

# THE LINK

*Connecting Delta's Community*



**Making maths fun!**

*Issue 25*  
**December 2023**

# Welcome

## Welcome to our new-look newsletter.

The Link is our chance to celebrate the success of our children, staff and community.

It is a chance for our wider communities to read about the outstanding work that happens daily across our Trust.

It has been redesigned to make it easier to read and navigate in this digital age.

This edition is the largest ever we've ever produced and is packed with articles and images that celebrate the work of staff, pupils, governors and our community.

The reach of our trust became a little larger on 1st December, when we welcomed to the Trust two new secondary academies, Carlton le Willows in Nottingham, and Lincoln Castle in Lincoln.

The central team have done an amazing job to make their transition seamless. I would especially like to thank our ICT team who worked over the weekend to get the systems up and running.

Already children from those academies are benefiting from joining the Trust. It was great to see them at the recent Science Maverick Events, the latest student event of the academic year following on from the successful, Cyber North, Imagination Gaming, and our first Latin Conference.

There was also the recent launch of our Ambition Primary Programme, which proved equally inspirational.

Talking of inspiration, our featured member of staff is Trevor Holmes, the manager at Dallowgill Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre, and his profile is on page 6.

Thousands of children have now stayed at Dallowgill and central to their enjoyment is Trevor and the team. I had no idea that Trevor was in an Abba tribute band. He obviously has hidden talents.

As we move towards Christmas and the end of our calendar year, I would like to thank each one of our staff, AAB members, and parents and carers, for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Paul Tarn**

Chief Executive Officer



*PS What do you think of our redesigned newsletter?  
Please feedback to [Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk)*

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# Plenty to celebrate

A celebration day was held at Southmere Primary Academy to mark its 'good' judgment by Ofsted.



They know the pupils extremely well.

Leaders have a strong commitment to developing pupils into successful and confident citizens."

Head of Academy Rachael Binns was "thrilled" with the result.

"To recognise the hard work of our school community over the last four years we decided to mark the event with a Celebration Day," she said.

"The hall was decorated in gold bunting, gold stars and balloons.

The day started with a whole school assembly. We then had activities and games. At lunchtime, there was a street party lunch with disco.

Children, families and staff are delighted that Ofsted has recognised what a truly special place Southmere is."

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Previously ungraded after opening as a new school in January, 2019, it was graded "good, with outstanding personal development" when it was inspected.

Inspectors said: "Pupils at Southmere Primary Academy greet visitors with warmth and kindness.

Leaders have created an environment that is vibrant and engaging. The school is a place that pupils enjoy coming to and where they feel safe.

Leaders have the highest expectations of what pupils can achieve.

Their high ambitions for the pupils are at the heart of all their plans and decisions.



*"Leaders have a strong commitment to developing pupils into successful and confident citizens."*



# Staff profile: Trevor Holmes

Centre Manager – Dallowgill Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre

## *Tell us about your background:*

I entered the world of education later in life (36) after 15 years working as a Nurse for people with Learning Disabilities, running community nursing homes and moving people out of long stay hospital care.

I also spent some time as a property developer. I worked in special ed as a TA for six years whilst attending university part time.

After getting my degree in teaching and learning I worked in primary schools in Dewsbury and Bradford.

I've had a lifelong passion for the outdoors and spent many years canoeing and walking in different areas of the UK.

## *What are your hobbies / interests?*

I love all kinds of music and play the guitar and sing whenever I get the chance.

I do lots of walking with our dog (Lottie) and love exploring different parts of the world. I like fixing things and renovating old things.

## *Who would you most like to have dinner with and why?*

My granny because I miss her, and she made me laugh so much.

## *What's your favourite food?*

Anything that's well made from scratch and authentic. I like to try as many new things as possible but if I could only eat one thing for the rest of my life, it would probably be curry and a good naan bread.

## *Stupid things you've done:*

This box isn't big enough! Most recently, whilst on holiday I carried 2 cups of coffee to our table and started a conversation with my wife. After a minute she spoke and I realised I was at the wrong table.

I spent 10 years in an Abba tribute band wearing a wig, silk judo suit and high heels most weekends. That was pretty daft.

## *What was your first car?*

A red Datsun 100A with a blue driver's door. The tape machine played faster or slower depending on how much you revved the engine. I loved that car!

## *Your favourite word:*

Yes

## *Your passions:*

Helping people, social justice, food, nature, music and my dog.

## *Favourite music*

Another box that isn't big enough!

The Who, The Courteeners, Mull Historical Society, Neil Young, Gerry Cinnamon, Chantelle McGregor, Talking Heads and Stone Roses to name but a few.

I tend to prefer rock, pop and acoustic stuff but I'm just as happy listening to classical or drum and bass if the mood takes me.

### *Significant influences*

A man called Brian who convinced me to go to university.

Lots of the people with learning disabilities I supported, who overcame disadvantage and diversity just to get through a day.

My wife, family and friends.

Tim Peak, Ellen Macarthur, Ranulph Fiennes and anyone else that pushes themselves just to see how far they can go.

### *On your bucket list*

Whale watching, driving up the west coast of Canada, seeing the Northern Lights, the zipline at Penrhyn quarry.

### *Favourite film*

Shawshank Redemption

### *If you had one wish, what would it be?*

That I hadn't been asked this question because every answer I can think of sounds corny!



Like to nominate a colleague for the next newsletter in March?  
Please contact [Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk)





# Event sparks imagination

High energy ran through the room all day when the Trust hosted the Imagination Gaming Maths event.



A fast-paced warm up gave primary pupils an enthusiastic start.

Nigel Scarfe, Founder of Imagination Gaming, made it genuinely exciting for all the schools involved.

The fully interactive event sees children completely hands-on with their learning and working with classmates.

Year 5 took part in a variation of different maths games that required them to work as a team.

The children loved the zombie game where four dice were rolled and the pupils had to work out how to get to the given number.

There was also a task that did not include a question where the Year 5s had to figure out the problem on their own, and then work out the answer.

Amy Maguire, Director of Learning for Primary, pulled the event together and made it all happen.

Nigel created Imagination Gaming to excite and encourage people to learn maths using games.



His aim is to "engage children in different ways to make them learn without realising".

He also works with alternative provision children, prisoners, and other people with different backgrounds.

His games are "ideal tools for pushing both learning outcomes and creativity, for developing self-confidence and social skills".

It was evident that the pupils enjoyed themselves and they all gave positive and eager feedback about how their day was.





One commented: "Thank you for a fantastic day. There were lots of new ideas and fun ways to learn."

"It was amazing and we should do this every year," said a pupil.

Another said: "We enjoyed the teamwork and the fun learning."

## Speedy sums

Times table tournaments have been launched at Greengates.

Each half term, three competitors from Years 2-6 compete for the top spot and to be crowned the Times Table Rockstar of their class.

Simone Holdcroft, Maths Leader, said: "A huge well done to all our competitors. It takes a lot of confidence to be tested in front of the whole school and parents.

"Your recall speeds were amazing!"



## Spooky tale

Two authors joined Year 6 children from Montagu Academy at a Spookfest event on Halloween to launch a new book.

Dan Smith and Aisha Bushby had contributed to Read Scream Repeat, a collection of 13 spooky, mystery stories from prize-winning writers, perfect for children aged 9 - 12.

The event, at Mexborough Business Centre, had been organised by Phil Sheppard from the National Literacy Trust.

Dan and Aisha spoke about their stories, being a writer and how to scare your audience.

Head of Academy David Longley said: "We have a fantastic link with the National Literacy Trust and jumped at Phil Sheppard's invitation to attend this developing young writers' event.

We hope this inspires our pupils to further develop their love for writing and create their own stories."

# Parents witness phonics in action

Two fantastic phonics workshops supported parents and carers at Greengates Primary Academy with teaching early reading at home.

Melody Kolbaba, Year 1 teacher, said: "The parents enjoyed watching phonics lessons in action with an opportunity to ask questions.

"Our Phonics Ambassadors were very keen to share why they enjoy phonics lessons and are looking forward to promoting phonics across school."

Head of Academy Seetle Kaur said: "We are passionate about getting children reading as fast as possible as we believe there is nothing more important."

Many parents attended the Academy's first open invite Drop Everything and Read session.

They read with their children and there was also reading with small groups, pupils reading independently, and teachers reading independently or with groups of children.

Reading Lead Helen Whelan, who organised the event alongside the Bookworms, said: "It was so much fun just being able to read - can we do it again?"

Even the Year 5's class tiger enjoys reading on the tablet. We really do have a love of reading here at Greengates!"

Seetle said: "It was magical to see everyone reading in school at the same time and it was wonderful to see so many parents join us."

Talk strategies are being developed in each classroom at Greengates after staff attended training by the UK's oracy education charity Voice 21.

It is passionate about transforming the learning and life chances of young people through talk.

Following the training of Year 1 teacher Melody Kolbaba and Head of Academy Seetle, the importance of developing speaking and listening skills in school with staff and children were discussed.

Each year group has created their class talk rules and the Academy's excited about developing the talk strategies.



# Luke loved

Author Luke Temple visited Willows Academy to share his books with the children.



He led an interactive assembly for Key Stages 1 and 2, played games and read extracts from his books, allowing the children to join in and take part.

Children were even given the opportunity to create their own 'three-headed' stories with Luke, and came up with some fantastic ideas.

Luke also played a game, involving some teaching staff and pupils, highlighting some of his favourite words.

They may not be in everyone's vocabulary but highlighted how rich language is and how it can really add a sense of fun and anticipation to reading.

Children were able to purchase his books and the author visited school the next day to sign copies for the pupils and the school.

Children were 'buzzing' about the visit and enjoyed seeing the book being brought to life by the author.

They loved seeing their peers performing with him and found it hilarious when their fellow students came up with their own 'three-headed' stories.

"This created a real excitement to read Luke's books for the Year 6 class," said teacher Paul Tarrant.

"He was fantastic with the children and they all left with a smile on their faces and a renewed desire to pick up a book for pleasure."

They also wanted to change our class book to a Luke Temple book as soon as possible!"

This created a great buzz and the children were really excited school had purchased a selection of Luke's books for each class.

They were all snapped up immediately as reading for pleasure books, and the waiting list gets bigger every day.

# Marvellous Mavericks

On the back of the huge success of the Year 11 event, the Year 9 'Mavericks Cadets' four-day event this month involved nearly 800 pupils from 17 Trust secondaries.



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Pitched at potential triple award higher-grade pupils aiming for GCSE grades 7 and above, the event took place in the impressive auditorium facility at the Education Exchange and was organised by Fiona Marshall, Rich Ward, Zoe McConville and Chris Hoyle in the Science Director Core Team.

