



# The Hodgson Highlight

Easter Edition 2025

WE ARE THE  
CHAMPIONS..  
again

Fair play, to Science

A KING is crowned

Sport Report

Mingalaba

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

CHESS EXTRAVAGANZA

New York New York—do you  
wanna be a part of it?

Who let the dogs out?

To infinity, with Mr Pegg



# Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful second term here at Hodgson. It's been a busy, vibrant, and exciting time in school, full of opportunities for our students to flourish both in and beyond the classroom.

This new year has brought with it fresh energy, and our students have embraced every moment. From educational adventures across the globe to inspiring events closer to home, there has been no shortage of memories made. We've seen groups travel to New York, Austria, Poland to name a few that have taken place experiencing culture, history, and the joy of new friendships. And with upcoming trips to Barcelona and Paris over the Easter break, our students continue to broaden their horizons and make the most of the opportunities available to them. None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of our wonderful staff members and I thank you wholeheartedly for that.

Back at home we have come together to enjoy a number of fantastic events. A particular highlight was our Sound of Spring concert, which was nothing short of phenomenal. The talent, passion, and dedication shown by our students was truly heart-warming and left everyone in the audience beaming with pride. It was a celebration not only of music and performing arts, but of teamwork, commitment, and joy.

Throughout everything, our school values of Imagine, Believe, Achieve have shone brightly in all that our students do. Whether through academic progress, creative expression, sporting achievement, or acts of kindness, our young people continue to strive for their best. Equally, the way they show consideration and respect for everyone has been clear to see. They support one another, celebrate each other's successes, and contribute to the warm, welcoming atmosphere that makes Hodgson such a special place to be.

As we enter a key stage of the year, our thoughts are especially with our Year 11 students, who are preparing for their upcoming exams. This is an important and sometimes challenging time, but I want them all to remember: we believe in you. We are so proud of how far you have come, and we'll be with you every step of the way as you take your next steps. Keep going, give it your all, and know that you have the entire Hodgson Family cheering you on.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support. Whether it's helping with homework, cheering from the sidelines, attending events, or simply being there for your children day in, day out, your partnership is a huge part of what makes our school community thrive. Together, we are one team, with one dream – to see every one of our young people happy, healthy, and thriving, both in school and in life.

Wishing you all a peaceful, enjoyable and well-deserved Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, for what will be an amazing final term for this academic year.



Mrs Khan, **HEAD of SCHOOL**

*#oneteamonedream*





# The Show Goes On — Again...

Once again, in collaboration with the Grand Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, Hodgson's Shakespeare ambassadors are in the lime light—and having a Grand time!

On the back of a wildly successful Romeo and Juliet production, hosted at Hodgson and in conjunction with other local Primary schools, The RSC made the decision to take this year's production to the big stage!

The Ambassadors rehearsed relentlessly to bring the most comical scenes of the entire play to Blackpool. Evelyn and Holly Bradbury, Charlotte Ansell, Thomas Sleightholme and Hannah Thomson took, quite literally, like ducks to water in front of a sell out crowd.

*'it was an amazing experience and it was all that better because we knew The Tempest so well after studying it in year 8. The big stage was a step up but we all rose to the occasion when the curtain went up. Tom Sleightholme.*

For several years, now, Hodgson have been true champions of The Blackpool Grand and of the RSC.

*'Shakespeare is embedded throughout key stage 3 and 4 curriculums and the English department are adept at bringing the plays to life. We even study some of the Sonnets in year 7 and it is a massive part of students education. What I adore about it? The flexibility of it!*

*The stories address so may different issues that aren't addressed in PSHE until later in school—love, puberty, mental health... the list is endless! I learnt so much from it when I was younger and Shakespeare was, is and always will be truly ahead of his time!*



William Shakespeare



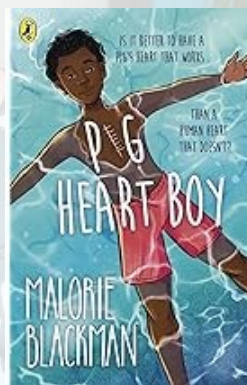
# A Book Review? To Central Library, Please!

‘Is it better to have a pig’s heart that works ... than a human heart that doesn’t?’

TAXI!!!!!! Central library, please driver, and don’t spare the horses. We have a review to do. As part of our strong ties with The Grand Theatre, Hodgson’s debate Ambassadors were asked to read and review Malorie Blackman’s *Pig Heart Boy*.

Malorie Blackman is one of the most influential British writers of our time, particularly noted for her *Noughts & Crosses* series, which tackles issues of race and division. A former Children’s Laureate, Blackman is known for writing powerful, thought-provoking books that challenge societal conventions and help young readers engage with real-world issues.

