



The Hodgson Highlight Summer Issue 2025

MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS

THE HOUSE HAT HAS
SPOKEN

YEAR 10 WORK
EXPERIENCE



CHEMICAL REACTION!

STAFF V STUDENTS
CRICKET

LEGALLY
BLONDE
The Musical
JULY 2025

ROUNDERS CHAMPIONS

Headteacher's Welcome



I want to start by thanking all the parents, carers, students and staff for their support during my first year of Headship. Whilst I have been at Hodgson for longer than I care to admit, it has been humbling to see the team spirit in action on a daily basis in our school this year. I have said it many times before, but it truly is a privilege to lead our school.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we look back with pride at the many achievements and accomplishments we as the Hodgson Family have made. This year has been especially significant for our Year 11 pupils, who brought an important chapter to a close with a fantastic leavers' day. The event was a true celebration of their time with us, marked by outstanding behaviour and a wonderful sense of occasion.

We now look ahead with excitement to results day on 21st August and wish all of them the very best – we're proud of everything they've achieved and everything they've yet to accomplish.

Across the rest of the school, there have been many memorable moments – from excellent performances in the school production of Legally Blonde to a wide range of enrichment trips and experiences. These have included end-of-year visits to the Trafford Centre and Blackpool Pleasure Beach, and we've also celebrated the achievements of all the Houses in the Celebration Assemblies this week.

We're especially pleased to have appointed our new student leadership team and are looking forward to working closely with them next year. Their enthusiasm and ideas have already been fantastic, and we're confident they'll continue to make a real difference.

As always, we're grateful for the ongoing support from parents and carers, and we're excited to begin the new year positively. Our focus will be on ensuring that all students are well-prepared – with the right uniform, equipment, and attitude – so we can continue moving forward together.

We look forward to working as one team and wish all of our students and their families a happy, safe, and restful summer.

Mrs Khan, HEADTEACHER
#oneteamonedream

Staff vs Year 11 Cricket Match Report

Under glorious summer sunshine at Fylde Cricket Club, the much-anticipated annual Staff vs Year 11 cricket match delivered another entertaining chapter in this growing tradition. A lively crowd of younger students lined the boundary, their cheers adding to the vibrant atmosphere as the action unfolded.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, co-captains James Rawcliffe and Daniel Gray strode to the crease with purpose. The students made a steady start, but the breakthrough came courtesy of the staff's strike bowler—Mr Pegg. With a beautifully disguised leg-spinner, he clean bowled Dan, sparking jubilant celebrations from the sidelines.

Amy Broughton-Taylor joined James at the crease, and the pair began to rebuild with patience and precision. However, the momentum shifted again with a clever bowling change. Making his debut for the staff XI, Mr Tadikonda introduced his wily off-spin and struck gold. James, perhaps distracted by some playful chat from the fielders, misread a subtle variation and chipped a catch to short extra cover.

Mr Tadikonda continued to impress, keeping things tight and picking up another wicket. Despite the regular fall of wickets, Amy remained composed. With a mix of solid defence and confident stroke play, she anchored the innings with an unbeaten 25*, guiding the students to a competitive 60-5 from their 10 overs.

After a quick turnaround, staff openers Mr Hadow and Mr Wharrier took to the field with intent. A flurry of boundaries saw the staff surge to 30-0 within just two overs. Although Mr Wharrier fell in the fourth over, Mr Ingham, promoted to number three, picked up where he left off. With aggressive intent and clean hitting, the staff chased down the target in just 5.3 overs, sealing an 8-wicket victory.

Now in its fourth year, this fixture—first played in 2022—has become a highlight of the summer term calendar. With the series now tied at 2-2, it's clear that this is a well-matched and good-natured rivalry. A huge thank you goes to all players, supporters, and Fylde CC who made the day such a success.



