



Written & Produced by the students of The Hollins Technology College

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National Recognition for Exceptional Achievement



Here at The Hollins Technology College we have been identified as one of the best performing schools in the entire country and have now been officially recognised as a 'High Performing Specialist School'. This achievement comes thanks to last year's GCSE results, which exceeded all targets and expectations. 32% of our students were expected to achieve 5 A*-C grades (including English and mathematics) but we actually achieved 52% - a huge 20% above prediction. The national average for five or more A*-C grades is 46%, which also puts us well above the national average. This amazing achievement has placed us in joint 29th in the Specials Schools and Academies Trust's list of the highest 56 schools nationally. The Hollins Technology College was the only school out of the whole of Lancashire to be included in the list!

This success comes after we were named second most improved school in the country for 2006. This string of successes means that we have met the Department for Children, Schools and Families criteria for a High Performing Specialist School and that The Hollins can apply for a second specialism to go alongside our Technology College status.

A huge 'congratulations' to staff and pupils for this amazing achievement! Well done everyone!



www.thehollins.com

We have worked very hard, particularly over the last 6 months or so, to develop our school website and make it reflect what is actually happening in school. We hope this will increase its usefulness to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community and make it a comprehensive source of information about the school, available 24/7.

It is updated on a daily basis and provides a wide range of information, including current news, vacancies and key dates like start/end of term, parents' evenings etc. We hope you get chance to have a look at the website and keep doing so on a regular basis, to see what's going on in school and particularly if there is some information you require.

We would welcome any comments about our website and especially suggestions for improvement. Please contact our Learning Resource Centre and Website Manager, Gill Ainsworth, either by phone or email.

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Year 11 Leavers

After weeks of hard work and revision the GCSEs are over. Year 11 now have a nail-biting wait as the eagerly awaited results will be revealed on Thursday 21st August. We wish them every success in the future and hope they have enjoyed their time here at the Hollins!

Joseph Delaney

On the 5th June some very lucky pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 went to visit the best-selling author Joseph Delaney at Moorhead Sports College.

It was a great day out, which was a lot of fun. Pupils from other schools were also there so it was a good opportunity for everyone to meet different people and make new friends.

First, the author was introduced and then he told everyone about the books he had written. Joseph Delaney has written a series of books called "The Wardstone Chronicles" and coincidentally the day of the visit was the publication day of the fifth book of the series. The new book is called "The Spook's Mistake".

Joseph Delaney read out snippets of the draft of his sixth book (being careful not to give too much

away). The author has already completed this eagerly awaited piece (talk about being organised!), which is going to be published next year. At the end there was a "Question and Answer" session, giving the pupils a chance to enquire about story writing and find out more about his books.

Overall, the day was a huge success and everybody was dying to read the latest book - some even started on the minibus on the way back.

"It was really enjoyable and best of all we got signed copies!" said Mrs Ainsworth. Because this day was such a success, the English department have organised another visit to the Accrington Library but this time to see the author Rosie Rushton.

For more information about this visit and other activities around school visit the school website.

Body World's Exhibition

On Thursday 15th May, three Year 8 and seven Year 9 pupils, went to Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry where they went to an exhibition called the Body World's.

The Body World's exhibition was fantastic yet a bit spooky at the same time! The exhibition is of work performed by professor Gunther von Hagens (the man who did the first ever live autopsy on Channel 4). The exhibits were the anatomy of real people and animals, each of which had given permission to the professor to use their bodies before they died! The professor used a technique called plastination that preserved all the muscles, organs and blood vessels of all the donors, so it was as if you were looking at the inside of people and animals without their skin!

Faith Partnership Debate

The Accrington Faith Partnership held a 'Celebration of Faith Evening' at Accrington Town Hall on Friday the 13th of June. The evening was a chance for all faiths in Accrington to come together and included Sikh Dancers, a Gaelic blessing, a Hindu Sari demonstration and a Christian Puppet show.

The main event of the evening was a series of debates on issues of faith including four Accrington Secondary Schools. The first round was The Hollins v Mount Carmel and the topic was 'Faith schools should be allowed' with Hollins being opposed to the motion. The debating team of Danny Savage, Jordan Reddaway, Bethany Pilling, Bethany Duckett and Keira Murgatroyd put up brilliant arguments about why faith schools should be banned including the idea of community cohesion and that the Church should give money to all schools, not just the ones for Christians.

