

THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community



Thank you for the music

Issue 27
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Welcome

Welcome to our final newsletter for this academic year.

Thank you all for your work and commitment to all our children and the children in other academies through your work as part of the Education Exchange.

Delta Academies Trust leads the way nationally in its ambition for all children and the addition of Patterdale Youth Hostel in Ullswater is the latest example of a Trust that is acting as a beacon for what education should be.

The latest series of inspections confirm the expert staff working across the Trust as teachers and support staff.

In Primary, the last eight inspections have resulted in an improving letter to say they are better than good or an outstanding judgement. Results this year reflect the highly supportive and successful academies.

Hot off the press, we are delighted at the success of our primary children in the KS2 SATS.

Combined results for reading, writing and maths are up some 6% and 5% above National, but with almost twice the national rate of disadvantaged children. Disadvantaged children make great progress and our schools deliver for these children on every level.

Our Education Exchange conference centre in Knottingley has been a hive of activity for trust wide events. In the last few weeks alone, hundreds of children have been taking part in the Primary Music Festival, Poetry Competition, Latin for Excellence, and CyberNorth events.



Two new academies, Eastborough and Heckmondwike, were welcomed into the Trust recently and, in addition, The Coast and Vale Learning Trust is looking to join.

This would bring five academies and a UTC on the East coast into our Trust, possibly early in the next academic year. We are already working closely together and have made some great new friends in the process.

EdEx have been working closely with a 30 academy MAT in Wiltshire, sharing Delta's Primary RAG and curriculum which has delivered a 5% rise in children reaching the expected standard in this year's SATs.

There are now firm plans in place to open a series of Education Exchange (EdEx) Partnerships across the country.

One of our greatest achievements in recent years is the very successfully run, Dallowgill Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre in North Yorkshire.

Trevor, our centre manager is now working across Dallowgill and Patterdale. We cannot

underestimate the opportunities it presents to children in our Trust, particularly those from challenged communities.

OVER THE SUMMER, Patterdale (left) is available to staff and their families to book, dogs also welcome, contact Trevor. Post October half-term we will begin the Patterdale refurbishment. We have exciting plans to create a DoFE centre and staff development retreat.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to John Brown who has retired from his role as a governor at Hatfield Woodhouse Primary Academy after 50 years. On behalf of the school and the Trust, I thank him for his service and the difference he has made to his community.

It is our core purpose, to make a difference. Everybody in our Trust does so.

Thank you for your considerable efforts over the past 12 months. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break.



Paul Tarn
Chief Executive Officer

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Stunning Lakes retreat bought

A second residential learning centre has been bought by the Trust and is expected to be refurbished and open by next Spring.

Patterdale Outdoor Education Centre, a former Youth Hostel, is at the northern end of the Lake District National Park.



Trevor Holmes, Centre Manager at Dallowgill Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre in North Yorkshire, will oversee both.

"Our existing centre at Dallowgill has been a great success and is now running close to capacity," Trevor said.

"The new centre in Patterdale will increase availability for low cost, high quality residential experiences.

"Alongside this, the location of the new centre allows us to offer more adventurous and challenging activities should groups wish to access them."

The centre is a short walk to the shore of Ullswater and the villages of Patterdale and Glenridding, where walks along Striding Edge to the top of Helvellyn and many other peaks begin.

The centre is set in four acres with a river and wetlands and hosts a huge variety of wildlife including rare birds and red squirrels.

Trevor said the intended capacity will be 80 to 90 guests, subject to plans being drawn up and approved.

If planning is granted, refurbishment is expected to start in October.

"Once complete, the centre will offer the same high-quality accommodation as our site in Dallowgill," said Trevor.

Patterdale will have a live-in manager along with other staff.

Trevor said: "The feedback we have had from the limited number of pupils who have visited so far suggests the new centre at Patterdale is going to provide memorable and life changing opportunities for our pupils.

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"It is incredibly exciting to be part of the process and I'm really looking forward to seeing the centre in full use and listening to pupils sharing their experiences of their time there."

"If staff members would like to arrange a visit, I would be happy for them to contact me."

"Someone will be available throughout the summer break, and we would be happy to show people around the building and discuss the plans."



Poetry in motion

Poetry was celebrated in a culmination of the annual Trust-wide competition for Years 7 and 8.

All students in these year groups across the 18 secondary academies write a poem, giving them a sense of achievement and allowing them to experience the pleasure of being a poet.

The day at The Education Exchange included acclaimed Reading Route author, Darren Simpson, who has written great teenage fiction including "Furthermoor" and "Scavengers".

He was joined by Rob Bradley, world champion word poet and free style rapper.

All the guests were astonished by the confidence with which the students took to the stage and performed.

Darren said: "It was another success. The pupils were as brave and inspiring as always!"

Each child eagerly adorned their medals and thoroughly enjoyed the magic of the day, and their impeccable behaviour was something for every academy to be proud of.

The overall winners, revealed on the day, were: (Year 7) Serlby Park, with Don Valley second and De Lacy third; and (Year 8) De Warrenne, with Melior runners-up and Goole third.

Rob Bradley, world champion word poet and free style rapper, performing his improvised rap from words students had chosen.



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Serlby Park's Year 7 first prize winner Iris, reading her poem to the auditorium.



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The event was organised by Directors of English Claire Smith and Sarah Price.

Claire said: "With every year, the selection process becomes more difficult as the standard of poems continue to impress our judging panel."

This is such an awe-inspiring event which always gives me such pride to be part of."

Sarah said the event was the highlight of the year!

"Seeing tentative, nervous students blossom into confident, expressive poets - prepared to take to the intimidating auditorium stage is empowering for all involved," she said.

The winners and more detail can be found here <https://online.fliphtml5.com/iwyxs/axhs/>

Shakespeare's star doth shine

A commitment to provide an ambitious primary English curriculum saw the Trust hold its first Shakespeare Week.



The national annual celebration gives primary children opportunities for enjoyable early experiences of the Bard.

It is one of the pathways to Shakespeare provided by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for people of all ages and stages of interest.

Director of Learning Fiona Evans wanted the week to break down the perceived barrier to Shakespeare and classic literature, which can hinder progress at secondary for many.

Every child from Early Years to Year 6 was involved.



Year 5's Masked Ball at Norbridge



Puppet Show – A Midsummer Night's Dream - Norbridge

Fiona said: "Every Delta Year 6 child will progress to secondary knowing who Shakespeare was, and having experience of watching, performing and exploring his work."

All schools were provided with a range of resources covering drama, reading, writing and creative arts, as well as competitions and challenges.

Schools could access live workshops with Michael Rosen, exploring Shakespeare's

language; and resources from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

They spoke to colleagues from the University of York, and accessed resources from their 'Leeds Meets Shakespeare' project, which explores the value of Shakespeare in the Early Years.

Serlby Park Academy Assistant Principal Louise Wright said: "Year 6 students created freeze frames to explore key moments in Macbeth, before interviewing Lady Macbeth, and one of the

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guards (Director of Learning Paul Quarry, delivering a faultless Scottish accent!) from outside King Duncan's chamber.

This led to writing a news report about the shocking murder. Shakespeare Week has been a great way to get involved."