Her writing shines a spotlight on diversity, inclusion, and justice, making her works essential in today’s educational environments. ***Pig Heart Boy*** is one of her best-loved novels, speaking to children about courage, difference, and hope in ways that resonate deeply with their experiences and understanding of the world.



***Pig Heart Boy*** was shortlisted for the prestigious **Carnegie Medal** and has resonated with readers for over two decades. Blackman’s sensitive portrayal of Cameron’s journey humanises the scientific and ethical issues at play, making it accessible for younger audiences while still challenging their understanding of life’s complexities. Teachers can use the production as a springboard for discussions on **science, literature, and ethics**.

Winsome Pinnock’s adaptation captures the novel’s emotional intensity and moral conflicts, while Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu’s direction provided a dynamic, visually captivating experience on stage. Together, they’ve created a performance that’s not only a faithful adaptation of the book but also one that resonates with today’s children.





# Sound of Spring

On March 27<sup>th</sup> talented students took to the stage to perform in Hodgson Academy's new Spring Concert, 'Sound of Spring'. Everyone rehearsed extremely hard, and this showed on the night in a stunning performance. The choir sang 'Put a little love in your heart', 'Defying Gravity' and 'Seasons of Love', one of our Rock Bands played 'Supersonic' by Oasis, the Academy Band played 'Blues Brothers' and 'Coldplay' medleys and 'The Final Countdown' and the Dance Team danced through time with dances from many eras of music. Soloists included 'Popular' sung by Evie Marshall, 'When he sees me' sung by Harriet Brooks, 'She used to be mine' sung by Ellie-Marie Berry, 'Poor unfortunate souls' sung by Lilli Clark, 'Rise Up' sung by Lucy Fowler, 'Smash' danced by Molly Meakin, 'The Greatest love of all' sung by Scarlett Hackett, 'It's Raining Somewhere Else' played on bass guitar by Matthew Hague, 'Pretty Baby' sung by Tilly Odhams, 'Hey Jude' played on piano by Bruce Jones and 'Hopelessly Devoted to you' sung by Olivia Frith. Group numbers included 'You to me are Everything' and 'Can't take my eyes off you' played on saxophone and cornet by Matthew Foley and Adam Rogerson, 'Maneater' danced by Charlotte Wood and Ellie Bott, 'The Negative' acted and sung by Ellie-Marie Berry, Harriet Brooks and Chloe Evans, 'Fabulous' acted and sung by Holly Bradbury, Isabella Clark, Molly Kirkham-Edmondson and Ruby Pitches and 'Riptide' sung by Isla Dawson and Maggie Belfield. Miss Mackay, Miss Eccles and Miss Wade were so proud of all students who took part and can't wait for the next show.

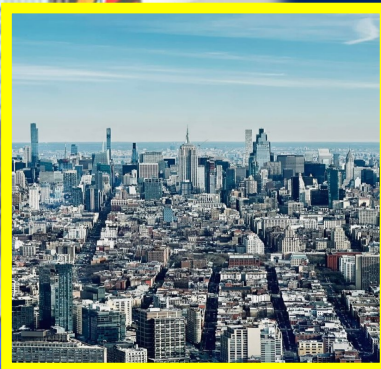
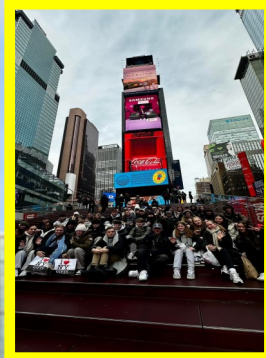




# WAKING UP IN THE CITY THAT DOESN'T SLEEP!

New York was, and remains, the trip of a lifetime. We have wanted to visit there for as long as we can remember, and we can finally say that we have! We packed so much in during the few days we were there, with a lot of walking involved. However, I don't think any of us expected it to be as cold as it was especially with that bitter wind. Despite the cold, we had the best time trying American food, experiencing the city day and night, and soaking up the atmosphere of New York..

Our favourite things were probably watching & Juliet on Broadway - the energy was unmatched, and the performers were so talented. We also loved going to the top of the Empire State Building at night - seeing the entire city lit up is a sight we will never forget. Also, just walking around, seeing the sights, and soaking up the city was incredible as you can just feel the atmosphere of New York everywhere you go. If you have the opportunity to visit New York - please do, you will not regret it.



The New York trip is an annual event at Hodgson and has always been enormously successful. New York is a global hub of culture, offering students opportunities to explore diverse neighbourhoods like Chinatown and Harlem, world-class museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, and landmarks like the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. These experiences deepen their understanding of history, art, and global cultures.

Should you wish to be a part of this fantastic opportunity in the future, please contact Mr Jenkinson



# Who let the dogs out???



Police Constable Peter Crowther joined the Hodgson Community recently, inspiring students and the community alike with his fabulous side kick, the beautiful Ebony.

After Ebony treated us to some of her impressive criminal catching techniques, PC Pete was able to tell us about how much she contributes to keeping the streets of Poulton and Blackpool safe.