Against the backdrop of the COP28 summit in Dubai, our Mavericks Cadets were recruited to an elite taskforce, the brightest and best of the age, assembled to confront the challenges currently facing the planet:

- How to stop and reverse climate change;
- Accommodate a growing global population to provide food security, sustainable energy and building materials for the future;
- Understand, in the wake of coronavirus, how another global pandemic could develop and how we can be ready for it when it does.

These very real global issues formed the overarching theme for a progression of science-based, problem-solving activities using their current learning and knowledge from the upcoming GCSE programme of study which the Mavericks were prepped with as an integral part of the event.

Many of the Mavericks' students were unphased by the prospect of tackling learning aimed at peers two years their senior.

One of the many 'cadets' representing Manor Croft Academy said (whilst deftly evaluating data on a series of graphs): "Using more fertiliser on the land hardly improves the crop yield at all, but profits get lower and lower.

It's obvious, isn't it? You're producing nearly the same amount of crops but spending more on fertiliser and getting nothing back."

From the moment the teams entered the venue the



atmosphere was charged with excitement and adrenaline.

"I've never seen an event like this," said Maverick Cadet Keanu, from Melior Academy. "It's absolutely mind-blowing!"

Each task carried with it a 10-point win for the first team to propose a comprehensive solution, pitched against the peril of being knocked out from that round if their proposal was incomplete or lacking breadth.

This helped the students to develop skills they will now take back into lessons, and ultimately their GCSEs.

There were also 5-point 'brilliance bonuses' to be had, awarded by the directors for notable creativity or thoroughness in a team's particular approach.

This was reflected in feedback from staff, too, with Leah Forrester from Rossington All Saints saying: "They're really loving the competitive element, it's great to see their appetite for the problem-

solving."

Adam Tomlinson, Head of Physics at Garforth Academy, said: "They're on it.

The competitive element is really good – there's one student on one of our tables who is straight up, hand in the air, 'I've got this one!' It's great to see."

Entering its later stages and on the back of a points-check to see where academies were on the leader-board, one Maverick from Garforth Academy confided "At the moment it's a close tie – I think it's neck and neck!"

The competitive aspect served as a powerful motivator, too,

galvanising one Academy to boost its score more than sixfold between the half-time count-up and the end of the event – the biggest turnaround seen across all the academies this year and last.

Having being introduced to the overarching premise, throughout the day each challenge the Mavericks solved led on to others.

*Continued over.*



Marvellous Mavericks continued from p13

Firstly, they tackled the main issue head-on - identifying what climate change is, how humanity's insatiable thirst for innovation and development had brought civilisation to the brink and how it is likely to develop over the remainder of this century.

This led to teams devising their own strategic solutions to the energy crisis, simulating the spread of pandemics to understand how to defeat them, constructing buildings from sustainable materials and investigating the effectiveness of ways to promote crop growth.

Zoe McConville, part of the director team behind 'Mavericks' said:

"Every stage of this event involves hands-on problem-solving, often based round practical tasks.

We need to cultivate confidence in students exploring science experimentally and being able to do that in a robust and resilient way."

At strategic points in the day, the groups received news updates – specially recorded by Richard Smyth, Kirsty Mitchinson and the core team at Education House - which presented the Mavericks

with updates on the success of their recent endeavours and posing new challenges to tackle.

This developing narrative and solving successive problems was picked up on by staff as well as pupils taking part.

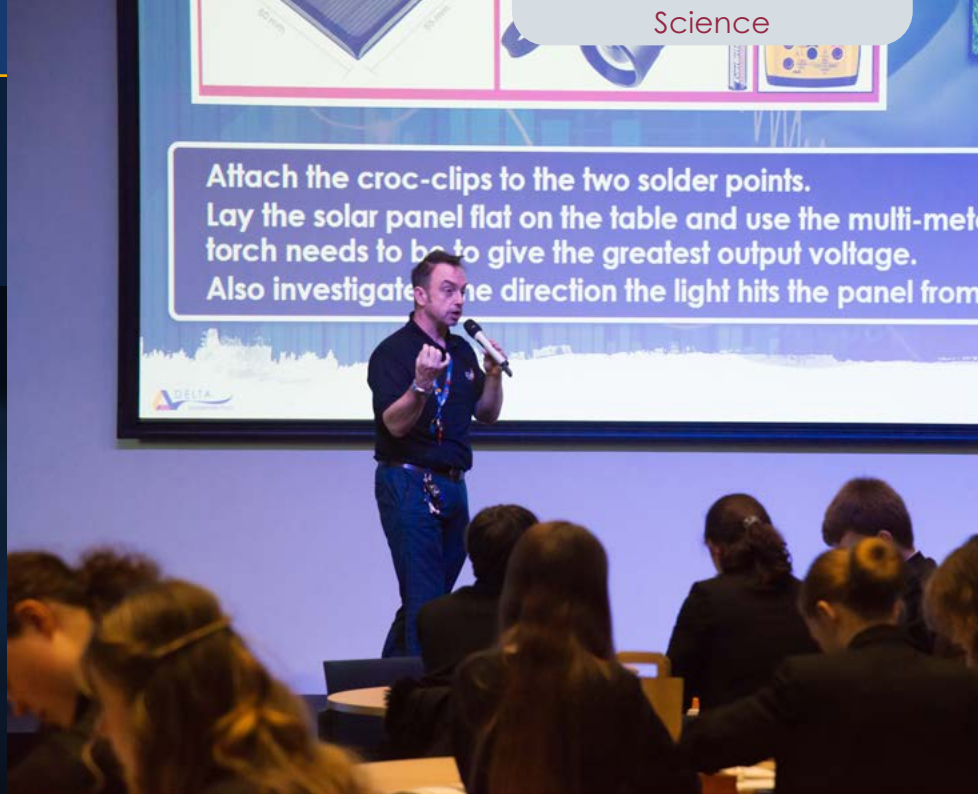
Melior's Head of Science, Steve Rae, added "This is great – they're really into it."

He had noticed the contrast as one table from Melior Academy were really vocal in articulating their answers, whereas others were quicker but less forthright, and intuitively began working on developing their confidence in putting their ideas forward.

This sentiment was echoed by staff, executives and Principals from Academies who were participating and who came to join and support their pupils on the day, and who on several occasions marvelled at the energy and dynamic across the auditorium.

CEO Paul Tarn remarked: "It's brilliant that such a high-quality event has reached out and involved so many hundreds of children and engaged them in Science."

With practical activities aplenty, the buzz of activity and engagement continued throughout the day.







Science Director Chris Hoyle said: "From the moment the challenges were posed, you could feel the energy and enthusiasm fill the room as ideas were bounced across the tables.

"Then the bristling tension as an opposition team were putting their proposal forward, only to throw themselves back into it when the 10-point winner's prize slipped from their grasp!"

The vibrancy continued right through to the final, adrenaline-fuelled tasks and the closing ceremony where all Delta Mavericks were presented with a specially-designed lapel pin-badge on the auditorium main stage.

"The Mavericks event highlighted to me the resilience and determination of Delta students we are lucky enough to teach," said Science Director Fiona Marshall, who coordinated the event.

Gemma Scothern, Delta Director of Operations agreed.

"I've got to say, throughout the breaks and lunchtime all the students have been really great, so polite and mature - an absolute credit to themselves and their Academies."

The success of this event, coupled with the original 'Year 11 Mavericks' two-day launch last year, paves the way to ultimately form a three-part programme that will stimulate and engage Delta's students through three successive years of schooling.

*Watch this space . . .*



# Star students

A group of 10 Year 9 students from Ash Hill Academy attended the fourth annual North Star science school at Gulliver's Valley theme park.

They watched a video link with Professor Brian Cox talking about black holes and listened to keynote speaker, Ruth Amos, a British entrepreneur, inventor of the Stair Steady, and co-founder of YouTube channel 'Kids Invent Stuff'.

The students also took part in a range of hands-on workshops which included 3D printing, building hydraulic cranes, and investigating some chemical reactions in the trip organised by Science teacher Daniel Kennell.

Marcus said: "I really enjoyed the workshop about memory metals, where they showed us a paperclip that will always return back to it's shape, no matter how much we bent it."



Loretta said: "My favourite part was building the hydraulic crane, because it taught us about how pressure can be used to lift heavy objects, and the process for constructing the crane."





# Joke's on Chemistry

Best chemistry-themed jokes were sought at Garforth Academy to help celebrate the annual RSC Chemistry Week.

Its Science department loves puns around the subject and had some fantastic entries.

Overall winners, with the best collection of jokes, were Kanon and Isobel.

A prize for best originality went to Suraya.

Some favourites were:

"What did the chemist have with their eggs? Barium, Cobalt and Nitrogen (BaCoN)".

"Oxygen and potassium went on a date. It went OK."

"What does nitrogen turn into when the Sun comes up? Daytrogen."



## Day tests skills

Wind turbines were designed and manufactured in Engineering and their performance tested in Science during an Areté STEM day at Goole Academy.

Maths skills were then used to calculate different energy cost calculations, completed with perfection by the Year 5s.

The Year 6 pupils designed and manufactured an aluminium clock in Engineering and learnt about material properties.

In Science, the students raced different model vehicles on a track to calculate speed, distance and time.

A police investigation was part of the Maths challenge activity and emergency services' response times were calculated and used as part of their recommendations.

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# Latin launch

A significant milestone in the Trust's commitment to promoting a love for language and culture among its students was reached when it hosted its first Latin Conference.

As a designated Centre For Latin Excellence, Delta is dedicated to providing students with enriching opportunities to explore the rich heritage and linguistic beauty of Latin.

The Latin launch served as a vibrant platform to showcase the Trust's passion for Latin and its impact on students' academic and personal growth.

Throughout the day, three activities were held to keep Year 9 students engaged and encourage friendly competition between the secondary academies across the Trust.

After each activity, points were tallied and displayed to the teams, motivating students to strive for higher places on the leaderboard.

The event kicked off with an Etymology session, where students delved into the fascinating world of word origins, uncovering the Latin roots of many common English words.

This interactive session ignited students' curiosity and fostered

a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of languages.

Next, students embarked on an exhilarating Escape Room challenge, immersing themselves in a captivating adventure to decipher codes and find the 'secret agent'.

Through teamwork, problem-solving, and their growing knowledge, students navigated through a series of challenges, culminating in the thrilling reveal of their culprit.

To further enhance their understanding of Roman civilization, students embarked on a guided tour of the Roman Empire.

Students made flags of countries and stuck them to a map where historic activities took place. This immersive experience transported students back in time, allowing them to visualise and appreciate the lives of ancient Romans and how culture has changed.







Steve Hodsmen, Delta's Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Helen Holmes, Director of MFL at Delta, concluded the day by handing out prizes to the winning teams.

Congratulations to team GA8 for reaching an incredible 54 points over the course of the day.