Assistant Principal at Crookesbroom Academy Maryam Ali said reception pupils enjoyed exploring the vocabulary around *The Tempest*, using fabric and music to create the movement and atmosphere of the storm, before writing their own stormy sentences.

Head of Academy at Norbridge Rebecca Jackson said they loved Shakespeare Week.

"Each class focused on a different text, with performances, puppets, creative writing and so much more!

We are very proud of what our students achieved, and really value the inclusion of Shakespeare Week in the curriculum."

Melody Kolbaba, Year 1 Teacher at Greengates said: "We have created a Shakespeare Fact File, and then connected Shakespeare to our story – first exploring the witches' scene in *Macbeth* to create a magical spell ingredients list (with rhyming words) before exploring the story of the Magic Porridge Pot."

Abby Roberts, Year 1 Teacher at The Vale, said: "We explored how Shakespeare has influenced so many stories they know today – starting with *Gnomeo and Juliet!*"

Sian Whiting, Year 6 Teacher at Simpson's Lane, said: "It's all been kicking off between the families!"

Year 6 pupils at Simpson's Lane explored the relationship between the Capulets and the Montagues, becoming news reporters to interview the families, and then writing messages between them."

Fiona said: "We are thrilled that so many teachers now see that Shakespeare is for everyone, and meant to be enjoyed through

performance and experience.

Too many primary teachers are fearful of Shakespeare, meaning pupils don't get to explore the fantastic stories, characters and settings."

She was looking forward to seeing what pupils get up to in 2025. #DeltaShakespeareWeek



Invaluable collaboration with the British Library led to the Delta Exciting Writing Festival for primary pupils.

Writing creates excitement

Launched by a teacher CPD featuring author SF Said and Professor Teresa Cremin, there followed a live Authors into Schools, during which pupils explored the theme of Journeys.

This built on last year's theme of Create Your Own Handmade Library.

Pupils were invited to create their books, in their choice of format, about a subject of their choice, which, said Director of Learning Fiona Evans, provided the creative agency essential to promote writing for pleasure.

"The festival is another part of Delta's commitment to provide an ambitious primary English curriculum, peppered with opportunities for pupils to write for pleasure, exploring subjects of their choice," she said.

Individual academies decided on their winning entries, with their stories recorded by Performing Arts students from Stagedoor Learning.

Hearing their stories brought to life with sound effects is magical for the pupils.



Entries from Estcourt Primary

The Open University report, Approaches to Reading and Writing for Pleasure, highlights "there is far less research on approaches that may motivate young writers than that devoted to motivating readers" and highlights the importance of developing "choice-led volitional writing" opportunities.

"This collaboration with the British Library has been invaluable in providing both CPD for teachers, as well as an accessible framework to enable pupils to write, as well as read, for pleasure," said Fiona.

"It has been wonderful to see so many academies involved, and to hear of the impact the project has had.

Pupils who do not have access to creative materials at home have been asking to borrow equipment so they can make books.

Pupils who would usually be described as reluctant writers have proudly brought in stories they have written to share with their teachers.

Staff have commented on the delightful buzz created around writing."

Goldthorpe's Assistant Principal Holly Freeman said: "The look on the faces of the children when they heard their stories, their creations, read out loud by actors, enhanced with sound effects, was priceless."

Head of Academy at Willows Sarah Cox said the children loved the live session with Axel Scheffler.

"Some of our most vulnerable children have been begging to take equipment home so they can write stories and make their books," she said.

Year 6 Teacher at Serlby Park Jodie Griffiths said: "The CPD was inspiring, and the live event for children was brilliant.

The children loved seeing their names pop up on screen."

Fiona thanked the teachers who have dived into this project to provide this opportunity.



A Star of the Month award from Reading Solutions UK has been given to Eman, who attends **Whetley Academy** in Bradford.

It is for progress and dedication to improving his reading skills and he was given a trophy, certificate, and a £25 book voucher.

Reading Plus, who organise a Star of the Month, had asked Whetley to nominate a pupil.

The online reading development programme is used across the UK to improve pupils' reading fluency, stamina, and comprehension.

Eman was nominated by Year 6 teachers Suzy Morrison and Shareen Razaq.

Suzy said: "Since joining the school in January, Eman has engaged brilliantly with the programme and has already moved up five reading levels."

Eman said: "I was really pleased to have won and I'm looking forward to spending my voucher."

Football is helping kick off students' interest in reading at **Melior Community Academy**.



Former Scunthorpe United manager and professional footballer Brian Laws (back row, third from left) with the students.

A total of 15 Years 7 and 8, who love the sport but not always motivated to pick up a book, have been attending weekly sessions since February in Scunthorpe United's Reading Stars programme.

Highlights have included:

- Meeting authors Tom Palmer and Dan Freedman
- A visit to Scunthorpe's Central Library for a talk and a look around
- A tour of Scunthorpe United's Attis Arena (formerly Glanford Park)
- Meeting rap artist Breis

Year 8's Kara won the penalty shootout at the stadium on the launch day, winning a book and a trophy.

Study sessions at the Attis Arena have seen students writing scripts and performing them to a camera in front of a green screen.

Former professional footballer and ex United manager Brian Laws visited Melior to talk about his career and book and do some football-related reading activities.

A six-a-side football tournament will mark the culmination of the programme in July.

English teacher and project leader Lucy Boczkowska organised the programme with support from department colleagues and the PE team.

"The Reading Stars project has given the students an array of different experiences whilst helping to promote a love of reading," Lucy said.

"It has been great to see the excitement on the faces of the students at our various sessions."

Her enthusiasm for the project was supported by students.

Rhys, in Year 7, said: "I really enjoyed going to Scunthorpe United and performing the script in front of the camera."

Skye, also Year 7, said: "I've loved meeting the players and going on the pitch."

Going around the football stadium reading 'Ghost Stadium' by Tom Palmer, was amazing."

Reading scheme reaps rewards



Year 9 student, Keanu, reading with Emmerson, a weaker reader in Year 7.

A scheme at Melior Community Academy which pairs 20 weaker Year 7 readers with Year 9s has been reaping rewards.

Reading Mentors sees the older students listening to the younger ones read twice a week in the library.

Mentors are trained at the start of the year by Sarah Tipler, Senior Development Officer, Community and Family Engagement, at North Lincolnshire Council.

They are trained in how to build up a rapport with their mentee as well as strategies to assist their student to read. A rolling timetable ensures students do not miss out on form times.

The scheme's organised by Lucy Boczkowska with the help of Learning Resource Centre manager Allison Peden and English Intervention Teacher Jade Ronald.

Emmerson, talking about his mentor, Keanu said: "I really like reading with Keanu because he does the best voices.

I like reading play scripts best of all because we can take it in turns."

Sarah said they had been delivering Reading Mentor training since 2017 across North Lincolnshire.

"The peer partnership between the reading mentors and mentees works so well, not only supporting reading skills but in building confidence," she said.

"The one-to-one reading support enables the reading mentors to become role models improving social skills, empathy, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, confidence, self-esteem, organisational and leadership skills.

