

Levenshulme LIFE

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SUMMER 2019

NEWS • REVIEWS • FACULTIES • TRIPS • PERFORMANCE • SUCCESS

In this issue...

OUR DREAM DAY

UP FOR DEBATE

CAREERS NEWS

STEM EVENTS

and much more...



**Class
of
2019**

Dedicated to achieving
DREAMS



PARKS

KELLER

SEACOLE

NIGHTINGALE



Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of our school magazine. One of the things that I love about the magazine is that it shows how much more there is to school life than people sometimes realise. Our students have, of course, been working extremely hard - and Year 11 have shown great commitment and maturity throughout the exam season – but they have also been throwing themselves into their wider learning and enrichment opportunities. Student leaders play a huge part in these activities in partnership with our wonderful staff. I am particularly excited that we have been able to take every Year 7 student on a walking tour of the city centre as part of their 'Dream Day' curriculum – a massive undertaking for the team but a great experience for everyone.

Dr J MacKinnon Ph.D.

Academy Headteacher and Executive Headteacher

DAZZLING PERFORMANCE

Throughout the last half term our Drama troupe have been creating a fresh and dynamic piece of theatre to be performed at HOME Theatre in Manchester. The girls were selected for this project out of a wide application of schools, which is a true testament to their sheer talent and creativity. The piece is titled 'Remain' and is a powerful piece devised entirely by the students.



CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

On 13th & 14th February 2019 our Levenshulme girls wowed sell out audiences with their production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

From the quirky Willy Wonka to the innocent and kind Charlie, our girls brought to life the characters that we can know and love so well through dance, singing and fabulous acting!

We would like to say a huge thank you once again to our fantastic students who worked so hard and committed hours of rehearsal time to bring this story to life in our own special Levenshulme style.

What will be next?? Keep your eyes open for Levenshulme's next wonderful production.

OUR DREAM DAY!

DREAM Day walking tour of Manchester city centre

To end the year on a high, and to make sure we continue to show our students the wonderful opportunities our city offers them, we took the whole of Year 7 on a train to Manchester to see the sights. A tour around buildings and spaces of historical and cultural importance was enjoyed by the whole year group, and we hope that many will take their families along with them to revisit some places over the summer or in the future.

The girls did very well with what was a long walk, and as the pictures show, a lot of fun was had too. We are already planning the trip for next year, using the girls' feedback to help improve it further. Thanks go to all the staff who helped make this happen, and we will finish with a quote from one of the students: *"This trip opened our eyes to a whole new world!"*



EPR DREAM DAY TRIP

Over the Easter term Year 7 students took part in the EPR Experience Carousel, where pupils got to take part in multiple activities that developed their understanding of spirituality, ethics, local charities, and mindfulness. Lush Cosmetics came in to teach the pupils about ethical buying and campaigns, and of course it wouldn't have been a proper visit without a bit of product making. The PE department graciously offered to host a soothing meditation and yoga session that had the pupils learning fantastic mindfulness techniques. Mr Haydn-Slater and Mrs Clarke concluded the carousel with an immersive drama experience that had students develop their understanding of spirituality through the learning of the Chipko (tree hugging) people. The event was a true success and a big part of that was due to the Year 7's open mindedness and engagement!



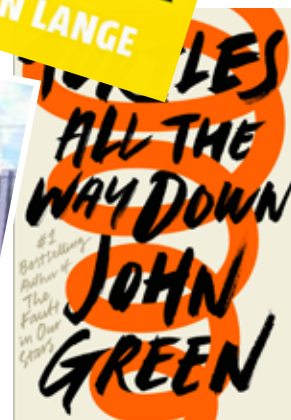
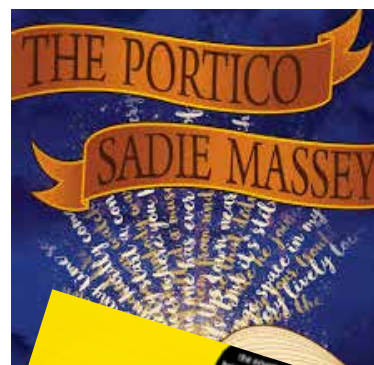
WOMEN WHO WANDER

