The Radclyffe School are helping to support local families struggling with the cost of living. The school has installed a collection point where donations can be left, before going to the Community Fridge at the Crossley Centre, Denton Lane in Chadderton.

Donations are welcomed of non-perishable goods - cereals, pasta, rice and sauces, beans, tinned meat, fruit or vegetables, biscuits, crisps, tea bags and coffee. They also accept toiletries, washing products, sanitary goods, and baby items.

The Community Fridge project will collect all the donations weekly. To make use of it does not require a referral and is open to all each Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm.

Business Manager Mr Davies said, "We know that many individuals and families are feeling the pressure of rising prices, so we're happy to be supporting this excellent project which is helping so many people. Buying just one extra item in your weekly shop and making the donation will make a big difference to a lot."

Any items can be brought to the donation point in Visitors' Reception at the Hunt Lane school. The project adds to the school's Uniform Exchange, which is reusing hundreds of items of clothing, preventing them from going to waste, and saving families money – the Community Fridge collection point can be found alongside the box for uniform items.



We are grateful to one of our suppliers, Vision for Education, who have made a generous donation of food which has been added to what we have already received.

News in Brief

Manchester’s Christmas markets were the festive destination for students in Modern Foreign Languages. Visiting the attractions, especially where traders have travelled from other European countries, gives a glimpse of the culture from those countries, brought close to home.

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Thank you to parents and students for your help in maintaining our high standards of uniform.

Being smartly dressed and having correct equipment, and a school bag to keep everything in helps to support learning.

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Did you know that all of our students can benefit from top quality careers advice, courtesy of Positive Steps, an Oldham-based charitable trust providing a range of services for young people, adults and families.

Throughout this term Years 9 to 11 have had one to one interviews in school with a Careers Advisor, and the Personal Development Hub offers access to a huge range of resources.

Follow us on social media



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There's a need not to speed!

Road Safety Week

A week of hard-hitting assemblies for all students pressed home the message that speed kills, so for our young people everyone has to take responsibility for crossing roads safely.

The national Road Safety Week in November took the theme 'Let's talk about speed'. Students discovered that over 1700 people lost their lives on UK roads in 2022. The majority of speeding drivers who cause death and injury are normal people on normal journeys. But whenever we drive too fast, we increase the risk of an accident - and increase the chance that someone might be hurt or even killed.



For our students of course, the greatest risk is as pedestrians. The young people were asked to consider what they can do to lower the risk to themselves:

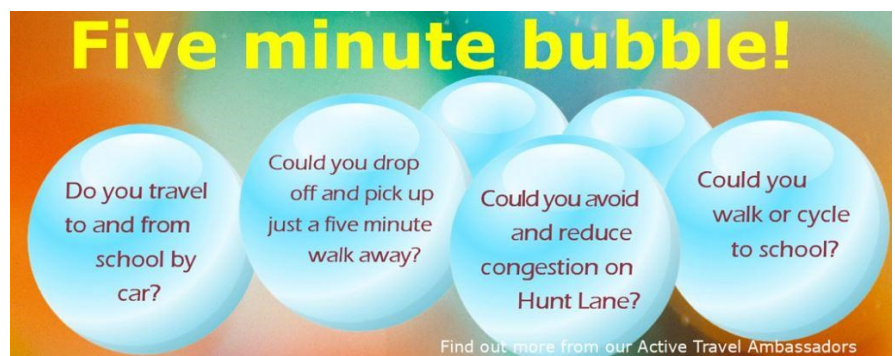
- Cross the road with care - remember to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN
- On Broadway (and elsewhere) only cross when the green figure is lit
- Do not run out onto Broadway when cars are coming - they are driving at 40mph and at that speed it can take them at least 36 metres to stop
- Treat everyone with respect near any road - it is not a place for pushing or playfighting

Staying safe on Hunt Lane

If your children do need to travel by car, we would ask that you park a short distance from school and have your child walk a short way. Students led a project last year to introduce the idea of the 'five minute bubble', encouraging the health benefits of a short walk as well as reducing congestion on Hunt Lane as much as we can. If you could safely drop your child a little way from school, this can make a big difference to reducing the problems of access.