The impact on the mentees is that it builds their confidence, self-esteem, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, expression, improved engagement and, importantly, fosters a love of reading.

The benefits to both the reading mentor and mentee are life changing and will develop aspirations and build friendships that will be remembered for a very long time."

Harry casts spell

Potion making, Quidditch and broomstick crafting were included in a Harry Potter experience day for Rowling Class at Worlabby Academy.

Organised by Key Stage 2 Teacher Eleanor Mastin, they were celebrating the completion of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

The day started with a Sorting Hat ceremony.

The children engaged in creative activities, such as writing about their house teams and designing coats of arms.

An exciting game of Quidditch took place outdoors while, indoors, the potion-making and miniature broomstick crafting added an extra touch of magic.



The class learned how to cast spells.



Children brewing magic potions.

A visit to Honeyduke's sweet shop allowed the children to indulge in delectable treats like chocolate frogs, lemon sherbets, and every flavoured beans.

A fortune-telling session and the making of butterbeer rounded off the enchanting activities.

Eleanor said: "By day's end, the children were thoroughly exhausted but undoubtedly filled with magical memories from their Harry Potter Day in Rowling Class."

Theo said he had loved the day.

"We had such a fun day making memories and we finished the book too. The ending was a big surprise," he said.

High bar



Successful Year 7 and 8 students holding their certificates from the UKMT Junior Challenge 2024, with Maths teacher Sam Arrowsmith.

Maths students at The Laurel Academy participated in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Challenge for Years 7 and 8.

Maths team Sam Arrowsmith, Komal Abbas and Liam Otley were behind the entry.

The Laurel achieved some of its highest results for the UKMT junior challenge and saw many Year 7 and 8 students getting bronze, silver and even gold awards.

Highest scoring student in Year 7 was Stefi, who scored 74 and received a silver award.

In Year 8, highest was Sam Cockayne, who hit 97 and was rewarded with a gold award.



Lotty's LEGO wins New York trip

New York beckoned a Year 5 pupil from East Garforth Primary Academy after she triumphed in a LEGO campaign to inspire children to explore space.



Lotty saw her design chosen out of hundreds of submissions shared by children across the world.

The 10-year-old was selected to be a LEGO Space ambassador and saw her design created by a drone display in New York.

Lotty was invited to join the event to share her story and encourage other children to explore space through their imagination.

Lotty's design was captioned: "I would like to go to space in a bed so I can sleep.

"I would put butterfly wings on because they flutter, they don't go too fast. I would put a fire on so it can keep me warm and a pull out drawer with snacks."

Assistant Principal and Lotty's Year 5 Teacher Tom Chalder said: "Lotty is an inspiration to us all at East Garforth, and we are incredibly proud of her for all of her achievements and in particular with LEGO."

Building blocks

Two teams won awards after the Trust entered the LEGO Robotics League and Regional Championships for the first time.



Director of Science Kieran Wilson praised the "amazing" achievements of the students from Manor Croft and Darton Academies.

A dozen Delta schools ran LEGO Robotics clubs over the 2023-24 season, with five entering the regional competitions held at various universities.

Manor Croft, under the Leadership of Haleel, took the Prize for Robot Design and Darton, led by Matthew, won the prestigious Judges' Choice award.

Manor Croft was praised on how well their robot was designed, coded and its efficiency in completing all the challenges.

Judges were impressed how Darton tackled every project as a team, demonstrating brilliant leadership and teamwork throughout all three events.

Kieran said: "This is just the beginning for Delta in the LEGO Robotics League.

"Next year, we will be running a tournament at the Education Exchange for Year 9 students and 12 schools will be entering the First LEGO League Regionals. Our aim is to get to the national and European finals."

If your Academy would like to get involved, please contact Kieran.wilson@deltatrust.org.uk

Programme raises girls' aspirations



Award certificates were presented to 15 girls from Goole Academy who completed the Raising Aspirations programme.

It culminated with a Siemens site visit and the presentation.

It has been an amazing experience for these girls who now have a greater understanding of the STEM career paths and the key employability skills that will give them many successes.

A big thanks to Siemens and Howdens.



Reward

A Year 10 engineering team from Goole Academy entered their designed, manufactured and working model of a Vulcan bomber pilot ejector seat in a STEM competition.

"Vulcan 4 Victory" produced an excellent working model because of the creative teamwork and amazing problem-solving skills, said Simon Poulton, Head of DT.

A reward from the Vulcan Trust for their efforts was a visit to see the plane.

Teachers gathered for the Delta MFL Conference to explore the new GCSE specification and its implications for teaching.

New exam excitement

A total of 60 MFL teachers from the 19 Delta academies - plus colleagues from Filey School, Lady Lumley's School and Scalby School in the Coast and Vale Trust – met at Education House.

The conference, titled Language is More than Words, was organised by the MFL Director Team.

MFL is the only subject starting a new GCSE course with Year 10 students in September.

The new specification includes the most significant changes MFL has seen for many years.

The MFL Director Team led activities on the speaking, listening, reading and writing elements of the new exam.

Staff also had opportunities to share good practice and teaching and learning ideas.

Helen Holmes, Senior Director of MFL, said the team was very excited by the new GCSE, and was looking forward to working with Pearson Edexcel for the first time.

"Pearson's new GCSE is built on inclusivity, accessibility and transparency and it takes a compassionate, student-centred approach towards assessment," she said.

"I am so proud of the work and progress made by Delta MFL these past four years.

The commitment from our ELT Strategic Lead, the French and Spanish Directors, Lead Teachers and most importantly, from every MFL Head of Department and teacher is astonishing.

Delta MFL is the very embodiment of teamwork."



Left to right Bob Walters, from Carlton le Willows Academy, Annie Fells, Second in Department Carlton le Willows, and Emily Bache, Head of MFL at Hanson Academy, in discussion.

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The conference was closed by Anna Rooney, Executive Principal and Strategic Lead for MFL for Delta.

Feedback after the conference was positive.

Farah Shah, Lead Teacher of Spanish at Melior Academy, wrote: "Just a quick email to say a huge thank you for organising and hosting the MFL conference.

I really enjoyed it and it was so useful. I could hear conversations around the room saying it was a huge success."

Giusi Perseu, Head of MFL at The Vale Academy, said: "Thank you so much for today ladies! The conference was superbly organised, very informative and I've loved seeing you all."



Rachel Wilson (left), from Lady Lumley's School, Coast and Vale Trust, and Holly Hale, from Ash Hill Academy, at the conference.

Jo Thomas, from Goole Academy, also thanked the organisers and had enjoyed the day.

"It must have taken a lot of organising and preparing, but everyone I spoke to really appreciated it," she said.



Josh Ellis (left), Head of MFL at De Lacy Academy, and Stef Sismondi, Director of Spanish, at the conference.

Battlefields tribute

Historical understanding was deepened and French culture learned in a trip to the First World War battlefields by Lincoln Castle Academy.



The group remembers those who have lost brothers and sisters in war.

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The visit to Northern France and Belgium by 45 students and five staff was organised by the MFL department.

A packed schedule included German and Commonwealth cemeteries, snail tasting, artefacts, museums, memorials, a seaside town tour with an airshow, bread and crêpe making, a chocolate factory visit and a silent disco.