It was an hour filled with learning, excitement and motivation, and many students were excited about a potential route into the police force.

PC Pete welcomed those who are interested in a career working with dogs and to anyone interested working in the public services.

“if you do something you love, you will never work a day in your life!”, said PC Pete.

“I make a massive contribution to the community and go to work with my best friend every day! There is something for everyone, in public services, and Hodgson are welcome to find out more by letting me know”.





Staff and students, parents and professionals gathered at together to celebrate the leavers from 2024. A memorable evening saw the class of 2024 back together for one last time to receive certificates and rewards galore in recognition of their time at Hodgson. To hear how so many of the Hodgson family have gone on to find success in further study, training and employment has been inspirational to us all, and this was echoed by special Guest Tia Barrea. An ex student, Tia has gone on to inspire us all as a *Professional Makeup Artist specialising in Luxury Bridal* alongside fashion, commercial and celebrity work. Trained to the highest standard, Tia is truly proof that going the extra mile will get the best results!

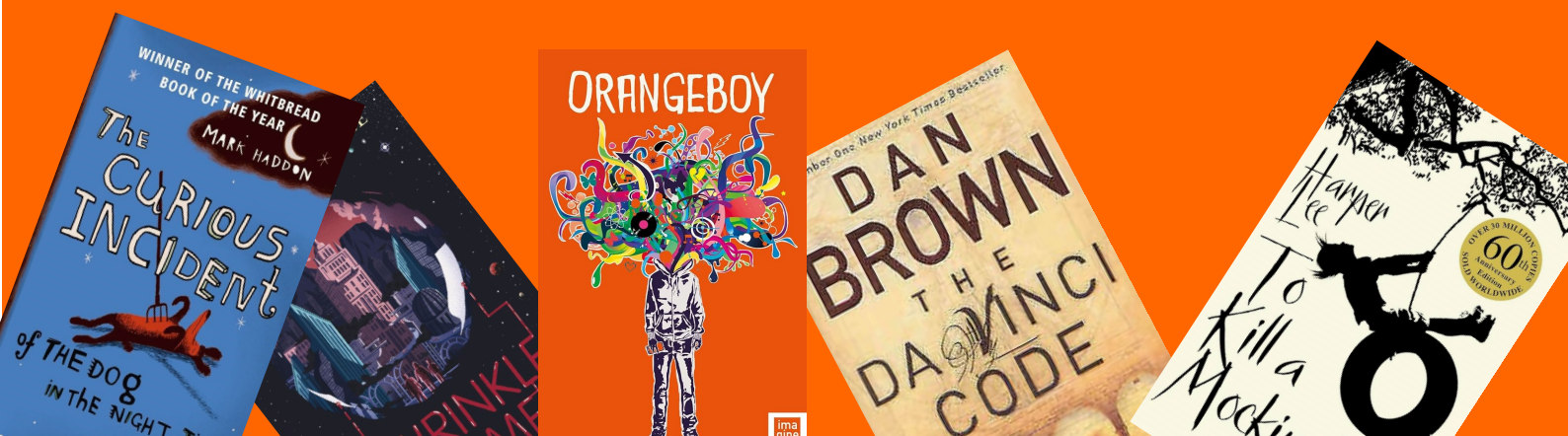
# A year group to remember





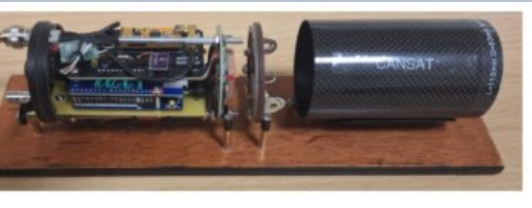
# REG & READ

There are many reasons why reading is one of the most crucial elements of education. What separates students is the vocabulary and knowledge that they have. Reading supports both of these, whilst also improving many other aspects of a child's development including memory, focus and concentration, confidence and social skills. Through 'Reg and Read' students benefit from dedicated sessions of up to twenty minutes reading, five times a week. During this time the form tutor models reading aloud to students. This exposes students to a vast array of literature, tailored to their individual year group, to inspire and nurture a love of reading students will cherish throughout their lives. This also helps settle students in the middle of the day to reestablish a calm and purposeful tone enabling tutor and tutees to bond by sharing stories together.





# To Infinity & Beyond!



In October 2024 a group of six year ten pupils decided to enter the CAN SAT competition run by ESERO. Our task was to build a simulated satellite small enough to fit into a soft drinks can.

Our target was to launch our satellite at one of the ESERO regional launch events in March 2025.

We decided that we would use our satellite to measure temperature, pressure, altitude and acceleration throughout the flight.

Our satellite had to be fired from a rocket. Consequently it had to be strong enough to withstand 20 times the force of gravity whilst remaining working throughout the entire flight.

