



## Books, glorious books



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World Book Day special feature – see pages 12 to 14

## Welcome



Welcome to the largest ever edition of our Trust newsletter **The Link**.

This month sees a personal milestone because it is seven years since taking up my role as Chief Executive Officer.

I am proud to say it has been a transformational seven years.

Colleagues across the Trust continue to work so hard to ensure the best interests of the children we teach, and the communities we serve, are met.

The 71 Ofsted inspections since my arrival are proof we get most things right.

The statistics are elsewhere on this page, but it is a tribute to colleagues that 98% of our secondary and primary schools are good or outstanding.

Parents / carers can be confident that if their child attends one of our Academies, staff are doing their utmost to ensure they are reaching their full potential.

Our children also have the opportunities outside of the classroom to grow into well-rounded individuals, aware of their responsibilities towards, for example, the environment.

While past performance is important, this Trust has not progressed by sitting back and admiring statistics.

We look ahead and plan on how we could improve further.

It is only by doing so that the Trust will continue to go from strength to strength.

This is why our capital investment is so important. We have highlighted on this page some of the major projects happening across our Academies, dramatically improving our teaching and learning environments.

It is crucial Academies are resourced with the best possible

# Trust invests millions

**Ash Hill:** £6-million for a new sports hall and associated facilities.



facilities to support children to make the most of their precious time in education.

First class learning environments are nothing unless we employ the highest quality staff to further inspire this and future generations.

Those colleagues need to be supported in terms of their professional development, another area in which the Trust has made huge strides.

This edition showcases the outstanding work being achieved across our Trust.

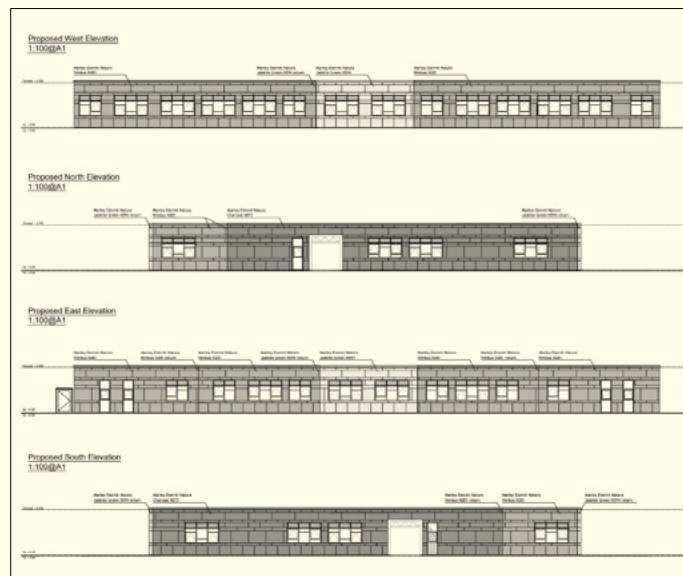
I would like to highlight a couple of new features. Staff have nominated students who deserve recognition (page 18) and we celebrate progress in individual members of staff (page 17).

I thank everybody for their considerable efforts.

**Paul Tarn**  
Chief Executive Officer

## John Whitgift:

£3.5-million refurbishment of swimming pools and new science block.



The Trust is investing millions of pounds in transformational infrastructure projects that will improve teaching and learning environments in many of our Academies. *Here is a flavour:*

**Goole:** £1.6-million dining room extension accommodating growth in numbers of students.



**Montagu:** More than £500,000 to transform classrooms and toilets.



**The Parks:** £500,000 provides new entrance and transformation of elevation and facilities.



**Don Valley:**

£1.5-million extension to the dining room to accommodate increase in its Pupil Admission Number.



**Serlby Park:** £81,000 refurbishment of multi-use games area now allows it to be used.



**Don Valley and De Warenne:**

£1.2-million towards new 3G pitches.



**Garforth:**

£296,000 refurbishment of multi-use games area with approval for LED floodlights.



## Ofsted: Update

It is worth reflecting on our most up-to-date Ofsted statistics. Including the Grange Lane inspection on 3rd March, the Trust has:

- 100% of secondary Academies rated good or outstanding
- 97% of primaries good or outstanding
- 71 inspections since Paul Tarn started as Chief Executive Officer in March, 2016.
- England Lane, John Whitgift and Strand are the only academies to have had 3 inspections in that time.
- 23 academies have had 2 inspections
- 16 academies have had 1 inspection
- 11 academies have not had an inspection since March, 2016, or since they joined the trust.

# Maths masterclass

Higher tier students had their knowledge stretched and enhanced in a Year 11 Enigma Masterclass hosted at The Education Exchange.

The fun, maths-filled day included relays, quizzes, calculator tips, how to use the formula sheet, maffles and triangle knowledge.

Organised by the Trust's Maths Directors, they said: "The students were amazing and represented their schools and the trust exceptionally well.

They completed lots of high level mathematics and left with new top tips and ideas on how to optimise their mathematical knowledge.

We can't wait to see the results from your Assessment 3."

Feedback was positive.

"A successful day of maths, balloons, chocolate, ducks and the sweet taste of victory! Year 11's did themselves and the school proud," said Hanson Academy.

Serlby Park Academy tweeted: "A fantastic day at Delta HQ for some of our Year 11 students with the @deltatrustmaths team. Prepping for their upcoming mocks!"



# Maths: Academies pass challenge

Maths staff across the Trust facilitated the Intermediate Maths Challenge.



Organised by UK Maths Trust, a well done to all students involved and a huge shout out to those successful in achieving bronze, silver and gold awards.

The Trust's Maths Directors have thanked staff who organised the day to give students an opportunity to join in.

A total of 12 gold awards, 70+ silver and 170+ bronze were

achieved by students across the Trust's schools.

Schools involved were Don Valley, Rossington All Saints, John Whitgift, Melior, Hull Trinity House, Goole, Darton, Manor Croft, The Laurel and Garforth.

Most awards were achieved by: 1st Darton, 2nd Manor Croft and joint 3rd Garforth and Rossington All Saints.

Four silver certificates and 10 bronze certificates - three coming from Year 9 pupils - were achieved by Goole Academy.

The best score in the school came from a Year 10 pupil, with a brilliant 63 points.

A Year 9 pupil, Harry, scored 49, which turned out to be the fifth highest score in the school

with only four students in Year 10 beating him.

Number Day was marked by students in the school having the opportunity to complete a darts related drill activity in their maths lessons.

The Academy will be participating in the UKMT's Junior Maths Challenge, aimed at Year 7 and 8 pupils, on 26th April 2023.

# Dallowgill: Church refit and wheels

Further investment is being made at the Trust's environmental education centre at Dallowgill in North Yorkshire.



Refurbishment continues of the nearby St Peter's Church to create a multi-purpose space for drying, storage, cooking and getting out of the inclement weather.

Centre Manager Trevor Holmes said repairs to the roof, reporting and new gutters had taken place. Multi-talented new coach driver Daren fabricated a new bell wheel and it now rings.

"A new entrance has been created into the cemetery, new fencing has been erected and sections of the front wall have been repaired and rebuilt," said Trevor.

The next stage is to reinstate the electricity supply and begin internal works. We are hoping these will be completed by the end of June."

The former church will provide a large open space for groups using the centre to use in the evening and could be used as a base for day trips to the centre studying a variety of subjects.

Generally, it will increase the capacity at Dallowgill allowing a wider range of activities and more people to access the area."

Trevor is also delighted with the centre's new coach (pictured).

# Macaulay: Outdoor space is relaxing place

Efforts of children, staff and partners have improved the outdoor environment at Macaulay Primary Academy and created a Friendship Garden.

Its Green Influencers Club gained a £5,000 grant, working with Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL), to develop the environmentally-friendly space.

Head of Academy Tom Herrick said the club's aim was to produce a tranquil space for children who wished to access a calmer place to relax and unwind during their free time.

"For many children, playtime can be lonely or hectic and the club wanted to encourage their friends to enjoy being outside in a relaxing, welcoming atmosphere," said Tom.



The children were eager to grow lots of various plants to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity.

Reusing and recycling were important features for the children and they have been able to incorporate these by producing their own artwork made from recycled materials and choosing natural, reclaimed materials for their tables and seating."

The club, facilitated by VANEL, allows the children to build confidence, self-esteem and leadership qualities by giving them the responsibility of managing a budget, choosing, ordering and making resources and taking pride in their environment.

"It also encourages the children to build resilience when planning and creating features in the space and greater respect for their community and the natural world.