However, the pro faith school debate won and eventually went on to win the final against St. Christopher's! The evening was the first time any of the pupils had taken part in a debate and they were a credit to themselves and the school for getting up in public in front of hundreds of people and putting their points across so eloquently. The team won £50 and each got a certificate.

We are hoping to continue the inter-school debating next year by having each school involved host a debate after school and giving Hollins pupils the chance to demonstrate their debating skills on topics from the RE curriculum including capital punishment, war, pacifism, animal rights, the environment and medical ethics to name a few!

'Anne Frank & You'

A group of Year 9 pupils have been on a wonderful trip to Blackburn Cathedral to see the 'Anne Frank & You' exhibition.

It was an emotional and moving experience for all who visited and experienced the exhibition; it gave details on Anne Frank's life and her moving journey through WW2. The exhibition was split into two different parts; one was about Anne Frank and the other was a campaign to stop things like racial abuse and bullying.



The first part was about Anne's life and consisted of different sections. There was an interactive touch screen simulator on the computer to show where Anne lived and who she lived with. Also there was a display about Muslims who saved Jews during the war. There was also a slide show on all the Holocausts that have happened since the war and there were activities that you could take part in, for example writing down a prayer or a comment on war and Anne's life. There was also a film about Anne's life with some very graphic and disturbing pictures that really affected those who saw it.

The second part focuses more on modern issues around the world. It had lots of screens with people telling their story which was very interesting and there was also a wall covered with writing about issues including genocide, bullying, child abuse and other topics. There was also a little shop where you could buy Anne Frank books, comics and other things.

Overall it was a really good trip, it really brought to life the Anne Frank story and the horrors that happened during WW2.



Young Performer of the Year 2008!

On the 25th June 2008, The Hollins held its first ever annual 'Young Performer of the Year'. This was a great event, where multi-talented students vied to be crowned 'The Young Performer of the Year 2008.' Out of the 15 acts which auditioned, 9 acts were successful and made it through to the grand final. After watching these acts the three judges, Mrs Keenan, Mrs Holden and Ms Begum, finally made their decision: in third place was our very own Pop Idol winner Josie Woods, in second place was Lee Caldecott and Natalie Oldham, who performed a song which Lee had written himself! and in first place was the super-talented guitarist, Tom Coulson, who wowed the crowd with his musical ability. On behalf of all the staff and pupils we congratulate everyone who entered and look forward to next year!

Summer School



Every year, in the first week of the summer term, The Hollins opens its doors to our prospective new pupils from Years 5 and 6 from our neighbouring primary schools. Pupils who attend are able to take part in a weeklong event now known as *The Hollins Technology College Summer School*.

The aim of the Summer School is to allow our future students to gain a familiarity with our school and some of our members of staff so they feel more confident when September comes. Also, with a bit of luck they may make new friends at the Summer School, which helps to smooth their transition even further.



This year's Summer School has an Olympic theme, and although there has been some negative press about the Olympics of late, The Hollins is going to use this famous event to promote teamwork and the idea of trying to achieve one's personal best. The motto of The Hollins is "Strive to Succeed" and I can think of no other event which captures this motto so well.

Year Nine Enterprise Day



Year 9 Enterprise Day is taking place on the 18th of July. Pupils will be raising

money for charity by providing activities and games for the rest of the pupils in the school hall. The whole of year nine will be involved, along with Miss Furey, Mr Cocker and Miss Brown.

All money raised will be donated to the Bethany Project, a charity for children in Africa, to provide money for schools and education. Last year, Year 9 raised over £400, and this year we hope to raise even more for this worthy cause.

SCIENCE FAIR

The Hollins was involved in a science fair just before the half term at St. Christopher's. This is what it was all about...



What actually happened at the fair?

Several secondary schools from the area took pupils from Year 9 and they had to create a science project. The variety of different work was vast and ours was certainly one of the best. What makes our achievement more pleasing is that our pupils were only Year 8!

Our pupils designed and created their own website to explain the structure and function of the heart, and not content on just displaying this website to the judges, they actually talked the judges into letting them carry out their own heart dissection, under their supervision!

Who was involved?

Elliot Scholes, Alan Holliday, Lance Muir

Was it a success?

Absolutely! We may not have been the winners but we were a very popular stall and the fans' favourite I think!

How long was it on for?