The Mental Health Ambassadors with Grace Grundy

Mental health is just as important as physical health, especially during your teenage years. It affects how you think, feel, and handle everyday challenges. Sometimes, life can feel overwhelming with school, friendships, and family expectations. It's completely normal to experience stress, anxiety, or sadness from time to time, but if these feelings last a long time or start affecting your daily life, you need to seek help. But for a teen, it is completely normal, in fact 1 in 5 teenagers experience a mental health disorder each year. And around 50% of all lifetimes mental health conditions begin by age 14. So, it's important to take care of it before it becomes too much of an issue for you. Making sure your mental well-being is positive is so detrimental to a happy, carefree life.

Ways of coping are so important when it comes to mental health issues and solving them, A very successful mechanism is 'Box Breathing'. All this consists of imagining a box around your head, each side being a different activity: the top of the box is inhaling through your nose for about 4 seconds, then going to the second side holding for 4 seconds, the next exhaling through your mouth for 4, and finally holding once again for 4. Follow round that box with each step. If you repeat that for around 1-2 minutes, it will make you feel so much calmer and relaxed. Another great way to cope with stress is by engaging in physical activity. It can also be as simple as exercise, staying offline from your phone, computer or other device that could cause stress. It's as easy as going for a walk, dancing to your favourite music, or playing a sport, it helps release built-up tension and boosts your mood by increasing endorphins — your brain's natural feel-good chemicals. Moving your body also gives you a break from stressful thoughts and helps you feel more in control. Even just a few minutes of activity can make a big difference in helping you feel calmer and more refreshed.

One of my favourite things to do when feeling stressed or sad is reading. Reading helps with mental health by reducing stress, improving focus, and providing an escape from daily worries. It engages the mind, promoting relaxation and mindfulness, similar to meditation. Books can also boost empathy and emotional intelligence by allowing readers to experience different perspectives. Getting stuck in a story that can take different turns, twists and storylines is so distracting, and so important when trying to cope with emotions; whether through fiction, self-help, or inspiring stories. Reading nurtures mental well-being and fosters a sense of peace reading before bed can improve sleep quality by replacing screen time with a calming activity.

But showing how to cope is one thing, knowing it's okay to feel is another. Life can be a rollercoaster, and sometimes you're riding the highs, while other times you're just trying to hold on through the loops. Feeling sad, anxious, or overwhelmed doesn't mean something is wrong with you—it just means you're human. Your emotions don't need to be fixed or ignored; they just need to be understood. So, give yourself some kindness and remember—it's okay not to be okay all the time!

Remember, feeling a range of emotions—happiness, sadness, stress, or excitement— is completely okay! All of them are valid. Finding healthy ways to cope, like talking to someone you trust, practicing mindfulness, or engaging in creative activities, can make a big difference. Reading can also be a great escape and a tool for understanding yourself better. Most importantly, know that you are not alone. Support is always available, and seeking help is a sign of strength. Keep prioritizing your well-being—you deserve it!

Hodgson Academy Students Discover the Benefits of Local Work Experience



Students at Hodgson Academy have been stepping out of the classroom and into the world of work, thanks to a range of local work experience placements. These opportunities have given students a taste of real-life workplaces and shown just how valuable hands-on experience can be.

Many students took on roles in local offices, shops, and healthcare settings, where they developed practical skills like communication, teamwork, and time management. "I learned how to work with people of all ages and backgrounds," said one Year 10 student. "It made me feel much more confident about my future."

Work experience also helped students explore different career paths. Some discovered new interests, while others confirmed what they wanted to do after school. "Spending a week with an engineering team made me realise I want to pursue a career in that field," shared another student.

Employers were impressed by the enthusiasm and fresh ideas students brought to their workplaces. Several students were even offered part-time or summer jobs as a result of their hard work. "It was great to see how I could make a difference in a real business," said a student who worked at a local shop.

Taking part in work experience not only helps students build their CVs but also strengthens their connections with the local community. By working alongside professionals, students gained valuable insights, references, and sometimes even new friends.