The children have gained valuable life-long skills and are keen to pass these, as well as their passion for making a difference, into the school and the wider community," said Tom.

The children applied for funding through the Ernest Cook Trust Grant and North East Lincolnshire's Mayoral Fund.

The bids were successful and the school was fortunate enough to



have a visit from the Mayor, Cllr Steve Beasant, who delivered the cheque.

The children have also had the opportunity to participate in nature wellbeing sessions to support them to grow their confidence and build self-esteem.

Tom said the sessions are held in the Academy's new quad area, which includes an outdoor classroom, planters for each class and a fire pit.

"The children are inspired to have deep and meaningful



connections with the natural world and learn life-long skills to help build confident, resilient young people," he said.

"Part of the sessions allow the children to explore risk taking activities safely such as using tools and fire safety. The children also learn how to manage stress and to promote self-regulation."

## Don Valley: Queen tribute

More than 1,200 native saplings will be planted at Don Valley Academy as part of The Queen's Green Canopy project.

Four tiny forests were planted as part of a Green Careers Week project staff and students participated in.

Last year, the Academy was successful in its application to be part of The Queen's Green Canopy that will see more than a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation.

Two tiny forests – with 600 saplings in each – one copse and two Japanese Cherry trees are included in the project at Don Valley.



Organised by Careers Lead Nichola Lerner, students will help plant the final trees on the career's education and engagement day with the City of



Doncaster Council's Woodland Rangers.

Cohen, in Year 7, said: "It was a privilege to be part of planting the Queen's Canopy."

Year 8's Sofia said: "I wanted to do my bit to help save the planet from global warming."



# Reading Routes

Well done to students who have made an amazing start on their 'Reading Routes' journey.

Many have really embraced wonderful titles on the crime and mystery and thriller routes.

A huge "well done!" to the following students who have read all six books in the term 2 route.

Ahmed, from Hull Trinity House Academy, was the first students to have read all the titles on the Year 8 'Thriller' route.



Ahmed, from Hull Trinity Academy.

Ahmed said: "My favourite book was 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. I loved how tense it was; I couldn't wait to turn the page to read the next part. I could not put it down!"

A huge congratulations to Daisy, a Year 7 student from Darton Academy, who has completed the term 1 'Comedy Central' Reading Route.



Darton Academy's Daisy, a Year 7 student.

Daisy said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed the Reading Routes books. They really captured me and it was not long before I'd read them all."

Another congratulations to Lily, Aran and Lily-May from De Warenne Academy for completing their Reading Routes.

Lily said: "The thriller route certainly lived up to its name with some heart-pounding twists and turns."



De Warenne's Lily.

"My favourite has to be City of Ghosts as I found the author's atmospheric writing style really engaging."

It's great to see Lily enjoying another one of the Delta Reading Route genres.



Year 7 student at De Warenne Lily-May.

Lily-May, Year 7, said: "It was so hard to pick a favourite book from this route, but I really enjoyed working with protagonist Ted to solve the case of his cousin's disappearance in The London Eye Mystery."

"This isn't a genre I would have normally chosen for myself, but now I can't wait to read more crime and mystery books."

Year 7's Aran said: "I absolutely loved the crime and mystery route, but my favourite book has to be The Hound of the Baskervilles."

"This exciting case was proof that Sherlock Holmes really is the world's greatest detective."



Aran, from De Warenne.

# Hull Trinity: Boys' guard of honour

A guard of honour at a prestigious awards ceremony was provided by a White Squad from Hull Trinity House Academy.



The White Squad at the Maritime UK Awards, with guests including HRH The Princess Royal.

HRH The Princess Royal was in attendance at Maritime UK's annual awards, held at the Hilton Hotel in Hull.

Maritime teacher Redd Boyce organised the 20-plus students, who spent more than two hours representing the Academy.

The boys were "fantastic ambassadors".

"This was an incredible opportunity for the students and Trinity to connect with the

maritime industry from across the UK," said Redd.

"Our students did their duties with perfection, with many people from the awards speaking to them and informing us of how well they did at representing their school."

"HRH The Princess Royal even stopped to speak to the students providing the guard of honour and expressed her thanks to them."



# Science fuels imagination

Fantastic examples of creativity were produced by students in Trust-wide Science competitions.



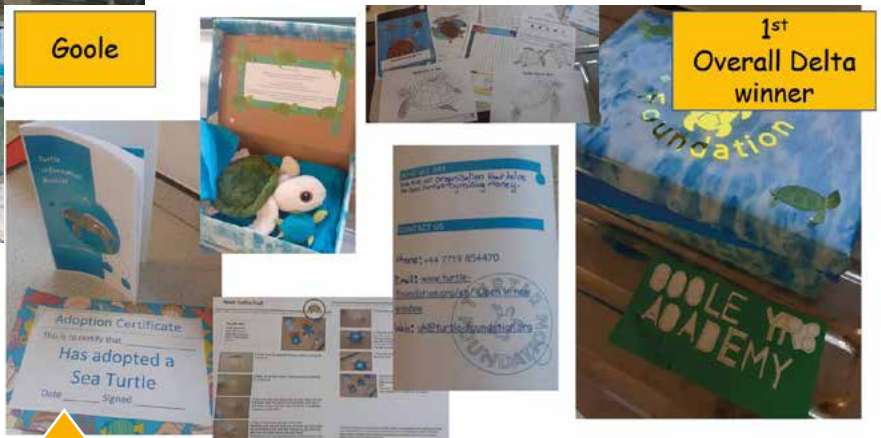
Goole

Year 7 were asked to design a lab coat based on the topic Light and Sound while Year 8 were challenged to design an "adopt an animal" campaign, linking to the Origins unit they have studied.

The competitions ran across all Delta secondaries over half term from January to February.

Trust Science Director Sarah Hallows, who organised the competitions, said: "A huge well done to all who took part.

"There were some fantastic examples of creativity shown by our pupils, making it very tough to judge a winner."



1st  
Overall Delta  
winner

Matilda, from Goole Academy, the overall Delta winner in the Year 8 competition.



Logan, a Year 7 from Hanson Academy, with her certificate.



Gabriela with Mr Brewster, Year 7 winner from Goole.



Year 8 Michael Turton from Hull Trinity House was given a prize for an adoption pack on saving the white tiger, with inspiration from when he saw one of the animals in a zoo during a visit to the Czech Republic.

The overall Year 8 winners, Goole Academy's adopt an animal campaign.



Competition winners from John Whitgift Academy.

Goole Academy took the honours in the Year 7 design a lab coat competition, with this entry (below). Second was Hull Trinity House and third The Laurel.



1st

2nd

3rd

# John Whitgift: Poignant service



Readings from students and staff took centre stage in a poignant service on International Holocaust Remembrance Day at John Whitgift Academy.



Principal Rob Spendlow closes the event.

## Goole: Victims remembered

History students were given the opportunity to listen to the testimony from Holocaust survivors as part of International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations at Goole Academy.

Years 8, 9 and 10 heard from Ruth Posner BEM and Eva Clarke BEM as the school remembered those murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

This day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Head of History Leanne Greaves said: "Taking time to commemorate the Holocaust not only allowed us to pay our respects to both the victims and survivors, but it also allowed us to take steps towards creating a safer future for all and preventing further genocides."

Parents, carers, Grimsby MP Lia Nici and Councillor Lisa Cutting from the Great Coates Village Council joined students and staff to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, and other victims of Nazi persecution, as well as victims of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.



Organiser Leanne Boyd starts the service with Thomas Bown and Oliver Bown in the foreground.



Year 11 Summer reading.



Year 7 Mitchell reading.

History teacher Leanne Boyd organised and led the event, with readings from Year 7's Layla, Brooke and Mitchell, Year 11's Summer and History teacher Michael Buchan.

The event culminated in a candle lighting by Year 11 student Thomas as Leanne shared the story of David Berger.

He said: "If something happens, I would want there to be somebody who would remember that someone named D. Berger had once lived. This will make things easier for me in the difficult moments."

Principal Robert Spendlow closed the event by sharing some of his experiences and thoughts

on the Holocaust.

Students were impeccably behaved and were very respectful during the commemoration.

The prefects at JWA did a wonderful job of meeting and greeting guests, making tea and coffee and helping to set up the event.

# Don Valley: Artist's triumph

A national art competition to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day was won by a Don Valley Academy student.

Eviemae (16) triumphed in the (Extra)Ordinary Portraits competition, supported by the Royal Drawing School.

Her win led to her work being displayed as part of an online celebration and she's been invited to a number of high-profile events.

