

Worden transformed by £1 million grant

Over the summer break Academy@Worden has been transformed and further funding from the government will see additional improvements throughout 2017-18.

The school kitchens have been completely renewed and the dining facilities extended and transformed with new flooring, lighting and furniture. Old-style tables have been replaced with modern, light coloured ones with new bench seating. There is seating for an extra one hundred pupils which was essential due to the increased popularity of Leyland's Premier Academy. Chris Catherall, Headteacher, said, "The school was basically a building site during the holiday but everyone pulled together to ensure school was ready to welcome everyone back after their break. The kitchens are now state-of-the-art and the new dining rooms look fantastic.



The pupils were amazed at the changes we've made and new till points mean that service has speeded up considerably. They love it."

At the other end of the school, an old kitchen is now a plush new conference room which has further enhanced facilities at Worden. The Headteacher added, "The work we have done so far has cost over £300K and was financed by the Education Funding Authority. We have also secured an additional grant, in excess of £600K, to carry out further improvement which should be fully completed by next year." Planned work includes improvements to fire safety with new doors, ceilings and lighting in corridors and several classrooms. There will be new surfaces to the outside courts as well as in the gym and sports hall, providing additional space and resources.

Local church visit

On Monday 4th December, Worden's year 10 GCSE Religious Studies class visited the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles on Leyland Lane in Leyland. Pupils were given a tour of the church by priest-in-charge, Father Dionysius (James Higgs). The tour included explanations of how Orthodox Christians worship, a viewing of the many beautiful icons in the church and a behind the scenes exploration of the altar area where the priest prepares the bread and wine for Holy Communion.

Pupils enjoyed the trip very much and Father Dionysius commented on their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm for learning. The visit will help pupils understand more about different Christian denominations and help them visualise some of the topics they are learning in class.

The pupils are all enthusiastic about visits to other local churches in the future.



Diary Dates

Our calendar is now on the website

22/12/17 - School Closes at 12.10pm

08/01/18 - School re-opens

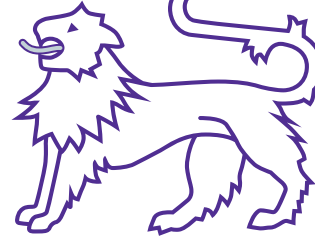
17/01/2018 - Year 10 Parents' Evening

30/01/2018 - Year 11 Runshaw College Interviews

05/02/2018 - Year 11 Exam Week

12/02/2018 - Half-Term Week

ACADEMY@



WORDEN
A school to be proud of

DECEMBER 2017



Christmas is here

Christmas is almost here and I am sure you are looking forward to the holiday, and all that it brings.

This term has been full of excitement, celebration and commitment.

School returned in September to find the promised new dining facilities fully completed and looking clean and inviting.



Early in the term, we celebrated the successes of many of our students at our annual 'Presentation Evening' at the Leyland Hallmark Hotel. It was another outstanding event when students from years 8 to 11 received both individual and team awards for a mixture of academic and sporting excellence. Those with 100% attendance were recognised and our recent leavers, class of 2017, received their GCSE certificates as well as subject and other special prizes from the guest of honour, Dame Sue Ion.

September also saw our European Languages Week take place as well the year 9 trip to Waterpark in the Lake District. Parents were also invited to our Show My Homework and Maths Mastery Evenings.

In October, we hosted the Leyland Health Mela and our two geography field trips and Manchester art trip also took place prior to the half-term break. The year 7 'Blast Off' event on 3rd October helped to inspire our new intake and give them an insight into what is expected of them when they move onto high school. The year 11 Careers Fair took place in November with presentation assemblies for all years taking place in mid-December.

As you will see, in this edition, we have been raising money for several charities already this academic year. These include: Macmillan Coffee Morning Cake Sales, Children in Need Day, Christmas Jumper Day and the latest event was

our Santa Dash which raises money in support of St Catherine's Hospice, every year.

Our links with Runshaw College have been as strong as ever this term with visits focussing on business ethics, 3D design, computing and ICT, textiles, surprising science, Shakespeare, new approaches to drawing and The Runshaw Business Challenge for year 10 pupils.

I am also looking forward to this year's Christmas show, Annie, which is a fantastic production of this classic.

The New Year will see the launch of the 'Duke of Edinburgh' Silver Award which builds on the Bronze Award that has been running at Worden since 2014.