If you have to park on Hunt Lane, it is important not to park on zig-zag lines, yellow lines or fully on the pavement as this reduces the amount of space our students and other pedestrians have to move along the pavements.

From time to time Enforcement Officers from Oldham Council will visit and you may receive a penalty charge notice if your vehicle is parked contrary to the regulations.



Students find it's never too early for an industry insight

Year 7 Industry Day

Some of our youngest students enjoyed a practical introduction to the world of work, with a day of workshops, hands on experiments and plenty of learning.

Employers as diverse as construction giant Balfour Beatty, the NHS, and electrical contractors Barlows visited the school.

Alongside hearing from employers, the young people also learned real world skills such as first aid and financial literacy. Add in an introduction to further study at Oldham College or Oldham Sixth Form and the children had a very full picture of the options available to them.

From interactive video presentations on the use of technology in space, to discovering how to correctly wire plugs and sockets, the students found out so much about careers they could be starting in a few years.

Careers lead Miss Parkinson said, "Our Industry days ensure our students gain an insight into the world of work, and have the opportunity to meet different employers. They develop key skills to thrive beyond The Radclyffe School. We are very grateful to all the organisations who continue to support our careers provision, and help make our industry days a success".

What's the Big Idea?!

Students also took part in a 'Big Idea Workshop', organised by social enterprise the Talent Foundry. The students developed their knowledge of social issues in their community and explored how they could use technology for the greater good.

At the end the students pitched their business idea to their peers in a *Dragons Den*-style set up.

The facilitator, Catherine commented "The young people were truly outstanding. To pitch the way they did at the end of the session, sometimes we don't even get Year 12 students to pitch to that standard!"



Celebrating talent in arts and sport

SPA Celebration Evening

An opportunity to perform in front of an audience was not to be missed for students in Music, Drama and Dance, with the return of the SPA Celebration Evening.

Alongside the curriculum in these subjects, students shared how valuable they find the activities they can enjoy beyond their lessons - the lunchtime and after-school clubs provide exciting times to strengthen friendships while developing important skills.

Amongst the performers were dancers from KS3 and KS4, drama in the style of silent movies, and songs from the Signing Choir. Individual performances from Young Musician of the Year Chloe Carrigan and former student William Smith added to the entertainment.

The evening is also a showcase for the creativity of students in Art and Photography, and a celebration of achievement in sport and PE, across many sports. In the past year we enjoyed a very successful Oldham Schools Athletic Championships, with 22 medal winners including six champions, and our trampolining team also recently became Oldham Champions.





Help is close at hand to cope with cost of living

Christmas holiday support and more

We are all facing pressures as a result of rising prices, especially for energy costs, but it's important to remember there is help available, from many different sources.

Oldham Council's We Can Help project offers support for many varied circumstances - whether you are facing serious difficulties or just need a little support. They can help you to maximise your income, get help with your household bills, help you to manage your money, and find support with childcare

Visit the Oldham Council website at [We can help | Oldham Council](#)

During the school holiday, the Holiday Activities and Food programme will be in full swing. Between **17th December and 2nd January**, the Council is working with over 30 local providers to host some amazing activities for children and young people to enjoy.

The activities include everything from sports camps, family cooking and craft sessions to Christmas themed theatre shows. Every activity provides a healthy meal too.

Children aged 5 to 16, who receive free school meals in Oldham, can book these sessions for free as part of our programme, with unique booking codes being sent out in the post directly for them to use when booking.

Those who are not eligible for free school meals can still participate but these places usually come at a small cost, and parents and carers are advised to contact providers directly before booking.

Oldham Council says, via their website, "For those of you who haven't taken part in our HAF programme before, these sessions are a great way of supporting our children and young people to have a great time socialising with people their own age while learning and playing new games over the holidays."

Remembrance given added relevance

Our act of remembrance in November had an extra relevance for many students, with thoughts of ongoing conflict in the Middle East and in Ukraine.

Once again the event was an opportunity to remember those who had lost their lives in World Wars, and share local stories of self-sacrifice.

Taking the time to reflect, students observed two minutes of silence, heard a reading of poetry written during the First World War, and the sounding of the Last Post.

To offer practical support for those suffering in conflict in the present, badges with a simple message of peace have been bought, helping to raise £117 for the Red Cross/Red Crescent relief organisation.