Hers was one of the entries Don Valley art students put into the competition.

Head of Art Jenna Atkinson said: "This national competition gave students the opportunity to learn about the emotive experiences of extraordinary people who had endured the Holocaust, Genocide, or identity-based prosecution.

Students who entered each chose a particular individual whose story they felt inspired by."

The judges included acclaimed photographer Rankin, the CEO of the Royal Drawing School Harry Parkin, and artist Gideon Summerfield.

Jenna could not have been prouder to announce Eviemae's victory.

"This competition was open to individuals across the country, including schools, universities, and even professional artists.

"We announced this fantastic achievement in celebration assemblies and invited Evie's parents into school to join the celebrations."

Eviemae, who is in Year 11 at Don Valley, was invited to Westminster to attend the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony where her work was featured, including on the cover of the programme.

It was attended by survivors of genocide and some of the country's political, faith and civic leaders including the Archbishop



Eviemae's work featured on the big screen at Piccadilly Circus

of Canterbury, Secretary of State Michael Gove MP, and Holocaust survivor Martin Stern MBE (pictured right with Eviemae).

Eviemae had the pleasure of talking to Martin about her work following the ceremony. He had a private meeting at Buckingham Palace with His Majesty the King and the Queen Consort the next day.

Her work was featured on the famous screens at Piccadilly lights, in an event attended by high profile celebrity and political guests, including Joanna Lumley and Judge Rinder.

The event had a heavy press presence and was featured on outlets such as BBC News, Sky

News, The Independent and Evening Standard.

Eviemae has been invited to an exclusive Coronation Tea Party in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester in May in London.

Assistant Principal Ashley Andrew said: "We have been absolutely astounded and amazed with how big this achievement is for Evie, the whole school and community.

Students and staff are extremely proud of what one of our students has achieved. We can't wait to see what the future holds for any other upcoming competitions."

Jenna said it had been exciting to see how engaged students had been with the competition and remembrance.

"We are very proud of all of the students who took part and the wonderful outcomes that they have produced," she said.

"This competition has provided students with an excellent outlet to express themselves and has shown how Art can be used to tell such important narratives.

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

This is a fantastic achievement that both her and the school will take



Evie with her second competition entry, Arek Harsh, a Holocaust survivor awarded an MBE for his voluntary service to Holocaust education.



The work was used in a presentation attended by Cabinet minister Michael Gove MP.



pride in for many years to come." Genocide survivor Denise Uwimana said the picture drawn by Eviemae had a very big meaning to him.

"It had been taken in April 2009 at Tilburg University in Holland during the launching of the book called The Men Who Killed Me: Rwandan Survivors of Sexual Violence.

I contributed very much in Rwanda as a widow before I got married at the second time in order to find a way to help my colleagues' widows and young girl survivors who were raped during the genocide against the Tutsi.

Please give my congratulations and my thankfulness and encouragement to the young artist Eviemae who chose my picture and got impressed by my work as well.

I am happy that my story has been a resource of information to help students and other people who want to learn more about the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda."



Year 9 Taio Burke's entry Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 children from the Holocaust.

# Macaulay: Model pupils' winning design

Enthusiastic children from Macaulay Primary Academy won a project to design and make a model Vulcan aircraft, using recycled materials.

Taking place at the Magna Science Adventure Centre, the children worked alongside each other and used skills from DT sessions and new ones learned whilst taking part in the project.

The fantastic result will be displayed alongside the real Vulcan aircraft.

As winners of the Work-Wise Foundation competition, the children have been invited to see the Vulcan aircraft at Doncaster airport, as well as a whole-school STEM day in the summer term.

Head of Academy Tom Herrick said: "The children have made the school really proud and it will be great to see their work take pride of place, alongside the Vulcan, at its new home soon."

The Year 6 children who took part were Aaliyah, Wyatt, Sam, Teigan, Declan, Evie, Jackson, Kacper and Louis.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the project.

"I liked building the Vulcan and the plans we made, it was amazing!" said Kacper.

Evie said: "I loved being part of this Vulcan project."

Aaliyah said: "I liked all the crafting, especially the window on the front which was my idea. I can't wait to go to the museum to see the Vulcan."

"I enjoyed taking the photos and to see everyone working as a team," said Wyatt.

Louis also loved being part of the Vulcan team and working with friends.

"My favourite part was going to the launch day," he added.



# Melior: Staff book challenge



Some of the staff taking part in the Melior Staff Reading Challenge 2023.

Staff at Melior Community Academy have set targets to read a certain number of books throughout the year.

The Melior Staff Reading Challenge includes teachers, teaching assistants, the senior leadership team and office support staff.

They have a challenge sheet with their target and list of books read so far. These are found on classroom doors and display boards.

Staff update the sheets regularly and information screens around school are used to promote the challenge, which started in the New Year and runs until Christmas.

The aim is to set a positive example to students by showing that staff love to read.

Organiser Lucy Boczkowska, English Intervention Teacher, said: "Reading improves motivation, general knowledge and concentration so we are also

helping ourselves.

This year-long event has got off to a great start with staff having read close to 100 books.

I have had lots of discussions with staff and students about books that are currently being read, which is great for promoting a love of reading.

It also means that my list of books to read keeps growing!"

Staff have read a range of books. Prince Harry's 'Spare' has been the most popular by far but other reads include 'Mort' by Terry Pratchett, 'I Found You' by Lisa Jewell and 'Book Lovers' by Emily Henry.

One teacher has set the challenge of reading 40 books and is already well on the way.



## Don Valley: Kelton lands magic role

A former student at Don Valley Academy is starring in the smash hit West End production of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

Kelton Hoyland signed his first professional contract in the summer and covers several of the main roles, including Albus Potter.

Former teacher and Head of Drama at Don Valley Rebecca Threapleton booked to see the show at the Palace Theatre, London, as soon as he was able to share his news.

She said: "It was an honour to see him perform so brilliantly in a professional production. In the performances I saw he took the role of Yann Fredericks.

"It was a very proud moment in my career. It was an incredible show but the experience was made more special to witness his success and see him achieving his dreams."

Kelton studied at Don Valley Academy from Year 7 to 13. He always demonstrated outstanding



acting ability in his studies and enrichment.

Kelton excelled in performances throughout his time at the Academy, taking on many leading roles in musicals, comedies and Shakespeare.

After completing A-Levels in Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and English, he went on to complete actor training at Manchester School of Theatre.



## De Lacy: Tragedy explored

Key concepts and interpretations of Shakespeare's most famous tragedy were explored by students from two Trust Academies at Leeds Playhouse.



The immersive day on Macbeth was organised by the Trust's Director of Primary Learning Fiona Evans in her separate role, working with the British Library.

Students from De Lacy and Garforth Academies were among those to benefit from the 'Macbeth on Page and Stage' workshops in conjunction with the British Library.

Its aim was to bring the play to life, help students explore Shakespeare's motives for writing it and to discover more about the context of the play. They saw Macbeth in 20 minutes and took part in a range of

workshops. One encouraged them to come up with their rap about the play; another showed the work of lighting technicians; and a third looked at the portrayal of witches in literature.

At the end of the day, some even graced the stage of the courtyard theatre creating freeze-frames of key scenes from Macbeth.

De Lacy's SENDCO Abby Austin and Sally Wilcock accompanied its students.

They said: "The event was really beneficial as part of our Careers Week as it highlighted the range of jobs available within the Arts such as designing costumes,

sets, lighting configurations and even incorporating sound effects into a performance."

Fiona highlighted CPD opportunities for English Literature colleagues.

Upcoming events can be found here.

Currently booking is 'The poetry of conflict'; fresh ideas for teaching the poetry of conflict in context, drawing on the British Library's rich Discovering Literature website.

A booking link for the Jekyll and Hyde CPD, which had to be rescheduled due to speaker illness, is [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WkzRm5o1TJmKs9R02GSNfQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WkzRm5o1TJmKs9R02GSNfQ)

**Previous CPD can be found here:**

Macbeth in Context: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5vWaSFvHpg>

A Christmas Carol in Context: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFu9E9Absjo>

An Inspector Calls in Context: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TWktDOYUwk>

**For History teachers:**

Elizabeth and Mary: Rival Cousins, Royal Queens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cuhh3pVe-fY>

# Ash Hill: Inspirational opportunity

Dedicated Year 7-10 students at Ash Hill Academy had the privilege of attending an outstanding musical performance by the Bridge Wind Quintet.

