Contact
Welcome once again to a festive edition of Christmas Contact!

This term has been packed with exciting things, but I am always humbled by the students’ efforts to raise funds for those less fortunate than themselves, through a whole host of activities from large events like Children In Need to form cake sales this term, raising approximately £4,000 in 15 weeks, which does not include additional support, such as the shoebox and homeless appeals. Fantastic!

Congratulations to Year 11, relieved to reach the end of their mock-GCSE exams and to Y13, with all of whom submitted Oxbridge applications being offered interviews. We have fantastic sports men and women with individual and group successes, especially our swimmers and rugby players.

Work starts on our new science labs and sport/exams hall and we will open a new catering facility in January, next door on the former Barrow Hall Primary School site, as part of our school expansion plans. In the current school building we have also opened new BHC Sixth-Form science labs.

The Omega Multi Academy Trust will be officially ‘one’ in January and we are all excited about all we have achieved and moving forward next year. We are striving to provide the best school experience we can for our students, creating economies of scale through working together to get as much funding through to the children, whilst freeing senior staff in our schools to focus on teaching and learning and student well-being. We have much to do, but we have had some real highlights: Curtis Jobling, our Patron of Reading inspiring reading for pleasure and creative writing in all five schools; and joint trips, such as the Bridgewater Hall, and Christmas concerts, showcasing our students’ amazing talents. We have managed the financial cuts well and have positive projections looking ahead and will have our first full staff INSET on our return in the New Year. Exciting times!

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable Christmas break – and all of our students and staff, a well-deserved rest! Happy Christmas!
What a great term this has been! I’ve been so impressed with how hard all of our students have worked and it’s been wonderful to see all of the different activities that have been going on across the house.

Austen’s help the homeless in Warrington was a huge success and the students collected a huge amount of hats, socks and gloves to donate to the Salvation Army. I was so proud of everyone involved.

Austen’s poppy appeal was a huge success again this year and it was wonderful to see how many students contributed again and wrote some heartfelt messages. Well done to all our wonderful students that helped throughout the day too.

Well done to our year 11 students, 11AB and 11AV, for working so hard on their GCSE Mock exams. It has been a tough couple of weeks but I know that all of that hard work and effort will be worth it on Mock results day.

What a great end to 2018 for Austen House and I’m looking forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Take care and best wishes,

Mrs Masher xx

Inter-house
Football
Bannister house have once again won the majority of the house football events.

Bake off
After coming a close 2nd in the year 11 competition the girls in year 10 made some amazing mince pies to win the year 10 comp.

Quiz
Bannister put in a great effort in the annual Christmas quiz, well done to all who participated.

Students in Bannister house have been busy raising money for our Charity Make a Wish. 9BH raised in excess of £500 during their cycle from here to London (distance completed on indoor bikes)
All members contributed and were led by the very dedicated Mr Stewart.

It’s been a positive first term for Bannister House and I am very proud of all of their achievements, I look forward to seeing more successes in 2019.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Stay safe and well.

Mrs Bayne
Newton

It has been another action packed term for pupils in Newton House with students being involved in a number of interhouse and extra curricular activities as well as an array of individual achievements outside of school. Interhouse achievements have include Year 7 boys football winners and Year 7 girls dodgeball winners.

I am delighted with how well the Year 7 students have adapted to life at Great Sankey High School with a number of students throwing themselves into all aspects of school life. Newton students were also winners of the cross country and runners up in the interhouse quiz capping a fantastic first term of achievements, thank you to everyone involved. Students have also been involved in a mobile phone amnesty with over 60 students going phone free for a week and 8NT going phone free for a whole term!

At the start of the year Papyrus was chosen as our charity by the House Council. We have raised nearly £100 through charitable events with Year 7 and Year 9 students making significant contributions in the lucky dip stall. Our aim is to raise over £300 and after Christmas students will be completing a 20 miles in 20 days challenge and there will also be a million pound drop competition.

There have been several individual success stories including Kate, 9NW who won the Allied Dance Association Jessie Carter Memorial Award 2018 and Toby who reached the National Swimming Finals in Sheffield.

I also like to give a special mention to Hannah and Olivia, 11NG who have participated in every extra curricular and interhouse activity this year. They have demonstrated a fantastic attitude and have been superb role models for all other students within Newton House.

Finally I would like to congratulate all Year 11 students for their conduct during the mock exams and wish everyone in Newton House a Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2019.