Charlie Furber, from the Centre For Latin Excellence, closed the event with some kind words.

"This is the most impressive event I have been to," he said.

Students' enthusiasm and eagerness to learn more about Latin were evident, highlighting the event's resounding success.

Students' comments included:

"I've enjoyed it thoroughly and the activities were really fun."

"I've learnt things about Latin that I didn't know before."

"The event was good and the escape room was fun. I would happily take up Latin."

"I liked the teamwork involved, and the facilities, there was a lot to do!"

"We have enjoyed everything but mostly the escape room because it was very fun. We also enjoyed the map as it was fun to make the flags and put them in the different places."

"We have enjoyed learning about the history of Latin and enjoyed the competitive aspect of the day."

"We enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about what is commonly referred to as a 'dead language'."

"My team were very good at solving the puzzles. The Education Exchange has organised a huge event introducing us to Latin and its uses in everyday life."

The Latin Launch serves as a testament to Delta Academies Trust's commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education that encompasses core subjects and exploration of diverse cultures and languages.

By fostering a passion for Latin, Delta empowers students to connect with the past, broaden their horizons, and develop a deeper appreciation for the world around them.



# Black pioneers celebrated

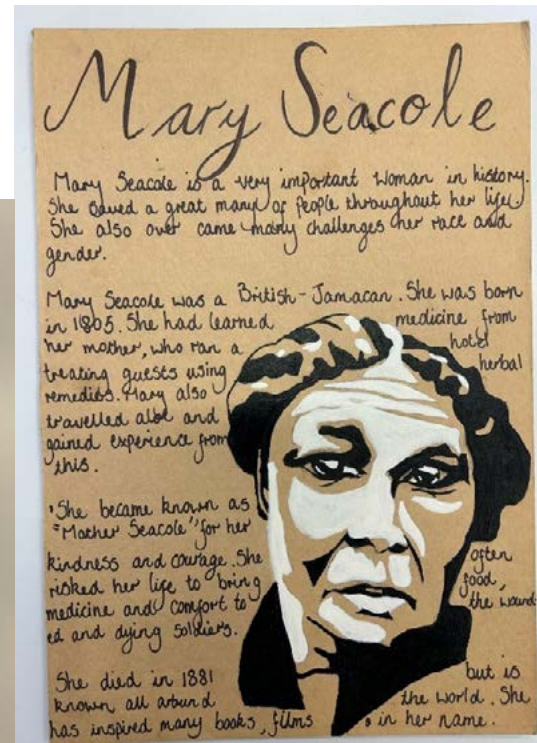
History students were tasked with researching pioneering black women who have made a remarkable contribution to the world to celebrate Black History Month at Goole Academy.

It was part of the house competition 'Saluting our sisters'.

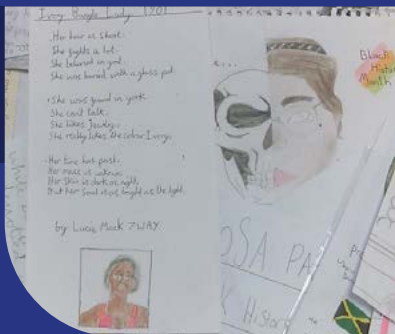
Students were allowed to present this in any format and, as a result, organisers received a fantastic variety of entries.

Here are examples of some of the amazing winners, selected from more than 100 entries.

Well done to all who took part.



## Creative competition



Creative students submitted more than 100 entries into Garforth Academy's History Department's Black History Month house competition.

A national celebration since 1987, the month aims to promote and share the contributions of black people to British society.

Brilliant work was submitted but, after much consideration, the winning house was named as Oakwell.



# Workshops prove fun

Tudor times were re-enacted in a workshop at Wybers Wood Academy.

It was organised by Year 6 teachers Becci Wells and Daniel Brown.

The children loved it.

Ellie said: "It was fun because we got to pretend we were fighting each other and learnt that boys weren't allowed to wear trousers until they were 8!"

Charlotte thought it amazing because they learned about the War of the Roses.

"The leader made sure we had fun," she said.

"I enjoyed holding the weapons and learning about how heavy they were and what the soldiers experienced," said Evie.

Year 6 were thoroughly engaged throughout the day and it linked in with our REC perfectly.

The host was professional but ensured the children found the learning fun.



Anglo-Saxon and Viking activities took part in a day at Wybers Wood Academy, designed to make Year 4 understand more about their life and times.

Children had a brief journey through the timeline, dressing up and acting what had happened.

The year group was then split into four groups to participate in different aspects of the era.

There was a fabulous workshop learning about Monastic Life in Anglo-Saxon England loosely based on the Abbey at Lindisfarne.

Children learnt how the church played an important part of everyday life during Saxon times.

They really enjoyed illuminating and scribing letters using ink and quill pens just as the monks wrote the holy text in Latin by hand.

Pupils explored planting seeds and placing herbs on a drying rack and then grouping them together for medieval medicine in readiness for treating a range of illnesses and ailments.

They acted out selling Holy objects and understood they were extremely sort after for their valuable healing properties.

In the second workshop, children learnt Viking battle training and stealthily performed a surprise raid on the monks praying in the Lindisfarne Abbey!

Meanwhile, back in the classrooms, Year 4s worked together as history detectives to

consider the firsthand evidence of the artefacts found in the Sutton Hoo boat excavation.

Why was there a broken axe laid near the King's body? Why was there a knife found next to the Queen's remains? And who were the two other piles of clothes near the stern of the boat?

The Year 4s even sat around the campfire roasting meat and role playing how the legal system worked with Miss Anderson presiding as the judge.

Some children acted as slaves serving the food and clearing away after.

In the afternoon, the children came together for an Anglo-Saxon - Viking battle with the Kite shields struggling to overpower the round shields.

A loud, raspberry-blowing session was followed by final questions and answers when the Year 4s asked thoughtful questions and listened well.

It was a busy and enjoyable day from the Past Presents who always provide great activities and entertainment through which they impart lots of knowledge.

# Victorious Vikings

Year 4 pupils immersed themselves in a Viking Day at Greengates Primary Academy.



Teacher Simone Holdcroft said they baked Viking Sourdough bread, which had mixed reviews and was a lot heavier and more savoury than the bread we are used to.

Children learnt about the shields and weapons Vikings typically used, before designing and making their own, even including some Viking runes.

In the afternoon, pupils learned about the Lindisfarne Raid and how vicious the Vikings were.

Then, they put weapons and shields into action, raiding and invading the Forest School.

"Everyone had the most amazing day, and it was great to see the children embracing their Viking roles," Simone said.

Damarion said: "It was so fun!"

Fire, fire!

Children in Years 1 and 2 at Worlabby Academy have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666.



As part of their DT work the children built houses from the time period, then they were set up on the playground like the narrow streets of that time.

Head of Academy Claire Clark acted the role of the baker and, as the fire took hold, the children became Samuel Pepys, his maid, King Charles II and citizens.

After their hard work making the houses, the fire burnt most of

them, with some others destroyed by the fire hooks.

The children discussed their emotions and how the people must have felt who lost their homes.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 watched the event unfold and recalled the time when they were in Key Stage 1 and saw their houses burn!





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# Dale memories made

Skills were developed by Year 7s from The Vale Academy at the Trust's amazing Dallowgill Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre in North Yorkshire.

They enjoyed many walks in the woods, climbed the Greygarth Monument, searched for wildlife and experienced the great outdoors.

They also cooked, made beds, competed in team games and challenges, told stories around the firepit with a hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows!

Most excitedly, the Academy was the first to plant a variety of trees

donated by The Woodland Trust.

One student said: "This is my first time away from home, but I have really enjoyed it."

Another added: "I loved the winter walks and spotting the animals."

The trip was arranged by Emma Jane Parkin and Graham West.

She said: "One of the most rewarding things for me as a

teacher was seeing the students giggling around the firepit on an evening and when they experienced the views at the top of Greygarth mount.

"Priceless memories were being made. We are really looking forward to our next trip in July."





# We grow our own!

A functioning allotment and sensory garden have been created at De Lacy Academy in a project that has redesigned its PLC area.

The Years 7 and 8 Grow Wakefield Project, organised by Mrs Corcoran, has been in collaboration with Grow Wakefield and Warwick Ahead.

She said: "Over the past few weeks, we have been able to start to redesign our PLC area.

We have planted garlic, onions as well as create bug hotels and planters. It is really starting to take shape.

Doing all of this during November and December has been hard for our students but they have turned out every week with smiles on their faces and ready to get started.

This is a great opportunity for our students to learn more about growing plants and vegetables at home as part of the Grow Wakefield project."







## Exciting space created

Installation of a new Early Years Foundation Stage outdoor learning environment at Montagu Academy has been completed.

Head of Academy David Longley thanked Newby Leisure and the Trust for all their hard work during the design and build process.

"The children have been so excited and have loved watching the diggers in action," he said.

"They could not wait to get to school each day to see what wonderful item had appeared in their outdoor area."



## Trees planted



Kind donations from The Woodland Trust led students at the Laurel Academy to brave icy temperatures and plant the trees.

Principal Katy Taylor-Clarke said students recognised the importance of trees and the role they play as carbon sinks.

"Prior to starting the project students have explored the causes and impacts of deforestation and have therefore been keen to take part in planting trees to help tackle the problem of climate change," she said.

"Students in Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to plant a tree in the school grounds to make their

mark on our school community and make us a greener and cleaner school for years to come."

It is the second time trees have been planted around the site following donations from The Woodland Trust, also helping to build a natural wildlife habitat.

The event was organised by Ann Peart, Abigail Pendlebury, Michelle Laing and Claire Eaton.



# Scrooge boosts revision

More than 100 Key Stage 4 students from De Lacy Academy went to A Christmas Carol at the Nottingham Playhouse.

They witnessed a mesmerising performance from all the cast and crew in the English Department-organised trip, which supported their revision.

Almost £1,000 was raised for De Lacy Academy's Key Stage 3 charities at a Community Christmas Fair.

The popular event had more than 35 stalls, with crafters from across the area displaying their work.

Student Council did a couple of stalls but, by far the most popular, was their Blind Date with a book stall. It was a real crowd pleaser.

Organised by Assistant Principal Nichola Taberner and the Student Council, the charities which benefitted were the RSPCA (Year 7), the Wakefield Society for the Deaf (Year 8) and Little Princess Trust (Year 9).

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## Switched on

Mexborough's festive lights switch on was helped by children at Montagu Academy who sang Christmas songs.

The school choir was invited to the town centre to join four other local choirs and sing around the Christmas tree.

Head of Academy David Longley said: "It was such a special night, and it was wonderful to see the children helping to bring the town together.

We also had a stall at the Christmas fayre.

We sold items that the children had made in their thrive sessions.