The memorable cultural capital opportunity, organised by Head of Performing Arts and Associate Assistant Principal at Ash Hill Academy Helen Weyman, was inspirational.

Students took part in a question-and-answer session about the musical performance, the instruments used, and the musicians' career journey, learning about the dedication and hard work required to become professionals.

Sam, in Year 10, said: "Listening to the quintet gave me lots of invaluable information which will help to inspire me to develop my Music BTEC work."

Charlie, also in Year 10, was grateful for the opportunity to listen to the wind quintet.

"It gave me a valuable insight into the instruments, how they are played and what they can perform in an ensemble situation," he said.



ABOVE: Members of the Bridge Wind Quintet perform at Ash Hill Academy.

Year 8's Emily said: "It was a really entertaining way to educate young people about different types of instruments and what they can do."

For further information, go to <https://musicintheround.co.uk/artists/bridging-the-gap/>

Music students from Ash Hill Academy had the opportunity to work with a composer in a follow up to the inspiring performance by the Bridge Wind Quintet.



ABOVE: Year 8 students Kaytlin, Alexandra and Hayley working on the melody line of the composition the Bridge Wind Quintet will perform.

The 16 young people from Years 8 to 10 hosted Ellen Sargen in the state-of-the-art facilities in the new Porter Building.

Head of Performing Arts and Associate Assistant Principal Helen Weyman said: "They are taking part in an exciting personal development opportunity, in which they are working collaboratively to compose a piece of music for the outstanding Bridge Wind Quintet

to perform at the Cast Theatre in Doncaster.

"The students will then have the opportunity to attend this cultural event at Cast Theatre and listen to their piece being played professionally."

Chloe, from Year 10, said: "Being able to work with a composer enabled me to learn what it's like to compose music from nothing. "Overall, it was an amazing experience and taught me about

the commitment and hard work involved in composing music."

Year 10's Same said working alongside a musician and composer had allowed him to collect invaluable information to further develop my composing skills and creative ideas.

Hayley, from Year 8, said: "I am really happy that I got some hands-on learning about composing."

## De Warenne: Sell-out return

Alumni were welcomed back to De Warenne Academy when it hosted 'The Ultimate Christmas Concert'.



Organised by Data and Exams Manager Scott Willis, the event raised £288 for MacMillan Cancer Support.

He said: "It was an amazing night. Brogan Collins, now a professional singer and regularly seen on the theatre and club circuit, performed.

Brogan started De Warenne as a shy 12-year-old and credits the Performing Arts department for helping him become the singer he is today.

Rhianna Robinson, who took part in De Warenne's production of "We Will Rock You", also returned.

Rhianna credits the confidence and skills she developed through taking part in performances helped with her current studies and employment."

Students and staff also performed in a sell-out concert in front of 200 proud parents.

## Hull Trinity: Corps aim

Royal Marine drummers led a workshop at Hull Trinity House Academy with students coached on techniques, solos and marches.



The amazing opportunity saw representatives from the Bands of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth and Scotland visit the Albemarle Music Centre, Hull, over two dates.

Students will be practising the skills taught in school weekly and eventually create their shows, which they can perform as Trinity's official marching band.

Lucy Hearn, Director of Art at the Trust and Head of Art at Hull Trinity House, organised the visit.

She said: "We have the incredible opportunity to resurrect our drumming corps and to form our own marching band under the tuition of the Royal Marine Drumming Corps."

The workshops so far have included Marines from both Portsmouth and Scotland and have exceeded all our expectations.

I am so proud of how our students have conducted themselves



and the progress they are making, alongside learning drum solos and statics our students are gaining vital skills in teamwork.

We are working towards a joint concert with the Royal Marine Music Service at Hull Minster in February and can't wait to see our students shine."

James H Dickinson, Head of Hull Music Service, said: "Members of The Royal Marines Band Service worked with students from Hull Trinity House Academy on day one of an exciting project culminating next year when the school relocates to new premises."



## Manor Croft: Rave Matilda reviews

Committed students and staff put on a memorable production of Roald Dahl's Matilda to packed houses at Manor Croft Academy.

More than 80 students were auditioned in October and, since then, a cast of 50 have had two rehearsals every week.

From January, the cast were rehearsing four times a week, which shows how much dedication and commitment students and staff put into this production.

The hard work paid off as, over the three nights of

performances in February, 600 people watched.

The Academy's had nothing but rave reviews and is incredibly proud of everyone who participated.

Thank you to the prefects, front of house, production team and backstage helpers who made the rehearsals and show nights run so smoothly.

Bring on the next school production!



## Morley Place: Pupils' proud Arena debut

A magical experience was enjoyed by children from Morley Place Academy who attended Young Voices at Sheffield Arena for the first time.

They recorded part of the song 'Proud' with Heather Small that will be released as part of a charity single.

Music lead Mrs Shaw said children did not stop dancing and singing.

"We had an amazing day at Sheffield Arena and it was wonderful for the children to have the opportunity to be part of such a large choir," she said.

The pupils had worked so hard in the months leading up to it and I was so proud of how they performed in the show."

Children described it as the "best day ever" and "the best experience ever".

Thank you to staff who attended and supported the event: Mrs Penny, Mrs Middlebrook and Mrs Laird.



Excited pupils outside the venue Sophia. Jesse, Jessie, Ashley, Zuzia, Evie, Gracie, Lily, Dakota, Esha, Jessie, McKenna, Emilee, Lily, Ruby, Jack, Henry, Rosie, Grace, Skye and Reggie.

# Greengates: Costumes tell stories

A famous quote from Dr Seuss was discussed at Greengates Primary Academy in the run-up to World Book Day: *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

Staff talked about how every day was a book day when books and stories can be engaged in from around the world.

To celebrate the day, children and staff dressed up.

They had the choice between costumes that represented a book, book character or comfortable clothes in which they most enjoy reading in.

Seetle Kaur, Acting Head of Academy, said: "The variety was incredible, and each costume told a story."

The day started with an epic assembly from an author and AAB Chair Jenny Collins.

"With her amazing expression and enthusiasm, the children were left with mouths wide open!" said

Seetle.

The day continued with lots of reading-related activities.

Melody Kolbaba's Year 1 class enjoyed their costume phonics.

Canteen staff showed pupils how much they enjoyed books and provided a special book lunch.

The pupils enjoyed watching the masked reader when staff and children read in disguise and sent their videos in to school.

The day ended with another special assembly where children were able to discuss their favourite books.

Seetle said: "Overall, it was a magical day. Thank you to all the Greengates' staff, children and parents for making the day so successful."



## Strand: Gruffalo grins

Children made a huge effort for World Book Day at Strand Primary Academy, delighting staff.

Katie Wheeler, Assistant Principal and Reading and Phonics Lead, said: "This year we decided to do something a little bit different to add to our focus of improving children's language and vocabulary."

Each child or adult had an adjective associated with their costume."

Year 5 pupils (HMS Dragon) said: "We loved thinking of vocabulary examples for our costumes. Some examples were: ancient, monstrous, exhausted, betrayed and animated."

Principal Sharon Hatton said: "Our day was finished off nicely by visits from parents who came to enjoy story time with their children."

In our Foundation Unit the children were so excited to get a visit from The Gruffalo.

The Gruffalo read them a story and spent some time with them in their classroom."



An inspiring assembly was hosted by author and AAB Chair Jenny Collins.

## Willows: Dads join lads

Successful activities linked to Reading 4 Pleasure were hosted by Willows Academy throughout World Book Day.

'Stay and Read' saw parents invited into school to join a typical reading lesson.

Joshua Drayton, in Year 5, said: "It was weird having my mum in class, but I enjoyed challenging her to skim and scan the text."

Pupils joined many schools across the country to participate in the BBC's live lesson.

Our Year 4's tweeted children's author Michael Rosen, and to their amazement, had a reply.

After lunch, children choose which teacher they heard read, regardless of year groups, in a 'Drop Everything and Read' session.

Harley Bartley, Year 1, said: "Mr Creighton's story about giant bats and rats was scary!"

After school, a 'Lads and Dads' reading session was hosted.

Favourite books were read with adult role models, with juice and biscuits.

Michael, the father of Year 2's Joshua, asked, "Can this be something that happens on



a regular basis please? I really enjoyed that!"

The day was put together by Assistant Principal and Year 5 Teacher Tristan Creighton.

# Serlby Park: Mammoth reading task

All 460 primary children at Serlby Park Academy were read or listened to by students from the secondary phase on World Book Day.



The event was celebrated across the Academy from nursery through to Year 11.