To achieve this our pupils had to work as a team, with responsibility for tasks such as: finance and fundraising, project management, outreach, mechanical design, electronic design, fabrication and software development.

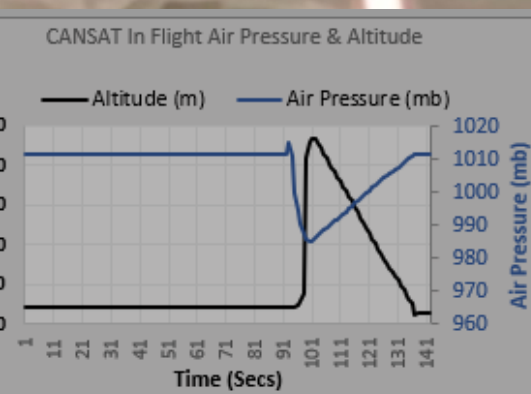
We managed to raise £1000 through our PTA, which gave us an incredible start to funding the project. We spent time choosing components and materials and deciding the best way to assemble these into the most compact space possible. We designed a parachute that would allow our satellite to return to earth at a controlled speed of 12 metres per second.

We built and tested a prototype satellite and used this to refine our final design. Here is a picture of our actual satellite with the cover removed.

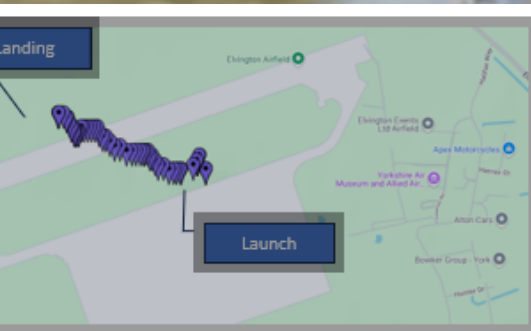


On 21<sup>st</sup> March we went to York to actually fly our satellite in a real rocket. Due to adverse weather conditions, we couldn't reach full height, but we did get up to 250 meters in altitude.

Here is a picture of our satellite launching in the rocket. Seeing our satellite actually launch was amazing fun and really exciting. In addition, our mission was completely successful. We managed to collect all our data and send it back to our ground station whilst the satellite was still in the air. It was an amazing feeling to see that our work had been successful. We were told that out of 300 teams who entered, only about 30 teams would be able to successfully transmit data back to ground, so we are immensely proud of our achievement.



On our return to school, we were able to plot some graphs to show what happened during our flight. Here is a graph showing the speed of our CANSAT throughout its flight. You can see that the sat reached took about one second to accelerate from 0 to 200 metres per second. That's 450 miles per hour.



This graph shows how the air pressure changed with altitude during the flight. Again, you can see how quickly our satellite reached its apogee. The descent was much slower as it was well controlled by our parachute.

In flight, our can sat connected to a nearby satellite that was in orbit. From that we were able to get geo positioning data that gave us the exact latitude and longitude of our can sat during flight.

Here we are showing the path of our satellite in flight.



# Science Fair

Thank you to everyone who managed to pop down to talk to the students about their projects. I'm sure you shared the same immense pride as I did when looking around at their hard work.

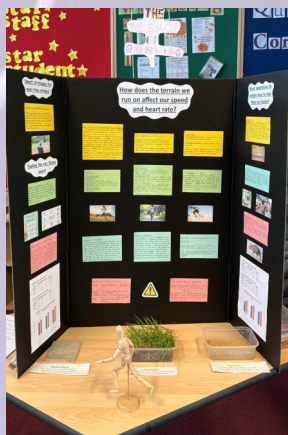
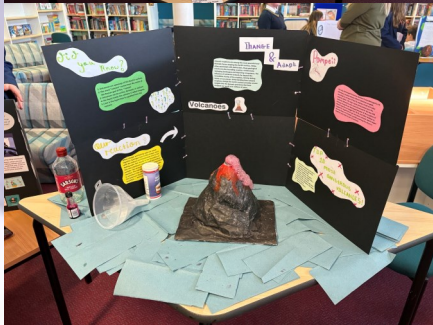
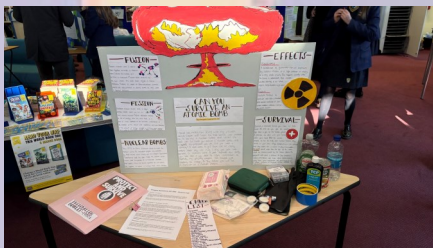
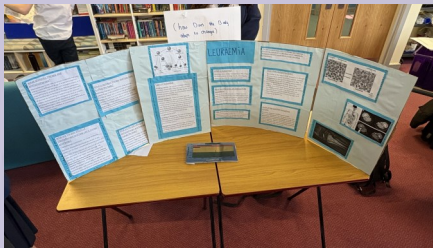
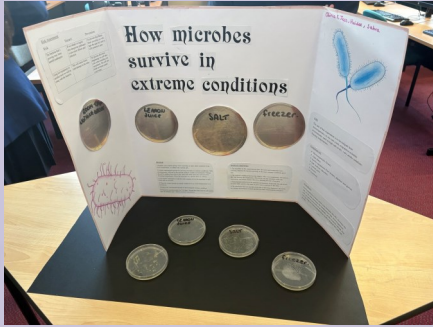
There were projects on the Mandela effect, to the science of running or swimming, as well as Colossal Fossils, The effect of different hair dyes on our hair (I was very pleased when I learned bleaching my hair wasn't so bad after all!), Blackpool Towers to Turbines, How music affects our mood, How microbes live in extreme conditions, The physics of kicking a football, and many, many more!

