



MELLAND STAR

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018



Message from our Principal - Sue Warner

It has been another great year for students at Melland High School with outstanding achievements across the curriculum and beyond. It was a pleasure to share in the end of term celebration last week, to see so many parents, carers, governors and friends in the audience and to recognise the amazing and diverse achievements of our wonderfully talented students.

Melland's involvement in the Schools Shakespeare Festival provided another highlight as students joined other schools within our Trust, giving an exceptional performance of Othello at the Z-Arts Centre. Feedback received from the project was exceptional; *'This was a brooding, visually exciting and emotive performance of Othello by a hard-working and professional ensemble.'*

Another exciting initiative this year includes a focus on the further development of the school's existing curriculum provision and pathways for all learners. We look forward to sharing this innovative work with you as the year progresses. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you a happy and peaceful 2019.

Melland High School Performance

After three weeks of rehearsals, learning lines, coaching sessions, recording lessons and media binges of unprecedented intensity, the annual MHS School play "Cool and the Blue Fairy" was performed to rapturous acclaim. It was a musical reimagining of Pinocchio in which a computer Avatar manages to break out of his computer game and has to learn the ropes of real life in order, finally, to succeed in becoming real. Special mention must go to Kais and Toulah who not only had more lines to learn than any previous participants, but they performed them with panache and dramatic assurance worthy of experienced professionals, not the novices they in fact are. A further commendation must be given to Renee who played the part of the bully who makes good in the end with conviction and aplomb, consigning the sinister Virtual MD of a digital corporation and his two henchmen to a richly deserved digital hell. Big thanks to Mr Freeston and everyone involved



Manchester City Reward Outstanding Student



Sixth form student Shakira was invited to Sport City to receive a very special award for 'going above and beyond in all areas'. Shakira has made rapid progress at Melland High School in the last 5 years and has transformed into a confident young woman inspiring those around her. She has particularly excelled in the arts and in sports; becoming a regular at Manchester City girls.

As part of the celebration of Shakira's achievements she was invited, along with her father and Mrs Harrison to a meet and greet with the Manchester City men's first team squad.

She met up with the likes of Aguero, Sane and the manager Pep Guardiola and had photo opportunities with the Premier League Trophy. Shakira was given a full kit and invited to sit in on the squad photo taking a front seat alongside the English champions. As you can imagine it was a thrilling evening for Shakira and fully deserved after all her hard work and determination to do well the key attributes of a champion. Everyone is very proud of Shakira and look forward to her continued progress in sixth form at Melland. A huge thank you must go to Paul Kelly from City in the Community and Mrs Harrison for nominating Shakira for this award and making this once in a life time opportunity possible.

Shout out to Melland's outstanding Behaviour Support Team who were highly praised by our specialist quality assurance consultant during our Behaviour Review this term. He commented particularly on their demonstrable commitment and team ethos when dealing with students with extremely challenging behaviours.



GOVERNORS

Governors support us in so many ways throughout the year in addition to the half termly governors meetings they have attended a variety of events including, Progress Evening, celebrations, performances and a host of parent/carer events. We would like to thank them for all their hard work, dedication and commitment this year. For more information about Melland High School Governors please visit our website at: www.melland.manchester.sch.uk/ourschool/governingbody.



Chris Beswick Vice Chair of Governors attending out Parent/Carer Information Day and Christmas Fair.



Chair of Governors Peter Tite and Dr Anne Ferguson Safeguarding Governor helping serve refreshments to parents and carers at our annual Progress Evening.



Cath Stone, MHS Governor supported by Dr Fassah Bibi Parent Governor, taking a well-earned rest and getting pampered after organising the fabulous Parent/Carer Information Day and Christmas Fair.



Governors asked staff to complete a governor staff survey and have taken account of their views in their annual development plan, which will be fed back to staff next term and on the governor section of the website.

Students Perform Othello at the Z-Arts

This term Melland High School pupils took part in the Shakespeare School Festival at the Z-Arts Centre alongside Stanley Grove, Rushbrook and Cedar Mount. The event was a huge success with 12 students with a range of needs performing Othello. Students partook in a variety of rehearsals and workshops running up to the event and learnt a range of skills. The performance was sold out to parents, carers, teachers and general public and had a fantastic review from the event manager stating that our "Students communication and presentation of the play was very professional and costume choice was great".

The students were very excited after the performance and very proud of themselves. The project as a whole helped with the understanding of how to perform Shakespeare, it increased confidence levels and the development of knowledge and understanding of drama techniques.

Saracen said "I loved it, it give me lots of confidence and it was really exciting".

