



# Fairholme Focus

## Not So Horrible History!

There has been an exciting historical theme to this half-term. Particularly this has related to our preparations to commemorate the World War 1 centenary with the hall frequently resounding to the sound of WW1 songs. Our top two years took a trip to Llandudno to see a Horrible Histories production and Form VII visited the practice trenches at Bodelwyddan Castle.

A little earlier this term, Form IV enjoyed learning about the Romans with a visit to Chester. All this on top of a busy academic timetable and other diversions such as the Ruthin Maths Challenge and Kindergarten's frequent trips to the Post Box! We look forward to the culmination of historical work in our end of year celebration at the Cathedral next half-term.

## Masters in Maths!

Two maths teams from Form VI attended the Mathematics Challenge Day organised by Ruthin School. They took part in a three round challenge; teams started with a number puzzle round, next was orienteering in the grounds and inside the school answering many observational questions, all linked to Mathematics. The final round was held in the sports hall and was a mathematical relay race. Our teams per-

formed extremely well, and for the first time we took the trophy. Form VI Lions team were the overall winners with Form VI Tigers team, just a few points behind taking 3rd place. The children were delighted to receive Amazon vouchers as well as being awarded a laptop for the school! Each of the teams worked extremely well together making us very proud. Well done to all those who took part.



## Welcome to Aeris, Honey and Oliver

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## Writing Success

Form VI tried their hand at the Radio 2 '500 Words' Writing Challenge back in March in which children from all over the country are invited to take part. This year, Ffion was particularly successful with her story, 'Deadly Basilisk', which made it into the top 3500 stories from the massive 118 000 entries. Sadly, Ffion's story did not make it into the top 50 to be read by famous celebrity readers but since the competition is for 13 years and under we all have a few more chances! Happy writing - let's get ready for next year's challenge!

### Special points of interest:

- Barmy Britain—Forms VI and VII enjoy a romp through the Horrible Histories of Britain, see page 2
- Third time lucky — victory in Ruthin Maths Challenge
- Trench Trip and preparation for World War I Commemoration—see page 3
- Junior Maths Challenge— see page 3



## Roman Soldiers

During the summer term Form IV are learning about the Romans. We are very lucky to have the largest Roman fortress in Britain on our doorstep so took the opportunity to visit it alongside the Grosvenor Museum. We kicked off the day with a Roman Workshop. Here the children got to act as archaeologists, see how the Roman baths were decorated and heated, play some Roman games and dress up as servants in the Ro-

man kitchen. After lunch we took a tour to the amphitheatre with a Roman soldier who taught us about his daily life and we practised a few defensive formations with our shields! After returning to the museum we toured the galleries, looking at the Roman exhibits and the children completed work booklets. It was a fantastic introduction to the topic and the children are now eager to learn more about the Romans.

## Dangerpoint

Form VI L pupils took a trip last week to Dangerpoint in Holywell. The day started with a pre-tour quiz on safety issues at which we scored a creditable 56%. We were then taken around a number of "film sets" of domestic and commercial scenarios in which potentially hazardous situations were illustrated. In a busy day we toured a house, visited a farm, sat on a train and in a boat, crossed the road and watched a model town being flooded. At the end of the day we re-sat the test and scored 96%. We are now clearly more aware of how to recognise and avoid dangerous situations.



## Drama Success

Pupils from Forms IV to VII delighted our examiner, Mrs. E Jones, with poems, prose and acting pieces this

week. The children gain much confidence from this examination experience and now can enjoy less formal improvisation work for the remaining speech and drama lessons this term.



## Barmy Britain

Forms VI and VII started this term with a trip to see Horrible Histories live on stage with the brand new show 'Barmy Britain' (with amazing 3D effects). We were treated to a romp through British history, from Boudicca to the First World War, racing through various kings and queens, invasions, executions and diseases. This Horrible History (with the nasty bits left in) gave the children an insight into the Vikings, William Wallace, Elizabeth I, the Gunpowder plot, Charles I, Dick Turpin, Burke and Hare and Queen Victoria - a brilliantly fun piece of educational theatre that kept the children enthralled.



## Christian Aid

We were pleased to join with St. Asphah Cathedral in their fund raising efforts once again during Christian Aid Week. This year the children built bricks to represent the houses our contributions will go towards building as people rebuild their lives in the war-torn South Sudan.