Overall, local work experience has proven to be a win-win for Hodgson Academy students and the businesses that support them. As one student put it, "I feel ready for whatever comes next."

Lily Grace Watson: I recently had the opportunity to complete my work experience placement at Spencer Clarke Group, a recruitment firm based in the North West. It was an incredibly rewarding experience that gave me a deeper insight into how a professional business operates across a variety of departments.

During my time there, I was involved in a wide range of tasks across marketing, graphic design, data collection, finance, and compliance. In marketing, I wrote articles for the company's website and helped create engaging job posts for social media platforms. It was great to see my work go live and understand the importance of strong written communication and digital branding in attracting candidates and clients.

I also gained hands-on experience in graphic design, where I learned how to create visually appealing content that aligns with the company's brand. In finance and compliance, I was involved in data collection and administrative tasks, which taught me the importance of accuracy, attention to detail, and following procedures in a regulated environment.

What really stood out to me was the work culture at Spencer Clarke Group. While the team maintained a high level of professionalism, the environment was also welcoming and fun – even with office dogs around, the atmosphere remained focused and productive. It was inspiring to see how a balance between professionalism and a positive, friendly environment can lead to a motivated and collaborative team.

This placement has given me a clearer sense of direction for my future. I've discovered new interests, developed practical skills, and gained first-hand experience in a fast-paced and supportive workplace. It's made me excited to pursue future opportunities in marketing, business, or recruitment, and I'm truly grateful for everything I've learned during my time at Spencer Clarke Group.



ROUNDERS RALLY: HODGSON SWINGS INTO ACTION

Our fantastic Year 7 team went out to Fleetwood High school today in very cold and windy conditions to become Year 7 School Champions!

They played 7 back-to-back matches against 7 different schools and won them all, facing some very close battles and tough competition against Carr Hill, LSA, St Bedes and Cardinal Allen.

Players player was Ava Duffy for her superb 1 handed catches and super quick reaction time. Coaches player went to the whole team for their efforts but stand out performances came from Maisie Gonzwala and Elsie Matthews for batting and Holly McKay for her dominant bowling and fielding skills!



Our wonderful Year 9 girls were last night crowned **CHAMPIONS** as they won the Wyre and Fylde schools tournament at Fleetwood a high School.

If you see them today, please say well done as they beat off stiff opposition from LSA and St Bede's School. What a performance!

A Big thanks to Mr McCann for taking them to the event and to student teacher Mr Woodhouse for supporting.