Angelina added, "It was so good, I can't believe we managed to do something so big and professional".

A huge well done to all the students who performed. To all tutors who helped students to learn lines and Mrs Harrison and Miss Bowie for their fantastic costume and set design and to Mrs Dean Mr Morgan and Mr Saddoo for their technical and performance support.



"I THINK THIS TALE WOULD WIN MY DAUGHTER TOO."

Othello
by Melland High School
at The Z Arts, 8/11/2018
appraised by Lisa O'Hanlon

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Melland High School for your fantastic production of Othello as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a brilliant night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight just a few elements that really stood out.

Many Congratulations Melland High! I was so impressed with your performance of Othello, and must give particular praise to your strong, rich and resonant voices (reminiscent of shows I have seen at The Royal Shakespeare Company!). It was clear that you understood every word that you were saying and, as a result, spoke with clarity, expression, character and emotion and it was beautiful to listen to. Excellent work!

Your ensemble work was equally strong. Every actor on stage (in the fore and background) was fully engaged, focused and in character at all times. You created strong, visually stunning and poignant tableaux, which expertly conveyed the emotion of the scenes and the narrative. Once again, your hard work throughout rehearsals was evident and the result was both heart-warming and heart wrenching (in all the right places!).

Your design team did a fantastic job with their choices in costume and mask. The simplicity of the costume against the strong masks complimented the piece and allowed your acting and physical theatre skills to shine.

Throughout the day the whole company were very professional and during the tech run it was clear that your knowledge of the play was thorough and solid. You were a joy to work with!

Overall, this was a brooding, visually exciting and emotive performance of Othello by a hard-working and professional ensemble. Very well done!

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved.

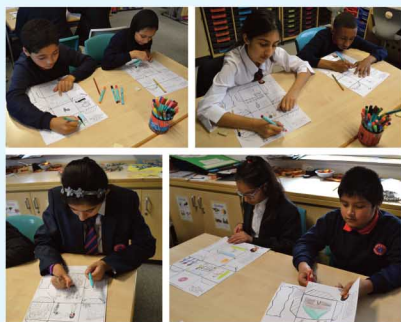
I hope to see Melland High School in the Festival again next year!

Lisa O'Hanlon

"A BROODING, VISUALLY EXCITING AND EMOTIVE PERFORMANCE OF OTHELLO"



Big Draw Arts Festival



Melland students were invited by Stanley Grove staff and pupils to take part in the 2018 Big Draw Arts Festival. Inspired by a piece of art called "Hannah Smith's Casket", each student designed their own casket incorporating Art into Maths lessons. Students drew their designs onto a 2D net of the casket, each face of the cube being a different theme, then cut the net out and then folded and glued it into a 3D cube. Students also got to write a secret message to put inside their casket. Many thanks to the Melland maths team for their support with this project.

Bloxels

Key stage 4 and 5 classes have been using Bloxels to create their very own computer games. We are one of the first schools in the country to be using this computer science tool!

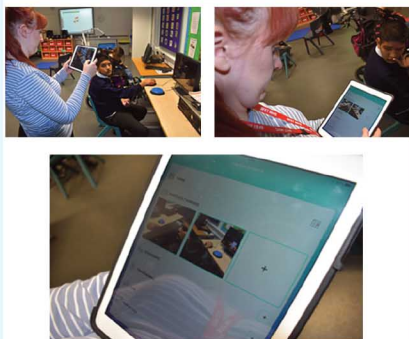
Bloxels is a hands-on, brains-on, creativity and technology experience. Bloxels uniquely unlocks students' innate creativity by grasping something they love: video games. Students can play fun games as they gain greater understanding of important topics like design logic, computer science and mathematics through the games they create. It completely ticks all the boxes when it comes to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Here at Melland, some groups have the programming as a secondary skill and we use Bloxels to improve fine motor skills, colour recognition, teamwork, communication, sequencing, following instructions and, of course, imagination.



Students have had lots of fun creating their characters and their games. Mr Barlow and Mr Hughes love teaching programming with Bloxels.

Evidence For Learning



Evidence for learning is an App we have introduced in Learning Zone 3, which enables us to capture learning as it happens. We are able to take photographs and videos and add our written observations to gather evidence of how each student is making progress towards their individual learning intentions. The App allows us to link our evidence, including written comments and photographs to our own assessment framework to support teachers in making judgements about progress. It also allows us to send home photographs, videos and comments to parents/carers securely via an email account and

enables parents/carers, through the App, to let us know how their son or daughter is making progress at home against their learning intentions. The App has made a big difference to how we collect information about how our students are learning. It means we produce simple reports showing the learning journey a student makes at the click of a button. Tutors and class teachers can capture how learners develop across school in lessons and in tutor group so we can support the process of generalising the students' learning.