Four creative writing students attended a very special event in Liverpool on International Women's Day. Their poems had been selected to be included in Community Rail Lancashire's 'Women Who Wander' pamphlet, which focuses on women's roles in the rail industry. We were very proud all these pupils, especially Muskan from Year 8, whose poem, written from the perspective of a female train driver, beat entries from across the North West region to win the overall prize. During the exciting celebration event in the Museum of Liverpool, students read out their work, watched a dazzling dance performance, ate Women Who Wander cupcakes, and were presented with their well-deserved prizes. Pictured is Muskan receiving her trophy from Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Christine Banks, who personally told Muskan how much she loved her poem.



PORTICO WINNERS TO BE PUBLISHED

Levenshulme students are celebrating great achievements in a prestigious reading and writing competition. The Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers are run by The Portico Library, a grand, 200-year-old building full of historical books, located in Manchester City Centre. Each year, hundreds of school children from across Greater Manchester compete to win these sought-after awards. For the reading award, pupils were asked to submit a review of their favourite book. Safiya in Year 9 received a special commendation for her thoughtful review of *Butter* by Erin Lange, whilst Muskan in Year 8 won a reading award for her eloquent review of John Green's *Turtles All the Way Down*. For the writing competition, students were asked to submit a story on the theme of their city. Two Year 11 students are proud winners: Aisha with *Gold Dust* and Thahera with *Summer Nights in Longsight*. Both stories were described as 'extremely impressive' by the judges and will appear alongside Muskan's review in *Time Travellers* and the *Crystal Dome*, a special book published by Seven Arches Publishing in partnership with The Portico. Our writers are looking forward to receiving their prizes, including book tokens and author-led writing workshops for our school, at a celebration event inside The Portico Library.



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POSITIVITY IS THE KEY

Every year, the summer term is always the busiest when Year 11 are sitting their GCSE exams. We are extremely proud of how well class of 2019 conducted themselves in preparation for their GCSE Maths. Our staff worked tirelessly to ensure every pupil had the best chance to achieve their potential. Additionally, all KS3 and Year 10 classes are sitting their end of year exams. This is a good chance for them to experience exam conditions. Our maths team has been encouraging a variety of revision techniques as well as highlighting the importance of staying hydrated and adopting healthy eating habits. Eating the right food can significantly improve energy levels, concentration and brain power. Also, the importance of keeping positive mind-set is an important part to succeed. T-shirts with key formulae were worn by each member of staff to boost motivation and last minute skills during breakfast sessions.



EASTER EGG HUNT

This year, maths organised an Easter egg hunt which proved to be very popular amongst all year groups. We had an excellent turnaround with pupils of different ability. The questions were designed so that everyone could access it as well as an aspect of challenge was built in. Pupils showed great enthusiasm, dedication and resilience throughout the week. The competition was fierce as the winning team won by just two minutes!



SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club opened to all Year 7 students. Science Leaders, under expert guidance of Miss Wilkinson and Miss Davies, would plan each week's activities and deliver. I'm sure it won't come as a surprise to learn that 'Slime week' was over-subscribed by many and thoroughly enjoyed by all who got there early. We built super strong bridges and buildings, using only spaghetti and marshmallows, we also made rocket cars that we raced down the corridors. As the Christmas season began, we got festive, making fake snowmen and snow balls, we also made festive glittery slime! We look forward to starting up science club next year, with many more crazy experiments, so if you are a budding scientist, watch out for more opportunities.