Laptop loans

Tech available to borrow

Thanks to investment in laptop computers made by The Radclyffe School and the DfE, we are in the position to lend a Windows laptop to any student who requires one. This enables students to complete their home learning and support their studies at The Radclyffe School.

The laptops all run Windows 10 and come complete with Microsoft Office and Microsoft Teams. There is safeguarding and web filtering software installed to help protect students whilst they are learning online.

If your child is at The Radclyffe School and does not have dedicated access to a suitable device (a laptop/desktop or a tablet computer) they are eligible to borrow a laptop from us whilst they are a student at the school.

Whilst we will not charge you for the loan of the device, in order to protect our investment and ensure that we make the most of the lifespan of the laptop, parents/carers will be liable to pay for any damage caused to the laptop whilst it is on loan to you.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer and help your child access technology to support their education at The Radclyffe School, please complete the form via this link on the school website:

Laptop Loan Form



News in Brief

Visits to Blackburn Ice Rink and Tenpin Bowl in Rochdale were the end of term reward for students in Years 7 to 10.

To qualify for the trips, students needed to have received no more than five negative behaviour logs, and have attendance over 95%.

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We’re making changes to the newsletter, to give you an even greater insight into everything happening at The Radclyffe School.

As well as making it more frequent, we are hoping to include more content written by students.

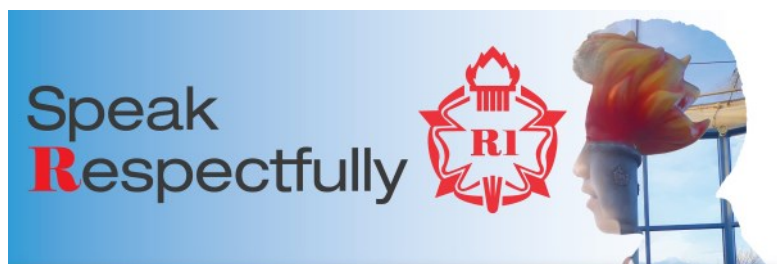
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A generous donation of chocolate selection boxes from former student Abdul Momin brought a Christmassy touch to the wellbeing week as the term came to an end.



The Five Respects - what are our responsibilities?

At The Radclyffe School we acknowledge that all staff, students and community members are responsible for respecting the rights of each other in and around school.



This means for example

To staff, do as you are asked without argument, accept that members of staff have authority over students because they are responsible for your welfare.

Treat staff as professionals, showing that you want to learn, listen carefully and follow instructions.

To students, Show consideration on corridors, Queue properly, avoiding physical contact with other students,

Respect other students' space, sitting where you are asked to in class,

Tell a member of staff if there is a problem with another student.

To all, treat members of our community as you would like to be treated.

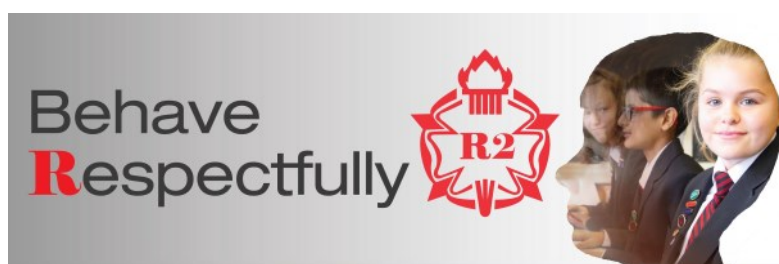
This means for example:

To staff, speak quietly and politely, think before you speak, and speak when it is appropriate to do so;

To students, speak politely, think before you speak,

keep quiet if you have nothing pleasant to say, and keep 'street language' out of school;

To all, speak to members of our community as you would like to be spoken to.



This means for example:

To students,

Putting rubbish in bins, in and out the classroom, Looking after, having pride in your classroom, Follow the rules about specialist rooms and equipment, such as science labs, sports and ICT.

Reporting any damage to a member of staff, Making sure you are in the right place at the right time, including lunchtimes, Keeping the school site safe.



This means for example

To students

Want to succeed and value success,

Be on time to school and lessons,

Have the correct equipment, do the work to the best of your ability;

Do your homework to deadline,

Ask for help if you need it,

Know what you need to do to improve,

Take responsibility for your learning and be honest with yourself.