One highlight was the Brothers in Arms Memorial Park, which wants to commemorate brothers and sisters who fought together in the First World War and of whom at least one was killed.

The park intends to have people reflecting on the impact of war on families worldwide.

During the First World War, two brothers from Australia joined the same regiment.

Jim heard his brother John was wounded and rushed to his side. John died in his arms after asking that his brother take him back to Australia.

Jim survived the war, returned to Australia but returned many times in an attempt to find his brother whom he had buried covered in a sheet with arms folded.

Jim was unsuccessful and died before finding his brother. He shared his story with a local café owner and amateur archaeologist Johan Vandewalle.

A few years later the remains of some World War I soldiers were uncovered during road construction and Johan was called.

He saw the body and said it was John, lying just as his brother said he would be.

The story of the Brothers In Arms did not only move Johan and his excavation team. A monument was constructed to all those who have lost a sibling in war.

The group were lucky to have Johan tell the story and give us a tour.

Year 9's Alannah said: "It was an amazing experience. Snails tasted better than I thought."

Nazar, from Year 7, said: "Belgian chocolate was tasty and the cemeteries were very moving."

Top achiever

A student from Melior Community Academy topped Delta's monthly Languagenut competition – and was 28th across the world.



Happiness, who is in Year 7, was using the global, digital, language learning platform all Key Stage 3 and 4 French/German/Spanish students have access to. Her success was in last month's competition.

Helen Holmes, Senior Director of MFL, said: "Happiness' achievement is incredible!

To finish top out of the 19 Delta academies is amazing but the fact that she finished 28th globally is just out of this world!"





All conquering York visit

Medieval buildings and York Minster were among the sites spotted when Goole Academy students visited the city and climbed to the top of Clifford's Tower in a joint History and Geography visit.

The Year 7s were able to consider why William the Conqueror decided to build his castle on this location after a rebellion broke out in 1068.

The Geography tour allowed students to analyse the flood defences.

This involved considering the effectiveness of the flood walls and gates, the Foss Barrier and channelisation.

Students were also shown the birthplace of Guy Fawkes and the Shambles.



Hanson crack code to lift trophy

Students gained unique experience in code breaking to help solve a large-scale crime at the third annual CyberNorth.

The event, created by Directors of Computer Science from Delta Academies Trust and Northern Education Trust (NET), saw 58 teams from 18 academies compete at The Education Exchange, Nottinghamly.

Karl Douglass, Director of Computer Science at Delta, said it was “a great success” with Hanson Academy winning the CyberNorth trophy.

The top three positions were occupied by Delta academies.

“Students had an amazing time and were a credit to their academies,” he said.

This event showcases the role of cybersecurity professionals in keeping us safe on the internet.

Karl said: “The event is designed to showcase the role and career opportunities within the Cybersecurity sector.

There is a global shortage of nearly 4 million cyber professionals. Over half of all UK businesses have a shortage of qualified professionals.

CyberNorth was created to raise awareness of the career opportunities that are available for students in the North of England.”





Girls buck trend

Numbers of girls taking on Computer Science and IT qualifications at The Vale Academy are bucking the national trend.

This has been recognised by The National Centre for Computing Education, with the school's Computing Department receiving an award for commitment to the "I Belong" programme.

It has led to a male-dominated sector but the uptake and success by girls has always been strong at the Brigg school, said Curriculum Lead

in Computer Science and IT Damian Burrin.

Students have a choice of computing-based subjects at Key Stage 4 with GCSE Computer Science and Cambridge National Level 2 on offer.

A new Cambridge National Level 2 in Creative iMedia is being added to the curriculum from September.

Students can continue studies with Computer Science, IT and Media Studies offered as A-Level or equivalent at the Academy's sixth form.

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Tomorrow's stars

Highly committed students ensured a high quality production of Annie Jr graced the stage at Ash Hill Academy.

The 33 students from Years 7 to 10 had been rehearsing after school for two hours three days a week since January.

Head of Performing Arts Helen Weyman said: "The students have been highly committed and focused throughout this time, so the final performances were of high quality and great successes."

They played two shows to primary feeders and three to families and the public.

Helen organised the production with Drama Early Careers Teacher Lucy Dent and Assistant Principal Sophie Lanaghan.

The children loved being part of the show.

When Joseph in Year 8 was asked to be part of the production team, he was "happy and excited".

"It gave me a chance to meet new people and make new friends.

I also really enjoy using cool technology and making a difference."

Kate, in Year 7, said: "It has been a joy working with this group of talented students.



Holly, Hafren, Evie, Charlotte, Kate, Lexi and Freya as dancers and orphans.

It has been an honour to have been given the opportunity to develop my drama skills and make new friends. Overall, it has been a very enjoyable experience."

Year 9's Kaytlin was "happy and excited" to play her first lead character in an Academy show.

"I have gained so much confidence from this experience, made new friends and have had the chance to share many great memories."

Mr Warbucks was played by Ernie from Year 8.

He said: "It has been a wonderful experience to see and work with a professional stage and lighting rig.

I have made lots of new friends and learnt lots of new skills, which I will take forward with me into Year 9."



Annie is played by Kate.



Ernie as Mr Warbucks, Ashton as the policeman and Teyla as Grace Farrell.

Year 9's Lacey worked on the lighting.

"It was exciting as I have been able to work with a professional lighting system in the brand-new main hall, giving me the confidence to focus my work and communication skills with success."

For Dylan, in Year 8, his first full show performance at the Academy had been so much fun.

"It is the first time I have ever had to play a villain in a play," he said. "I am very excited for Year 9 so that I can do it all over again."



Dancers delight

More than 200 primary and secondary students were involved in The Laurel Academy's Dance in a Day.



The event, organised by PE teacher Heather Beardshall, saw the school's fantastic dance leaders take workshops with more than 100 primary students during the morning sessions.

It was fantastic to see so many enjoying performing and getting involved.

During the afternoon, 120 students from The Laurel performed a dance show for the primary pupils to enjoy.

Feedback from primary pupils was positive.

Daisy said: "I loved when Colbie was teaching these proper cool moves. It was fun!

I also loved the girl who did "Space Man" with all the tricky, flexible stuff."

Robbie loved it when students danced together and the African dance.

"I liked when they were all in-sync because it's hard to do," he said.

Madison said: "I liked that they can make a dance together without arguing.

I liked the person who was teaching us (I think she was called Colbie) because she was always smiling and encouraging us."

Frozen thaws hearts

Joy was brought to audiences in a "remarkable" production of Frozen Jr by De Warenne Academy students.

The Disney classic was performed over three nights to audiences in Conisbrough, coming to an end with a bang of confetti and glitter.

Produced by Scott Willis and Sarah Mitchell, the story is one of true love and acceptance between sisters Princesses Anna and Elsa, expanding upon the emotional relationship and journey between them.

When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood.

With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and plenty of humour, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

Mr Willis said: "I am very proud of every student involved in this production.