This included sweet cones, hot chocolate packs and reindeer food. All the money raised has gone towards improving our trim trail."

## Popular take

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was brought to life at Ash Hill Academy by Manchester school production company manACTco.



Year 11 students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the three actors' take on the popular story.

Sarah Read, Key Stage 3 English Lead who organised the visit, said the three actors did a fantastic job, even adding humour to help paint a true presentation of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge.

At the end of the production students had the opportunity to ask questions to the characters, allowing them to delve into a deeper understanding of their past and personality.

Sarah said the Academy looked forward to welcoming manACTco again in April for a production of An Inspector Calls.





# Top job

A competition was held by North Lincolnshire Children's Literacy Trust to create Christmas reading displays to be used as advent pictures on its website.

Worlaby Academy entered and children brought in their favourite festive books. Displays were created in the three classes, Donaldson, Rowling and Dassu.

Winners will receive Nick Sharratt signed books.

Head of Academy Claire Clark said they were keeping the fingers crossed for the competition and looking forward to seeing their pictures pop up on the Literacy Trust's advent display.



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## Care home festive sing-song

Residents in a new care home will be entertained by The Laurel Academy staff and students.

They will take part in a Christmas concert being organised at Montagu Hall Care Home in Mexborough.

The visit on 21st December has been organised by Principal Katy Taylor-Clarke, her PA Ann Peart, Vice Principal Warren Rose, Cover Supervisor Debbie Evans and Music teacher Adam Walker.

The team will be going with gifts for the residents, kindly donated by the community, and to sing and play music to entertain them at this festive time of year.





# Perfect tribute

Head Boy and Head Girl from Darton Academy took centre stage when it held its Remembrance Service in the atrium.

Esmee and Thomas beautifully read 'In Flanders Fields' by John McRae during what is always a special event.

All students and staff respectfully listened to the service, opened by Principal Joe Spencer.

Assistant Principal Daniel Kilner and the rest of the staff team were involved in organising the arrangements.

The Academy's cadets had been practising their formation for weeks and were perfect on the day.

On the weeks leading up to the service, assemblies acknowledged the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and recognised the responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve.

This year, the assemblies were entitled 'Peace is in our hands'.

Fitting with this sentiment, in form time, every student had a photograph of their hands taken holding a poppy.

They wrote their surname on their hand and each was displayed around the atrium.

The service was surrounded by the 'helping and peaceful hands'; an act of community, respect and remembrance.



# Large-scale event

An unprecedented display of respect, honour and remembrance took place at Don Valley Academy with all students marking Remembrance Day.

Organised by Head of History Chloe Lay, the event had not taken place before on such a huge scale.

Isobelle and Zico, both in Year 11, read a poem to The Fallen, a poignant time for students to reflect on the scale of loss during war.

Lily (Year 11) and Will (Year 9) marched representing the Academy's cadets, showing the strength of character and brilliant abilities to lead such a display.

Geography teacher Morgan Winyard played the last post, signalling the start of two minutes silence.

Chloe gave students a clear message on the purpose and reasoning of Remembrance Day, including a message of peace and hope there are no wars.

She thanked the entire academy for the efforts to prepare for the service, creating 1,000 poppies and crosses for its permanent war memorial based in DVA's grounds.

"This was a huge event at DVA, one not seen before on such a scale," she said.

"We are immensely proud of our staff and students for being part of something so memorable."

# Academies join forces to honour The Fallen



*Poppies made by students across all year groups adorn the front of the academy.*

Residents from a care home joined with the local vicar and students from De Warrenne, Rowena and Morley Place Academies to mark Remembrance Day.

Ceramic poppies made by students after school added to the solemn occasion at the secondary school.

All paused and reflected on the profound impact of war on humanity and expressed gratitude for the bravery and selflessness of those who fought for freedom and peace.

The occasion, with residents from Rowena House, was organised by De Warrenne's Assistant Principal Simon Lomasney.



# Garden is fitting venue

John Whitgift Academy's dedicated Remembrance Garden was the venue for its annual Remembrance Day service.



Paul Tuffnell conducted the service and recited the Eulogy and the Exhortation before Peter Kench played the last post.

The service was observed by Lia Nici, Conservative Party Member of Parliament for Great Grimsby, 1,000 students, guests of the academy including AAB members, family and friends.

The silence was observed impeccably and, after laying wreaths and crosses, students returned to classrooms and were given a presentation on the

meaning of Remembrance and its significance.

Time was taken out, as it is each year, to remember friends and colleagues who had passed in the previous year.

This year the Academy welcomed the family of ex 2023 cohort student Rhys Sheppard, tragically taken in a road traffic accident in September and ex member of staff David Atkin.

*Both will be sadly missed and always remembered.*

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## Veteran joins pupils

The Cenotaph next door to Greengates Primary provided a focal point for Remembrance Day.

Children learned about its importance in an assembly at the start of the week.

They ended it by reciting poems and recalling the names of Greengates' fallen soldiers.

Bishop Chris and The Rev Layah were welcomed into school before children gathered at the Cenotaph.

A trumpet was played to start the ceremony and there were moving speeches and prayers.

It was a privilege for pupils to see a veteran soldier and pupils laid

a wreath, crosses and decorated pebbles.

Bishop Chris emailed: "I just wanted to take the opportunity of thanking you and your colleagues, for the way in which you had worked with the children through last week in planning and delivering the Remembrance assembly, and also prepared them for the Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.

As well as a wreath being presented from the school, it was a very moving moment to see the children placing the crosses and stones in front of the Cenotaph.



People from the wider community once again clearly appreciated the presence and involvement of the school on this important occasion."





# Special guests at service

Respectful students were joined by the Master Warden, Brethren and Old Boys in a special Remembrance parade at Hull Trinity House Academy.

A two-minute silence was held after which Principal Daniel Flack read 'For the Fallen.'

Wreaths were laid and Year 10 paid a visit to Chapel.

Assistant Principal Lucy Hearn said: "We were delighted to welcome the Master Warden, the Brethren and the Old Boys to celebrate Remembrance Day.

Students represented us so well and we are immensely proud of our academy."

The Brethren commented on how exceptionally well behaved the Year 10 students were at Chapel.

Captain Coggins: "I witnessed something special here today and I have been coming to Chapel since 1951.

Please pass on to the staff at the Academy how well the boys conducted themselves."



# I made a great decision

By Evie Rose, Year 12Lb, Garforth Academy.

T Levels have been newly introduced to Post 16 students at Garforth Academy.

They can seem quite daunting due to the jump from GCSEs. However, in my experience, the T Level in Education and Early Years was a great decision. The course is two years and is all three A-level choices.

It involves classes for three days a week and placement for two (mine is at Green Lane Primary Academy).

The teaching and learning supports the application of theory and provides an opportunity to develop the skills needed for placement and professional practise.

The course leads to not only teaching, but to many other professions such as nursing, social work and working with children in unusual settings such as prisons.

On completion of this course, you can also go into employment as a Level 3 Early Years Educator.

This is perfect if you are like me and wanting to be a teacher, or if you haven't yet decided which path you want to take in the future.

From my experience, the placement aspect was initially stressfull and unknown.

However, I have found it to be the best part of this course as you quickly become part of a team of professionals. I have even just experienced an Ofsted inspection there!

This is a hugely rewarding course and well worth the work and effort you will need to put into the qualification.

The support offered on placement and at the Academy helps with planning activities and makes it easy to approach someone when you need to ask questions and look for direction.

When you complete this T Level, you can go straight into employment with the equivalent of three A-levels, or straight into university with the benefit of over 750 work placement hours in a professional setting, which makes you stand out from the crowd.

A challenge to strip down a boiler as part of a Women In Manufacturing and Engineering (WIME) event was won by a Year 11 at Goole Academy.

Abi took part in the competition at the Guild Hall in Hull.

The challenge involved stripping down a boiler in the quickest time. It is the task a service engineer does during, for example, an annual service to gain access to the heat exchanger and other internal components.

This includes practical steps including the use of tools to remove major parts such as the fan and burner also the mechanical fixings such as screws, nuts and clips.

A great event was well supported by numerous regional engineering and manufacturing businesses that presented a vast array of different career paths in the region.

## Big event

Forty post-16 providers attended a careers event at Darton Academy.

It took place in the school's sports hall and individual year groups were invited to attend the exhibition during the day.

The visitors included further and higher education colleges, universities, local employers and apprenticeship providers.

The aim was to give students an idea of what to expect when they leave the Academy and raise awareness of the career paths available.

The students were able to discuss any questions they may have had, and providers were involved in a follow-up activity based on information discovered.

During lessons, an activity on careers around the subjects they were taking also took place.

The day was a very enjoyable experience for the students and gave them a very positive insight into the requirements needed for a future career.

The providers were surveyed and fed back that students were extremely polite and pleasant.

They were also impressed by the quality of the questions asked.

# Trainee teacher

Schools Direct trainee Ameer Muavia discusses his first placement at Greengates Primary Academy.



Greengates Primary Academy has been the beginning of my journey, and I could not have asked for a better school to start at.

The staff have made me feel a part of the team.

They have all been very supportive in my development and have helped me to progress by utilising and further developing my skill set in all areas of teaching and working with children.

During my placement, I have been given the opportunity to add value to the school and its community and I have worked up to teaching 80% of the timetable during school hours.

My mentor Melody Kolbaba has been the guiding light for me and, by observing her, I have been able to develop my pedagogy as well as my curriculum and subject knowledge through the

exceptionally high standards that she sets herself to best develop each child in the class.

The Head of Academy Seetle Kaur has observed me teach and has given me valuable feedback.

See and hear Mr Muavia by scanning this QR code:





## Lego Robotics and how to implement it into academies was the subject of a CPD session for 12 teachers.

This sharing of best practice has led to all schools having clubs on Lego Robotics, improving students understanding of STEM, coding and creativity.

Organised by Science Director Kieran Wilson, the session was held at the Education Exchange.

Matt Eccles, a Science teacher at Darton Academy, said: "Being trained on how to use all the equipment properly has not only made me more knowledgeable but more eager to engage the students."

His comments were echoed by colleague Liam Sharpe at Melior Community Academy.

"It's enrichment like this that will make a difference in showcasing the STEM subjects," he said.

"Students will be amazing and will genuinely love every minute."

Kieran has been "amazed" at how well Lego Robotics has been implemented into schools.

"If it wasn't for all the staff leading on the enrichment it would not be possible," he said.

"Ten schools have now registered for regional competitions to showcase their hard work. All schools will automatically enter the Delta Robotics tournament in March.

Students have expressed how they would consider studying Computer Science or Triple Science now despite having no intention to before.

Moving forward I look forward to hopefully working with all secondaries as well as branching out into primary schools."