SCIENCE LEADERS

In March, Science leaders hosted an amazing knock-out competition – "So you want to be a doctor?" The students were first put through a knowledge Kahoot round, testing their knowledge of the human body, diseases and their ability to make ethical choices. Four successful pairs made it through to the final round testing their surgical skills. They had to dissect a heart, and follow a series of diagrams to label the parts of the heart with small flags. Students from all year levels showed amazing positivity, creativity and problem solving skills – and their results were excellent. The decision between 1st and 2nd place was tough but year 11s from Seacole were victorious. Well done Doctors!

SCIENCE LEADS THE WAY!

With around 100 applications for Science Leaders this year, we have had two groups of girls to lead us through the amazing activities put on by the Science department this year.

As soon as the Leaders were chosen, their first job was to help out at open evening for prospective students. Always fun to get out the noisy, smelly, whizz-bang experiments that family members old and young can all enjoy.

Over the past few weeks, the new group of Science leaders are working on a new poster for the Science Corridor based around Who or What has inspired their love and passion for Science. The Science teachers are very excited to see it, sometime before the summer holidays! There's also a STEM event in July, but you'll have to wait for the next issue to find out about these.

UP FOR DEBATE!

On Tuesday April 2nd six students took part in an exciting regional debate competition in York. Bright eyed and eager for a full day of debate, the team departed at 7am to reach York in time for the competition. Each team of three prepared speeches for the motion "This House would allow performance enhancing drugs to be used in professional sports". Without knowing which side they would be arguing provided an added challenge. Both teams took this in their stride and represented LHS superbly by winning each debate.

The second half of the day pushed each team to think on their feet and prepare for an impromptu debate on either "The House believes that coursework is a better form of assessment" or "This House would enforce a curfew on under 16s". Again, each team represented LHS with the solidarity, determination and resilience that underpins our school's culture. They kept a confident and calm approach under such time pressures and whilst they did not win this round, they gained a lot of invaluable feedback. Daniella commented "The experience was amazing, meeting new people and boosting my confidence." Rida explained "the anticipation and dedication everyone showed was a great boost in motivation." Hannah felt the experience "helped reveal her competitive side". Saniyyah Ali was presented with an award as one of the star speakers of the day; multiple teachers praised her summary skills.

Well done to these students: Rida Tauqir 8N08, Daniella Corless 9S01, Saniyyah Ali 9P06, Mardia Jannat 7P04, Saleha Bilal 7N06, Hannah Ashraf 7N09.

Are you up for a debate?! Debate club continues to meet on Tuesdays in E127 3.15pm-4.15pm. New members are always welcome.

POETRY ESCAPE

During half term four the English department were delighted with the large number of students who so eagerly entered the Young Writers poetry competition. The competition offered a chance to voice opinions, thoughts and feelings, to break down barriers and destroy stereotypes through the power of word. Poetry topics ranged from social media, gender stereotypes, mental health, school life, kindness and homelessness. A huge well done to the following students for getting their poems selected to appear in a poetry anthology: Aqsa Younis N09, Daniella Corless S01, Kai Catahan N09, Farah Al-Rikabi K09, Huma Abdul Ali P07, Nahar Abid P07, Sakina Farooq N07, Aisha Zia S05, Ramesha Rasool P08, Samina Jalil N05, Silica Stan S09. A copy will be available in the library but here is one of the winning poems....well done Aisha Zia!



A HEART OF CLAY

by Aisha Zia S05

When I was younger I was given a doll
And a little tea set,
A shadow of who I was to be;
A woman made to bare children
A creature designed for domesticity.
My brother received a toy car,
And a miniature toolkit,
As if he would be the one to drive the family forward,
To assemble his own future.
Whereas mine was seemingly set in stone.

Dress a boy in shades of blue
A girl in arrays of pink,
Tell him that he must never cry
Tell her how to think.

They instil it in us when we are young,
When our minds are liable to manipulation.
Whispers sneaking into the crevices of consciousness,
Only to convey what is acceptable or not.