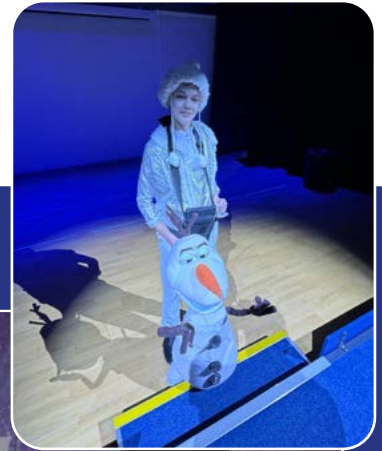


The whole cast with West End quality costumes.

The courage it takes to stand on stage and deliver is remarkable, and for those who join us in a backstage or technical roll, the pressure is incredible.

The high-tech production used top projections.

Thank you to everyone who saw the show. The cold never bothered us anyway!"



Lewis as Olaf





A talented dancer from Hatfield Woodhouse Primary School had the incredible opportunity to compete at the World Championships for Irish dancing.

Filling in as a last-minute substitution, Paisley was thrilled to be selected for the Under 21s team.

The competition took place in Glasgow and Paisley was particularly excited about the prospect of meeting the legendary Irish dancer, Michael Flatley.

Paisley and her team performed brilliantly, achieving an impressive 24th place in their group.

This marks a significant improvement on last year, when the team finished 33rd.

Fuelled by this success, Paisley is already setting her sights on returning to the World Championships next year.

Paisley's unforgettable experience was made possible thanks to funding support from the Delta Academies Charitable Trust.

Its generosity allowed Paisley to showcase her talent on the world stage.

Magic of movies and musicals



The cast before the main event.

A sell-out audience enjoyed some of the most famous songs, dance, and scenes to hit stage and screen when 70 students performed Manor Croft's summer show Movies and Musicals Night.

Before the cast from Years 7 to 10 performed in the evening, they warmed up with another large audience during the dress rehearsal drawn from the new Year 7 cohort.

Year 6s on transition day said they had been "blown away with the talent and can't wait to do Performing Arts when they join us in September."

Head of Performing Arts Natalie Miller thanked teachers in the department and the external companies such as Musica Kirklees and CS Technical Ltd for amazing light, stage and sound design.

"We're incredibly proud of our students and roll on our next production in February 2025," she said.



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Festival hits right note

The power of music brought academies together in a return of the Delta Music Festival following its success last year.

A total of 17 primary and secondary schools, double that of 12 months ago, showcased their musical performances across two days, inspiring and wowing the audience of their peers from other schools.

Megan Rowley, Director of Learning – Primary, said the spread of joy was evident.

"Children were saying 'This is my favourite day of the year' and 'I'll remember this for ever and ever!'," she said.

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Staff shared the children could not stop smiling and the event offered a chance for everyone to shine.

Megan said: "We were so pleased to bring the children together in The Education Exchange's auditorium and as the children came in, there was a sense of awe and excitement.

"Following a dramatic opening with a marching band, acts followed with vocal performances, showcases on instruments such as guitars, ukuleles and clarinets, rock bands and production segments.

With our ethos of performance for all, it was great to celebrate different stages of each school's journeys."

Children at the start of their journey shared they were "really nervous and shy, but after I was really proud of myself".

This highlighted the importance music can have on children's confidence and creating a sense of pride, said Megan.

Organised alongside Matthew Bellingham, Donna Brown, Associate Executive Principal said: "The 2024 Delta Music Festival was an incredible opportunity for our pupils to unite and showcase their musical talents in front of a large audience.

"I was so impressed by how confident and supportive of each other the pupils were. Both days were truly magical! Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make these days a success."

Carl Wragg, an instrumental tutor from Doncaster Music Hub who works with some of the Trust's schools, attended the event.

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He said: "Coming together like that – in such a great location – isn't something I've seen before at a Trust level, so well done to Delta for championing music and giving the children memories of such a great occasion.

There was a lot of talent on display and the inclusiveness was obvious too.

It showed that Delta clearly cares about music for all students. I felt really inspired to see the event and it was a privilege to be there."

Megan said: "Music, particularly collaboratively, holds so many benefits for us all which is why Delta strongly values musical experiences and opportunities, such as this Music Festival.



As we look ahead, we hope that all our schools can be involved next year, and we really look forward to creating even more opportunities in music across the Trust."



All that jazz benefits students

Top jazz musicians were joined on stage by students from Melior Community Academy to perform in a professional theatre to families and friends.



The group with Miles (right) who led the Samba workshop.

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The Year 8s participated in a community project led by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, putting together a performance involving two other schools at the Plowright Theatre, Scunthorpe.

Teacher of Music Amy Coote said it had been a great opportunity to be on a professional stage with real musicians.

"It was the first time some students had ever stood on a theatre stage, so it was quite exciting," she said.

Students had taken part in a few workshops earlier in the year with Miles from NYJO.

They were involved in the Samba rhythm section, learning rhythm patterns and vocal melodies for another piece.

They attended an afternoon rehearsal on the main day, joined by students from Frederick Gough and Foxhills Academies.

There was then a short concert by one of the NYJO ensembles before students joined them on stage to perform to family and friends in the audience.



Pupils enjoy superstar treatment

Excited pupils from Worlaby Academy took part in a singing spectacular at the Baths Hall in Scunthorpe.

They joined with hundreds from across North Lincolnshire in the Key Stage 2 Big Sing, performing to parents.

Music lead Eleanor Mastin described it as "an electrifying musical event" in which pupils had united to learn songs and showcase their talents on a grand stage.

"Our young performers embraced the thrill of the spotlight," she said.

"The day was filled with excitement as children collaborated with peers, revelled in their very own dressing room complete with illuminated mirrors, and relished the superstar treatment.



Worlaby's wonderful performers after the concert.

Their courage shone through as they delivered a mesmerising performance in front of a vast audience.

Special commendation goes to Beatrix from Year 5, who bravely

presented a book summary that tied into the songs.

The event was a memorable celebration of talent, teamwork, and triumph."

Band plays on special day

Ten students from across Key Stage 3 at Melior Community Academy performed for a local primary school on World Music Day.

The concert took place at Priory Lane Community school and was organised by the secondary's Music teacher Amy Coote, supported by Miss Navas.

Pupils were entertained by singers, guitarists, drummers and keyboard performances before a Year 7 band finale.

Pupils at the primary school got

involved in some whole school singing and opportunities to join in with the vocal numbers before asking students questions about how they got into playing their instruments and rehearsal strategies.

"It was the first time performing to an audience for some of the Melior students and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience," said Amy.



The Year 7 Band – Evie Trevor on drums, singers Alicia Ndlovu and Logan-John Sloane, plus Lilliana Relich on keyboard.

Memories was the theme for the dish in The Laurel Academy's first ever MasterChef competition.

Mastering how to cook



Students applied to take part and nine were chosen for the event, organised by teacher of Food Technology Sian Howells.

The champion was Olli from Year 8 with Stefi (Year 7), second, and Zachary (Year 8), third.

Olli made popcorn chicken with wedges and coleslaw, with a paprika and liquid smoke sauce.

"I chose this dish because it was the first thing they learnt how to cook and brings good memories of being younger," he said.

He entered the competition because he enjoys cooking and wanted to show his abilities.