A secondary student said: "I can't believe how good they are at reading."

Another asked if they could do it on a regular basis?

The primary children had the choice, dressing as a character from a book or coming in their PJs and onesies ready for a day of reading activities. They had positive feedback.

One said: "I got to read to my big brother."

Another said it was "fun" while another said: "Thomas helped me with some tricky words."



Secondary students supporting their primary counterparts.

# Melior: Staff need to be unmasked

Masked reader, story starters, a quiz and story writing were among the events held to mark World Book Day at Melior Community Academy.

Staff volunteered to be part of Melior Masked Reader which involved being filmed reading a section of a book of their choice.

The PowerPoint was played during form time and students had to guess the reader. It was interesting to see how many students could not identify the member of staff, just by their voice.

During breaktime, students came to the Learning Resource Centre to take part in a 'Guess the book' quiz which was a great success.

It was lovely seeing the students working together to solve the clues. Throughout the day, organised by LRC Manager Allison Peden, teachers read sections of a short story to the students, so by the end of lesson five they had heard the full story.

Some of the students were excited at being able to borrow, from the library, some of the titles that featured in the short story.

Allison said: "I would like to thank all the members of staff who kindly volunteered to take part, even though some of them felt quite nervous."

Leah Hamilton, Art Teacher, commented on how nerve wracking it was to read in front of a camera, but she did an amazing job.

The staff were asked to try and mask their voices as best they could and Cover Supervisor Cal Johnson went above and beyond.

The students thought his performance was hilarious. Samantha said she could stop laughing, it was so funny."

Brave members of staff taking part in 'Melior Masked Reader' were Carina Spencer (Teaching assistant), Tristan Griffith (History Teacher), Leah Hamilton (Art Teacher), Amy Coote (Music Teacher), Calvin Johnson (Cover Supervisor) and Kayla Shaplin (English Teacher).



## The Laurel: Great buzz

Staff dressed up as well-known characters and students took part in quizzes and DEAR time to celebrate World Book Day at The Laurel Academy.



Students enjoyed the day, with some not recognising their teachers.

Lady Capulet and the Wonka Golden Ticket were some of the standout costumes.

Vice Principal Gary Oldfield said: "Staff went to great lengths to look the part for the day, which created a buzz about reading around the academy."

Reading Routes and reading for pleasure have caught the engagement and attention of Years 7, 8 and 9, as well as World Book Day.

81% of students in Key Stage 3 have engaged in the current Reading Route.

The book vending machine is a popular place at break or dinner as students chose their prize after completing a Reading Routes' quiz.

Vice Principal Warren Rose said: "The book vending machine has been a great device to increase the incentives for students to read for pleasure."

The giant Reading Routes display has brought reading for pleasure to the forefront of the Academy, literally.

Reading interventions have continued with vigour this year.

"We continue to celebrate reading improvement successes at every level. All students are working extremely hard to improve their reading age to succeed in Key Stage 4 and life beyond The Laurel," said Warren.

Reading intervention teacher Alison Powell said: "Students have impressed with their dedication and commitment to improve their reading."

## Don Valley: Guess the characters



Head of English Ricky Iftikhar (left) dressed as Dulce et Decorum Est, Alex Leonard (centre) was Mamelz Wood and Connor Varnavides, The Soldier.

Students voted on their favourite recreation of a character as part of World Book Day celebrations at Don Valley Academy.

They were given tokens to get a free book from the book vending machines, if they completed a World Book Day trail around school.

Teacher of English Connor Varnavides said: "It was wonderful to see so many students engaging with different texts of all genres."

His colleague Alex Leonard said World Book Day always created a buzz around the Academy and this year was no different.

Head of English Ricky Iftikhar, who organised the event with Richard Hardman, said: "Students were absolutely buzzing."

They thoroughly enjoyed working out which poems from the EDUQAS Anthology members of the English department had dressed up as. It was a great way for them to revise!"

## Garforth: Looking the part



Standards were very high for World Book Day when Garforth Academy staff dressed up in some fantastic outfits.

There were Greek gods, almost 101 dalmatians, Where's Wally and many more.

The superstar was Geography teacher Mark Cliff as the fabulous Toad from Wind in the Willows. Well done to everyone who dressed up.

## Elland: Dahl wins vote

Planning for World Book Day started early at The Elland Academy in Leeds.

A British values-themed focus day in February gave students an opportunity to take part in an act of democracy by completing ballot slips to vote for the World Book Day theme.

Roald Dahl won the vote and resulted in students taking part in a range of literacy-based activities throughout World Book Day, along with a competition for the best dressed classroom door and guess the masked reader.

Academy staff dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character.



# Staff profile: Lee Colley

## Head of Academy, Simpson's Lane Primary Academy

I began my career in a Knottingley academy as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT).

I quickly found my passion for teaching with a strong desire to grow and develop as an educator.

I took advantage of every development opportunity, which ultimately led me to my current Head of Academy role in the same academy where I started.

With the combination of mentoring, professional development offered by the Trust, and further

education, I was able to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to become a successful Head of Academy.

I could not have achieved this alone and am grateful for my fantastic colleagues who helped and challenged me every step of the way.

Like they helped me, I aim to do the same for my staff, and am committed to creating a positive and supportive learning environment for staff and pupils alike where everyone can thrive in being the best version of themselves.



## Crookesbroom: London calling

An integral member of Crookesbroom Academy's choir was selected to sing at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Head of Academy Rob Harvey said Charlie's superb voice led to him being selected to join the Rainbow Connection choir.

When it appeared at the world famous venue, Charlie performed a medley of songs which has made the entire community proud.

"He has continued to improve and led our choir to victory in the Robin Hood Festival, held at Hill House School," said Rob.

"Crookesbroom faced some very difficult competition, but Charlie and his peers were unfazed and sang beautifully.

Charlie's maturity continues to grow and his confidence on stage in front of large audiences is impressive. An impressive future awaits!"

## Greengates: Plum drum



A plumber drummer whose instrument was created from PVC pipes and who used flip flops for beaters wowed pupils and staff at Greengates Primary Academy.

Nathan Robinson's music sounded amazing in the concert and pupils said:

"I enjoyed it, he was really skilled."

"I didn't know pipes could do that."

"I didn't know a flip flop would sound so good."

"I was amazed from the very first song he played."

## The Vale: Quiz champions

Seven feeder primaries – including fellow Delta school Worlabey Academy - attended The Vale Academy's annual literacy quiz, hosted and delivered by the English department.



Each of the schools brought a team of four Year 3/4s and another team of Year 5/6s.

The English Team were very impressed with the students' knowledge and dedication to reading.

The winning teams, St Barnabas CofE (Year 3/4) and St Mary's Catholic Academy (Year 5/6), took the winners' certificates and prizes.

# Delta: Pupil progress

We are keen to showcase pupils who have made significant progress or deserve a special mention. Here are the first nominations.

*Please nominate your star students for the next newsletter by emailing [Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Mitchinson@deltatrust.org.uk)*

## Melior Community Academy

**Daniel W** (Year 11) has achieved 94.6% in history across the three papers and 98% alone on paper 1. He's improved 20% since the last round of trials, a result which will put him right at the top of history across the Trust.

He is working incredibly hard to make sure that he achieves the highest grades possible and deserves special recognition.



**Leona F** (Year 11) was faced with some disappointing results in the January trials, and we had a difficult conversation

around whether following the higher pathway was the right decision.

She chose to stay on it and vowed to fully commit to her studies. Wow - she really has!

Since January, Leona has spent more than 30 hours on Hegarty and completed 2,248 questions.

She has attended every after school revision session and upped her game in class.

This has resulted in Leona improving by 57 marks since January, which has moved her from a vulnerable Grade 5, to a very strong Grade 5.

Since the January trials **Ben S** (Year 11) has improved by 43 marks which has moved him from a wobbly Grade 7 to a very strong Grade 8.

Ben has attended all after school interventions, is studying the additional Further Maths Qualification in his own time and has been completing past papers at home.

Ben started Year 11 achieving a Grade 6 and we have very high hopes that he will go on to achieve an outstanding Grade 9.

**Girmantas V** (Year 11) has improved by 44 marks since the January trials, which has moved him from a wobbly Grade 3 up to a Grade 4.

Girmantas began the year on a Grade 2 and a recent change in mindset has meant that he has become fully engaged in the intervention offered and the results speak for themselves.

## Hull Trinity House Academy

**Jamie S** (Year 8), previously lacking confidence in maths, is now the first one to attempt problem questions, acting as an expert on his table (growth mindset) etc.