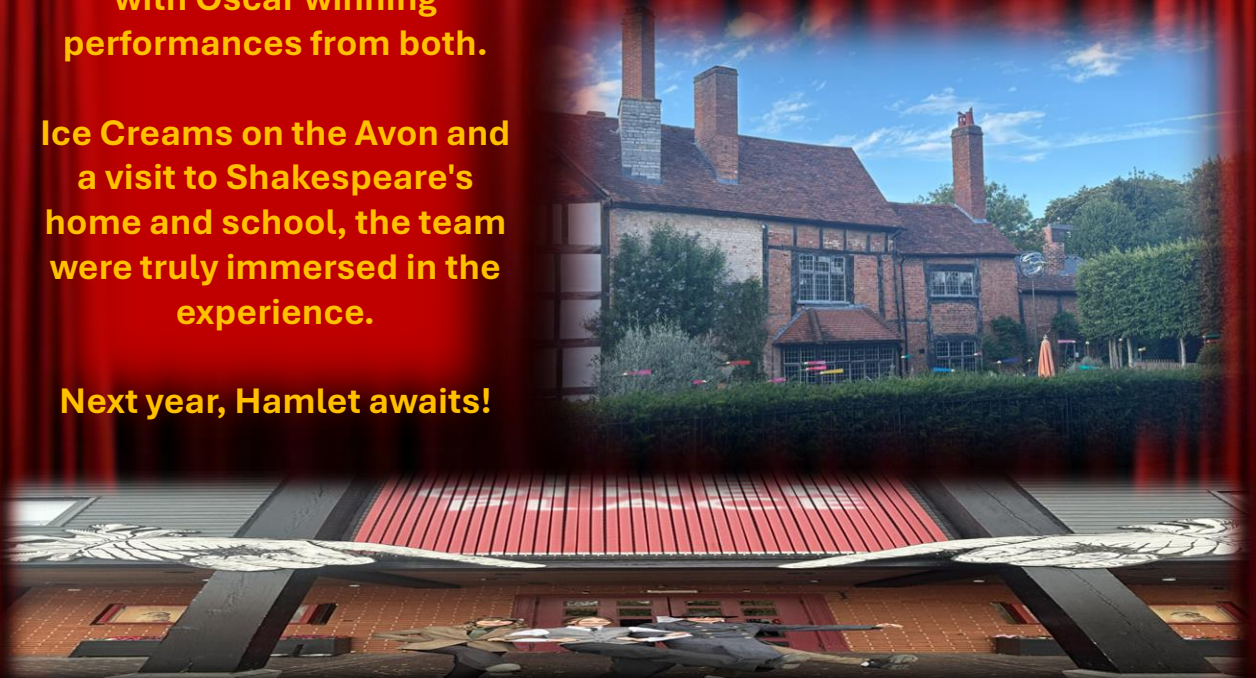
The Show goes on, and on, to Stratford!

Once again, the Shakespeare ambassadors have taken it to the top! After hugely successful *Romeo and Juliet*, followed by starring roles in *The Tempest*, Holly, Charlotte and Evelyn were invited to perform in *King Lear* at Shakespeare's home-town of Stratford Upon Avon.

Starring alongside several other Blackpool schools, Hodgson's Charlotte Ansel took the starring role of Lear with a commanding performance. Holly and Evelyn (Cornwall and Edgar), were also present with Oscar winning performances from both.

Ice Creams on the Avon and a visit to Shakespeare's home and school, the team were truly immersed in the experience.

Next year, *Hamlet* awaits!



HODGSON GET THEIR THINKING CAPS ON @ UCLAN



The experience kicked off with an unforgettable demonstration by one of UCLan's professors, who brought science and biology to life in the most spectacular way. We saw a fire tornado, cloud bubbles, and even watched him set himself on fire — all while explaining the real science behind it. He even created an indoor cloud right before our eyes. It wasn't just entertaining — it was packed with fascinating facts that had us hooked from start to finish.

We learned that:

- Your brain produces enough electricity to power a light bulb.
- The human body contains around 100n billion neurons.
- We have 206 bones in our bodies.
- And countless other facts that made us see the human body in a whole new way.

We also got hands-on with biology, working with another UCLan professor to build a human body out of spaghetti — a fun and messy way to learn about organs and systems. Then we constructed an incredible paper brain, which helped us understand how different brain regions control our thoughts, movement, and emotions.

The final part of the day was filled with interactive STEM experiences:

- We drove a Mars rover across a rocky, Martian-like surface.
- Took part in a VR space station experience, feeling like real astronauts.
- And even used an electrical machine that made our hair stand up, showing how static electricity works!

Throughout the day, we were guided and supported by UCLan's amazing student ambassadors. They were friendly, knowledgeable, and made us feel welcome and inspired. It was great to see what university life is like from their perspective.



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

The Hodgson House Hat has Spoken!

The core mission of Phoenix House at Hodgson Academy is to foster a supportive, inclusive, and vibrant community where students develop team spirit, responsibility, leadership skills, and personal growth. As part of Hodgson Academy's house system, Phoenix House aims to provide an extra layer of pastoral care and guidance, ensuring every student receives the support they need to thrive academically and personally. The house system is integral to promoting collaboration, friendly competition, and a sense of belonging, all within the academy's overarching ethos: Imagine - Believe - Achieve

With Mr Farmer leading the flight of Dragons, next year's 8 promise to bring the fire! At Hodgson Academy, Dragon House is dedicated to inspiring every member to achieve their personal best through teamwork, resilience, and respect. We strive to foster a spirit of determination and pride, encouraging students to support one another, embrace challenges, and celebrate success together. Our mission is to empower all Dragons to lead with integrity, contribute positively to our community, and pursue excellence in all they do.





