



# Fairholme Focus

## Aspiring to Success

This has been a long and very successful Autumn term. It has been successful in sport with the girls bringing home the netball plate from the King's tournament; successful in drama with the magnificent performance of Macbeth at the Theatr Colwyn and the recent, much ad-

mired, 'Hey Ewe'; successful in music with the splendid contribution of our singers to the St. Asaph street party, the Lovelight Concert and the Carol Service; above all, it has been successful academically with 12 pupils passing the 11+ examination for the Wirral Grammar

schools this year – four of them with an amazing 100% score! All these successes have come about due to hard work by our pupils, our staff and our parents. As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2015, we would like to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

## Hey Ewe!

This year's nativity play, 'Hey Ewe!' by Antony Copus, told the traditional Christmas story as seen through the eyes of a particularly excitable and curious sheep – Navneet. While getting under the shepherds' feet and asking too many questions, one night he sees some extraordinary events unfold. Some very confident sheep performances and excellent narration provided by Sahil and Poppy contributed to an accomplished and most enjoyable show given by all. DVD's are still available to order if you have missed out on this. We are looking forward to seeing much of this emerging talent put to use in our winter drama workshop and forthcoming Easter production of 'Alice through the Looking Glass'. Thank you to Mrs. Gains, Mrs. Turner and all the team for their excellent work with the children.



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## Lovelight



Fairholme choir were delighted to take part in the Lovelight Concert at St. Asaph Cathedral last week and were thrilled by the wonderful evening of festive entertainment.

Rupert Moon, Wales Rugby Legend, hosted proceedings in an evening in which our choir joined 'Flint Male Voice Choir' and three Tenovus 'Sing with Us' choirs. All proceeds from the evening went to the Tenovus charity which raises vital funds for cancer research, Mobile Cancer Support Units and the Tenovus Cancer Support Line.

We were very pleased to be able to support this worthwhile charity event, to be part of such an enjoyable evening and to see the talent and enthusiasm of all our singers. Thanks to all who attended and to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Cameron for their tireless support in preparation.

### Special points of interest:

- Winter Drama Workshop – come and join the fun, sign up now
- Read about our Christmas Jumper Day and Mrs. Turner's sponsored Birthday Mastermind
- Flexi-Wire Bicycles in Form VI – Pg 4
- Trip to Moreton Hall – Pg 4



## Party in the Yard

We were delighted, once again, to join with the local community for the street party – Party in the Yard – this year. We took a large number of enthusiastic singers to perform, probably the best turn out ever! Everyone was in excellent voice and we all very much enjoyed the first of our many Christmas activities. Thanks to all for coming along and supporting this event and thanks to Mrs. Sanders for her subtle but effective bribery of hot dogs and hot chocolate before the event started!

## Christmas Boxes

Thank you everyone who supported our shoebox appeal for Operation Christmas Child this year. The operation collects small boxes filled with everything from toy cars to toothbrushes and coloured pencils and sends them to children around the world, much less fortunate than ourselves. We managed to send 64 boxes this year and hope that our shoeboxes will brighten Christmas for all the children who receive them.

## The Secret at Christmas

Forms II and III took a trip last week to St. George's Hall in Liverpool to discover the 'Secret at Christmas'. The storyline for the tour centred around some mad scientists – led by Professor U. Watt – who had decided to run a big experiment to try to discover the essence of Christmas. They needed some research assistants to help them, and Forms II and III were very willing to help. As well as the mad scientists, the cast included Prince Charming, Cinderella, her Ugly Sisters, elves and Christmas shoppers, and the tour included a pantomime

scene and a family dinner. During the course of the trip the children looked at different parts of the history of Christmas – why we have Christmas trees, why we sing carols and when and why the tradition of sending Christmas cards began. By the end of the trail, after various scientific experiments had been carried out, we had discovered the true Christmas secret! A great time was had by all, especially digging into the Christmas lunch boxes at the café!

## Rock 'n' Roll Panto

Forms IV to VII enjoyed another trip to Theatr Clwyd this week to see the 'Rock 'n' Roll' Panto. This year we were treated to 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This fast and furious tale told of Jack's adventures and included all the rousing golden oldie hits such as 'Fire', 'Reach Out', 'We Will Rock You' and 'Hit the Road Jack'. A loud and very entertaining afternoon for all!



## Plays in Production

We were delighted to hear that Form VII's production of 'Macbeth' last half term was awarded a Distinction in the Grade 2 Trinity College 'Plays in Production' certification. The examiner made some fantastic comments on the full range of skills including group dynamic, individual performances, staging, design and technical elements, summed up in his conclusion – 'The school managed to tell the story of Macbeth in a fluent and engaging

manner to the audience. The cues were energetically realised and the whole cast showed some excellent confidence.' Well done, once again, to all those who took part.