Life is a performance.
Everyone wears the false mask of perfection;
Walking facades,
Secrets concealed behind carefully constructed hearts,
The truth caged behind silenced tongues.
I choose to remain an onlooker in this tragedy.

It's not easy being a woman in the performance.
So many expectations to live up to,
Predetermined titles I must adopt.

Their callous words puncture my heart,
And carve my sense of identity.
Don't they see I'm not a person without feeling?
An entity of just teeth, nail and bone?

If I am clay then they have set the mould
Of who they think I should be.
But little do they know,
Only I am the sculptor of my destiny-



HIGH ACHIEVER ACTIVITIES



LATIN AND ANCIENT GREEK

This year we have had the privilege of John Taylor coming into school to deliver Latin classes to a group of Year 8 and 9 students. John Taylor is a Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Manchester and a prolific author of many books surrounding the subject. Mr Holian has also run a Year 10 Ancient Greek club, this has focussed on students who have previously studied Latin at GCSE and wanted to continue to explore the languages of the ancient world.

MASTERCLASSES AND DEBATE AT LORETO

This year students have attended masterclass sessions. These sessions, run at the college, have allowed our students to extend their learning experience taking part in exciting subjects such as, human psychology and philosophy.

YEAR 9 PROJECT

This Summer term our Year 9s are taking part in an exciting opportunity to complete an extended project. This is based upon the students choosing an area of their own interest and performing research activities and completing a written project.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

This year we have been completing further work to strengthen our partnership with our parent community. We have been using the framework of the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) to support us.

The LPPA provides a challenging framework to enable schools to strengthen their partnership with parents and carers. It is a developmental process which, through the involvement of parents, aims to enhance children's life chances at all stages from nursery to secondary.

To list but a few, this year we have improved our email communication processes, made better use of the SIMS Parent App, held a range of Parent Forum events and consulted parents on different aspects of school life.

Coming soon: a parent information noticeboard in reception with helpful leaflets and resources.

If you would like more information, please contact Mr N Johnson (Deputy Headteacher).



WELLBEING LEADERS

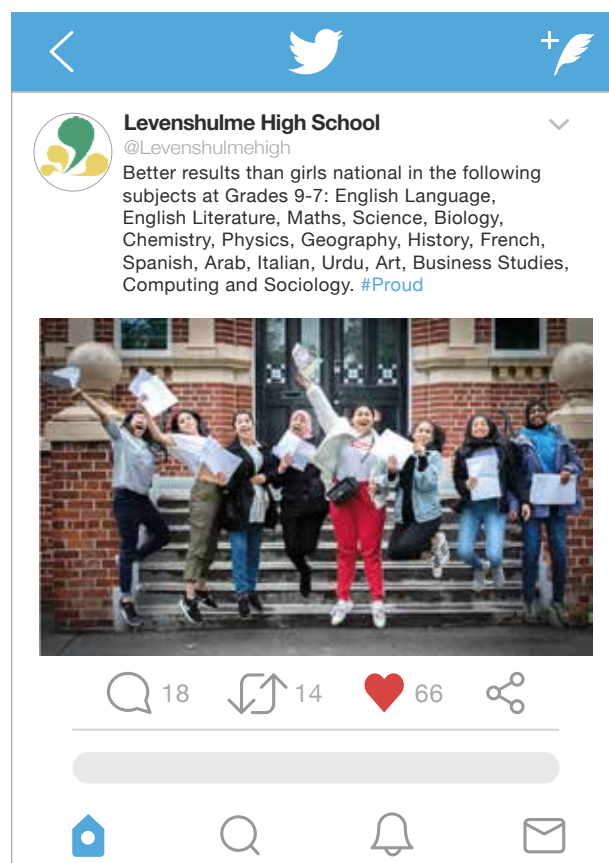
Over the last term, fifteen of our wonderful Well Being Leaders have been trained up by Manchester Mind to become Well Being and Mental Health

ambassadors and mentors. From next half term we shall launch our mentoring scheme with students from all years being invited to participate in mentoring sessions to help them with all areas of their well-being. This is something which our students are extremely passionate about, and was further demonstrated through their wonderful assembly, which they did to all houses. We cannot wait to get this mentoring project up and running and hopefully start to make a big difference to students within our school.