Those interested should contact [Kieran.wilson@deltatrust.org.uk](mailto:Kieran.wilson@deltatrust.org.uk)



# Volcanic delights

A memorable Geography trip to Iceland was undertaken by 40 Manor Croft students.

The party set off from Manchester airport on a cold and drizzly morning and arrived before lunchtime to be met by driver Imran who remained for the adventure.

The first day involved the Reykjanes Peninsula south of Iceland, an area currently under threat of volcanic eruption and evacuated.

Students and staff visited the Bridge between continents, here the North America and Eurasian plates are diverging, before moving on to Stampar crater, which is a series of volcanic fissures.

The final stop were Gunnuhver hot springs and Reykjanes Lighthouse where students were greeted with an interesting smell from the mud pools and steam vents.

This area is named after an angry female ghost, Gudrun, whose spirit was trapped in the hot springs by a priest 400 years ago.

The party departed to the Heradsskolinn Historic Guesthouse, home for the duration of the trip.

On day two students met experienced field guide Hafidi, usually offering tours to National Geographic and Luxury Adventures.



His knowledge of the Geographical features was invaluable to the tour and all the students really appreciated his stories and sharing of his life living in Iceland.

Day two was the one students were most looking forward to as this was the Secret Lagoon, a naturally occurring hot spring which remains warm all year round at 38-40 degrees.

Thingvellir national park was the first stop before the lagoon where students witnessed the rift between the North America and Eurasian plates with deep cracks running through the landscape. Gullfoss waterfalls followed the lagoon.

One of the best parts of the day was witnessing the Strokkur geyser,

which erupts every six to eight minutes. The day ended with a treat at a little family run ice cream farm.

Day three started at the Lava centre, an interactive exhibition exploring the science behind Iceland's inner forces.

The students hiked Solheimajokull black glacier and experienced the incredibly strong winds at Reynisfjara black sands beach.

Hafidi took the party on a trip to see his favourite waterfall which students were able to climb behind.

The final day took an unexpected turn, but one student quoted it to be "the highlight of the trip".

A 12 hour delay due to storms meant a bonus day in Reykjavik and a visit to the Perlan centre where students walked through an ice cave.

Students had a thoroughly enjoyable and once-in-a-lifetime experience and were a pleasure to take on the adventure.





# Unforgettable Iceland

Cultural experiences and exciting activities were packed into an unforgettable four-day adventure to Iceland for 40 Goole Academy students.

The party wasted no time on arrival, visiting the Bridge between continents, a landmark that straddles the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates.

Next, the group ventured to Gunnuhver Hot Springs, a geothermal area known for its powerful geysers and bubbling mud pools. The sulfuric fumes and other-worldly landscape provided a glimpse into Iceland's volcanic past.

The final stop of the day was Krysuvik, a surreal landscape of mud pots, fumaroles, and steaming pools.

After a day of exploration, the students checked into their accommodation at Hotel Ork.

Day two commenced with a visit to the Secret Lagoon, a geothermal pool nestled in a scenic valley. The students soaked in the warm, mineral-rich waters, surrounded by Icelandic nature.

Next, the group embarked on a journey to Gullfoss, a majestic waterfall that cascades into the Hvítá River.

Afterwards was Geysir, a geothermal area famous for its erupting geysers.

The students watched in fascination as Strokkur, one of the most active geysers in Iceland, shot boiling water high into the air.

After witnessing the raw power of nature, the students indulged in a



delightful treat at Estfi-Dalur ice cream farm, sampling a variety of flavors made with fresh Icelandic milk.

The day's final destination was Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that holds significant historical and geological importance.

The students walked along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates meet, and learned about the park's unique ecosystem.

After a day of exploration, the students returned to Hotel Ork, where some took advantage of the open-air geothermally heated pool to unwind under the Icelandic sky. Others chose to socialize in the games room and lounge.

Day three began with a visit to Skogafoss, a towering waterfall that plunges into a lush green valley.

Next, they ventured to Solheimajokull, an impressive glacier that stretches down from the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap. Students learned about the power of ice and how it has shaped the land.

After marveling at the glacier, the group continued their journey to Vik, a small village known for its dramatic black sand beach.

The students walked along the shoreline, admiring the stark beauty of the black sand and the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

Before returning to the hotel, the group made a detour to Seljalandsfoss, a waterfall that cascades behind a cliff face.



The students ventured behind the waterfall, enjoying a different perspective of the cascading water. The final day dawned with a visit to Raufarholshellir Lava Tube, a natural tunnel formed by flowing lava.

Students ventured into the depths of the earth, marveling at the intricate rock formations and the ecosystem that thrives in this dark and mysterious environment.

Next, the group explored the Hveradalir Geothermal area, a landscape dotted with steaming vents, bubbling mud pools, and colorful algae.

The journey continued to the nearby Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, where students gained insights into the process of harnessing geothermal

energy to produce electricity.

After a day of immersion in Iceland's geothermal wonders, the group headed to Reykjavik, the country's vibrant capital city.

They explored the city's charming streets and took in the sights of landmarks like the Hallgrímskirkja cathedral, its towering spire reaching towards the sky.

The final activity of the trip was the Lava Show, a mesmerizing performance that highlighted the raw power and beauty of volcanoes.

Students were captivated by the glowing lava, flowing and erupting, and the dramatic music and storytelling that accompanied the show.

With their Icelandic adventure ending, the students checked into the Hotel Cabin for a short stay before their early morning flight back home.



A Carlton le Willows Academy sixth former enjoyed a two-week summer school in Germany after becoming one of just 24 students in the country selected to take part in a national scheme.

Cameron secured a place on the UK German Connection summer school programme after hearing about the opportunity from Jason White in his German A-Level class. He was selected as one of 12 people on the programme to be placed in Langerwehe, on the Rhine.

Cameron (17) said: "Summer school was an amazing experience.

"It has really helped improve my language skills, particularly listening, so will be massively helpful to me with my A-level studies. I'd definitely recommend it to other German students."

Cameron was staying with hosts the Menkhaus family and their 15-year-old son Julius.

During his two-week stay, he spent time at Julius' school, the Europaschule in Langerwehe, and spent time on days out, at Games Com and a Cologne FC football match with his hosts and on group visits to Bonn and Cologne cathedral.

# Top host

High profile Leeds Central MP Hilary Benn hosted Park View Primary Academy pupils at the Houses of Parliament.



The Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland greeted the Year 5 pupils and supported them as they ventured into the House of Commons.

Pupils asked many questions and it was particularly helpful to be guided by someone who knew the school and area.

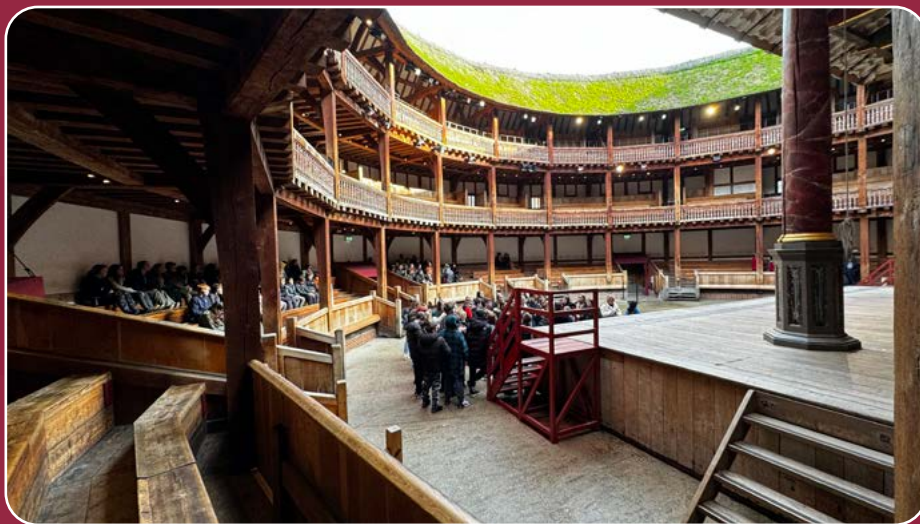
Children also took the opportunity to visit the Cenotaph to see the wreaths, including those laid by the Royal Family, followed by a 'peek' into Downing Street.

The trip was organised by Jess Scott-Spencer.

Head of Academy Louise Taylor said: "It is incredibly important that our pupils see our capital city and experience places and people that have a significant impact on their lives.

We were incredibly appreciative of Hilary Benn's time and the opportunity to ask him about government in the United Kingdom."

# Magical capital



Excited students took part in the first residential trip to London for Years 8 and 9 from De Warenne Academy in a decade.

They visited the Harry Potter Studio Tour and experienced a lesson in how to pitch film ideas while seeing real props from the films.

They also had the opportunity to fly on a broom, not something they do every day into school!

After dinner, the party watched smash hit musical Wicked, where 70 students continued to do the school proud, before sleeping overnight.

The next day began with a well-received buffet breakfast followed by a private tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

They then moved onto the Imperial War Museum before returning home.

Organisers Scot Willis and Sarah Mitchell said: "Students absolutely loved the trip and couldn't stop talking about everything they saw and did.

They were a credit to the Academy and were fantastic throughout."



# Art fit for a King!

Art students from Don Valley Academy won a trip to London following a competition to design a bench to mark His Majesty's Coronation – and saw King Charles III on route!

Art Club was invited to take part in the once-in-a-lifetime competition to usher in the new era that explored the history of the event and the future.

Out of 1,500 entries from across the UK, the Academy was shortlisted in the top 50 and students won the free trip to the Tower of London.

The design was transformed into bespoke bunting, used during the Coronation celebrations.

The competition entry was a collaborative piece created by Key Stage 3 Art Club students.

Digitally edited, it features a drawing from every student who attends the club.

The trip took place as the King hosted President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol in a state visit and students saw them on route.

Art teacher Ellie-Mae Fisher said the group explored the historic venue, gathered information from Beefeaters and saw the famous Crown Jewels.

"Students were amazed by the rich history and current traditions within the Tower, and they thoroughly enjoyed the visit," she said.

"It was a privilege to take students and staff who have never been to



London before on the trip and our amazing coach driver gave them a sightseeing tour of the famous landmarks on our way home.

It was wonderful to see how engaged students have been with the competition and celebrating the Coronation.

We are very proud all the students who took part and it was a pleasure to take the students to the Tower of London.

I cannot begin to express how proud myself, the department and the whole school community are of Art Club.

We look forward to further competitions in the future."

She thanked Angela Milner and Louise Tyler for support during the trip and gave a massive thank you to Jenna Atkinson for help organising it.

## First trip

Children in Early Years Foundation Stage at Wybers Wood Academy enjoyed their first trip to Normanby Hall Park.



Organised by teacher Samantha Beverley, it took place on a lovely, sunny autumn day.