At Griffin House, we inspire every student to imagine, believe, and achieve. We foster a supportive and ambitious community where students are encouraged to develop confidence, resilience, and respect. Through teamwork, leadership, and a commitment to excellence, Griffin House empowers each member to reach their full potential and contribute positively to the Hodgson Academy family



The wild horses of year 8 will be sure to gallop to success, with Mrs King at reigns. At Pegasus House, our mission is to inspire every student to soar to their highest potential. We foster a supportive and inclusive environment where resilience, ambition, and teamwork empower our community to achieve excellence in all pursuits. Together, we strive to embody the spirit of Pegasus—rising above challenges and reaching new heights in learning, character, and leadership.



A Night of Pink, Laughter and Law

Hodgson Academy in Poulton-Le-Fylde lit up with excitement as students took to the stage for their much-anticipated production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Running from July 9 to July 11, 2025, the show brought the beloved story of Elle Woods to life, captivating audiences with its infectious energy, catchy songs, and uplifting message.

The students shone in their roles, with standout performances from the leads portraying Elle, Emmett, and Paulette. Their comedic timing and vocal talent were met with enthusiastic applause.

The production team transformed the school's stage with clever set designs and vibrant costumes, immersing the audience in Elle's world of pink and legal drama.

The show was a testament to the dedication of Hodgson Academy's Performing Arts department, with students, staff, and families coming together to support the event.

Hodgson Academy's staging of *Legally Blonde* not only entertained but also inspired students to embrace creativity, teamwork, and self-confidence. The success of the show highlights the importance of the arts in education and the power of live performance to unite a school community.

The after-school performing arts club is buzzing with excitement as they prepare for their upcoming production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Under the direction of Katie Eccles, the young cast is working tirelessly to bring the show to life.

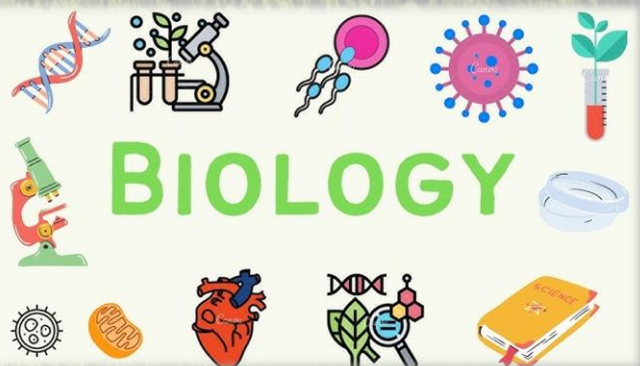
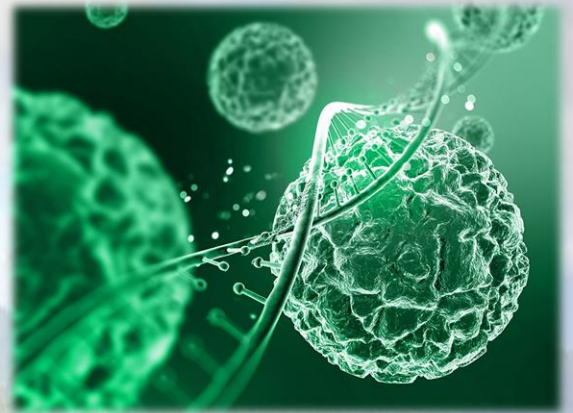
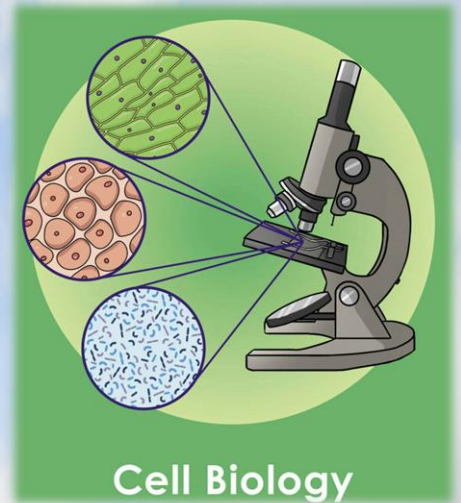
Harriet, a talented and dedicated student, has landed the coveted role of Elle Woods. Her vibrant personality and strong vocals have made her a natural fit for the part, inspiring the rest of the group.