It was the largest Science Fair to date, with 4 external Judges to attend and pick our winners. The Judges were one of our lovely Governors Gabriella Pardoe-Boi, a Trustee for the CCT Allan Foster, a Systems Engineer from BAE Craig Hargreaves (Emily Hargreaves, ex-student's Dad), and a Science Lecturer from BNFC Abi Wylde. They volunteered their time, with the bribe of cake and tea, to judge the projects. They took the job very seriously and deliberated well in the Judge's Chambers (Science Snug!). But... There can only be 1 winner.

In third place we had Charlie Timperley-Green with a project on Diabetes and the changes the body will go through. He bought in scales to weigh people and measured their waists to see if they were likely to develop diabetes in their lifetime. It certainly caused quite a stir when Charlie had to break the news to some staff and judges, but he did a fabulous job of the delivery and answered every question of him.

In second place we had Grace Cooper who completed a study on the Early detection of pancreatic cancer. She stunned the judges with her vast knowledge at just 12 years of age, had such confidence answering questions and blew them away by her project.

In first place we had a group of our Year 10 triple Scientists.. Matilda Sturzaker, Brooke Spencer, Lara Gray and Lily-Grace Watson. They conducted an experiment in the Science Fair looking at how different music genres affected people's mood through measuring resting heart rate. Mine was most relaxed at Heavy Metal, but classical seemed to stress me out! Lots of surprises and enjoyment and completely followed a Scientific method. The judges were really impressed by their knowledge and any question they could muster to ask them was answered in an instance without materials to aid them.





# KING to 8H

The game opened with both players playing by the book matching each other in a symmetric opening. Kings pawns first then knights then bishops. Lewis was keen to take central control as white but with the pressure of being on the big screen and the classroom full of onlookers he rushed his opening and advanced his queens pawn too far too soon. Jake who had the pawn attacked on three fronts paused for a second then took with his pawn. Lewis keen to keep the game moving took the pawn with his knight -**BLUNDER!** Again rushing headfirst into the centre, he had not calculated the number of attackers on that square and was giving his knight away for free. Jake took the material with his own knight which was now advanced far down the board on the D4 square.

Lewis continued applying some pressure by pushing a pawn onto E5 which meant that either Jakes knight had to go back to its home square or be taken. Jake paused for 30 seconds before castling his king to safety and leaving his knight to be taken. Lewis levelled the material with his pawn and Jake took the free pawn with his queen moving it to an attacking square. Lewis slipped his light squared bishop on to a naturally defensive square. Jake looked at the board for a short time before shooting his knight in for an attack - **CHECK!**

With his king attacked, Lewis had to make a decision about how to defend himself. Lewis, potentially worried about losing his queen to some trap, took the knight with his newly placed light squared bishop - **BLUNDER!**

This was what Jake had hoped for all along - the knight sacrifice had opened up a line for his bishop! He took no time in picking his queen up and sliding it down the board to F2 attacking the king on E1. **CHECK AND MATE!!**





# SPORT REPORT

## Wyre and Fylde Indoor Athletics

On Friday 7th March, the Wyre and Fylde indoor athletics competition took place at Blackpool Sports Centre, featuring a strong lineup of 12 schools from the region. The event was highly contested, with several schools showcasing impressive performances. The Year 7 girls finished 6th overall, but their achievement was notable as they were only 12 points away from securing the top spot in an extremely tight competition. The Year 7 boys secured a commendable 3rd place overall. In the Year 8 category, the boys also finished 3rd, narrowly missing the top spot by 20 points. The Year 8 girls performed exceptionally well, finishing 2nd overall and just 15 points shy of claiming the title. The close margins highlight the high level of competition throughout the event.