She said the children were amazing on their first ever trip.

"We went on a woodland walk, searched for Stick Man's family tree and even saw some deer.

We loved making our own stick men, flags and playing pooh sticks."

The children really enjoyed it.

"I liked walking through the autumn leaves," said Poppy while Woody was excited to find a woodlouse in the fallen trees.

"We found Stick Man's real house in the woods," added Oakley.



# Prestigious prize

Artwork created by two Don Valley Academy students was selected to be shown as part of the prestigious Cooper Prize exhibition.

The annual event at Barnsley's Cooper Gallery celebrates the work of accomplished and talented South Yorkshire artists.

Year 11s Charlotte won the Fox Gift and Chloe's work was commended in the same competition. Part of the overall annual Cooper Prize, the Fox Gift offers an opportunity for under 16s to showcase their ability.

The students' success was announced at an exclusive gallery opening, streamed live and attended by around 200 industry experts and artists.

The Mayor of South Yorkshire Oliver Coppard was in attendance. He congratulated students on their "fantastic work" and asked to visit the school, said the Academy's Head of Art and Design Jenna Atkinson.

Trustees of the Gallery were also in attendance as were many well known professionals.

Charlotte won a £100 gift card to spend as she chooses, but more importantly both students have been given an excellent opportunity to showcase their work on a huge platform.

Their works can be seen as part of the exhibition both in the gallery and on the website until April.

"Following the ceremony, The Cooper Gallery contacted us and asked to purchase Charlotte's work," said Jenna.

"It will form part of their permanent collection to sit alongside the works

of a range of well renowned artists, a huge honour and achievement for any upcoming or even professional artist."

Alison Cooper, Exhibitions Officer at The Cooper Gallery said they had been inundated with entries from all across the region, all of an extremely high standard.

"The Cooper Prize 2023 attracted a record number of artists all of whom had lived, worked or were born in South Yorkshire," she said.

"It aims to reward and celebrate excellence and originality in mixed media and showcase local talent.

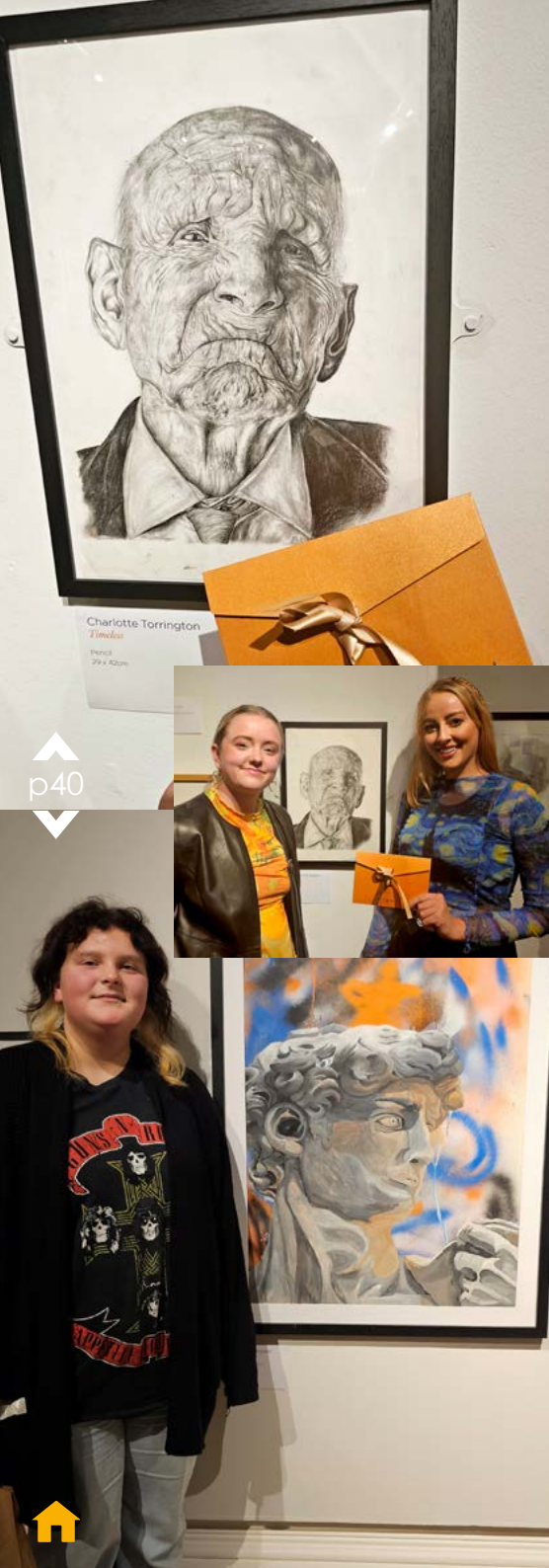
More than 400 pieces of artwork were submitted and included abstract, figurative, contemporary, and traditional.

The very best has now been selected to form part of an exhibition in the Gallery which is now on display.

Charlotte's work being included in the Cooper Gallery Permanent collection and sitting alongside Paula Rego, Turner, Vanessa Bell, and so many more, is an amazing opportunity."

Jenna said: "We are beyond proud that two of out of the three top entries for the Fox Gift are DVA students and that the work of our talented students is being recognised by professionals within the industry."

[See the students' work at the Cooper Gallery here.](#)





# Ellie nets praise

Collaboration between Crookesbroom Primary Academy and Ash Hill Academy resulted in an inspirational mural being painted at the former by a Year 9 student.

Ellie won a design contest to paint the image after a link up between Rob Harvey (Crookesbroom) and Ash Hill's Kerry Yates.

Head of Academy Rob said: "Ellie's mural is amazing. It is so inspiring for our children to see the sort of amazing achievements they too could make with a Delta education."

Due to the project's success, the two schools will join up again next summer for another mural collaboration.



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## They want more



Leeds Playhouse was the destination for students from Darton Academy where they watched *Oliver*.

For some, it was the first time they had seen professional theatre.

Year 11 Drama student Rhys said: "I didn't think I'd really like it, but I loved it."

Emily, from Year 9, said: "It was brilliant to see the things we've learnt in Drama on the stage, like cannon and choral movement."

Adam, also studying Drama in Year 11, said: "This was the first professional piece of theatre I have ever seen and I was really inspired."

Isabel thought the young actors were so talented and professional.

"It was really inspiring" the Year 8 student said.

A year 11 parent also sent a lovely note to the Performing Arts team which organised the trip.

It said: "I just wanted to say thank you for taking Sienna to see *Oliver* last night.

"She said it was brilliant and really enjoyed it.

"It was nice to hear her friends talking who haven't experienced a show before saying how good it was too.

"Thank you again for organising and for your time and effort."



# Efforts rewarded

National Artsmark Silver Awards have been awarded to the Trust's Alternative Provision Academies St Wilfrid's and The Elland.

The achievement was led by the Art teachers at both academies, Anne Ita Lee at St Wilfrid's and Harriet Gavan-Duffy at The Elland.

The awards follow assessments by the Arts Council.



**Artsmark  
Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

Both academies have embedded the arts in their academic and therapeutic curriculum, along with working with several different artists, to broaden students' experiences and cultural capital outside the classroom.

Students have enjoyed a wide variety of arts-based opportunities including



working with ceramics artists and trying their hand on a potter's wheel, a raku session, glass workshops, drama performances around Macbeth, music-based workshops and even an art and literacy residential at Dallowgill.



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## Inspired performances

Two professional performances have been watched by Year 10 Performing Arts at Goole Academy this term.

They attended a performance with other Trust schools at Don Valley Academy to see Splendid Productions' The Inspector General, followed by a question and answer session with the cast.

They also went to Manchester Palace Theatre to see Hamilton the Musical.

Students were inspired by both of the very different performances and picked up valuable information about what it is like to be a performer.



# Sponsored walk success

More than £5,000 was raised following a sponsored walk at Serlby Park Primary.

Taking place on the school fields and playgrounds, it involved all children from Nursery to Year 6.

The child who raised the most received a signed Doncaster Rovers shirt while the top class received cupcakes for everyone.

Year 4, Mr Goodman's class, won that prize after raising £930.

The £5,058 will go towards the pantomimes that have been booked and Christmas activities for the children.

It was organised by PE Lead and Year 5 teacher Susie Kent.

Head of the Primary Academy Louise Ridge said: "There was a great atmosphere across school with

excitement bubbling up and down the corridors as the children waited their turn.

It was great to hear children asking their friends in other classes how many laps they had done, as well as hearing children wishing each other good luck for when it was their turn."

Harry, in Key Stage 2, really wanted to beat his brother's score.

"In the end I was just happy that we both did it and raised money for our Christmas fun," he said.

Oliver, also from Key Stage 2, said: "I can't believe I did 26 laps, that's going to cost my Dad a fortune!"

Olivia, in Key Stage 1, loved "running to party music."



A special thanks to the Serlby Park community for their kind donations.



## Fundraising fun benefits children

Kind children and staff organised a day of fundraising at Greengates Primary Academy in aid of the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

Samantha Dovey and the Junior Leadership Team put it together.

She said: "It was great to see everyone so excited to help others and I feel like this day really gave us an opportunity to stop and think about what others might be dealing with in their day-to-day life.

Everyone was so kind with their donations and so keen to get involved."

Amanda Proud: "The kids loved entering the Pudsey competition which was organised by our Junior Leadership Team."

Amelia: "I never really knew what Children in Need was before but now I understand why we dress up and raise money."





## Good boost

Children in Need benefitted to the tune of an “amazing” £260 after fundraising at The Laurel Academy.



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Students enjoyed activities which included guess the amount of biscuits in a box, sweets in a jar and the popular chocolate tombola.

Students also donated to replace their shirt and tie with a Children in Need T-shirt.

## Stunning sculpture



Amazing local artist James Brunt was welcomed back to Rowena Academy to work with Year 2 pupils during their learning about Sculpture.

Together, they created stunning pieces of work using natural materials sourced from school grounds and local environment, working together as a year group to create a natural sculpture.

Year 2 pupils could not wait to showcase their beautiful work to parents/carers at the end

of school and were incredibly enthusiastic about the wonders of the natural world and how this can translate into Art.

Rowena Academy would like to thank @RFJamesUK for his incredible work and the school looks forward to welcoming him back again.



# The Ball

Glamour, entertainment, and fundraising is guaranteed at Delta Academies Charitable Trust's annual fundraising Ball.

The event's taking place at 7pm on Saturday, 16th March at the Queen's Hotel, City Square, Leeds, and includes a three-course meal.

Attendees will be helping to provide life-changing opportunities for students, enabling them to fulfil their dreams.

To book tickets, priced £55, please visit [deltatrust.org.uk/the-ball](https://deltatrust.org.uk/the-ball), click on the book tickets button and fill out the form or link from the QR on the advert.