This means for example:

To students,

Value other people's ideas, values, work and contributions,

Co-operate with and support other students,

Be able to assess other students' work, and help to create a positive learning environment.



Book of Excellence 10th birthday

Weekly celebration of students' success

Standing in the heart of the school, the striking presence of the Book of Excellence represents the very best of our students' achievement, behaviour and progress. Entry into the book is the ultimate reward for students'.



In November we celebrated the tenth anniversary of this reward. Over the years more than 1700 students have earned their place in the book, with several being awarded the accolade more than once. The pages of the book build up week by week, and we have created a complete archive of all the students who have ever been in.

Each week five students, one from each year group, are chosen from staff nominations and invited to a short ceremony to share in their success.



The idea for the Book of Excellence came from students in the Design & Technology faculty. From their original design concepts, they worked with an architect to create the elaborate glass fins that surround the pod structure that houses the book. The fins use dichroic glass, a laminated material that changes the colour of the glass through the course of the school day, and across the academic year.

Congratulations to all our students who have been recognised with a place in the book. For any student who has not yet been in, how will you earn your place?

Hand hygiene helps keep us healthy

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their friends and lessons. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The e-bug resources for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important – to your child or teenager.



To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the NHS web pages.

How you can help your child's exam success

Advice on preparing for exams

We wish our Year 11 students every success in their Pre Public Exams (PPEs) which they sat towards the end of this term. The experience of the formal exam conditions they can expect in the summer is of great value.

There is no one way to revise for exams that works for everyone, but here are some top tips for parents and carers to help your children do the best they can.

Establish effective study habits

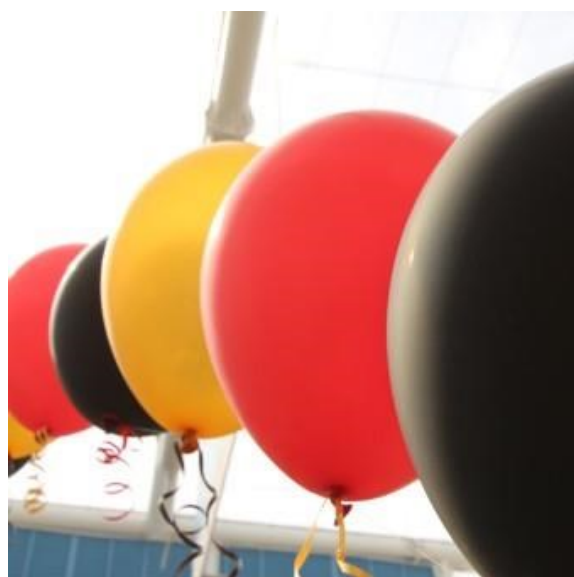
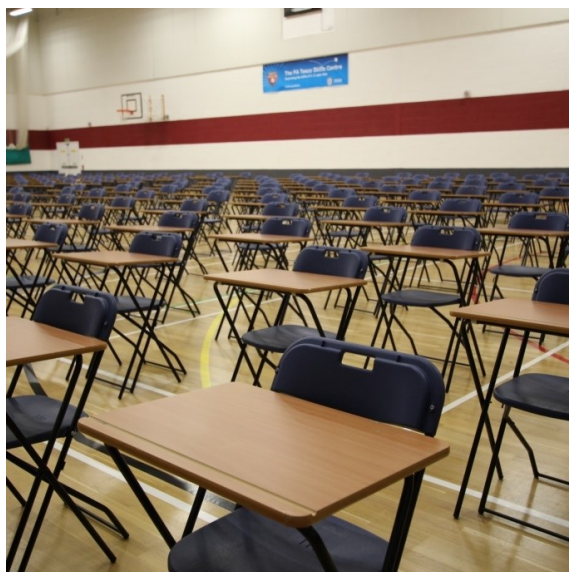
Help your child create a study plan early on (this will make you aware of their exam dates too), making sure it is realistic and achievable. Planning in advance will also help avoid ineffective cramming sessions further down the line. Encourage them to use a weekly planner so they are responsible for their work. Don't micro-manage. Provide extra support if they need or ask for it.