UPCOMING FOCUS DAY

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Focus Day on June 25th. Our Key Stage 3 students will be joined by next year's Year 7's who will be in school as part of their induction day, prior to their start in September. Students will be working in their forms to complete many team building activities including a murder mystery activity, team building activities with the army and a huge quiz from across the year. As there will be lots of house points available, this day could affect the overall totals for the houses and knock Keller House from their current position at the top.

#EXAMSUCCESS





SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019/20

The new School Council is as follows:

Head Girl – Aribah Tariq

**Deputy Head Girl (Inside the Classroom)
Anaiyah Tarafder**

**Deputy Head Girl (Outside the Classroom)
Ashina Sadaf**

**Deputy Head Girl (Community)
Sara Shoaib**

**Senior Ambassadors (Inside the Classroom)
Malika Kaur and Aisha Uddin**

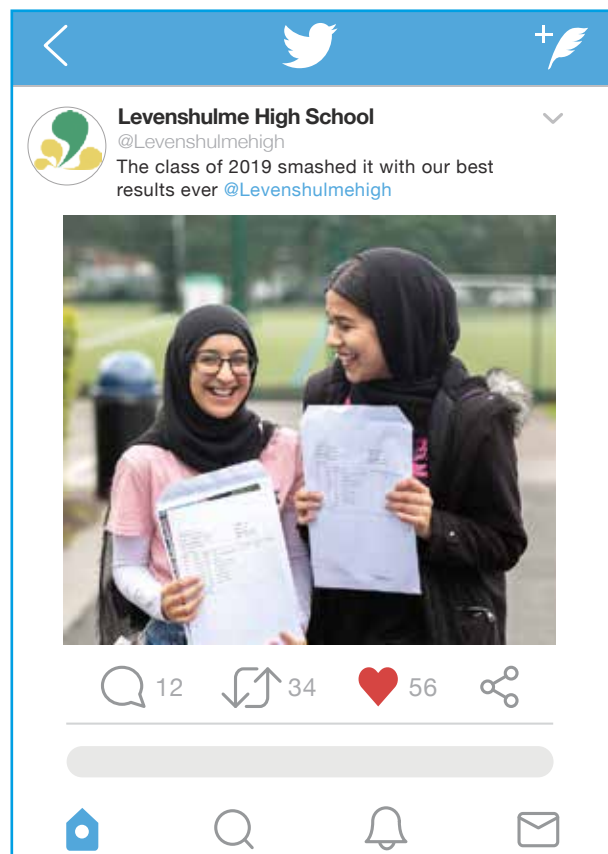
**Senior Ambassadors (Outside the Classroom)
Mary Ladele and Thoiba Akhter**

**Senior Ambassadors (Community)
Hijran Al-Anazi and Mehak Ahmed**

#EXAMSUCCESS

MULTICULTURAL DAY 2019

For the fourth year, we celebrated Multicultural Day at Levenshulme High School. Blessed with a rich tapestry of heritage, this is our chance to enjoy the cultural diversity present in the school, and learn about each other too. Pupils were invited to wear their clothes which represent their culture, or the colours of their flag resulting in a bright and colourful day! Staff were encouraged to wear outfits around the theme of Be The World You Want To See, leading to thoughtful costumes such as Mother Earth, World Peace and Freedom of Speech! There is always a lot of excitement in the air during this day, with lots of interested conversations taking place. Finally, the celebrations culminated in a staff catwalk during lunchtime, which is now proving to be a real highlight of the school year, where everybody came together to cheer and support each other!