## Badminton and Handball

It has been an exceptional term for our handball and badminton teams at Hodgson Academy, filled with achievements that reflect the students' hard work and commitment. In handball, both our Year 7 female and Under 16 female teams demonstrated remarkable skill and teamwork, culminating in their victories in the Wyre and Fylde Cup. These wins not only highlight the students' prowess in the sport but also their ability to work together effectively as a team. Moving to badminton, our Under 16 mixed team secured the top spot in the Wyre and Fylde Cup, showcasing their impressive technique and strategy on the court. The Under 14 mixed team also had a commendable performance, finishing as runners-up in the Wyre and Fylde Cup, which is a testament to their growing skills and competitiveness. Additionally, our Year 7 badminton team placed second in the Wyre and Fylde League, marking a promising start to their badminton journey. Furthermore, the Under 16 girls' badminton team reached the county finals, a significant achievement that highlights their dedication and talent. We are incredibly proud of all our students for these outstanding achievements and look forward to their continued success in these sports.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PUPIL NAME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>
7	Ava Duffy	DECEMBER
7	Jenson Berry	DECEMBER
8	Bethany Howarth	DECEMBER
8	Sam Dore	DECEMBER
9	Esmee Daaba	DECEMBER
9	Harry Platt	DECEMBER
10	Hannah Thompson	DECEMBER
10	Harry Curl	DECEMBER
11	Isobel Skivington	DECEMBER
11	Joe Connor	DECEMBER
7	Molly Kirkham-Edmondson	JANUARY
7	Ethan Spencer	JANUARY
8	Isabella Slade	JANUARY
8	Jack Connor	JANUARY
9	Phoebe Hamilton	JANUARY
9	Archie Webster	JANUARY
10	Sienna Haywood	JANUARY
10	Charlie Hall	JANUARY
11	Iva Gosik	JANUARY
11	Harry Gregory	JANUARY
7	Elsie Matthews	FEBRUARY
7	Eddy Hague	FEBRUARY
8	Evelyn Bradbury	FEBRUARY
8	Joseph Broughton-Taylor	FEBRUARY
9	Sophie Pickles	FEBRUARY
9	Edward Dunkow	FEBRUARY
10	Megan Hartley	FEBRUARY
10	Oliver Harding	FEBRUARY
11	Nancy Bateman	FEBRUARY
11	George Alcock	FEBRUARY

## **Sporting Results**

### **Football – Lancashire Cup**

Year 7 Boys – Won 3-1 against Ormskirk – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round  
Year 8 Boys – Won 5-2 against Lytham St Annes – 3<sup>rd</sup> Round  
Year 8 Boys – Won 6-0 against Clitheroe Royal Grammar School – Quarter Finals  
Year 10 Boys – Won 6-1 against Darwen Vale – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round  
Year 10 Boys – Lost 4-1 against Broughton High School – 3<sup>rd</sup> Round  
Year 8 Girls – Won 8-6 against Morecambe High School – 1<sup>st</sup> Round  
Year 8 Girls – Won 13-0 against Montgomery – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

### **National Elite Schools Cup – Last 16**

Year 8 Boys – Lost 2-1 against Crompton House (Oldham)



## **Cross Country**

In December some of our students took part in the Fylde and Wyre Cross Country competition. It was a fantastic event and our students were outstanding, below are the results:

Team event:

Year 7 boys 1<sup>st</sup> place (64 pts)  
Year 7 girls 2<sup>nd</sup> place (99pts)  
Year 8/9 boys 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Year 8/9 girls 4<sup>th</sup> place

Oscar Joysun- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Jack Hodgkin  
Harrison Preston  
Maggie Belfield (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Elsie Matthews  
Ayesha Tisdale  
Archie Belfield (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Diego Mendonca  
Oliver Meek  
Jack Goodison  
Bethany Haworth  
Lilly McMinnis  
Zach Gallagher



Following on from this, Archie Belfield represented Lancashire in the English School Cross Country Championships on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and did extremely well. Congratulations to everyone that took part in the cross country events.



# We are the CHAMPIONS... again!



This week our dance team took part in 2 different competitions -The Great Big Dance Off North Heat and the Lancashire Dance Finals.

At 'The Great Big Dance Off' our key stage 3 group performed 'A Legacy of Motion', a routine that demonstrates how dance has changed and evolved through time. They came 5th overall in a very tough and large category. Our key stage 4 group performed 'The Gift of Life' and placed 4th overall in their category, which included 6th form and college groups so overall an amazing achievement.

Following this, they returned to the Winter Gardens stage to take part in the Lancashire Finals which they qualified for earlier this year. Their routine was inspired by the importance of organ donation and highlights not only how many lives can be saved through organ donation, but also the sense of peace it can bring to the families of donors. We are very pleased to announce that Hodgson placed first with an absolutely incredible score of 296/300, making them back to back Lancashire Champions after also winning last year with a performance based on the fall of the Berlin Wall. We are so proud of the team who have put in a lot of hard work to achieve their goals and also remained humble and polite at all points throughout the competition.

Furthermore, Hodgson has since been contacted by the NHS at Blackpool Victoria Hospital who have seen our dance and have approached the school about working together to promote the importance of organ donation, using their dance to support this.

