



High Level Learners at BCA Newsletter

October 2018

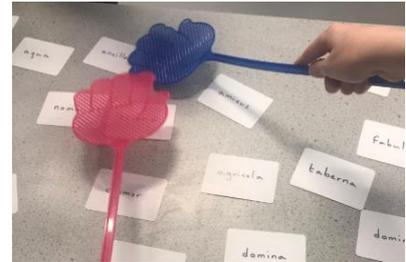
It has been a fantastic past few months for High Level Learners at BCA. Both inside and outside of the classroom, the last summer term was filled with activities and opportunities aimed at HLL students and this has carried through until this Autumn term. Here is a round of some of the highlights so far:

Latin GCSE



A group of Year 10s have successfully completed a course in Latin at an Introductory GCSE level. After months of studying during Friday mornings, their hard work has paid off. Every student who entered the exam passed with fantastic grades. Studying the classic languages is understood to have numerous benefits on students' learning of other languages, grammar, English, Literature, History and even Maths. It's a great opportunity for students

to experience this language as well as hopefully secure an introductory level GCSE in Year 9. Our new cohort of Year 8 HLL's have recently begun their journey with Latin and are making fantastic progress so far.



Shakespeare Schools Festival



A group of HLL students from across years 8-10 are working hard on their version of Shakespeare's Othello as part of the National Shakespeare Schools Festival. As part of the festival, students are given the opportunity to perform a 30-minute version of a Shakespeare play in a professional theatre to a public paying audience. For the past 5 years BCA have performed at theatres in both Liverpool and Manchester. This year we will be performing at Z-Arts in Manchester on Tuesday 13th November. Taking part in the

festival not only helps with students' performance and public speaking skills, but has also had a positive impact upon their grasp of Shakespearean language within the English curriculum. Auditions for the next Shakespeare production will take place in May. All HLL students are welcome to audition.

Oxbridge Events



Cambridge University Trip

A group of Year 10 HLL's were invited to visit Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University for a sample day of lectures and tours. Not only did students sit in subject specific lectures (such as Nanotechnology) with Professors from Cambridge University, they also had talks from current university students in order to fully understand what life at Cambridge is like.

The key message was that top universities are looking for students who are capable of studying at a high level, in an independent way and who are passionate about the subjects that they are applying to study; that enthusiasm is conveyed through how they write about their subject in their personal statement, how they talk about it at interview and the additional "work" they undertake is vital in demonstrating their interest. At the end of this letter I have included some ideas of ways in

which students can explore around topics that interest them and begin their own independent learning journeys that might lead them to studying at a university like Cambridge.

Studying at Oxford & Cambridge Lecture

Our Year 9 HLL students were invited to a talk (along with students from other schools in Warrington) by both Oxford University and Cambridge University, giving pupils an insight in to how to better their chances at making a successful application to Cambridge or Oxford University.

Oxford University Lectures

Year 10 students were given the opportunity to visit an event in Manchester where lecturers from Oxford University gave lectures upon various topics. The day was designed to have pupils experience the full range of subjects and topics covered across the Undergraduate programme at Oxford. Topics included Theology, Science and Philosophy.

Conservationists @ Chester Zoo

During the summer term, Year 9 HLL students had the opportunity to become Trainee Conservationists for the day at Chester Zoo. Students had a hands-on workshop with banned materials such as skins from endangered animals and objects made from Ivory which are priceless in illegal trade. By undertaking these workshops, students understood what a career in conservation and other animal sciences would consist of. As well as the workshops, a university lecture was also given to students in order to inform them of how to get in to the field of animal sciences, and what skills will put them in best stead to pursue these options.



The Lock Down: Escape Rooms



In March a group of students from Year 11 were rewarded for their commitment to their own academic study and enrichment with a trip to the Lock Down in Warrington where they utilised their problem-solving skills to escape the locked room. One group managed it in just under an hour, an impressive feat and it was superb to observe the students working together, applying logic as well as creative thinking, to solve the clues and escape the room.

Year 11 HLL Focus Group

When students reach Year 11, they are offered intense mentoring in relation to their abilities to achieve extremely high grades at GCSE. By being placed in to a HLL focus group, it means that we ensure that all HLL students are being monitored to not only ensure they are reaching their full potential, but also that they are being monitored from a pastoral perspective meaning we can offer support when needed.

Scholar Groups

Each year group has a High-Level Learner lead teacher who forms part of the Scholars Lead team. This year we will have specific Scholar group meetings several times a term. These groups are made up of the 10 most high performing HLL students from each year group. As these groups are exclusive and small, it is something to be celebrated if your child is selected to attend. Each meeting will consist of Critical Thinking activities designed to excel students love of learning, as well as curriculum and career specific opportunities. If students selected as part of the Scholars group do not wish to apply themselves fully to the opportunities presented to them, then their place will be offered to another student in their year group. The Scholar group selection will take place after the Autumn half term. The teachers who will be the point of contact for each year group are:

Year 7 – Mrs M Molyneux

Year 8 – Mr P Nulty

Year 9 – Mr R Denton

Year 10 – Mrs C Lewin

Other University Links

Liverpool John Moore's University

Students across year groups between 8-10 have been involved in various opportunities from LJMU over the past few months. Some of our HLL students were given the opportunity to perform with students at LMJU as part of their 3rd year projects. This stretched all High-Level Performers out of their comfort zone by expecting them to work in the style and at the level expected of degree level students.

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

LIPA have offered our HLL students interactive literature workshops surrounding the novel 'The Handmaids Tale' and worked extensively with students understanding of the difficult themes and topics included in the dystopian novel. Our pupils were also invited by LIPA to watch their stage adaptation of the book which also provided our HLL students with a further understanding of the totalitarian piece of literature.

In the classroom

All departments have received training to develop our approaches with Higher Level Learners. We have coordinated with specialists from other schools and developed strategies to ensure that we are teaching our students in a challenging way that develops their thinking and supports advanced learning. Students are being encouraged to develop and use a more sophisticated vocabulary and embed this into their speech and writing. Students are engaging in much more independent study, they are expected to complete pre-learning activities and reading to gain the foundations in a topic with a topic before engaging in more complex learning in the classroom. Reading is widely encouraged both for pleasure and to support classroom learning.

I hope this newsletter gives you an idea of what is on offer here to support your child's learning at Beamont Collegiate Academy. We are committed to ensuring that your child is offered every opportunity to succeed academically as well as enjoy their learning and thrive in a scholarly environment both in school and beyond.

**Kind regards,
Miss T Higham
High Level Learner Coordinator**