He said cooking was important: "When I cook, I feel like I'm in a better place."

Second-placed Stefi opted for a salate beouf with a side of toast topped with pate.

"It is a Romanian dish close to my heart and culture. I make it with my mum and sister every Easter and

Christmas and it's a tradition that I love," she said.

She wanted to cook the dish by herself for the first time and show her cooking skills.

Cooking was important because her mum used to work at a restaurant and this made her love cooking from a young age.

Year 8's Ana decided on a chicken and rice dish with a sweet cheese pastry.

"I always help my mum cook this dish and it was one of my favourites growing up because the food from my culture was always different to everyone else's – and the cheese pastry is an amazing snack," she said.

Third-placed Zachary made fried battered chicken with some homemade wedges.

"When me and my father would make battered chicken every week to try to improve our recipe when I was younger, I would make the batter and wedges whilst he fried the chicken," he said.

He wanted to take part to "hopefully grow my skillset as a chef by trying to cope under pressure and fixing any mistakes as I go."

"I have been taught to cook since a very young age. The part that I love most is letting other people taste what I have made and receiving feedback".

Sian said: "I wanted to host the competition as I wanted to provide another opportunity for our students to get cooking.

It is such a life skill, and our subject can often be overlooked. I am so thankful to Principal Mrs Taylor-Clarke who shares my passion for food and the excitement it brings to the classroom, allowing me to have this role to give pupils chances like these.

"A huge well done to all our contestants. They have done such a fantastic job and their love for cooking has really shone through in the dishes they have produced".

Places of worship experienced

Tours of a minster and mosque in Dewsbury were enjoyed by Year 7s from Manor Croft Academy.

At Dewsbury Minster, students listened to a talk about the history of Christianity in the town and the Minster's role today.

They also found out information for themselves in the Heritage Centre and learned about important Christian events and ceremonies.

They then travelled to the Zakaria Centre.

Farooq welcomed the party in the foyer and spoke to the students about the history of the area, his experiences as a child when Savile Town, a suburb of Dewsbury, was a mixed area and how it has changed to become almost exclusively Muslim.

Assistant Principal Thomas Harmer said Farooq was engaging and humorous.



"He encouraged the students to interact while delivering the serious message about the importance of different communities engaging with each other to appreciate and understand our similarities and differences," Mr Harmer said.

The Tour of the Masjid was led by Farook.

Before entering the prayer area, he took the party to the wash area and allowed a few students to experience this, giving a demonstration which they followed.

In a main prayer area he discussed key features of the room, again with his warm and friendly approach and encouraging the students to ask questions.

He ran through a prayer and translated it. It was interesting to see that much of the wording was incredibly similar to the words of prayer in a Christian mass or service.

The session was finished by a move into a different room and a team game based on the learning students had done.

The day was organised by Carolyn Wheatley, Programme Leader of EPC.

Thomas said: "It was a fantastic experience for our Year 7s, visiting key parts of their community and learning about each other's faiths and beliefs.

Both venues were so welcoming, and the students really enjoyed their day."

Project develops skills

Awards recognised the achievements of two Garforth Academy teams in a programme which encourages students to develop employability skills through a social impact project.

NextGenLeaders saw 300 young people representing 16 schools across Yorkshire gathered at the celebration event at Asda's Merchandising Centre of Excellence in Leeds.

Students from The Breaking Free Project and Red Tape the Vape presented to a large audience of adult judges and peers.

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The first sees five Year 10 students breaking down gender inequality by working with primary-aged children to combat gender stereotypes linked to academic subjects and careers

Recent workshops have focused on raising the profile of STEM careers with girls.

Red Tape the Vape is a group of 5 students from Years 10, 12 and 13 who have been campaigning for tighter legislation around the sale of vapes. They aim to educate young people on the dangers of vaping.

The Breaking Free Project team came away with the Gender Equality award, and Red Tape The Vape were recognised with the Judges' Choice award.

Year 12 student Sophie, from Red

Tape the Vape, was commended for her hard work and commitment with a Changemaker of the Year award.

As last year's regional champions Red Tape the Vape were asked to summarise their NextGenLeader journey for a special feature at the celebration event.

Lauren Llewellyn, the Academy's Careers Lead, said: "The students have been pushed out of their comfort zone but have embraced the unique experiences that the Next Gen Leaders programme offers.

The biggest win for me isn't the trophies, it's that these incredible young people recognise that they've developed teamworking skills, presentation skills, confidence, communication skills, resilience and the ability to balance priorities.

How amazing are their future applications going to be?"

The programme has also resulted in another success story which evidences the power of facilitating students to develop their professional network.



A Year 13 student has been offered a Degree Apprenticeship accredited by Manchester University with one of the stakeholder organisations as a direct result of her involvement last year.

Grace is looking forward to embarking on her Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship at Asda headquarters in September.

More details about the NextGenLeaders programme: <https://www.nextgenleaders.org.uk/>

Find out more about the Garforth Academy Careers Programme: <https://www.garforthacademy.org.uk/curriculum-overview/careers/programme/>

University visit

A cohort from Goole Academy's Year 9 were invited to attend the nearby University of Hull by the Humber Outreach Programme (HOP).

Students took part in an opportunities session that focused on university including courses, societies and sports.

They were shown the vast number of universities nationally and internationally.

A budget challenge developed financial skills to see if they could survive on the average money received by a university student.

During this challenge, students were informed about the costs of attending university and the opportunities for funding.

The idea was to inform students that university is affordable for all, and they can attend if they wish to.

Finally, they were given a tour of the university that included visits to a lecture theatre, students' union, library and sports facilities.

The day was enjoyed by all, and a vast majority said university may now be an option in the future.

Careers work reward

Manor Croft Academy has been recognised for its outstanding careers work.



Assistant Principal Thomas Harmer celebrates the award with three student leaders.

The Dewsbury school has been awarded the national Quality in Careers award under licence by Ixion (part of the Shaw Trust Group).

The Quality in Careers Standard is awarded to schools and education providers who can

demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about their life after school.

Manor Croft becomes the 10th Delta Academy to have achieved the Quality in Careers mark.



Never too young to learn

Children were encouraged to think about their future aspirations in a Careers Fair at Macaulay Primary Academy.



Air Cadets Sergeant Murphy and Cadet Warrant Officer Wilkins.

A range of businesses were invited to promote their business and career choice to the children and answer any questions as part of the Personal Development curriculum.

They included a therapist, dog trainer, mechanical engineer, teacher, PCSO, nurses, lorry driver and an undertaker.

Organised by Class Teacher Anna Herrick, children were inspired by the day and had a renewed energy for learning due to their new career interests.

The Academy received some lovely feedback.

Children's Services Practitioner Dannie Adcock-Habib said: "I just wanted to follow up after yesterday's Careers Fair.

It was such a lovely event and so well organised. Would it be possible to share this day with my colleagues who are really keen to replicate this with other schools as it was great? Thanks again for inviting me along."

Sergeant Murphy from the Air Cadets thought the event "a fantastic way of introducing children to a variety of different career paths."