This term we held our non-uniform day in support of 'Save The Children'. Children wore their own clothes and sported an excellent range of Christmas jumpers. During assembly, Mrs. Turner sat in the Mastermind chair and, complete with special effects, was subjected to two rounds of quick-fire sponsored birthday questions from children and staff. Later

in the day, marvellous Christmas lunch of roast turkey and all the trimmings was enjoyed immensely by all. Dancing Santa once again made one of his almost legendary appearances. Thank you to Mrs. Sanders and the kitchen staff for all their hard work! Thank you also everyone for supporting this exciting Christmas charity event.

## River Trip

As part of their geography studies, Form IV took a trip to the River Elwy this half term. Accompanied by Mrs. Evans, Mr. Rees, Mr. Perkins, Trix and Shadow, Form IV carried out experiments to measure the speed of the river flow, studied the flood plain and erosion of the river bank and observed water levels. On the way back, the children went to look at the War Memorial and the HM Stanley obelisk to enhance their local history studies. They enjoyed a brief visit to the riverside playground before returning to school.

## We Will Remember Them

There was a splendid turnout at St. Asaph Cathedral for the Remembrance Day service. The congregation included many Fairholme parents and children. After the service, the Dean led a procession down to the war memorial. A two minute silence was held at 11am, after which wreaths were laid at the cenotaph by various community organisations. Our School Captain, Head Boy and Girl led the representatives from the School Council up to the memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of Fairholme. It is a privilege for us to be part of this important demonstration of respect and gratitude for those who gave 'their today for our tomorrow'.

We further marked the occasion with an Armistice Day Assembly, where members of Form VII helped us to revive some of the World War I songs from our summer Centenary celebration. We will remember them.



## Christmas in KG

All the children have been busy 'elves' taking part in exciting Christmas craft activities this term. From spotty crackers and colourful baubles to snowmen feet and hand-winged angels, Kindergarten have got into the festive spirit. For the big night this year, it's not just Father Christmas who will be looked after with sherry and mince pies – each child has made some special reindeer food to sprinkle on their lawn!



## Trip to Technquest

Form I spent an instructive day at Technquest, Wrexham, last week. The children enjoyed exploring the many hands-on scientific exhibits and after some experimentation, managed to crack the locked gate and pirate treasure chest challenges. The highlight of the trip was watching the show, "The Selfish Elf", in the Technquest theatre. The Selfish Elf did not want to help Father Christmas prepare for Christmas Day. Father Christmas had caught a cold and Mrs. Christmas, helped by the children and Mr. Rees, had to run the workshop and use science to get all the jobs done!



## Café Français

Form III's classroom was transformed into 'Le Café Français' as part of their Geography topic – Going to France. On the menu, amongst other things, were croissants, pain au chocolat, baguette with ham and French cheese and finally some crêpes and hot chocolate, which the class enjoyed in the gazebo outside.



## Christmas Party

As the end of term approached, excitement was at fever pitch! Never more so than on Christmas Party day when children from KG to Form III came to school in party clothes ready to meet Santa Claus, eat party food and play party games.

## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 15 December to Friday 19 December, 9am– 4pm	Form II upwards	Fairholme Drama Workshop - Sign up now!
Monday 12 January – Friday 16 January	Form III upwards	Revision Week
Monday 19 January – Friday 23 January	Form III – VI	Exam Week
<b>Saturday 7 March 10am – 3pm</b>	<b>Forms VI &amp; VII Visitors/Parents</b>	<b>OPEN DAY</b>
Monday 23 March am	ALL	‘Alice through the Looking Glass’ – Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 24 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	‘Alice through the Looking Glass’ Whole School Musical Production
Wednesday 25 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	‘Alice through the Looking Glass’ Whole School Musical Production

### Trip to ‘Cats’

Form VII girls were recently invited to Moreton Hall’s production of ‘Cats’ - an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the poems of T. S. Eliot. It was a lively and entertaining event and an opportunity for girls to see yet another secondary school option to consider for next year.



### Flexi-Wire Bicycles

In Art and Design lessons, Form VI’s topic this term has been ‘Sculpture’ and the focus has been on ‘Line, Shape and Form’. The children have designed and made their own sculptured bicycles using flexi-wire. Carefully, the children coiled and twisted the flexi-wire, in order to sculpt the various shapes of their bicycle parts. On the whole, it was decided that the wheels and the spokes were the most difficult features to construct and the bicycle frame was relatively easy to sculpt.

### Isle of Skye

Early birds arriving at school early on 28 November, nearly St. Andrew’s Day, found themselves scooped into the Scottish Dancing Troop, rehearsed and ready for performance by 9am. As part of our St. Andrew’s Day assembly, which included performance of acrostic poems written and performed by Form IV, our troop demonstrated ‘The Isle of Skye’.



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