Dance rehearsals are in full swing with choreographer Laura Wade leading high-energy routines that capture the fun, confident spirit of the musical. Laura's choreography is challenging but motivating, pushing the students to perform at their very best. Meanwhile, the club is busy building and painting props for the stage — from pink suitcases to salon chairs — giving everyone a chance to contribute creatively beyond their acting roles. Backstage, students collaborate to design costumes for Elle's iconic pink outfits, creating a supportive team environment.

The energy is contagious, and everyone is working hard to make the production a success. With Harriet's passionate performance, Katie's sharp direction, and Laura's dynamic dance numbers, the club's *Legally Blonde* promises to be an unforgettable SHOW.

Biology In The Wild

On 8th July, our year 7 students took a walk on the wild Blackpool zoo – and it wasn't just for fun (although there was plenty of that too). As part of a bigger biology project, the trip provided an excellent opportunity for the students to explore the habitats and ecosystems animals live and thrive in! They could then pick one of these spectacular creatures to do a presentation about. From roaring lions to the extravagant flamingos, none were off limits - each as fascinating to study. By observing them closeup and learning how each animal interacts with one another, the ecosystem it belongs to and how it fits into its environment, this project was a fantastic way to bring biology to life outside the classroom!



Chemical Reaction

At Hodgson Academy Chemistry is more than just a subject. It is an insight of how the world works. From exciting lab experiments to real life practicals and applications, Chemistry at Hodgson Academy challenges students to think critically, ask questions and explore the science behind everyday life.

Students dive into topics like atomic structure and chemical equations whilst building lab skills and confidence within chemistry. Our dedicated teachers provide support within an engaging environment to help every student succeed.

Need extra help?

We offer after school chemistry drop-in sessions for year 10 students working towards their GCSE's where students can get personalised support, prep for exams and dive deeper into topics that spark their interest. These are on Wednesday nights with any science teacher of your choice. Whether you are aiming for top scores or wanting to feel more confident in chemistry our drop-in sessions are a welcoming and productive place for all.

On the 2nd of July, some of our female students took part in the Wyre and Fylde high school athletics competition. It was a great day and many girls from each year group had a fantastic time. It was a great opportunity for the girls to see how they compete against many local schools as well as the year 10s taking this opportunity to get great GCSE footage. Overall, the girls placed 4th. This is a superb achievement well done to all the girls who took part. Some special shout outs to:

- Y7 - 800m - Maggie Belfield - 2.47 mins - 1st
- Y7 - triple jump - Lydia Eastwood - 5.93 - 3rd
- Y8 - long jump - Isla Orwin - 4.53m - 1st
- Y8 - 200m - Isla Orwin - 27.8 - 2nd
- Y8 - 800m - Matilda Carter-Nuttall - 2.48 mins - 2nd
- Y8 - 1500m - Lilly McMinnis - 5.34 mins - 2nd
- Y9 - discus - Everlyn Bradbury - 16.58m - 3rd
- Y9 - shot put - Scarlett Ozobia Wicks - 8.41m - 2nd
- Y10 - 800m - Lilly Emery - 2.58 mins - 1st
- Y8 - relay - reached the final.