Organisers would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have already bought tickets and supported the charity.

If you have any questions about The Ball, please do not hesitate to contact [dact@deltatrust.org.uk](mailto:dact@deltatrust.org.uk)



## The Ball

**Saturday 16th March 2024**  
**Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds**

7pm arrival with celebrations until 1am  
 3 course meal   live entertainment   drink on arrival

## Ticket Price

**£55 per ticket**



# Garforth



Two Year 7 classes at Garforth Academy worked hard to complete a beautiful Coronation Peace Tree for students, staff and visitors to enjoy.

It included thoughtful messages of peace and the creative leaf designs were wonderful.

# De Lacy



Life-changing opportunities are being given to De Lacy Academy students in a newly-launched partnership.

Project W sees social housing provider WDH, Warwick Ahead, West Yorkshire Fire Service and other local charities partner with the Academy.

Assistant Principal Nichola Taberner said they were proud to launch the project, aimed at supporting students from disadvantaged areas to access life-changing opportunities.

"Using funds from Warwick Ahead we have been able to build a programme of events that enrich the lives of our students," she said.

"To date, students have been able to visit York, Dallowgill and London is planned for March 2024.

This funding is truly life changing and our launch event saw more than 100 families come along and sign up to be part of our Project W campaign."

# Carlton



THREE Carlton le Willows Academy brothers slept outside to help raise money for the homeless.

Isa, Emre and Rada participated in the Big, Big Sleepout run by the charity Framework, which supports people without a home.

Over the last two years older brother Isa, in Year 9, has taken part in the Framework big Sleepout at Nottingham racecourse with his scout group.

But this year, younger brothers Emre and Rada, in Year 7, decided to join in.

They slept outside at home, with no tent, for four nights, finishing with the Big, Big Sleepout at Nottingham Racecourse.

As well as raising more than £400 for the charity, the boys got involved in promoting the event, appearing in the Nottingham Post, on BBC Radio Nottingham and Notts TV as they spread the word for this worthwhile cause.



# Hatfield



Popular multi-generational workshops were held to ensure pupils at Hatfield Woodhouse Primary School were prepared for the village's first ever Light Parade.

Parents and grandparents supported their children to make lanterns from locally-grown willow.

Once the frames were constructed and the LED lights attached, the children covered them in tissue paper. They used some of the techniques previously learned in DT lessons.

Principal Helen Acton said Hatfield Woodhouse was a farming community.

"We are looking forward to seeing all the local farmers with their tractors decorated in bright lights taking part in the parade, culminating in a performance by our school choir," she said.

"They are excited to be supported by a brass band as they sing carols around the village Christmas Tree."



## Kitchen thrives

A community kitchen at Willoughby Road Primary is proving popular since its opening at the start of term.

An old meeting room was converted over the summer thanks to grant funding from the Johnson and Mukherjee Brothers' Charitable Trust, creating a valuable resource.

A new floor, kitchen units and LED lighting were included in the refurbishment.

The kitchen is being used on a regular basis for the Thrive Cooking Clubs, "Star of the Week" baking, a weekly attendance breakfast club and regular parent coffee mornings, as well as meetings with outside agencies.

Head of Academy Elaine Jupp said children and staff were loving the new facility, proving to be a real asset to the school.

"Being able to take part in cooking helps develop the children's confidence and life skills," she said.

Students wrote lovely letters to the Johnson and Mukherjee Trust.

"Thank you for giving us this opportunity to have this



**Mukherjee**  
TRUST

magnificent kitchen. This has been the best part of this year. My favourite was the cheesy garlic bread.

"Thank you very much. I wouldn't have had this opportunity without you."

"I love cooking every Tuesday, my favourite thing I have made is cookies".

"Thank you for this opportunity to cook and have fun."

"Thank you for this kitchen, I really like getting to learn new meals and take them home"

*For more information about the charitable trust go to [thejmtrust.co.uk](http://thejmtrust.co.uk)*

make a  
**difference**

BBC RADIO  
LEEDS

## Boys make good neighbours

Two Year 6 pupils from Ryecroft Primary Academy were nominated in the Good Neighbour category of the BBC Radio Leeds Make a Difference Awards.

Archie and Oscar, both Year 6, were recognised for making a space within Forest School for Archie's Farm.

They have planted apple trees and will be growing strawberries and other fruit.

Their mission with Archie's Farm is to feed the homeless and people who struggle to buy food.

Head of Academy Helen Wrightson went with the boys

to the Royal Armouries in Leeds for the presentation where they met Rugby League legend Rob Burrows and Look North presenter Amy Garcia.

After afternoon tea, the awards ceremony took place.

More than 500 people and organisations were put forward for the awards and six were shortlisted to attend the award ceremony.

Helen said: "Oscar and Archie were the only children nominated for an award. This is a great achievement.

The boys won an honourable mention and had to go on to the stage to collect their award.

We are all very proud of Archie and Oscar.

The boys were put forward for the Good Neighbour Award for Bradford. A shameless plea was put out to all the primary heads and a huge thank you to all who voted for the boys."



# Fireworks fun



## Fireworks lit up the sky in a spectacular display enjoyed at Strand Primary Academy.

The Community Firework Night was led by Teaching Assistant Carla Probert, supported by her family and the school team.

She said: "It was an absolute pleasure to organise the firework event.

It was great to see our children and families come together and enjoy a fabulous night."

Head of Academy Lisa McCall described the display as "amazing".

"It was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves," she said.



"Mrs Probert was the driving force behind this event, and it was down to her organisation and determination that it was such a huge success. A huge thank you to all involved, we raised £1400!

Roll on next year when we can do it all again even bigger."

HLTA Kay Freeman said: "It was well organised and great to see everyone coming together."

One parent said the fireworks "looked incredible next to our beautiful school."

"The fireworks were amazing!" said Emily while Andreea thought they were the best she had seen.

"I loved the music, I was dancing!" said Lachlan.



# Cyber careers

Online security and the exciting careers it offers was the focus of Cyber North, an event hosted by Delta Academies Trust and Northern Education Trust.

A buzz before it started was created by the success of the first such event last year.

The demand for cyber security professionals is expected to grow by 33% from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to specialist recruitment agency Rutherford.

The National Cyber Security Centre says: "Everyone who uses a computer or the internet is at risk of cyber-attacks.

By learning about cyber security, students can protect themselves from identity theft, financial fraud, and other cyber threats."

Throughout the day, students engaged in competitive activities to uphold their Trust's title as Cyber North champions.

NET, the victors of the first event, faced pressure to defend its crown, while Delta strived to claim victory.

The main activity of the day focused on students becoming 'Digital Detectives'.

They were tasked with extracting vital clues and information from a variety of physical and digital evidence using intelligence analysis, brute force email and password cracking, and message decryption techniques.

Once all the clues had been cracked, students were able to identify the hacker and turn them over to the virtual police!

Karl Douglass said: "Collectively, students enjoyed the day and loved working on the various tasks to decipher the clues."

A student at Kirk Balk Academy said the day had been a "thrilling experience" which has been full of "teamwork, code breaking and cyber security", summing up the day perfectly.

Congratulations to all students from Delta and NET, who earned a similar number of points throughout the day.

However, NET teams claimed first and second place, retaining their crown as Cyber North champions.

1st – North Shore Academy (CyberNorth Trophy plus shopping vouchers)

2nd – Kirk Balk Academy

3rd – Hanson Academy

John Whitgift won the Team Collaboration award for cracking the padlock code and took home a trophy, plus Amazon vouchers.





User Account Login

Username:

Forming a Cyber Criminal

Analyse the evidence from the suspects home.

Information about

The email a

the password



Delta's Chief Executive Officer Paul Tarn said: "The Cyber North event demonstrates Delta's and NET's commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education.

"This includes core subjects and exposure to career advancements and how students can position themselves in the future landscape of the working world.

"By immersing students in the exciting field of cyber security, our Trusts empower them to protect themselves and their communities from cyber threats and learn about cyber security careers."



# Diamonds



Highest standards of effort, attendance and achievement were recognised when Darton Academy opened its doors to the parents and carers of the 'Darton Diamonds'.

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These are the students who consistently demonstrated those standards throughout the previous academic year.

As well as being a fantastic reward ceremony which gives students a deserved moment in the spotlight, the event is an opportunity for staff, children, parents and carers to join together as a community and share in these exceptional young people's success.

After the awards were handed out by Principal Joe Spencer, the students enjoyed a terrific buffet of 'Yorkshire Tapas', a chocolate fountain surprise and drinks from the mocktail bar.

It was a special evening enjoyed by all in attendance, organised by Paul Carmody, Patrick Longson and Shelly Jepson.

# Daring discos

Spooktacular Halloween discos were organised by Greengates Primary Academy's amazing PTA for pupils and staff.

Head of Academy Seetle Kaur said: "Our PTA really do put everything into making such events really special."

PTA member Laura Sykes said it was lovely to feel such a part of the school.

"The community feel is brilliant," she said.



Wonderful floor books are a source of pride at Greengates Primary Academy.

They showcase work in different subjects in many ways and are used as a revision tool.

HLTA Tracey Allan said: "The purpose of a floor book is to document the children's learning experiences and inquiries in different ways.

They often contain photographs and written reflections that capture the learning journey of the children.

They serve as a visual record of the children's ideas and progress over time."

Head of Academy Seetle Kaur said: "Our floor books are of an exceptionally high quality and I'm so proud of all the staff and pupils who put a lot of effort into them.

"It's fabulous to watch the children in action using the QR codes. Our floor books have a special place in our wonderful corridor – for all to see."



Pupil voice is extremely important at Greengates Primary Academy, so much so there are pupil leadership groups for everything.

There is a Pupil Safeguarding Team, Eco Warriors, Spanish Amigos, Bookworms, Librarians, Maths Leaders, Writing Leaders, RE and Diversity Leaders, Playleaders, Lunch Time Supervisors, Science Leaders, Geography Leaders, History Leaders, Phonics Ambassadors ... and not to forget the Junior Leadership Team! Each group has a special role shaping the school.

Staff subject leaders help pupil subject leaders to develop.

A special motto - 'everyone a leader, everyone a learner!' – is embraced by everyone in school.

Pupils celebrate kindness all the time and they have a special motto called 'spreading the magic called kindness.'

Head of Academy Seetle Kaur said: "We understand that working in a school is not always easy - but through kindness and teamwork - we can achieve amazing things.

For World Kindness Day the children and staff spent the week writing kind messages to one another. We are very lucky to have such a kind staff team."

Pupil Science Leaders demonstrated exceptional teamwork and dedication in helping to raise the profile of Science across Greengates.

They met to discuss initial ideas which included a Science Fair, which will involve children creating their projects at home to present to the school.