"The children's eyes were opened to career paths that they thought were out of their reach because they live in Grimsby," said Mrs Curtis a teacher at Macaulay



Layton and Shay chatting to electrician Brendan Fleming.

Mariam, from Year 6, said: "You can be anything you want to be."

Chloe, from Year 5, said it took effort to get a good job while Alfie in the same year group said:

"Any job can make you successful."



Nurses Laura Hadfield and Molly Kelly.

Tree-mendous effort

Extra-curricular club The Green Team and a select mix of Years 8 and 9 planted trees on Serlby Park Academy's fields to earn their green colours badge.

The scheme, using trees kindly donated by the Woodland Trust, will improve drainage on the front sports field.

Geography Teachers Stacey Kirton and Sasha Belk organised the event.

Head of World Studies Sasha said: "The children had fun and positively contributed to the environment and to future sports days at Serlby Park."

Head of PE Tara Hunt said the efforts would make future games less damp.

Head Girl Lily said: "I cannot wait to see them grow and everyone in the future will know we did this."



Garden dedicated to Ralph

Staff and students have been working hard to develop a sensory garden area at St Wilfrid's Academy.

It was originally designed with support from the RHS, as part of the 'Green Plant It' competition.

Students worked with a team from the RHS to design a space that would transform a hard-covered playground into a green space that could be used for outdoor learning and therapeutic sessions.

The space was initially decked, protecting the large silver birch tree at its centre, followed by students helping to build raised beds in which they could plant a range of plants to trigger different senses.

Students worked with a ceramicist, Angie Hardwick, as part of the Artsmark Award, to create a ceramic water feature for the garden, and local graffiti artist Tom Butcher, helped to create floral murals to decorate the walls.

Key to developing the site was the former Site Supervisor, Ralph Miller, who sadly passed away at Christmas and in whose memory the garden has been dedicated. His widow officially opened the garden.



Skills built by forest sessions



Forest School sessions have benefited children at Greengates Primary Academy.

The weekly sessions throughout this last half term have been organised by Associate Head of Academy Steph Tempest-Mitchell.

Sam Dovey, Year 3 Teacher said: "The whole Forest School experience has been amazing to see.

The way that the children have come together to problem solve and work as a team has made me feel very proud.

The skills they have learnt in these sessions are skills which will stay with them always."

Chris from Go Wild Outdoors has been leading sessions to promote resilience and perseverance while developing the children's ability to collaborate effectively with others.

From starting fires to building shelters, the pupils have been fully immersed in their learning.

Rubbish job cleans area

Rubbish was cleared away by pupils at Montagu Academy when they took part in the Great British Spring Clean.

The 31 "Montagu Mess Munchers" filled five bags and walked three miles when they took part in the Keep Britain Tidy-organised event.

They focused on the playground, fields and the woodland area.

Head of Academy David Longley said: "We worked as a team to remove as much rubbish that had blown in to the area.

We have lots of wonderful wildlife living on our school grounds, so it was important that we were careful as we collected the rubbish.

The areas we cleaned looked so much better as a result of our actions."

Among the unusual items collected were an Iraqi coin and a rugby ball.



Staff profile: Damian Chafer

Trust's Catering Manager

Tell us about your background:

I was brought up in a public house and worked with my father when Tetley's existed as a brewery in Leeds. I studied at Bradford and Ilkley Community College and gained my chef and food/beverage management qualifications.

I worked for Stakis Hotels when I studied, now the Hilton Group. I have worked in hotels, restaurants, care homes, children's nurseries, pubs, schools and ran my own fish and chip restaurant.

What are your hobbies / interests?:

Cooking and trying new recipes. Dining out at various restaurants, my favourite is Indian food.

Travelling around the world. I am getting married on 13th July, and honeymooning in the Dominican Republic.

I love to go on a scenic walk, and walk every day. It's great to experience the fresh air and to be able to switch off.

I like to save money and shop around, the employee benefits platform is an excellent resource.

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

I'd like to have dinner with the Prime Minister to be able to give feedback about the School Food Plan, and shape future direction and policy.

What's your favourite food?

King Prawn Bhuna with extra fresh coriander.

Stupid things you've done:

Hit my finger with an axe whilst chopping wood

What was your first car?

Audi 80

Your favourite word:

Food.

Your passions:

Making a difference. Being supportive. Pushing the boundaries. Achieving the very best outcomes.

Favourite music:

Pet Shop Boys, I'm showing my age now. I also enjoy listening to current chart pop music.

Significant influences:

My Grandfather always used to say to me "If a jobs worth doing, then do It properly". To this day I have those words etched on my memory.

My college Food and Beverage Lecturer shared his passion for wines throughout my course, and it helped me gain knowledge in my first banqueting job roll.

On your bucket list:

To visit the Far East; cruise in the Caribbean; enjoy a long and healthy retirement; get married - this one happened on 13th July!

Favourite film:

No Time To Die - James Bond.

If you had one wish, what would it be?

For my sister in South Africa to have been able to attend the wedding.



Team work pays off

A 23km round trip was undertaken by students at Serlby Park Academy to complete their first first Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition.

They walked from Cusworth Hall Country Park to Squirrel Wood Scout Camp in the event organised by Geography Teacher and DofE Manager Stacey Kirton.

Others involved as DofE leaders were Associate Assistant Principal and Head of PE Tara Hunt, Kirsty King (cover) and Lawrance Arnold (Maths).

Stacey said: "The resilience and strength these pupils have shown throughout the expedition has been phenomenal. We are all so proud of them."

Huge thanks go to Kirsty, Tara and Lawrence for their time, effort and support that has allowed the expedition to go ahead.

I would also like to thank the parents for supporting their pupils on this journey as well as thanking the pupils themselves for making it just as enjoyable and memorable for staff. You did Serlby, your parents and yourselves proud!"

Pupils walked for six hours each day to complete their expedition.

They tackled many challenges such as getting lost, warm weather, exhaustion and blisters, all while carrying their kit.



Year 9 and 10 pupils proudly getting ready to take on the 23km round expedition.

Two pupils called to be collected on the first day, then changed their mind and wanted to battle on and were very proud of their decision.

Groups worked together to help set up their tents.

It was team work at its finest when cooking their evening meal and they came together as a whole group at the end of the night to dance to some old classics.

Pupils helped and encouraged each other on the final day.

Some carried extra kit to help their team mates; others shared words of encouragement to pupils they would not normally speak to; and some stepped back and waited for strugglers so they could finish together.



Liam's group had a bit of a problem cooking their evening meal but still had smiles.

Tara said: "It was really rewarding to see students from different year groups and across friendship groups come together and support each other."

Stacey added: "Overall, it was a fantastic experience and the whole school is very proud of all pupils who took part."

For many of these pupils it was their final step in completing their bronze award."

Kiera and Chloe, from Year 9, said: "It takes a lot of resilience but the memories are unforgettable."

Navigating way to award

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students from Rossington All Saints were joined by others from Don Valley on a lovely sunny day to practice for their expedition.



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They had fun walking, pitching tents and cooking their lunch on Trangias.

They used maps and route cards to get from the Academy to Tickhill over the fields.

Although some students knew a route, they had to show they could navigate using the tools provided.