Thank you for taking the time to read 'News@Worden' and we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Santa Dash

The Santa Dash turned out to be, as usual, a fantastic event where pupils did their absolute best to raise awareness of the very worthy charitable cause, St Catherine's Hospice, situated on the outskirts of Leyland. All year groups were involved and everyone who participated donned their Santa suits, expertly running, jumping, hopping and walking around the playing field in a bid to raise sponsorship for this all-important charity. We are hoping to raise £5,000 this year, and more, if at all possible. As always, St Catherine's is very appreciative of all that we do.

Well done to Worden's Top Fundraiser!

Jamie Brown in Year 7 and his brother Harry from Moss Side Primary school have raised over £2000 running a Santa Dash for St Catherine's Hospice. His dad has been receiving support from St Catherine's at home following a diagnosis of pancreatic and liver cancer.

Both Jamie's parent and everyone at Worden are extremely proud of his achievement!



TRIPS

Trafford Centre

Shop till you drop! Years 9-11 enjoyed a festive shopping spree at the Trafford Centre on the 14th December.

Charter Theatre

Years 7 & 8 had the opportunity to participate in our end of term reward trip to see 'Aladdin' at the Charter Theatre in Preston on Thursday 14th December 2017.

'A Christmas Carol' Theatre trip

Getting into the festive mood! Mrs Gardner has organised a trip for 35 pupils to see 'A Christmas Carol' at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton on the 18th December. This performance will definitely assist in the revision process given that there is so much to learn!

Annie Production – Curtains up!

This year's Xmas performance takes place on the 20th/21st December. Local primary schools were also invited in on the 19th December to see a matinee performance.

Antigone

Year 10 GCSE students saw ANTIGONE at the Charter Theatre last month. The adapted play by Actors of Dionysus had our students spellbound. We are incredibly privileged to be welcoming the director of AOD to Worden next year for a day of workshops.



Shining Stars of Worden

Janet Windle and Pauline Fawcett were both recognised for the valuable contribution they make, on a daily basis, to support youngsters who need that extra care at Academy@Worden.

This national event is now in its sixth year and both teaching assistants were awarded their certificates naming them Teaching Assistant of the Year 2017.

Miss Fawcett was nominated for going the extra mile, being the first to offer her help and ensuring pupils gain the most they can from their educational experience at school. She is the specialist maths teaching assistant and regularly works on a one-to-one basis with students to give them the targeted support they need.

Miss Windle was nominated for having a fantastic work ethic. She gives up lunchtimes, breaks and

after school to help pupils, run clubs and assists with a range of activities. Miss Windle is also a Leader on the Duke of Edinburgh Award, training pupils to use compasses, map read, cook outdoors and how to pitch a tent.

Chris Catherall, Headteacher, commented, "The Learning Support department work really hard to help our youngsters with additional needs. Both of the winners go out of their way to ensure the pupils they help get the specialist input they require. I would like to thank them both for everything they do and congratulate them on their awards. They are part of a fantastic team."



SPORTING EVENTS

Going the distance...

October saw Brett McGovern win the annual Year 7 boys cross country hosted by Hutton Grammar School. Worden's first podium place at the event in over 20 years! Brett fought off competition from more than 110 year 7 pupils to finish first and take top of the podium, an exceptional achievement. Ruby Platt and Jake Hartley also placed in the top ten.



Year 7 Blastoff

October 2017 saw year 7 pupils at Academy@Worden truly blast off.

One hundred and twenty pupils, in year 7, had a fabulous day, which was designed to help them develop effective study habits, become motivated successful learners and enable them to learn about their amazing brains! They had several sessions working alone and in teams in a race to win a host of different prizes.