V Group Ramble On

As part of the ongoing life skills curriculum, V group have been exploring Manchester's walking trails and country parks to discover "What can I see". With the changing of the seasons, V group have been learning to observe their surroundings and explore the exciting changes in nature. They paid particular notice to the colours of the leaves and changes in weather. V group has had the pleasure of exploring Daisy Nook, Etherow and Werneth low country parks and will continue to discover more of Manchester's great outdoors in the weeks to come. V group hopes to expand on their social skills in the wider community whilst working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



Parents & Carers



This observation from Chris Beswick, our LGB Vice Chair, really reflects the outstanding commitment of the whole school community in making the Parent/carer Information Day and Christmas Fair such a huge success: *"What an amazing event! As usual the level of staff and student commitment when Melland is 'on show' is phenomenally high. The Christmas stalls were all doing great work. For the parent/carer information and careers stalls, Cath Stone's tireless and no doubt persuasive efforts had delivered an incredible range of 45 diverse organisations offering different opportunities to Melland students and their families"*.



Melland parents and carers were treated recently to a talk from a very special lady from a charity group called 'Autizma'.

Lindsey, who offered a personal perspective on living with Autism kindly agreed to talk to Melland parents and carers and everyone agreed it was a moving and informative presentation.

6th form have also been hosting a variety of successful parent/carer events this

term including the recent year 14 parent/carer coffee morning where a variety of employers, colleges and multiagency professionals were on hand to give sound advice and guidance re-future provision for our leavers.

Date for your diary: The next whole school parent/carer coffee morning will be Thursday 31st Jan 2019 where Louise Buckley from the Healthy Schools Team will be doing a workshop with Rick Gleeson our PSHCE co-ordinator on 'Growing Up and Keeping Healthy'.



Calendar

Friday 21st December 2018
Christmas Holiday
Term finishes

Monday 7th January 2019
School re-opens
Spring Term Starts

Thursday 31st January 2019
Parent/Carer Coffee morning
9.30 - 11.30

Friday 15th February 2019
Term Finishes
Half Term

Monday 25th February 2019
School re-opens
Term Starts

Friday 5th April 2019
Term Finishes
Easter Holiday

Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Term Starts
Summer Term

Monday 6th May 2019
School Closed
May Bank Holiday

Friday 24th May 2019
Term Finishes
Half Term Holiday

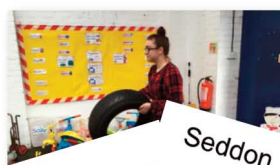
Monday 3rd June 2019
School Closed
Staff Training Day

Tuesday 4th June 2019
School re-opens

Melland High School
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50 Wembley Road
Gorton
Manchester
M18 7DT
T: 0161 223 9915
F: 0161 230 6919
E: admin@mhs.bfet.uk
Principal: Mrs. Sue Warner

Careers & Education

Small Wonders Nursery



Seddon

Marple Garden House Farm



Crowne Plaza

Lollipop Radio



Peer Mentoring



WRL at Melland High continues to go from strength to strength. We would like to welcome Debbie Mellows to the team as Work Experience Job Coach. Debbie will be working with John Barry to expand the range of work experience available to students both in school, Gorton and Manchester. Our current provision includes farming, horticulture, construction, catering and childcare, we are looking to expand this in the near future. We are also successfully working in collaboration with Sarah Driver our Enterprise Advisor. In addition, Steve Leach Our QA Careers Advisor has been working across all key stages and has established a group of students in KS4 as Careers Ambassadors. Steve is looking for employers to come into school to work with us in a range of sectors particularly ICT, media technology and sport. If any parents/carers, staff employers can help us, please contact John or Steve on Tel: 0161 223 9915. Thanks everyone for all your support.

Work Related Learning

Qurban has just completed his first work experience placement in a professional kitchen at Inspire Cafe Levenshulme. Qurban was first identified as being gifted and talented in food preparation in year 10, he has a great knowledge of food technology and has developed skills in the core processes such as washing, cutting, slicing, grating, measuring and timing. During his placement Qurban prepared savoury meals and sweet snacks and cakes for hungry members of the public. The Cafe staff really enjoyed having Qurban working with them, he was polite, on time and worked hard with his co-workers. A big thankyou to Kate at Inspire for helping make this happen.



Qurban in the kitchen hard at work.



@MellandHigh