## The Vale Academy

**Maksym L** moved to the UK from the Ukraine last year and joined The Vale Academy in May, 2022, when he was in Year 8.

Now in Year 9, he has made remarkable progress. Initially, we used live Ukrainian subtitles in lessons and Max didn't speak a great deal.

A few weeks ago, he asked for the subtitles to be removed and can hold quite complicated conversations about mathematical concepts, most recently about the neutrality of zero.

He is currently keeping up with his Year 9 work here and his online maths work from his Ukrainian class on Teams. Some of his work is clearly beyond Year 11 expected standard.

## Macaulay Primary Academy



**Mariia G** joined Macaulay last year during the summer term after fleeing the Ukraine with her mother whilst leaving the rest of her

family, including her father, back in Ukraine.

She has learnt to speak English, made new friends, and has fully settled into school life.

She has made excellent progress with her phonics from scoring 0 in September to being on track to pass the Phonics Screening Check in June.

Mariia even had a starring role in the Christmas nativity, playing the role of Mary.

**Wyatt** is a child every teacher would want in their class.

He is a 'model student' with his fantastic attitude to learning and perseverance and a wonderful person.

Wyatt has continued to make significant progress during Year 6.

He consistently reads every night, completes his Reading Plus assignments, hands in homework early and attends every tutoring session to further his learning.

He is kind and caring and is a friend to everyone. Children always feel better when Wyatt is around.

In addition to this, Wyatt has taken part in Project Vulcan (who were elected the Delta winners); is a House Captain for the Academy and, outside of school, has recently been cast as main character in a large-scale production.

## Garforth Academy

**Darcie B** (Year 11) joined Garforth Academy in Year 7 and, by the end of Year 9, was making poor choices.

Being able to reflect upon past mistakes, Darcie was determined to return to the Academy after spending a year at Elland Academy.

Together with support from staff, Darcie joined the Philosophy and Ethics class in addition to core subjects. Darcie's first exam revealed she had done extremely well.

Darcie this year has had no behaviour points, attends school and is attending intervention sessions each week.

She is on course to achieve target grades in English and Maths.

In Darcie's words, 'I've been given a second chance and I'm not going to waste it'.

## Crookesbroom



**Riley S** has been an absolute inspiration to many children in our class.

He has really settled down to focus on his progress and attainment.

He is taking it upon himself to make informed decisions about the choices he makes in and out of the classroom.

His commitment to all the Year 6 boosters provided (after school and before school), has been appreciated by all members of staff and his progress speaks for itself.

He is scoring in the high 30s in the arithmetic test, double the start of the year.

He is achieving greater depth in reading and his writing is becoming much more fluid and accurate.

## Darton Academy

**Albert C** has successfully completed Hegarty.

He has worked consistently hard across all subjects and always puts in 100% effort, even with those subjects he finds the most challenging.

Albert is looking forward to moving on to study engineering at college next year. He is a huge credit to the school and we are very proud of him.

**James M** is a wonderful ambassador for the school.

He is always, calm, cheerful and a brilliant role model for his peers and his hard work and determination have paid off with some great results from his trial exams.

James is on track to achieve his target grades, and this is down to his consistent hard work and positive attitude.



**Ethan B** has taken the transition to secondary school completely in his stride.

He has faced many challenges along the way

and this has only made him more determined to be the positive, independent young man he is today.



## De Wrenne

**Anna** (Year 9) has written about her experiences of moving from Hungary and the legacy the Holocaust had on

the country.

Mr Vanstone-Dale, her History teacher, said: "This is the most moving and compelling Big Write I have ever marked."

## Goole: Alumni provide inspiration

Students had the opportunity to speak with more than 20 employers, colleges, universities and training providers in a post-16 Careers Fair at Goole Academy.

It allowed students to understand the opportunities available to them in the area and beyond.

The event included a few alumni students who have achieved great things since leaving the Academy, such as jobs with Microsoft and opportunities to see the world.

Organisers said students' aspirations were raised by speaking to the visitors and showing them what was possible beyond Goole Academy.

The event was invaluable and feedback from exhibitors and students has been fantastic.



## Darton: Careers standard award

Outstanding careers work at Darton Academy has been rewarded with the national Quality in Careers Standard.

It is awarded under licence by Ixion (part of the Shaw Trust Group) to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance placed on careers and how they support students to make decisions about life after school.

Careers Lead Dave Bond has spearheaded the work to achieve the recognition.

Patrick Longson, Assistant Principal, said: "We are extremely pleased to have received the recognition the Academy deserves for our careers provision."

The school offers a range of activities to introduce students to the world of work and help them make decisions about life after school. This includes an annual Careers Day, expert careers advice with support

from Progress Careers, regular trips and experiences with local, regional and national employers, weekly Careers Cafés on 'Future Fridays' and an ambitious careers curriculum from Year 8 to Year 11.

Our careers team, and especially Dave, have worked tirelessly to drive careers forward and the results can be seen in impressive take up figures at 16+ and an extremely low NEET figure."

Executive Principal Anna Rooney was "delighted" to have achieved the national Quality in Careers Standard.

"At Darton Academy, we are committed to delivering an ambitious careers curriculum which helps students develop the knowledge, skills and experience to go out into the world and achieve personal success," she said.



The award is celebrated by (left to right) Assistant Principal with responsibility for careers Patrick Longson, Karen Humphreys from Progress Careers, and Careers Lead Dave Bond.

"The QiC Standard has provided a flexible framework that enabled us to audit our work on careers and ensure our students are receiving advice, practical support and experience so they are prepared for the next stage of their education, employment, self-employment or training."

## Melior: Music pathway

Year 9 Melior Community Academy students visited nearby John Leggott Sixth Form College for a workshop with Key Stage 5 Music students and a talk about pathways for further study and careers.

The group were welcomed by solo performances from students in Years 12 and 13.

They learned how to read and perform from drum notation with guidance and support, having access to a range of rehearsal spaces and equipment that KS5 students use in regular college lessons.

They looked at chord and lyric

lead sheets, developing skills and awareness how ensembles can be put together, a core part of the KS5 BTEC Music qualification.

The visit concluded with students sharing information about their college studies and next stages in their careers.

Melior students left feeling enthused about the opportunities available and had a great afternoon.



## The Laurel: Hub praise

Recognition for the work to improve CEIAG provision at the Laurel Academy has come from the Doncaster Careers Hub.

The Academy's link enterprise coordinator Sonia Hardwick, in a written report, highlighted the efforts of Careers Lead and Associate Assistant Principal Danny Whaley, who works closely with Vice Principal Warren Rose and Associate Principal Katy Taylor-Clarke to ensure strong support for all careers-related activity.

"Students at The Laurel get to experience a wide variety of encounters," Sonia wrote. "They are soon to be experiencing T-level tasters at a local college to expand their knowledge of all post 16 routes and options."

Sonia said Danny has made significant changes to the Academy's website based on a session the enterprise coordinators delivered on benchmark one as part of a career leader meeting.

The learner journeys are mapped to the Gatsby Benchmark and the Career Development Institute's framework and the Academy's working towards the Quality in Careers Standard.

Asked about advice for any new career lead, Danny told Sonia: "It takes time to get your head around it, it's such a big role."

"Find out who can help you, get some partners in to deliver some sessions and use information from the network meetings."

Warren said: "We are incredibly proud of the number of opportunities our students have been given."

"These experiences are vitally important for our students to shape their futures and be fully aware of all the opportunities available to them."

# Lower Fields: Dallowgill delight



Enthusiasm, maturity and perseverance were shown by Year 6 pupils from Lower Fields Primary Academy during a residential stay at Dallowgill.

Their attitude was a delight to witness by the staff, even during the occasional complaint about the steep countryside hills that were climbed!

Assistant Principal and Year 6 teacher Shane Lavery said: "The cohort was an asset to themselves and their school during their stay."

He thanked the Dallowgill team for making the stay particularly enjoyable.



Bird watching was enjoyed by Elsa (far left) while (left) tree climbing appealed to Tyler.

Above: Beautiful surroundings and adventurous exploring in the nearby forest.



# Rossington: Disney science trip

Students from Rossington All Saints Academy attended Science Live at Disneyland Paris in its first overseas trip since lockdown ended.



Issy and Megan celebrating the 30th Anniversary year of Disneyland Paris.



Breakfast in the hotel, Harry, Katie, Skye, Alex and Will

The Year 9 and 10 students also spent time in the theme park.