We cannot wait to see what is in store for our incredibly talented dance team in the future!





# Mingalaba

The Mingalaba event that took place on this term and was a big success. It was wonderful to see so many students engaged in the MFL workshops and using their French/German football terminology on the pitch.

These students really got involved and pushed themselves to talk in the target language.

Charlie Andrew  
 Oscar Dowell  
 Sassy Hesketh-Monks  
 Alex Greenwood  
 Esme Pangan  
 Amelia Platt  
 Ryan Wade  
 Joshua Beddows  
 Josiah Read  
 Harry Platt  
 Molly Todman  
 Lilli Clarke







# KRAKOW 2025

During the February half-term break, 23 students and 3 staff members travelled to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was deeply moving. Walking through the preserved barracks, gas chambers, and exhibitions was a sobering reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust. For our students, it brought to life the human stories behind the statistics they've studied, fostering empathy and a commitment to combating prejudice and hatred. It allowed us to connect emotionally with the past and reflect on the importance of remembrance particularly during this year of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp.

A visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mines was made; a marvel of engineering and artistry. From descending 327 metres to exploring the vast caverns, intricate salt sculptures, and the breathtaking underground chapel, the tour highlighted human ingenuity and resilience.

The trip also included some surprises. A visit to a local chocolate factory offering the chance to make our own chocolate treats, followed by Polish doughnuts and a spooky walking tour of Krakow by night.

Before heading home we took a leisurely trip down the Vistula river on a paddle steamer, taking in the sights of Krakow.

This journey was more than just a school trip; it was an unforgettable experience that left an indelible mark on all of us. We returned home not only with newfound knowledge but also with a deeper appreciation for the lessons of history and the beauty of human creativity.





# Something Different at Easter



Lancashire's ever-popular and annual Egg Rolling event on Avenham and Miller Parks is a favourite at Easter for Lancashire residents. In the beginning, the annual Egg Rolling event on Avenham Park would have involved rolling decorated eggs down grassy hills. These eggs were known as pace-eggs and were originally a Lancashire custom. Pace-eggs were traditionally decorated by wrapping the eggs in onion skins and boiling them to give the shells a golden mottled effect. Children would then roll their pace-eggs down the hills and see who could get theirs the furthest without it breaking. It was also tradition to destroy any remaining shells on the grassy hills, otherwise Lancashire witches could steal them and use them as boats.

Today the Egg Rolling on Avenham and Miller Parks mainly sees a more modern version of rolling chocolate eggs down its steep slopes—much tastier and far less witches!





# Ayaan Khan's Corner of Curiosities

## MATHS

### The Curious Case of the Collatz Conjecture

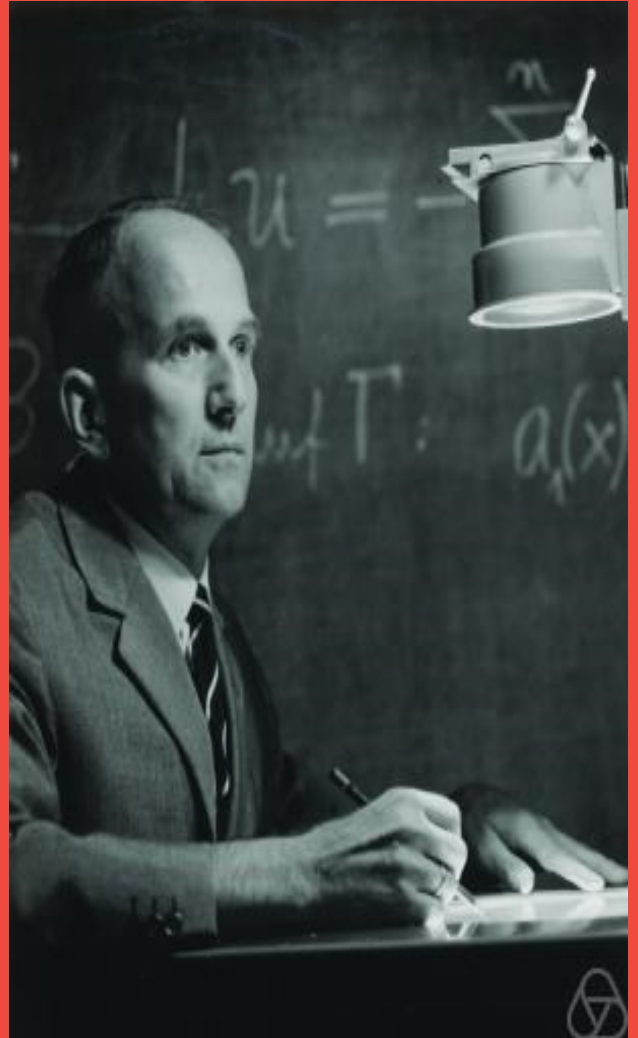
The Collatz Conjecture is one of the simplest unsolved problems in mathematics, yet it continues to surprise even the brightest minds. It starts with a very easy rule: pick any positive whole number. If it's even, divide it by 2. If it's odd, multiply it by 3 and add 1. Then repeat this process with the new number.