STUDENTS LEADERS

Since September, our Student Leaders have worked with, supported and helped organise events for their teachers as well as faculties. Some of these students have shown continuous commitment and worked extremely hard to complete their LORIC Challenges. The LORIC challenges are designed to stretch the students, take them out of their comfort zone and persuade them to do things they never imagined they would be able to do. We have seen many of our Leaders develop their Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication skills.

So far, 78 students have been awarded a Bronze LORIC badge and 10 students have achieved their Silver. During this final half term, there will be many more opportunities for our Leaders to engage in our school community, and subsequently work towards completing more LORIC Challenges.

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CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

Last term the Geography leaders worked with a campaigner from the Manchester Environmental Education Network to develop their knowledge of climate change. Students investigated the causes and impacts with links to our own energy consumption. The Geography leaders then used this information to plan an interactive session for pupils from Cringle Brook Primary School. Year 5 students visited Levenshulme to learn all about climate change. This included a shared lunch made entirely of food that would otherwise have been thrown away. This helped all students to learn about how we need to be less wasteful and recycle more in order to help reduce climate change.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Go on a Geography Fieldtrip they said...It'll be lovely weather they said...

Our Geography fieldtrip was to Crowden in the Peak District. The location was a picturesque place to visit and even though we were going in dull weather, the scenery looked as beautiful as any other day. When we arrived we met with our guides for the day who explained what we would do and we set off to walk through the countryside.

Once at the river, our task was to measure the width, depth and velocity of the river at various points along the course of the river. Whilst doing our tasks, we had to be aware of the hazards surrounding us e.g. making sure we didn't slip in the water. Luckily, just as our group finished collecting the data it started raining very heavily. We made a quick dash for the coach to shelter from the rain. We all had fun even though the weather wasn't the best for a fieldtrip but it was an amazing interactive way to learn about rivers and prepare for our exams.

Tahmina Tahir (S02) and Alishba Safdar Naughman (K07)



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PRACTICE WEEKEND

In preparation for their assessment expedition, this year's DofE Silver cohort have completed their practice weekend in Mellor. After two days of walking, in our terms: getting lost and then finding the way, they feel very confident about the assessment weekend. We have all celebrated the first day out with yummy marshmallows toasted by the fire.

Well done girls, you were great!





CAREERS WEEK IN STEM

Our Levenshulme Careers week saw some inspiring females from STEM professions who came and spoke about their job roles and shared their career journey and experience with our students. The main aim was for our students to see and learn about a variety of female roles in STEM professions and to break the stereo types. We had speakers from Laing O'Rourke, Willmott Construction, Siemens and Engie Regeneration.



"Jobs in construction are in demand and respected. I was not aware about the different career pathways in construction especially when I heard women can be crane drivers and earn up to £80k from Laing O'Rourke speakers. The presentation about women in construction was useful because it cleared any stereo types."

Feedback from students on STEM Careers

STEM DRAGONFLY DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

12 Students from Year 8 took part in STEM Dragonfly day event at University of Manchester. The aim of the day was to give our girls the opportunity to work with female scientists, engineers and mathematicians at The University of Manchester, enabling them to find out more about studying and working in STEM, and to help them discover why STEM isn't just for boys! Girls took part in a Speed networking activity with researchers, academics and PhD students at UoM and learned about the different variety of STEM careers that they were not aware of.

"I think UKFAST was an amazing experience. It made me change my viewpoint on apprenticeships."

Year 10 Computer Science student



UK FAST TRIP

Year 10 Computer Science students visited UK Fast's head office to learn more about what working in a tech business is about. We were given a talk by the CEO of UK Fast, Lawrence Jones in their very vibrant auditorium. Students learned how a project that started in the back room of a house turned into a multi-million pound enterprise. Students had a tour of the offices including finding out about social events the company puts on, their gym, break-out zones and crèche area. Students then had the opportunity to network with their staff, finding out invaluable information about how to get into the tech world. We were challenged to set up a web server and web page from scratch before being treated a lunch. The highlight for many was undoubtedly having a go on the famous UK Fast slides. The day was a huge success.