Mr Bate

Parks

On Thursday 20th December Tawny from Year 8 will helping the ‘Warrington Youth Club’ again to wrap presents for the homeless. Once all the wrapping has been done, Santa will arrive and then in his magical way, he will deliver the presents.

Well done Tawny – I know you really enjoy taking part in this.

Parks’ Snippets

7PP – Zack came First in Cross Country
7PP – Eve participated in a swimming competition at the Olympic pool in London
7PP boys came Second in the Dodgeball
Year 7 won the football competition
7PS – Olivia achieved a First in a Gymnastics competition
7PS – Harry came Second in a swimming competition
8PD – raised £204 in a Bake Sale for Children in Need.

Well done to everyone!

Have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year

Mrs Lee

Thompson

Sporting success for two students from Thompson house this term. Mark, 9TB has recently won the North Wales Road To Wimbledon competition and has won the privilege of playing on the famous Wimbledon grass courts this summer.

Meanwhile, Abbie 10TW has represented the North west in the National Trampoline Finals in Nottingham. Finally I wish to congratulate Ellis 10TW and Imogen 10TW who were appointed as Thompson House Captains for the next academic year alongside Adam 10TC who has also been appointed as Deputy Head boy.

Mr Cawthorn
STEPHENSON

A fabulous start to the school year by 7SF and 7SK, they have settled in well!

I am very pleased to introduce the House Captains for this school year, Harrison and Nicole.

The Year 11 B team of Chloe and Isla started the year of interhouse competitions well by winning the Bake-off! A fantastic effort with their choux swans!

I know they will lead the team of Form Representatives really well. The Form Representatives for this year are:

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<tr>
<th>Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>7SF</td>
<td>Peter and Callum</td>
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<td>7SK</td>
<td>Leighton M and Niamh</td>
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<td>8SE</td>
<td>Lewis and Hannah</td>
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<td>8SL</td>
<td>Lucy and Freddie</td>
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<td>9SE</td>
<td>Owen and Lara</td>
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<td>9SJ</td>
<td>Edward and Grace</td>
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<td>Jobb and Rosie</td>
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<td>11SK</td>
<td>Jess and Kacey</td>
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<td>11SP</td>
<td>Jak, Fay and Chloe</td>
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The forms have all been working hard on researching and choosing the House Charity for this school year. I am very pleased to announce that our House charity for this school year will be Alder Hey Children's hospital.

We are also raising funds for The Amber Price Appeal.

There is a fundraising page here if you would like to donate to help out with this: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/amberprice

The charity representatives have some exciting fundraising ideas so hopefully we will raise a lot of money and have fun whilst doing it. The charity representatives will be led by Declan and Ellinor to ensure all the activities run smoothly.

Merry Christmas

Mrs Steele

SPORTS NEWS

National Swimming Competition

On Saturday 17th November 2018, four of our students made their way down to the London Aquatic Centre to represent Great Sankey High School in the National ESSA finals which they had qualified for the earlier in the year. The girls were going to be competing in the Y7/8 medley relay, up against all of the best swim schools in the country. The medley consists of each individual swimming 50 metres of one of the following strokes: back, breast, fly and free. The journey down was full of excitement and walking up to the Aquatic centre was both awe-inspiring and nerve-wracking. The girls were an absolute credit to the school the whole day particularly in the way they organised themselves and warmed up in preparation for the big race. After a couple of hours wait, it was time to take their positions on the blocks and wait for the start sound. As my self, Miss Johnson and the parents watched on, they swam their hearts out, giving every ounce of energy they had, and managed to come third in their heat – already a success! We watched nervously as the next heats took place, writing down any teams who swam faster than us, in the final heat, when we were still in the top ten, meaning we would race in the final, another two schools beat our time, putting us in 13th position. Although disappointed, the girls fully understood the achievement of finishing 13th in the country and the accomplishment of just getting to swim at such a special event. It also meant that we now had time for a Nandos to celebrate one of the swimmers birthdays before our train home, fully deserved! The quality of the venue, the immense support from the wonderful parents and the behaviour, effort, attitude, success and well-rounded personalities of the girls made it day to remember for a very long time! Well done Sophie, Eve, Millie and Niamh!

Miss Dorkin

Cross Country Round Up

Y7 girls – individual 1st place Alice
   Team 2nd place – Alice, Ciara, Beth and Katy.

Y8/9 girls – individual 2nd place Molly
   Team 1st place – Molly, Amelie, Georgia, Katy, Grace.