The fair ran for just 2 hours, but the pupils involved had put in many, many hours of work themselves. Well done to all involved.

Science is Outside of School

Chemistry Trip to Manchester University

On the 17th of June 11 children from Year 9 were invited to Manchester University where they took part in many chemistry-based activities.

The day began with a presentation by a chemical engineer. First of all she explained about what the job involved and how important chemical engineers are to the world around us, for example, they are responsible for a wide range of things from the development of medicines to the production of cakes on an industrial scale. The talk ended with some information about what qualifications you would need to do chemical engineering at university. The second part of the day involved us building some of the very important protein molecules that we find in our bodies, an example was acetylcholine, which is used to send nerve signals.

After lunch we performed a number of tests on a variety of cleaning products (some of which are actually used around school) to find out if they were acids or alkalis. Some of them were very strong acids and alkalis so we had to wear safety goggles and special gloves.

The day ended with a really exciting presentation that involved lots of cool experiments, for example, making a giant glow stick, blowing up a balloon full of hydrogen and setting fire to the table!!

At the end of the event we all received some gifts from the people who organised the event, including glow sticks and many other of the things that everyone enjoyed.



Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Sports Competition

It's coming soon!

We have won this competition for 14 consecutive years and our aim is to make it 15. Can The Hollins continue to be the reigning champions?

The competition is split into two parts, field and track. We are very good at field we usually come in 1st and 2nd, but are not quite as confident in the track events.

Our hope is to continue to dominate the field events and try to improve our weaker areas, so that we can retain our crown of overall champions. Good luck to all who are representing The Hollins! Let's do it again!

Stop Press: unfortunately due to atrocious weather the event was cancelled and we are hoping this will be arranged at a later date

New P.E Staff

Due to the departure of Mrs. Hughes and Miss. Cooper from the P.E department at the end of this school year, two new teachers will be joining the department.

Both Miss Cooper and Mrs Hughes have had such an influence on our sporting achievements that it is quite difficult to let them go!

We are sure however, that Miss Pilkington and Mrs Mason (an ex pupil) will have the same impact on our athletes, and can work well with Mr Vizzard and Mr Hunter to ensure that The Hollins remains one of the highest achieving schools in sport and athletics in the area.

A warm welcome to both Mrs Mason and Miss Pilkington!

Tower Wood Trip

A Year 9 'outdoor adventure' trip to Tower Wood took place in May to celebrate the hard work and commitment that the pupils had put into their SATS examinations. A group of 34 pupils and 5 members of staff were involved in a range of activities such as kayaking, tree abseiling, rock climbing, dinghy sailing and more!

They were given a warm welcome on their arrival and put to the test instantly with a range of team-building and assault course activities. That alone tested the pupils to their limits!

Left in charge of Tower Wood's main house in the evening, our pupils and staff were left to their own devices. They were involved in Male v Female football matches, team challenges, a successful BBQ (eventually!) and campfire games.

A superb week where, no matter how brave or confident, all took part in the challenging activities with a scream and a smile! (The pupils did well too!)



Goodbye Miss Cooper

Miss Cooper is retiring this summer after working at The Hollins for an incredible 37 years, teaching students, their parents and even their grandparents! She will be missed by everyone at the school and we all wish her well for the future.

HOW HAS IT BEEN WORKING AT THE HOLLINS?

It has been a very good experience, with a lot of fun and hard work. It's a great school because of the fantastic pupils and staff. There have been a lot of changes in my 37 years here.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST AND WORST PART OF WORKING HERE?

The best part of working here is having great playing fields and the views across the hills are fantastic. I also love meeting the new pupils.

The worst part of working at The Hollins is that there is no sports hall. When I first arrived I was told the sports hall would be the first thing to be built, but there have been around 5 other buildings built but still no sports hall...yet!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE NEW TEACHERS?

They should enjoy it and be firm, but fair. It is important to give all pupils a chance to show off their talents ...there is so much of it at The Hollins.

Mosque Visit

Recently an educational visit was arranged by the 'Accrington Faith Partnership' group to Nelson mosque for the whole of Year 8. The children got a tour around the Islamic place of worship, learnt a little about the religion and were given a demonstration of the 'Adhan'- the Islamic call to prayer. Also, they had a chance to ask members of the 'Faith Partnership' questions. There was a Buddhist, a Muslim and a Christian member of the Partnership, answering all the children's questions about faith and religion.