## Even More Maths

Form VI and VII have this month taken part in the Junior Maths Challenge which is a country-wide competition aimed at pupils in Year 8 or below. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour which are all problem type questions ranging from reasonably easy to very difficult. Because marks are not only awarded for correct answers but also taken away for incorrect ones, there is an element of strategy involved as well. We are hoping for at least a few certificates which are awarded for higher scorers.

## Post Office

Kindergarten have been busy writing letters to their families as part of our communication topic. We have looked at our addresses on the envelopes and placed a stamp on ready to post. Each child had the opportunity to go on an outing to the post box to post their letters. Every day the children were excited to see what the Postman would bring!



## At St. Kentigern's

Form IV visited the local parish church, St. Kentigern's, as part of our R.E. topic about churches. While we were there we learnt about the many special objects inside the church and what they are used for. We dressed up as a priest and Deacon and carried out our very own Holy



Communion and baptism service which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

As it was such a lovely, sunny afternoon we ended our visit with an outside activity where the children used paper and crayons to do rubbings of some of the names and dates on the gravestones.

## Airing their Views

During their literacy lessons this term, the pupils in Form VII have participated in Balloon Debates in which they adopted a variety of persona: Jack Sparrow, Winston Churchill, Emmeline Pankhurst and Queen Elizabeth II to name but a



few. They all spoke eloquently in their fight to remain in the hot air balloon and had evidently researched their characters in great detail – even to the point of bringing in props and costumes. Well done to everyone involved.



## Trench Trip

Form VII recently visited Bodelwyddan Castle and Park as part of their history studies – the main aim to see the rare First World War practice trenches. They are an historic, registered monument and are some of the best preserved of their kind in the UK.

The practice trenches existed partly so that the soldiers could learn how to construct them and partly to give them practice in using them. It is unlikely, however, that the relatively benign conditions at Bodelwyddan would prepare the men for the appalling conditions and horrors they would face in France. There, trenches were constructed in waterlogged ground in which men stood for long lengths of time leading to a nasty condition known as 'trench foot'. It is said that rats in the trenches were the size of cats.

The trip provided a fascinating precursor to our World War I centenary celebrations to be held at the end of term.



## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Tuesday 27 May – Wednesday 28 May 10am – 4pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Monday 2 June – Friday 6 June	Forms III – VII	Revision Week
Wednesday 4 June	Form I	Trip to Technquest (Please bring packed lunch)
Monday 9 June – Friday 13 June	Forms III – VII	Summer School Exams
Wednesday 11 June	Form II	Trip to Anglesey Sea Zoo (Please bring packed lunch)
Monday 16 June 3.15–4.30pm	Parents welcome	Uniform Sale by School and Leisure in School Dining Room
Tuesday 17 June	Form VII	Trip to Catalyst Museum (Please bring packed lunch)
Wednesday 18 June	Form III	Trip to Pili Palas (Please bring packed lunch)
Thursday 19 June 1.30pm	ALL Parents Welcome	Sports Day (Reserve Day Friday 20 June)
Monday 23 June	Form V	Trip to Chester Zoo (Please bring packed lunch)
Tuesday 24 June 4.00 – 6.30pm	Parents Welcome (Forms KG–VI)	Parents Evening
Friday 27 June pm	Parents welcome (Ballet students)	Open Ballet Classes II, III – 1.15pm; KG,I – 1.45; IV, V–2.15pm; VI, VII – 3pm
Monday 30 June pm	ALL	Rehearsal at St. Asaph Cathedral Please collect from Cathedral
Thursday 3 July 2.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Summer Celebration & WW1 Com- memoration, St. Asaph Cathedral
Friday 4 July 1.30pm	Form VII & Parents welcome	Form VII Party
Tuesday 23 September pm	Form VII (2014/15)	Shakespeare Schools Festival Workshop
Friday 17 October am and evening	Form VII (2014/15)	Shakespeare Schools Festival Performance, Theatr Colwyn



**Fairholme Preparatory School**  
**Mount Road**  
**St. Asaph**  
**Denbighshire LL17 0DH**

Phone: 01745 583 505  
 Fax: 01745 584 332  
 E-mail: [admin@fairholmeschool.com](mailto:admin@fairholmeschool.com)  
[www.fairholmeschool.com](http://www.fairholmeschool.com)