Y10/11 girls – Individual 2nd Rebecca and 3rd Faye.
   Team 1st place – Rebecca, Faye, Hannah, Olivia, Kym.

Y7 boys: individual runners Antony and Zac

Y8/9 individual 1st place Ben and Jake

Y11 individual: Joe

Additionally, Faye and Rebecca have attended every race in all 5 years at Great Sankey High School.

Finally, Hannah, Kym and Olivia participated just for fun as they are in Y11 and wanted to participate in as much as they could before they leave, their involvement actually meant that the Y10/11 team won 1st place overall. An excellent effort!
News

Well done to Zak, Jack, Ellie and Katie who represented our school at the Wise Up! Launch in October. They did brilliant work and contributed some great ideas towards stamping out hate crime in our local community and nationwide.

Wise Up! is a Warrington based scheme that fights against Hate Crime and Bullying. They promote the excellent work that schools in Warrington do to prevent this. In February 2018, Great Sankey High School was very proud to receive the ‘Wise Up!’ gold award for the outstanding work we do to tackle Hate Crime and Bullying. We’re very confident we will achieve this again in 2019! Watch this space!

GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ITALY

A great time was had by all during the Geography department trip to Italy. Students visited Herculaneum, Pompeii, Vesuvius, Capri and Sorrento.

The staff would like to thank all the students who went on the trip and who were a credit to our school. The airline staff also said we were the best school group they’d had that week, that our students were “polite and well-mannered”. Well done everyone!

Until next time, ciao for now,
Mr James

MFL Club

Every Tuesday, lower school language enthusiasts have been meeting in L4 to learn about other cultures and their languages at MFL Club. This term we’ve learnt some Latin, Romanian, Hindi, Catalan, Russian and many more! We have also had a focus on a ‘town of the week’ from the country that we have been researching. Interesting and fun activities have been going on each week during the language sessions, ranging from Kahoot quizzes with prizes to engaging teamwork activities.

For the past three weeks MFL Club has been running a “Invent-Your-Own Language” competition. Students have been having fun creating new words and learning a little bit about linguistics along the way, and to finish it off they’ve presented their creations to the leaders of the club and their fellow students.

Happy holidays to all our current members and we hope to see some new, eager faces in the new year!
Written by the MFL Club team (Year 12 and 13)

Food Technology

We are very lucky to have been able to purchase a set of trophies for KS3 students following a donation from a parent. Each term, one student will be picked from Year 7, 8 and 9 respectively by Miss Knight, Mr Jenkins and Mrs Gall for outstanding achievement in Food Technology. They will be awarded the Chef of the Term trophy, which they keep for a term and return for the next amazing student to be awarded. It is hoped that this will inspire the students to further develop their creative skills and realise the talent they have shown in the subject.

Well done to our Year 10 GCSE students who have settled in really well this term. They’ve produced some amazing products and have learnt new technical skills such as portioning a chicken and filleting a fish.

The LRC held a ‘Twitter Book Review’ Event in October/November. Pupils were asked to review their favourite book in exactly 40 words. It was a very popular event and counted towards Year 7 and Year 8 Literacy Certificates.

It was a tough competition to judge but the winners were:
Year 7 - Thomas 7BW & Owen 7NC
Year 8 - Ellie 8PT & Fatima 8TW

They each won a book of their choice from the LRC, a Great Sankey High School prize pen and 20 House points.

Thanks to all pupils who entered.
There will be lots more LRC Events in the New Year, so look out for the latest news on the noticeboard in the LRC!

Youth Health Champions Update

12 Youth Health champions from Year 9 have completed their first training session with Simon Lyons (Health Improvement Development Officer – Public Health).

The second training session will be with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and after the 3 sessions are completed they will be able to signpost people to various services throughout Warrington and will be equipped to begin a series of campaigns that are linked to our physical and emotional health and well-being.

They have already been into Year 7 forms to promote themselves and discuss mental health.

Well done, we are so proud of all your achievements with this so far!

Written by the MFL Club team (Year 12 and 13)

WISE UP

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WISE UP is a Warrington based scheme that fights against Hate Crime and Bullying. They promote the excellent work that schools in Warrington do to prevent this. In February 2018, Great Sankey High School was very proud to receive the ‘Wise Up!’ gold award for the outstanding work we do to tackle Hate Crime and Bullying. We’re very confident we will achieve this again in 2019! Watch this space!
School Expansion Update

As you may be aware, the school have acquired the site which formerly housed Barrow Hall Primary School. We are very excited to announce that work will begin in January on facilities including new science labs and a sports/exams hall.