A huge congratulations to everyone and many thanks to the PE staff that supported the girls.

As well as this our year 10 sports leader went to Bolton Area to officiate the Northwest Regional Indoor Curling Finals. Our year 10s officiated both Primary and Secondary Finals. All the schools that came to take part really enjoyed the day and were grateful to have the opportunity to take part. It gave all the children a chance to win medals and certificates. They were also joined by a British Paralympian called Nathan Maguire who inspired everyone by sharing his story. The Sports leader showed a great representation of the school contributing to help the charity that runs all these amazing events.

Finally, with everything else Hodgson has to offer they also show a competitive, determined side. On the week commencing the 7th of July, the sports' day events began. All four houses going head to head all sharing the same goal of lifting the trophy at the end of the week. Sports day took place on the 10th of July, but the days running up to the 10th students at Hodgson took place in the 1500m, shot put, disc, howler and long jump. What a year it's been! Not only did students take part in these but they also broke records!

A super exciting staff vs student's rounders match took place on Monday 14th, with the staff taking an incredible win of 16-5 ½. Both teams gave an excellent performance and thoroughly enjoyed themselves but special mentions to our players of the match, Mr Tadikonda and Lilly Emery. Mr Tadikonda had some great catches as backstop, whilst Lilly continued to deliver with excellent bowling. A funny moment was when Mr Webb "tactically" wound up the student team. Another moment was the competitive nature coming out of some of the players, allowing the game to have an intense feel. Overall, it was a great game enjoyed by all, an amazing way for our year 10 rounders team to finish their time playing rounders at Hodgson. Thank you to the students and staff who took part in the game, and to Mrs Bushell for organising!!

Undefeated again! Well done staff and thanks for giving up your time to make memories with our lovely Year 10 girls



The Leaver of Liverpool



On the 11th of July, year 10 GCSE art students visited an art gallery to do artist research. We went to view Dawn to Dusk by Jim Moir (also known as Vic Reeves) where he paints depictions of British birds. His artwork brings pops of colour into the gallery, contrasting the earthy tones of the historical art pieces. We also viewed classical sculptures and Chinese ceramics as well as a collection of 18th century furniture and tapestries. We explored the meaning of the artwork through its symbolism and style while appreciating the effort and thought put into each piece. The designs of each art piece express to us the emotions behind it while displaying the amount of time put into the gallery itself. Overall, the trip introduced a new artist to students and showed that modern art can be blended with more traditional pieces giving students a newfound sense of appreciation for both styles which communicate messages that may still be relevant today or were in the past.

My first Year

I have loved it in year seven, this year.
All the new friends I have met, all
the fears I have conquered, when I
first stepped into the Hodgson buildings,
I was petrified. What if the teachers
didn't like me? What if I didn't make any
new friends? I was so scared!

conquered my fears and
my friend

new friends? I said

Now, I have conquered my fears and
I have made some amazing friends
and some of the best teachers ever I
have made some of the best memories
ever and I hope to make loads
more in year 7

As I arrived at Hockley
was really so everyone

As I arrived at Hodgson Academy I was really scared. I was texting everyone where to go. All the year 8's were so helpful showing me around. I go to period one not knowing where to go. It's 3:05 the day is over I was so happy that I'd finished for the day. I loved it! All the new friends I've made. Not just in my year in year 8 as well.

The football trials are here being picked for the school football trials was so exciting. Round one over into round two. Then I got picked for the first round. I was buzzing. Sadley I didn't get into the boys team but being captain of the girls football team was the dream. The first game was time to show who I was. I was given the captains armband. Playing striker then I nearly scored. It's tournament day with the older years. Since then I have grown my friendships with all different people but there's one person that just stands out from everyone.

Now it's my last week of year 7 it's flown by. I've had a great time. Me and all my mates are ready for year 8.