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Newsletter

Issue Summer Term 2018

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I'm really pleased to have this chance to tell you about pupils in all our learning centres reading for pleasure, as well as working hard to improve their reading, and taking every opportunity to pick up newspapers and books to keep themselves well informed, alongside picking up prizes and rewards.

We have new books in every centre, chosen by pupils themselves, thanks to funding from the Foyle Foundation, and we hosted the famous Manchester poet, Mike Garry, as a prize for our involvement in the Reading Challenge.

We also saw our best ever Manchester Day Parade, with pupils showing crowds of thousands in the city centre what they can achieve when they put their minds to it.

Our Outdoor Education programme has been a resounding success, not only with team building skills, experiences of a range of terrains, weathers and activities, but also supported by additional funding for 50 pupils to experience the High Ropes at Haigh Hall- as well as some very brave staff!

Our national award winning 'RePresent' exhibition is still on show at the People's History Museum, with pupils' work on display for you to go and enjoy.

I hope you'll agree pupils at MSPRU are a talented bunch, with a lot to offer to Manchester.

Best wishes
Jane Parkinson
Deputy Head KS3

Eden Project at KS3

Leading up to October half term, student representatives from each of the three KS3 centres, Hillside, Mersey Valley and Richmond Park visited the Eden Project in Cornwall.

The trip was fun and educational and we even factored in a visit to nearby Charlestown beach which has an historic harbour and home to some exceptional vessels. The location and ships have been used in films such as Pirates of the Caribbean, Poldark and the TV series Dr Who.





Manchester Day Parade

Once again, Manchester Secondary PRU students joined in the Manchester day Parade with their spectacular float. This was the fifth year that the PRU has worked alongside artist Rory Lynch to come up with ideas to interpret the theme and create the float.

As it was also the 100-year anniversary of the Representation of the **People** Act, the ideas began with celebrating votes for all and particular women, which led onto discussion around gender and the names we use to describe men, women and ourselves.

The young people considered language as a means of protest, argument and conversation and as you can see designed 2 'dancing' heads who were having a dialogue across the street, through a megaphone. Some people saw it as an argument, as if the 2 heads were shouting at each other. As with all good art, the meaning of our float is up to your own imagination.

The young people kept the costumes bright and simple and attached a word onto the front of their t-shirts, like race numbers in a marathon race. These words were pronouns used to define gender. Most of us had our faces painted, half-male and half female to challenge gender identity and stereotypes.

Finally carrying banners, as in protest marches, we joined in the parade, followed by the band 'Batala' who provided a beat that kept our feet moving and our spirits high.

The building, the costumes and the parade, deserve a huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE.

Also special thanks to Dave Mitchell for all your help in building the float, enthusiasm and dedication.

"We know there are so many things you do for us without much help or thanks so we all want you to know how much we appreciate your help. You look after us and make sure we're fed especially with those delicious lunches. Thanks for everything, we're all going to miss you".

Ks3 leavers quote at the Celebration Event.



KS3 Homeless Appeal

Staff at RP are making homemade soup on Mondays to raise money for the homeless.



Curious Minds Awards

On the 27th June, Jay Lanyon took Connor Gamble to the Preston Guild Hall for the NW Cultural Education Awards Ceremony. Connor was nominated for his contribution to the project work we did in partnership with the People's History Museum. The commitment he showed to the project was outstanding.

He made a big impact on the project and his work is currently on show at the People's History Museum as part of this year's REPRESENT! Exhibition.

We arrived in good time to look at some of the stalls and resources on show and then made our way into the arena. It was like the Oscars! We were thrilled when it was announced that Connor had won in his category!



Horticulture @KS3

We have been fortunate enough to obtain funding from Manchester University and Awards for All. The money is for horticultural activity across the three KS3 centres.

We have constructed raised beds which have so far, cultivated a number of different fruits and vegetables, used in lessons and at lunchtime. We hope to reduce our carbon footprint, food miles and use of pesticides, through growing local and organic.

“We loved growing things and being outdoors in this project”



PRoUd Bee In The City



Throughout the summer there was a public art trail called 'Bee in the City'.

Hundreds of bee sculptures decorated by artists, schoolchildren and local community groups were displayed in venues across Manchester. Our school has a bee called Bee PRoUd Two IEP students from Hillside came up with the design concept.

The Manchester Secondary PRU is a diverse school and the students thought it was important to reflect this in the bee.

They incorporated a map of Manchester into the design to show the many Learning Centres students at the PRU attend. They asked our other students to decorate hand templates with their hopes, dreams, messages and poignant remembrances. Finally, they worked tirelessly with Sangita Mistry and Michelle Nriapia to put everything together, using acrylic paint, pens, collage, spray paint and varnish.

Our bee has been on public display at The Lowry Outlet for the last couple of months and will eventually be displayed permanently at one of our Learning Centres.

Images from MSPRU





KS4 Celebration Evening @ Victoria Warehouse

In 2017/18 the school had 256 Year 11 leavers from a large number of provisions across the City of Manchester. To allow us to celebrate their achievements, we held our annual Year 11 Celebration Evening at the end of June. Due to the renovation of the Town Hall, our venue for the previous 11 years, we had to try to find a suitably inspiring alternative.

After much searching we discovered the Victoria Warehouse, Trafford. Built in the early 1900's, the building, which symbolises the industrial strength of the city, offered a fantastic venue for our celebration.

Students and their families joined staff from the PRU and special guests, including one of our local Councilors, to recognise the fantastic achievements of the young people. There were awards for subject excellence, outstanding effort and consistently high attendance. To help maintain the party atmosphere, the students were entertained by two street-dance troupes, thanks to Katie Gough for this.

Not to be out-done, a video of three of our Year 11 students was shown. The three girls, Jade, Jessica and Cameron had been working throughout the year on a music project with Reform Radio.



"It was a tremendous evening of celebration for our students"
Colin Rigby

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct Trip

An aqueduct looks like a bridge but it carries water over a valley road, railway or river. The first aqueducts carrying boats were built nearly 600 years ago which is pretty incredible. Harlie-Jay Year 8

The mortar used in the building of the aqueduct contained ox blood. The aqueduct was described by Sir Walter Scott as the stream in the sky where fish swim above the birds. Ayman Mohammed Year 8



Quotes from Key Stage 3

I'm the best at science – Damien

I feel really happy here – Bailey

Leave Mr Bower alone he's safe

Michael from PLT regarding his Christmas dinner
"Best Christmas dinner I have ever had"

Harley from Richmond Park regarding her chicken
curry "It was so nice I didn't want it to end".