Also, opening in January, will be catering facilities on the site of the old Junior school block. The work on the new site has been ongoing behind the scenes for some time and we are grateful to everybody involved.
It has been a very busy and very successful term at Barrow Hall College. As always, we have engaged in charity work, supporting a number of causes including the Amber Appeal, Children in Need, and the Alzheimer’s society, raising over £2000. On top of this we sent over 200 Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child and a massive contribution of non-perishable goods to the food bank appeal.

Our dedicated student leaders and ambassador team enjoyed a rewards trip to the Christmas Markets in Manchester and an all you can eat buffet to thank them for the work they do for us. For the first time ever, we launched the 12 days of Barrow Hall Christmas, with students engaging with activities every day for 12 days including decorating the college building, Christmas card making, gingerbread decorating, gifting candy canes, and our famous Christmas lunch, quiz and raffle draw.

On an academic front, all university applicants have sent off their university applications much in advance of the January deadline, and all 7 students who applied to Oxford or Cambridge were successful in being called to interview. Our talented mathematicians also took part in the senior maths challenge and achieved the bronze or silver award.

On a personal achievement note, many of our students have done incredibly well, some receiving recognition for their enthusiasm and efforts in the work experience placements, others achieving up to grade 8 in their musical instruments and achieving 5th place in the Karate world championships and another 30th in the Triathlon world championships.

Well done to all of our students, I hope you all enjoy a well deserved Christmas break.

Mrs Bond, Head Of College.

As Omega Multi Academy Trust’s ‘Patron of Reading’, Curtis Jobling gave an inspirational talk to the whole of Year 7 on what it’s like to be an author, illustrator and animator. He also visited Year 6s at Burtonwood, Chapelford Village, Westbrook Old Hall and Park Road. All schools which are part of the Omega MAT.

He also showed the trailer of "Haunt, Dead Scared." Far away from the fantasy worlds in his Wereworld series of books, Haunt is loosely based on his life in the 1980s when he was a Penketh High School pupil. It is currently being made into a TV series.

Pupils listened to Curtis talk about his love of writing and watched him draw his well-known animated character Bob the Builder. Being a local author, attending Penketh High School he told pupils how "anyone can become a writer" and "If you have a hobby, stick with it and you may be able to make a career out of it."

Those who took part in the workshops all wrote a short horror story entitled ‘The Box.’ Curtis gave them invaluable tips and advice on how a story should be structured make them more appealing to the reader. Pupils were then given the chance to buy a signed book.

Comments from pupils on the day were:
"Today was a fantastic opportunity, I really enjoyed it."
"It was amazing and I would love to do it again"
"Today was really fun, Curtis made me laugh and gave me some great writing tips too.”

Jon Wright, CEO of Omega Multi Academy Trust, attended the event and had the following to say about how the Patron For Reading will work with young people across the Trust.

"Securing Curtis Jobling as our Omega Patron of Reading is simply fantastic; he is such an exciting author and engaging speaker, who will inspire our young people of all ages not only to read, but to write creatively and expand their horizons. Curtis will work in all five schools in the Trust, initially with Year 6 and 7 pupils, and subsequently, other year groups, promoting reading, fiction, creative writing and arts-based careers.

The Trust has been in existence since January and is increasingly working together both cross-school and cross phase, from primary to secondary, the benefits of which are already being seen in improving the pupils’ school experience and their progress.

Reading is such an important skill for life, enabling students to access all aspects of the curriculum, as well as empowering them to read for enjoyment and pleasure.”
The 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge is a nationwide competition ran by Land Rover to drive interest in engineering and STEM subjects. December 14th saw two teams for Great Sankey High School entering into the regional final of the 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge. This engineering challenge is to design, develop and drive a radio controlled off road vehicle.

Young Engineers Update

Monday after school has seen a regular attendance of Year 7 & Year 8 pupils who are interested in working with materials and processes not normally achieved in lessons. So far they have made a simple key fob, out of aluminium and a “ring pull aid”, to help opening ring pull cans, out of steel with a plastic coated handle. They have just started making the pattern for a cast aluminium name plate.

Other tasks to be undertaken will involve problem solving and design and make challenges.