CAREERS NEWS

ALL GIRLS CAN PROGRAMME

All Girls Can is a five part programme delivered by Greater Manchester Higher and the aim of this programme is to address the barriers that revolve around higher education through a range of activities. It focuses to empower young girl's strength, skills, confidence and building their aspirations to higher education. Student discuss their barriers and stereotypes in a safe and open environment to allow role models to challenge these stereotypes who are current students or recent graduates in higher education. As part of the project a total of 22 from Year 9 & 10 students from Levenshulme graduated from this programme this May and visited MMU and UCEN Manchester College Film School as part of the programme.



LEVENSHULME NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Careers week took place from 4th-8th March – the aim of the week was to increase awareness and raise aspirations around STEAM professions, Women Empowerment and Out of the box careers for Women. We had different inspiring women from Engineering, Construction, Medicine, IT & Creative Media and Arts delivering Career themed assemblies and lunch time drop in sessions. This has helped our students to access important information about the different careers pathways and learning from the people themselves.

Career leaders also made a Careers video asking SLT, teachers & admin staff to ***"Name one good thing about working at Levenshulme"***.

Our Headteacher replied:

"The best thing certainly is the chance to work with all the amazing women we have in school!"



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CAREER TALK

Hannah Telfer

As part of the Careers provision and in celebration of International Women Day we were lucky to have Hannah Telfer- Managing Director, Audiences & Audio at Penguin Random House as our Inspirational Career speaker as part of Speakers for Schools' Career talks. The career talks help spark ambitions of our young people and the belief in what is possible for the future.

"I believe books have the power to change lives and have been fortunate to spend my career working to bring authors and different audiences together."

Hannah heads up a central department at Penguin Random House that works in partnership with their 9 Publishing Houses across Consumer Insight, Audience Marketing & Digital Development, Live Events and Audio. Hannah shared her early career journey and experiences with our students and shared her key messages:

**BE CURIOUS....BE PERSISTENT
BE PASSIONATE....KEEP LEARNING**



Feedback from the leaders from Careers week talks and drop in sessions:

I learnt that there are many other jobs in the hospital apart from being just a doctor. I now have a better understanding of what I need to do if I want to study at the University.



Meet Your Future

Help bridge the gap and make the future brighter for Greater Manchester's young people



MEET YOUR FUTURE SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

As part of Greater Manchester Enterprise Adviser Network, 15 students from Year 9 participated in Bridge GM Meet your Future Speed Networking event at AJ Bell Stadium. Students were given the chance to take part in an exciting and high energy networking event with business professionals from across Greater Manchester such as Auto Trader, Arts Council England, GMP, AECOM & UKFast to name a few and find out more about the vast array of career opportunities available to them. The aim was to increase the number of quality encounters young people have with the world of work before they leave school and help young people make informed choices and decisions about their future pathways.

Our careers twitter account is now live and you can follow us for all the latest careers news in and out of school:



@Careers_Levy

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Everyone at Levenshulme High School is delighted by and incredibly proud of the GCSE results of the class of 2019.

Once again we are incredibly proud of the results achieved by the class of 2019. This has been yet another record-breaking year and the outcomes stand as testimony to the hard work of our school community: parents, teachers, school leaders and, above all, our students themselves.

A huge congratulations to all!

Key Figures

2019 Progress 8 score: +1.08 (provisional)

2019 Attainment 8 score: 54.07

% strong pass (9-5) in English and maths: 55.8%

% standard pass (9-4) in English and maths: 72.9%

% Entered for EBacc: 68.8%

% achieving EBacc strong pass: 40.2%

% achieving EBacc standard pass: 54.7%

EBacc APS per pupil: 5.15