For example, if you start with 6:  
6 - 3 - 10 - 5 - 16 - 8 - 4 - 2 - 1

No matter what number you start with, the pattern always seems to end at 1, but no one has ever been able to prove this for every number. The problem was first proposed by German mathematician, Lothar Collatz in 1937, and despite countless efforts, a proof/disproof hasn't been found.

What makes the Collatz Conjecture so fascinating is how a problem that sounds like a primary school maths puzzle hides such deep complexity. It's a great example of how mathematics isn't just about solving problems, it's about understanding why things work the way they do.

So, the next time you're bored, try a few numbers yourself. But be warned: it might just keep you up at night, but if it does, remember to wake up in time for school!



**Lothar Collatz:** a German mathematician, born in Arnsberg, Westphalia.

## SCIENCE

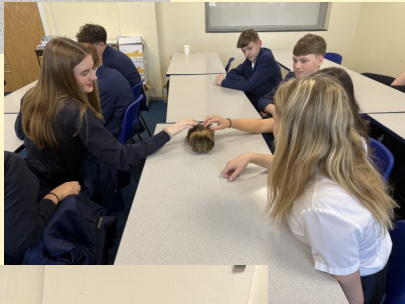
### Sexism in Science: A Problem We Still Need to Solve

Science has given us amazing discoveries, from the structure of DNA to the secrets of space. But behind many of these breakthroughs is a troubling history: the unfair treatment of women and other underrepresented groups. For centuries, brilliant female scientists were ignored, doubted, or had their work stolen by men. A famous example being superb scientist, Rosalind Franklin, who helped discover the shape of DNA, but her contribution was largely overlooked for decades.

Even today, sexism still exists in science. Fewer women reach top research positions, and many face unfair treatment in labs and universities. This isn't just wrong, it also holds science back. When only certain voices are heard, we lose out on fresh ideas and perspectives.

This is where our motto CARE comes in: Consideration And Respect for Everyone. By showing respect, listening to all voices, and treating each other equally, in school, in science, and in life, we help create a fairer world. CARE isn't just a fancy motto; it's a powerful tool to build better classrooms, better societies, and better discoveries.

Science works best when everyone gets a chance to shine. Let's make sure no one is left behind.



# Animal Club

**Animal club is a co-curricular club aimed at helping build resilience and confidence amongst our students at Hodgson Academy. An invite only club, we select students who benefit from some interaction with animals of all shapes and sizes.**

**This year we have had a number of visitors already, Mrs Reece's favourite- the gerbils! Named Jeremy and Crackers, these two friendly characters enjoyed running up and down our students and across our desks. On the same visit we had a scaly visitor called Queeny, a small garden snake. Startled at first, she had her monthly toilet trip. However she soon relaxed and enjoyed being held by the students. 10M had a special visit from these characters and brought out the soft side of the students.**

**On another visit Mrs Manderson brought in her cat - Madge! Madge is an 18m old Sphynx cat. Sphynx cats are known mostly for their lack of fur. This is a naturally occurring mutation originally discovered in Canada (of all places), not Egypt - like most people assume. Most Sphynx cats are not completely naked, and actually have a very fine layer of hair and feel more like warm velvet or a fuzzy peach. They have very high metabolisms and their body temperature is actually higher than other breeds so Madge is very warm to cuddle. Another characteristic of the breed is their affectionate and mischievous nature. Madge will absolutely let you know when she wants affection and won't take no for an answer often patting you with her paw if you try and ignore her.**

**Madge had the best of times when she came to visit Hodgson. She spent her time with Mrs Bate being played with and cuddled by all of the staff in meetings that day. And she spent lunch time and afterschool in the Science Snug running around like a loon after her favourite toy. She didn't appreciate it when she was on her own though and you could hear her telling us all about it shouting her displeasure. She caused quite a stir between lessons when students were walking past, as many people have never seen a Sphynx in person and you don't expect to see a hairless cat in school! She can't wait to visit again.**

**We have also had visit from a rabbit called Easter, some of Mrs Reece's year 9's couldn't believe we brought these animals into class for them to see. The bunny received many cuddles from our students and looked very relaxed being held like a baby in their arms. Accompanying her was Shelly the tortoise, our fast runner who loved being tickled by the students.**

**Most recently we have had a visit from Onion, Noodle and Pumpkin Spice the guinea pigs, what calming creatures they were! Every student that has interacted with our animal guest have done so with complete respect and care. They really have shown safe and sensible behaviour with our furry and none furry friends- I am very proud.**