Organised by Dr Chris Hoyland, they heard inspirational talks from Brendan Walker, Suzie Imber and Zoe Laughlan about designing rollercoasters and the concept of thrill, space and the science of materials/stuff!

A big thank you to Dr Hoyland (second in Science) for organising the visit.



Ready for Science Live, Chris Hoyland (2nd in science), Emily Moxon (maths teacher) and Ryan Moody (head of science).

# Kingston Park: Memorable visits support curriculum

A variety of visits have taken place at Kingston Park Academy to support children's learning around the Reading Enhanced Curriculum (REC).

Head of Academy Kerrie Longley said visits during the Spring term included a whole school trip to see pantomime Dick Whittington at The Acorn Theatre.

EYFS visited White Post Farm and met lots of different animals.

Year 1 went to Sherwood Pines to find the Gruffalo as part of their REC. They found him after taking part in some orienteering.

Year 2 visited Conisbrough Castle to deepen their understanding of local history and the De Warenne family.

They found out about the castle's history and enjoyed exploring the various rooms and grounds.

Year 3 went to the Coal Mining Museum as part of their mining unit. They all had a great day and enjoyed going down the lift.

The National Space Centre in Leicester was the destination for Year 5 to strengthen their understanding of space.



# Hanson: Trip was amazing



Students from Hanson Academy had an amazing time and demonstrated a fantastic attitude to the challenges they faced in a Year 7 residential.

They overcame fears and enjoyed activities such as abseiling, zip line racing, Jacob's ladder, crate stacking and archery at Kingswood Outdoor Education Centre in the Dearne Valley.

Organisers Ammaarah Akhtar and Adam O'Neill said: "The students worked hard as a team and supported each other in completing the activities. Well done everyone."

They thanked staff who attended and supported the students throughout, Laura Elford, Reilly Shaw, Adam Swaine and Ruth Schofield.



# Morley Place: Afternoon tea success

Scouts used Morley Place Academy's sports hall to raise money to send a party to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

More than £1,000 was raised by the afternoon tea after the school gave free use of the hall.

Scout leader Mandy Middlebrook and the teaching assistants organised the event and it was so successful another afternoon tea will be held on 29th April for the King's Coronation, which should bring the fundraising total to £47,000.

Mrs Middlebrook said: "Thank you to the school for allowing us to host this amazing event."

"We had more than 100 people attend from the local community, some who had not seen each other since Covid. It was lovely to bring everyone together at the same time as raising money."

She thanked Head of Academy Lauren Penny for the use of the hall and the staff who helped make it such a success.



# Montagu: Poet prize

A project to design a stained-glass window in memory of the brilliant writer and poet Ted Hughes involves pupils from Montagu Primary Academy.

The Year 5 children have been working with Phil Sheppard from the National Literacy Trust.

They have explored Hughes' poetry, inspired by the countryside around Mexborough. The children included landmarks and wildlife in their designs.

Each child designed part of a stained-glass window.

A professional artist will turn these ideas into a huge window to be placed in Mexborough Business Centre - formerly Hughes' old grammar school - in front of the former Poet Laureate's statue.

Head of Academy David Longley



said: "We have been invited to attend the artist's workshop to see the designs come to life and are excited to see the finished product."



A PSHE lesson on how to make the world a better place was completed by Year 6 children at Montagu.



This included finding out how we could help people less fortunate.

Following the lesson, Isabelle and Ariarna (pictured) decided they would start to raise money to support

Comic Relief.

The girls began making bracelets out of elastic bands and clay beads and sold them to their family members and teachers.

The girls had raised £56.

# Greengates: Award-winning campaign

Healthy Minds' Apprentices, aka Team KCU, delivered an award-winning anti-bullying campaign at Greengates Primary School.

The interactive campaign, commissioned by Bradford NHS CCG and delivered in classrooms, focuses on instilling the values of kindness, compassion and understanding, as well as raising awareness around empathy, equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The aim is to reduce bullying, hate crime and loneliness within the school environment.

Within the campaign, pupils have an opportunity to talk about their feelings and emotions, contribute towards their community and school, and support and encourage their peers.

The apprentices will continue to work with the school to support its work on personal development.



The apprentice teams 2022 and 2023, with NHS leaders from Bradford holding up their KCU certificates.

Our pupils gave encouraging feedback.

"You have to be kind to each other," said a pupil in Year 1.

"We liked the KCU team. They were very kind people," said another in Year 2.

A Year 4 pupil said: "It is important to use gentle words and be understanding with each other."

While a Year 6 pupil said: "We liked the assembly and the workshops."

"We got to talk about all the ways we can show kindness to each other."

KCU Apprentice Chloe said: 'Greengates Primary is an amazing school.'

The pupils were really engaged and behind our message. In particular, Years 3

and 5 were standout classes.

"We're looking forward to visiting the school again to deliver more sessions."

## Calm corners have been created in each class to help promote mental health and wellbeing at Greengates Primary Academy.

The small space in the room is designated for children to go when they feel dysregulated.

Seetle Kaur, Acting Head of Academy, said they can provide a structured break to help children self-regulate so they can alleviate their distress and get back to learning.

"They contain simple, quiet activities that children can use to help them learn to identify and manage their feelings," said Seetle.

The Academy's also worked hard this term to develop a beautiful, relaxing Thrive Room (right).

*This room has been created as a relaxing, calm space where children can be supported with their well being, mental health and in times of particular needs.*

Thank you to Lisa Woodhead for working extremely hard to create this beautiful space.



Year 6 at Greengates Primary Academy were visited by two secondary school students to help with transition.

Pupils had the opportunity to ask lots of questions to the Year 7 and Year 9 students about SATs, such as what they did to prepare and how they felt during them?

They also asked about secondary school and took part in a workshop to help deal with anxiety, which they found useful in the run up to SATs.

A special thank you to Naina and Natasha for doing this.

## Wybers Wood: Farm fun

Fun was had at the farm by EYFS from Wybers Wood Academy.



They travelled to Rand Farm Park near Lincoln and had the best day. There was such a lot to do and learn.

They saw cows, donkeys, goats, sheep, pigs, lambs, guinea pigs, rabbits, birds, chipmunks and even fed some of these animals.



A few cheeky animals stole bags of food - they must have been hungry!

The children even got to ride a tractor round the park.

They loved learning about where milk came from and were excited to see a cow being milked.

The children were so sensible and made their teachers proud with their fantastic behaviour.

They carried on learning about the farm in the classroom.

# Park View: Back in time

Armour was tried on by Park View Academy pupils in a visit to The Hamara Centre for a special exhibition being held by The Royal Armouries Museum.

The centre is an important hub that sits in the school's community of Beeston, Leeds.

Through their work to engage the community, centre staff arranged an outreach offer with The Royal Armouries to create a free 'pop-up museum'.

The Year 3 and 6 pupils stepped back into the past to see and wear real Roman armour, hold Roman swords and shields as well as handling a real STEN (submachine) gun from the Second World War.

Acting Head of Academy Louise Taylor said the pupils were enthused by the learning opportunity and work with real artefacts as part of their historical learning.

"Links with our community and additional learning opportunities are extremely important for us," she said.

The Hamara Centre gifted us a wonderful learning opportunity which would have otherwise been at great cost to our families had they not invited us to be part of their morning."



History work linked to their text 'Voice in the Park' from the Reading Enhanced Curriculum saw Park View pupils visit Cross Flatts Park.



The Year 2 children were looking to find out more about their local area and how it has changed.

Organised by their teacher Davina Crowther, the pupils had a great morning exploring the

different areas of the park and were surprised by things they walked past on daily.

They were lucky enough to find areas that had not changed.

Acting Head of Academy Louise

Taylor said: "It was a great opportunity for our pupils to see the history that is on their doorstep and bring their learning to life."

# Wybers Wood: Number Day rocked

It added up to a host of activities at Wybers Wood Academy to mark the NSPCC's Number Day.

Everyone dressed up with numbers on their clothes or as Times Tables Rock Stars. Marie Machin came dressed as a domino!

Thanks to money raised from the Christmas Fair, coupled with a large grant from the London Mathematical Society, every child from Years 2 to 6 participated in a Puzzle Challenge workshop for an hour led by Tom (from the Happy Puzzle Company).

Teams of around five to seven children had to work together to solve some tricky puzzles, including balancing penguins on a moving iceberg, solving some geometrical tangrams, and completing jigsaws without having a picture to help.

Tiny the Tortoise, from Maths lessons, visited Key Stage 1 at the end of the morning and lots of children had their picture taken with him.