Take a break

Don't try and force them to work for hours at a time. Their concentration span is limited and it will hinder the success of their revision if they are trying to do mammoth sessions. Suggest the use of a timer as well as regularly changing revision subject, to avoid getting stuck in a rut.

Practice past papers

Past papers encourage your child to think in context, rather than just trying to memorise an entire text book. You can help by creating a realistic, timed, exam scenario when they are completing practice papers. This encourages them to get used to working under pressure and develop exam strategies, helping them feel less anxious on the day.



Watch for signs of frustration

It is important that your child is in the right frame of mind for revising. If they are struggling over something in particular, it may be best to pause, and keep revision in manageable chunks. Look out for stress and worry over exams that have been and gone. Be sure to ask them how their exam went, and then shift their focus to what's coming up next and encourage them to say in a positive mind-set.

Ask for help

If you are working closely with your child to help them study, but feel the work is beyond your own skill set, it may be worth seeing if there is another family member who can assist. Alternatively there is lots of free support online, offering revision help for a huge range of subjects.

Managing illness in school

What to do when students feel unwell

We are seeing an increase in the number of parents arriving at reception wanting to collect their child because they are unwell, but the school has no knowledge that there is an issue or problem. It would appear that a minority of students are using their own mobile phones to contact home rather than following the school procedures when they feel unwell. This is difficult to manage and often leads to parents needlessly waiting for a long time.

If your child feels unwell in school they should go to the Medical Room. The member of staff in there will then make an assessment. If the illness can be managed with advice, then student will be returned to lesson. If not, a parent/carer will be contacted by the school. Wherever possible, we will try to keep the student in school to reduce the impact on their learning, particularly when a student's attendance is a concern. However, we will always contact home if the student is too ill to remain in school.

If you are concerned about your child being unwell during the school day, please call the school before you come in. The matter can then be discussed with a member of the healthcare team, and if necessary, the student can be collected from lesson.

Please can we also remind all parents about the school policy on mobile phones. Mobile phones are a huge challenge in schools. They can be disruptive to learning and their inappropriate use lead to a whole host of safeguarding issues. We advise students not to bring a phone into school, but if they do, it should be off or away at all times in the school building.

If a student is seen using a mobile it will be confiscated and kept securely in the Main Office. If it is the first confiscation, the student can collect the phone at the end of the school day. For those who have repeated confiscations, the named parent/carer will need to collect it.

Capturing the sunlight

Damola's excellent photography

On a sunny afternoon earlier this term Year 9 student Damola Pitan captured some excellent pictures of the sunset and the effect of the setting sun on the school building. Great work Damola!



Memories are made of this

January 2020 - Students take in a world of learning

Exercises in construction techniques, working out compass directions across a map of the UK, and discovering landmarks around the city centre of Liverpool - these were amongst the tasks set for Geography students as we welcomed staff from North West construction firm Wilmott Dixon into school.

The day enabled students to start to think about career options, whether those offered by Willmott Dixon or in the wider world of work. Looking at how rare species are protected linked to how this is necessary in construction. A real life project led by Willmott Dixon, around the demolition and rebuild of a fire-damaged car park in Liverpool helped students understand the challenges faced when carrying this out in a densely built-up area.



January 2018 - Voices in unison

Students' voices from four schools came together for a wonderful performance of Gospel music.



To prepare for the event, the singers worked with Tyndale and Kadria Thomas, from Voice Assembly, to learn the techniques of Gospel, as well as four songs for performance. A full day workshop put all the students through their paces.

For the concert itself Oldham-based Soul Inspiration Gospel Choir and the Pennine Care NHS Trust Choir joined the student singers from Crompton House, Co-op Academy Failsworth, and Newman College.

January 2016 - Twist and Pulse inspire dance decisions

Students thinking of choosing Dance as an option at GCSE had an encouraging experience with the visit of *Britain's Got Talent* stars, Twist & Pulse.

The London-based duo worked with Year 8 students, introducing them to Street Dance and developing a routine.

Twist (Ashley Glazebrook) and Pulse (Glen Murphy) are graduates and formerly teachers at the BRIT School of Performing Arts. They were runners up in the 2010 series of *Britain's Got Talent* which has led to a professional career in dance.