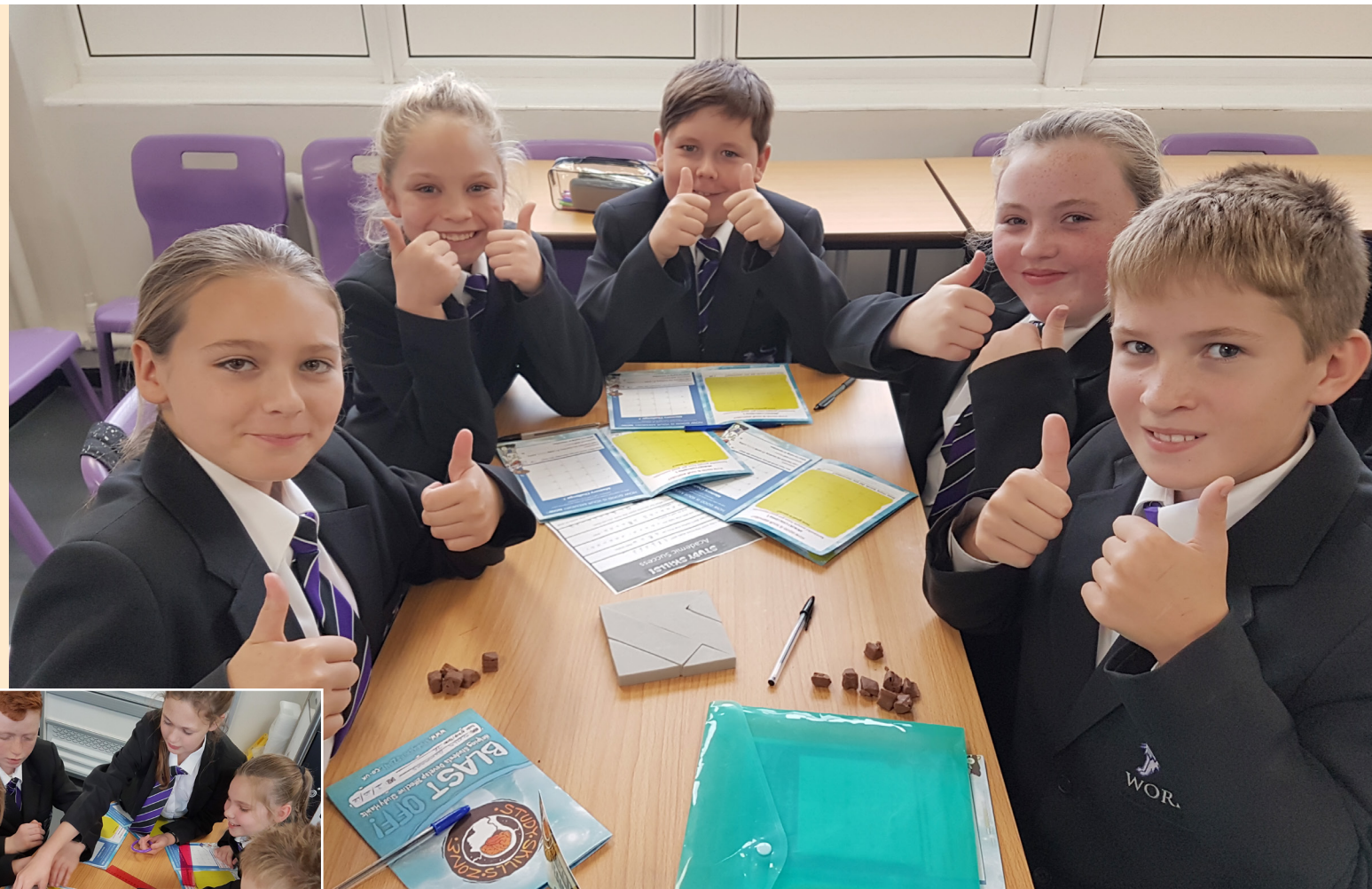
Here are some of the participants' comments:

I thought that the blast off day was great. We all got split up into teams and got to know and meet new people. We found out lots about the brain; we won prizes and we even got to demonstrate physically what happens in our brains' - Jamie Forshaw (Year 7)

The day was helpful as it taught us about the brain and how we can help to make our brains function. It also taught us about how our brain connects paths and that's how we learn things...' - Aaron Armson (Year 7)

I think the blast off day was really good because we did loads of different things as an alternative way of learning. The activities that we did were really fun and I would love to do them again...' - Alecia Clayton (Year 7)

Mr Blackledge, Assistant Headteacher, said "Creating motivated and successful learners is the main aim of the 'Blast Off' programme. It really supports the school's ambition and continual drive for improvement within teaching and learning. It is essential that our students have the skills and techniques to enable them to feel confident when revising or completing work outside of the classroom...".



Vaulting to success

This half-term Worden pupils took part in the North West Gymnastics Competition held at Walton-le-Dale High School. Pupils performed on vault and floor and produced some outstanding performances. Medal winners were:

Year 8; Faye Pilkington, Ashleigh Molloy, Teighan Innes

Year 9; Caitlin Smith, Chloe Nicholls

Year 11; Ellie Brooks