Back in class, children were busy spotting numbers on walks round



the school and trying their hardest to be as accurate as they could on the big competition of the day – NSPCC Rocks!

The children had one hour in total to accumulate as many correct answers on Times Tables Rock Stars as they could for their class.

Speed wasn't the priority today – accuracy was.

In the end, Year 5 Edgley class came first, Year 2 Clyburn class second, and third was Year 3/4

Haywood class.

The school pulled together brilliantly and achieved 199th out of 2,891 schools who took part in the NSPCC Rocks competition, which means it was placed in the top 7%.

Maths Lead Zoe Baxter said: "This is an amazing achievement and I am so proud of the children. In addition, we came first out of all the Delta schools too!"



Oracy skills are being improved at Wybers Wood Academy in a project called Debate Mate.

Launched at Grimsby Town's football stadium, it sees schools competing against each other.

Head of Academy Teresa Rouse and teacher Kathryn Travis have organised Wybers' involvement.

Kathryn said: "The children have really enjoyed being part of Debate Mate where they are learning key skills that will help them throughout their education and adult life.

"They have dedicated their Wednesday nights to learning these skills.

"These children have shown a real commitment to this after school club and are determined to win.

"The cup final is 24th April – wish us luck!"

Pupil Tyrell said: "This is fabulous. I have learnt so much about debating."

Arthur said: "I cannot wait to start learning about how to debate."

## The Vale: Winning formula

Stickers on staff containing answers to a worksheet handed out to students at The Vale Academy proved a winning formula on NSPCC Number Day.

Assistant Curriculum Director Kelly Hopkins, in her first year at the Academy, said the idea was to get Years 7 to 10 interested in Maths outside the classroom and get other subjects involved. Voluntary donations raised £52.18.

"Each child in Year 7 to 10 was given a question sheet in tutor session," explained Kelly.

"Members of staff were walking around with the answers to these questions attached to them as a sticker.

"Some answers could go for more than one answer and no teacher was allowed to be duplicated.

"This meant that children had to use problem solving skills to complete the questions.

"The atmosphere and buzz around the school was amazing. Students were asking all staff what stickers they had, were disappointed if a teacher did not have one, and were thrilled when one did.

"They were trying to work out the answers in the canteen and walking down the corridors."

The completed worksheets were put in a box in the canteen and prizes and winners were sorted on the Monday.

Amy Ogman said: "The students were really engaged with it. Even my year 10 tutor group made a start on it with me having an answer.

It also got them talking about other possible answers.

They were trying to match up the questions which they thought would suit staff the best which was quite amusing.

Year 7 were hunting us down at lunch so this has been really successful.



Staff (left to right) Mrs Cartwright, Mr Brown, Mrs Zhang and Mrs Carlile with the box for all the submissions.

I'm looking forward to Pi Day and other activities that we can get students interested with Maths outside of the classroom."



Winner, Olivia, from Year 7.



Runner up was Year 9's Phoebe.



Ryley, a runner up from Year 7.

# Melior: DofE awards being sought

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards are being worked towards by students at Melior Community Academy.

Sessions are taking place on Thursdays after school, organised by Chelsee Dunn, Ryan Harley, Emily Hodgson and Tristan Griffith.

Duke of Edinburgh Manager and Science teacher Chelsee said: "At Melior, we believe in youth without limits, regardless of background.

Leading up to this term, students have had various training, from becoming first aid qualified to learning orienteering and map reading skills. They have done exceptionally well.

This term, students have focused on building their team



communication skills by setting up tents, creating their own menus and cooking one of their chosen meals on Trangia stoves in preparation for their expedition in July.

Students and staff have all worked so hard empowering each other to get to where they are now."



# The Laurel: Food bank donation

A group of Year 10s from The Laurel Academy went to Edlington food bank to see how it operates.

They took a sizeable donation with them - donated by parents, staff and students - and did the Academy proud.



## Partnership pays off



Proud Principal Katy Taylor-Clarke with the award.

The Laurel Academy has been handed the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

The national recognition demonstrates the hard work the Academy puts in to working with parents and carers, alongside other agencies.

# Whetley: Space adventure

A fantastic educational trip to the National Media Museum was taken by Year 5 from Whetley Academy.

They took part in practical workshops with Science specialists, who helped them to learn more about their topic of earth and space.

They had the opportunity to watch a 3D movie on the IMAX screen, a magical experience and something they will not forget.

After returning, they had a live stream with an astronaut, asking questions and hearing what it was like to be one.



Head of Academy Jonny Townsend said: "These opportunities are so valuable to our children and something we are privileged to be able to give them."

## Goole: Golden talk

Gold and money were two topics of conversation when a representative from the Bank of England spoke to Year 8 students at Goole Academy.



Adam Johnson explained its role and the function of money.

He told students about the gold in its vaults. Sadly, students were not able to measure the items he brought in from the gift shop in carats, but appreciated them nonetheless.

Students learned some great facts during the talk:

- The Bank of England began in a house
- The gold in the vaults is so heavy that the floor has had to be strengthened
- Other countries use the vault for their gold and the Bank charges them rent
- There are Banks of England all around the country and the nearest one to us is Leeds

Adam's visit generated many questions from the Year 8 students and the hope is he will answer them in a future Teams call.



## Crookesbroom: Reward shop opens

A Co-op Reward Shop has been opened at Crookesbroom Primary Academy.

Guests from partners Co-op UK joined Year 6 to officially open the initiative.

Representing the Academy's four houses were Travis (Curie House), Ava (Einstein House), Riley F (Franklin House) and Peggy-Sue (Galileo House).

They were joined by Co-op store manager Paula Davies and colleagues who stayed to help serve their new 'customers'.

Rob Harvey, Head of Academy, said: "Every class had the opportunity to spend house points, earned for making good choices like showing excellent manners, producing brilliant writing, and being kind to others; anything that is about living our Golden Rules."

He said Crookesbroom first approached the Co-op for assistance because it serves the community – a store is just a few metres from the academy – and is a business known for its ethical practices, which align with the values the Academy has for the children.

Dorothy Miller, Doncaster Member Pioneer at the Co-op, wrote and said: "It was really great to be at the opening of your Co-op Reward Shop yesterday. It is a brilliant and inspiring initiative."

Rob said: "We would like to thank the Co-op for its support in setting up and opening the Reward Shop and for offering to help fund the restocking of our supplies."

# The Laurel: Brother and sister win titles

Brother and sister Emmie and Oliver from The Laurel Academy lifted the individual 800m titles at the Doncaster Schools' Indoor Athletics Championships.



Their success was one of a number by the Academy at the annual event, held at the Institute of Sport, Sheffield.

Emmie and Oliver (left) won their individual 800m races and are current indoor athletics champions in Doncaster.



*The Laurel Academy Indoor Athletics Squad.*

## Garforth: Boxing dream



A Year 11 at Garforth Academy who started boxing at the age of 10 has had a trial for England.

Ania puts in every effort to achieve her dream of boxing for her country with morning runs, sprints, hill work plus four evenings a week in the gym.

Her teachers say she is incredibly disciplined and a great role model for other students.

She is waiting a call back on the Birmingham trial.

## Park View: Dodgeball finalists



**Park View's dodgeball finalists.**

Increased physical activity at lunchtime and engagement of those not normally involved in sport have been the aims of a project between Park View Academy and Health for All's Active Clubs Experience (ACE) team.

As part of their offer, pupils are invited to take part in a range of tournaments throughout the year, with ACE providing the activities and transport free.

Year 4 pupils took the first opportunity to be part of the South Leeds Dodgeball Tournament at Middleton Sports Centre.

They had an amazing morning and returned to school as finalists, narrowly missing out on being champions.

Louise Taylor, Acting Head of Academy, said: "Not only was it great to see our pupils participating in sport outside of school, but the pupils represented Park View to the very highest standard."

"I am extremely proud of what they achieved and look forward to seeing what our sporting future holds!"

## Garforth: Camp is fitting reward

Reward for excellent placings in regional and national competitions earned a Garforth Academy student a training camp at the home of British gymnastics.

Benjamin, who is in Year 7, was a competitor at the National Men's Artistic Gymnastic Competition held in Telford and came second.

Then at national level, out of 74 boys selected to compete, Benjamin was placed fifth overall and his Yorkshire team came second, missing out on first place by 0.40.

Benjamin attended Lilleshall for the training camp with British coaches.

He is hoping to be selected as part of a Yorkshire contingent to compete for individual places in the British team at the start of June.

Staff say there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up for Benjamin. They wish him luck and look forward to hearing about his future successes.