Science Lead Karl Slater said: "Their passion for promoting scientific curiosity and discovery among their peers is incredible.

"Fantastic work young scientists."

Children have also been working hard to raise the profile of writing across the academy, he said.

Writing Leaders have been collaborating on some exciting ideas to help pupils become more involved.

They include a poetry competition in the Spring with prizes such as Gold Handwriting pens and writing journals up for grabs.

The children have asked for the opportunity to share their fantastic writing with other pupils, organising a writing sharing party.

Children will share their work with others giving them a purpose for their writing.

## Odd socks were worn by children at Greengates Academy to kick off a week of anti-bullying activities.

An insightful assembly taught pupils about bullying and children learned the differences between conflict and bullying.

This was followed up in classes with various activities around this year's theme of 'Make some noise!'

There is no bullying at Greengates, but pupils know they should 'make noise' if they ever felt this was the case.

The week was organised by Helen Brooke.

# Heart help



Students at Ash Hill Academy took part in an annual initiative led by Resuscitation Council UK which aims to increase the number of people surviving out-of-hospital cardiac arrests.

Restart a Heart (RSAH) saw 316 children across Years 7 to 10 participating, with the day supported by Yorkshire Ambulance.

Every year, an alliance of partners come together to raise awareness of cardiac arrests and help more people learn lifesaving CPR and defibrillation.

The event was organised in the Main Hall by Sophie Lanaghan.



# Leadership team shows the way

A pupil leadership structure at Pheasant Bank Academy enables students to influence and take responsibility for decisions made within the school and wider community.



The Pupil Leadership Team consists of a Pupil Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers.

The students are nominated as candidates by their classes during local elections.

They then take part in a two-week long campaign in which they make posters, stickers, talk to pupils and give a presentation in assembly to persuade pupils to vote for them.

All students get to vote for their preferred candidate. Throughout the process, candidates are aware of their democratic responsibilities, promoted through the motto 'Your Choice! Your Voice!'.

The pupil leaders meet with school leaders to discuss ideas and initiatives and they represent the school at events such as Remembrance Day.

Elections took place in October and the new Pupil Leadership Team is Pupil Headteacher Sinead;

Assistant Pupil Headteachers Lois, Rosie and Ayla-Blue.

Honorary Pupil Leader is Eve.

Each class has its school councillor elected by members of their class.

Their role is to listen to the concerns and ideas of their classmates and discuss them with



the Pupil Leadership Team and members of staff to affect change and continue to improve the school.

School councillors and the Pupil Leadership Team meet weekly with staff.

School Ambassadors are appointed by members of staff as role models for other students and they represent the Academy at events such as parents' evenings.

The entire Pupil Leadership Team can get involved in a range of school projects. For example, they went on a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by a workshop learning all about democracy.

Other pupil leadership roles include:

- **Playground pals**
- **Pupil librarians**
- **School shop assistant and**
- **Pupil attendance ambassador**

Every year Doncaster City Council invites Year 4 pupils to apply to become the Junior Civic Mayor.

For the last two years two pupils from Pheasant Bank, who narrowly missed out on becoming the Mayor, were selected to become Primary Ambassadors representing the school and the City of Doncaster.



This is an amazing achievement the school is very proud of.

Part of their roles have included meeting King Charles III, and more recently, former Labour Party leader Ed Milliband.

To celebrate the amazing work the outgoing ambassadors had done, they were invited to the Junior Civic Mayor Robing Ceremony where they received their award and recognition for their successful time in office.

In the same ceremony the new ambassadors were sworn in.

Eve served one year from October, 2022. Carlyn began her term in October.



Leadership skills are being transferred into the wider community by pupils from Pheasant Bank, recognised at the Pride of Rossington awards.

This year, four were awarded the following prizes:

Tyler: Winner of the Junior Hero award, in recognition of his fundraising for men's mental health.

Eve: Runners-up of the Junior Hero award, in recognition of her dedication and commitment in her role of Junior Ambassador for Doncaster.

Harvey and Jaxon: Runner-up for the Environmental award, in recognition of their litter picking in the community.



# Chefs serve up praise

Professional chefs praised two Serlby Park Academy students after they won through to the regional final of a cooking competition.

Esme and Isabella travelled to Sheffield College for the South Yorkshire final of the Springboard FutureChef programme.

The Year 10s competed against students from other schools with Esme making a beautiful Hunters Chicken dish and Isabella a wonderful, filled ravioli with a side of doughballs.

They received positive feedback from the professional judges at the competition and have learnt invaluable new skills including time management, communication and tenacity.

Esme and Isabella were supported on the day by parents and their teacher Mrs Phillips, all filled with happiness and pride by the girls' performance.

Springboard FutureChef runs across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and supports



the development of key life skills while inspiring young people to pursue a career in hospitality.

It supports students to build industry-based culinary skills and knowledge, as well as connecting them and teachers with industry professionals.

Year 10 prepared their dishes during the Autumn term for the school heats in October.

They were judged by local chef Mike Billington from the White Horse Misson and Molly Preston and David Fisher, managers from Moto Costa Coffee and Greggs Blythe.

Kerry Mabbley, at Springboard, said: "It was so lovely to meet you, Esme and Isabella along with their parents.

They did incredibly well and I am sure that you are very proud of them as we are here at Springboard."

Esme said: "I felt very happy winning the school heat, especially with having a real chef judge it.

The competition in Sheffield was lovely. I enjoyed meeting all the chefs from Springboard and learned how to work in a professional kitchen."

**Former professional footballer Sean Wharton visited Serlby Park Academy to deliver an assembly on anti-racism.**

Son of Windrush generation parents, he played for Sunderland and was the first black schoolboy to play for Wales. He is the co-founder of No Boundaries, which specialises in diversity and inclusion awareness.

"It is always a pleasure to visit the pupils at Serlby Park and help support the school to challenge racism" Sean said.

Vice Principal Robert Howell had arranged the visit to Year 8s.





## Flying high

A special invitation was received by a Year 9 student at The Laurel Academy to experience The Flying Scotsman up close.



Alex, a member of the Doncaster Youth Council, was invited by the elected Mayor of Doncaster Cllr Ros Jones CBE to see the famous locomotive when it returned to the city where it was built.

The Academy's very proud of Alex, who went to the Railport in Doncaster to see the record-breaking train.

## Posh perk



Bentley Leeds visited Park View Primary Academy with a special vehicle as part of a reward for pupils.

Children sat in the driver's seat, worked the gadgets, and received back massages from the very comfortable seats.

The opportunity was provided by ex-pupil Ishmail Miah, who works for Bentley.

Head of Academy Louise Taylor said: "It is always great to welcome back ex-pupils to our school.

"Ishmail provided the chance to enjoy a £200K+ car, definitely something for us all to aspire to!"

# Jonny Brownlee - MBE

## Champion's message

World and Olympic champion Jonny Brownlee MBE visited Whetley Academy.

The triathlete has won multiple titles in a distinguished career alongside his brother Alistair.

The visit was organised by Head of Academy Jonny Townend who told pupils they were lucky to welcome the Yorkshire athlete Jonny into the building.

He attended a school close to Whetley and explained all about his career and motivation.

Children asked questions about his life, diet, training and family.

"Jonny gave us a fantastic insight into life as an athlete, but also what it takes to be successful in anything that you do," said Mr Townend.

"He spoke about determination, hard work and perseverance as well as about how much he values his brother's support emotionally and also in his training.

"Staff and students felt empowered and really fortunate to have been able to meet and learn from a British and Yorkshire Olympian and we look forward to watching him race in Paris, 2024."



# Great mix at festival

Competitive students from Serlby Park Academy travelled to Retford Oaks Academy to participate in a Year 7 sports festival.



The netball team had a great time playing three matches and were the only team to field any male competitors.

Associate Principal Johnathon Hodgson said: "We are so proud of our students, being willing to compete knowing they may be the only male netballers, or female footballers in the competition, displaying resilience and great sportsmanship throughout."

This year so far, every year group has been involved in competitive sport, with U13/U14/U15s being involved in the national ESFA competitions – both boys and girls.

Two football teams, one boys and one girls, plus a mixed gender netball team represented the school in the event.

It was a great opportunity and experience for the students, many playing their first competitive fixture in those sports, and their first as Year 7s.

The Academy believes sports can be played competitively by any gender, so will always open up fixtures to all if they want to play.

Mr Whiteman said the Year 7 girls' football team were amazing, with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and high levels of resilience shown throughout.

They were the only girls taking part in the whole football festival.

The teams played six matches and the final game was won in the final minute of play.

Our boys' team did well too, winning two of their six games, and drawing three.



# Holly stars

Footballer Holly Housley had a special group of supporters watch her play for Doncaster Belles – colleagues and their families from Grange Lane Infant Academy.

They travelled to the Eco Power Stadium to see the Teaching Assistant and Cover Supervisor compete against Middlesbrough.

Holly started with Doncaster Belles youth set up and was promoted to the senior squad at 16.

She has since played with Sheffield FC and Leeds but is now Doncaster's versatile left-sided defender who likes to drive the team forward and assist with goals.

Holly has helped to develop girls sport at Grange Lane with football and athletics clubs, so it was brilliant for staff to see her in action.

"We know how hard she works both in school and playing professional football, so it was a good way for staff to show how proud of her they are," said Principal Louise Chappell.

Doncaster are looking for a sponsor for Holly for home and away matches.



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# Students box clever

A former British champion coached students in Key Stage 3 at The Elland Academy in a six-week boxing programme.

Padraic McDonagh, a two-time British Thai Boxing Champion, led the students in the sessions at Golden Team Boxing Club arranged by Assistant Principal Dan Wiseman.

One student said: "I have loved the boxing sessions in PE and I have learnt a lot of new skills."

Another said: "The sessions have been fun and challenging. I have learnt about self-discipline."

Dan organised the sessions to promote resilience, discipline and allow students to develop new skills.





Enrichment provided by The Laurel Academy's PE Department is going from strength to strength.



## Top teams

Students are accessing a wealth of sporting activities, both in curriculum time and enrichment opportunities to develop key skills.

Students are thriving in PE and are buying into the journey the Laurel PE department is going through.

The netball team, unbeaten this year, has seen them evolve into Doncaster Champions at Year 10.

They attended a netball residential at Butlins Skegness, hosted by Leeds Rhino's Netball.



The Year 9 football team are also going from strength to strength, going a whole season unbeaten last year, and remaining unbeaten this.

Year 8 and 9 footballers attended the 'Play Like Pride' experience at St George's Park, home to English football and the national teams.

Students were treated to a full tour of the training facilities, as well as taking part in a 90-minute training session.

Year 7 rugby players won the Doncaster Knights' rugby clinic and tournament.