Both teams had worked very hard to reach the event and this work certainly paid off with the Year 10 team finishing a very close “Second in Development Class” as well as “Best Track Performance” – all classes. The Year 9 team achieved: “Best Verbal Presentation”, “Best Track Performance” – Entry Level, “Best Pit Display” and both teams achieved the “Sponsorship and Marketing” award.

Well done to both teams for their brilliant performance, on the day, as well as being a credit to the school.

I would also like to thank Mr Dunn, from “AGR Dynamics”, for his support with the verbal presentations, cyber security and the financial support to allow the pupils to participate in the challenge.

Also many thanks to “Touchline” for their help with the t shirts for both teams.

Both teams are now looking forward to next year’s competition and the chance to better their performance, at the next level.
On Friday 28th and Saturday 29th Sept – We organised another great practical 2 day workshop with the artist Ian Murphy. Ian always inspires students and introduces them to new techniques to further develop their coursework. He worked with yr 11 GCSE Art and Textiles students to produce large scale drawing work. The work produced is always praised by the GCSE moderator and it will be a definite boost to coursework portfolios. We managed to fit in the workshop before Ian left to work in China until Christmas. He has got fantastic work if you have a look on his website. It was a fantastic couple of days and everyone enjoyed the Domino’s pizzas for lunch!

We have had past A level student, Eleanor working with us between October half term and Christmas. She is currently studying Costume and Textiles at Huddersfield Uni and is in her third year. She has recently completed a placement working on the costumes for the CBeebies Christmas Panto that will be shown on Christmas Day. Eleanor has worked with GCSE and A level Textiles groups and helped students with practical techniques and sketchbook work. Thanks Eleanor for all your work in the department!

Eleanor’s Uni. tutor Liz Garland came in to give a talk to A level Art and Textiles students on the 16th November about the practical Art and Textiles degree courses offered at Huddersfield. She brought along free goody bags, examples of work and a great final costume to show us. Some lucky yr 10 Textiles students were able to go to the talk as it was at the same time as their lesson and have been inspired with ideas for courses and plans for the future.

Art club has been thriving after school and GCSE students have been completing their coursework portfolio work. Year 7 have been particularly creative and busy making dream catchers. Past A level student Natalia came in to work with Art club students for the afternoon, persuaded by her cousin who is in Year 7! We have been busy making Christmas decorations in the last two sessions before we break up for the Christmas holiday.

The Head of Foundation course at Carmel college, Liz Walls, came in to talk to A level Art and Textiles students on 26th November. She had lots of information about the one year foundation course and it was good to find out the destinations of our students from last year and where they have gone on to continue their Art and Textiles to degree level. Past A level student Mel who is currently on the foundation course came along with her to talk to students about the work she is doing this year. The foundation course is a full-time, one year course designed to introduce students to a wide range of areas and to prepare their portfolio for degree applications and interviews. Liz also ran a 2 hour drawing workshop with students based on portraits that really encouraged them to work quickly and brought them out of their comfort zone.

Liz has also invited our students to a Creative Careers event that is taking place at Carmel College on Saturday 26th January from 11am – 2pm. Check their website for further details.

Past A level Art student Rachael Abbott has completed her degree in Graphics and came in on Monday 10th December to run a three hour lino printing workshop with A level Art and Textiles students. Rachael has sold her recent work at print fairs and is applying for an MA in illustration for next September.

It’s been a busy year so far and set to get busier in the New Year. GCSE papers are issued during the first lesson back in January and A level papers are issued on 1st February!
Congratulations to all the performers in our sold out Christmas Concert. We were entertained by an array of talent, ranging from choirs to rock bands and students from Year 7 right through to Year 13. We were also delighted to welcome Mr Oates and the Old Hall Primary School Choir (part of Omega MAT); some splendid performances and we are very much looking forward to our collaborative Omega MAT concert with students from all five Omega MAT schools performing collaboratively in February 2019.

In November 250 of our Omega MAT students had an amazing experience when they attended an interactive concert with Manchester Camerata musicians, followed by a tour of the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Students even had the opportunity to visit under the venue and learn about how the concert hall is built on springs to eliminate any outside noise from Manchester's noisy transport system! The highlight of the day was listening to Manchester Camerata rehearse for their Deutsche Romantick concert where we heard the music of Mendelssohn, Bruch and Schumann.

The trip was funded by the Tesco 'bags for life' scheme. Many thanks to the local community for your votes; we have inspired a young generation of future musicians!