Back at the Academy they then had fun on the field pitching their tents and learning how to cook using camping equipment.

Organisers Head of REPC Kerry Noble, Teaching Assistant Judith Evison, and Teacher of Maths Becki Burbanks said, overall, the students were amazing and ready for their expedition.

They will spend six hours walking through woods, up and down hills and through villages.

Students will have to find their way using the map and route card to the camp site where they will cook their tea outside. The following day they walk again to the final pick up point.

The D of E award is recognised and loved by colleges and universities across the country.

Anyone between Year 9 and the age of 25 can participate and it is possible to start the silver award without achieving bronze.

The gold award is the final goal and this leads to a Royal presentation which could take place at Buckingham Palace. Well done to Mrs Evison who has achieved her gold.

YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

teaching
personnel



Tough 12 hours ahead



A dedicated team from Teaching Personnel have organised a Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge (Y3P) this summer alongside Delta staff in support of the Delta Academies Charitable Trust (DACT).



The Y3P is no walk in the park. Participants will be scaling the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale, and Ingleborough, all within a gruelling 12-hour timeframe.

Each climber has pledged to raise a minimum of £150 to support Trust students in their academic pursuits, international experiences, and entrepreneurial journeys.

Their fundraising efforts on 24th August will have a significant impact on the lives of many deserving young individuals.

It is great to see Delta employees joining forces with Teaching Personnel and taking on this challenging adventure.

How to get involved:

- **Donate:** Support the team's fundraising efforts and make a difference.
- **Follow the Challenge:** Stay tuned for real-time updates on the team's progress on 24th August. Follow #DACTY3P on social media and cheer them on during their epic journey.
- **After summer,** a staff quiz league is being launched – so get those thinking caps ready!



Stacey's run is inspiring

A benign brain tumour was not going to stop a Teaching Assistant from Goole Academy complete the London Marathon.

Stacey Duffy's efforts in April raised £3345.43 for The Brain Tumour Charity.

The 46-year-old found out she had the optic nerve meningioma in June 2021.

She had a craniotomy but surgeons were unable to remove the tumour.

Stacey said: "When I was diagnosed with a brain tumour three years ago, the prospect of running a marathon seemed a million miles away

I am someone who likes a challenge and when I saw this opportunity come up I just knew it would be something to certainly challenge me.

Never did I think I would get a place!

I completed The London Marathon in 7:32:44. It is not the fastest, I know, but I am so proud to say I did it and receiving my medal was something I'll always treasure."

In Meggie's memory

Dog and cat treats, food and toys were collected by The Laurel Academy community in memory of a teacher's much-loved family pet.

Geography teacher Michelle Laing set up the collection for dog charities in the area following the loss of Meggie.

The Laurel staff, pupils, parents, carers, and the local community got on board and collected a huge amount.

The goodies went to charities all around the area including RSPCA & Dogs Trust as well as some local, smaller animal charities.

Michelle was overwhelmed at the generosity from the school and the community.

"The food has also gone to help with our local food bank where it will help families keep their family pets rather than giving them up," she said.

"Pets can be expensive and, with the cost-of-living crisis, it has been hard for people to keep their beloved animal friends.

We have managed to help so many local families and I'm just so grateful that everyone got on board."



Inspiration provided by Rob Burrow's fight against Motor Neurone Disease has led to a Garforth Academy colleague attempting to complete seven marathons in seven days.

Rob's battle spurs on Oliver

Assistant Principal Oliver Dennis, raising money for the Leeds MND centre named after the late Rugby League legend, starts his bid on 20th July.

He said: "I'm supporting this amazing appeal because of the thousands of people who have been affected by MND.

Over the last few years, I have done various walking fundraisers and with the sad passing of Rob Burrow, this year's fundraiser is in his memory.

I have been truly inspired by not only Rob's fight against MND but also his

family's courage and strength as well.

I am no Kevin Sinfield however I am going to attempt to complete 7 marathons in 7 days just like him, however I am no runner so I will be walking.

I will be doing this at the end of July (20th-26th) if anyone wants to join me for any of it. Even a mile or two would really help."

To donate, visit Oliver's fundraising page at www.justgiving.com

Ozzi, Ozzi, Ozzi . . . !

A special member of the team is supporting pupils and staff at Grange Lane Infant Academy – Ozzi the dog.

Pastoral Manager Kay Shaw's 12-year-old family pet has been coming into school every day since last September.

"We lost his mum that same year and we had talked about having a dog in school with the right temperament and when Ozzi was at home alone," she said.

"I knew he would be an amazing asset to the academy.

Having six grandchildren of my own, Ozzi has always been brought up around young children.

He went through the process of being assessed and was reported to be almost perfect for an infant school. We were so proud of him."

The Pastoral Manager has lots of visitors including social workers, health professionals and parents.

"Both Ozzi and Mr Hops (our school rabbit) are there to greet visitors as they enter the academy," said Mrs Shaw.

"Professionals are blown away with how trained and obedient they are, but more than anything else the atmosphere as you walk into the school is relaxed and something special.

There can be some difficult conversations to be had with parents, so before we get to my office the

Kay with her dog Ozzi.



relationship has started on a positive as it's about the animals.

Parents of children who are anxious ask that Ozzi meets them at the door as a distraction to help them to come into school and this always works, especially children with ASD needs.

Ozzi seems to sense how he needs to be around them as do they. This is really something quite unique.

Ozzi encourages reluctant children to come into school by greeting them outside and they then walk him in, he joins in the mile walks, has forest school experience and is just a well



Above: Ozzi is introduced to players from Doncaster Rovers.

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loved member of our staff – he even has his own name badge now!"

Although Ozzi is her dog, he has a work step mum in Linsey Tomlinson, Office Manager.

"Linsey has Ozzi when I am out of the Academy at meetings and now over the year, he will more than often go to the main office and sit on the bed which she has bought him under her desk and watch visitors come and go or even spend time with Mr Hops the school rabbit!

Ozzi on an evening is shattered, he sleeps off his day on his bed at home.

When he's asleep and I look and think if only you knew the difference that you have made to so many children and visitors to our school today.

I am so proud of Ozzi, and I love having him with me in school."



Thanks to 'Mr Hatfield Woodhouse'

Tributes were paid to Hatfield Woodhouse governor John Brown who retired after 50 years in the role.



John Brown is congratulated on his retirement by (left to right) Joan Brown, Mrs Anderson Platt, the Civic Mayor of Doncaster Duncan Anderson, Principal Helen Acton and Clare McRoy.

The school celebrated this phenomenal achievement with an assembly at which Mr Brown was thanked by the Civic Mayor of Doncaster, also an ex-pupil.

Mr Brown, almost 90 years old, has served on the governing body of three headteachers.

Current Principal Helen Acton said, over the last 15 years she has known him, he had done so much for the school.

"From pulling trees out of the front entrance way and knocking down unwanted mobile classrooms with his JCB, to helping us make links with a Belgium Primary School, Merksplas in Belgium," she said.

Corporal Harper, another past pupil of the school, was awarded the Victoria Cross for liberating the town of Merksplas in the Second World War.

Mr Brown thought this should be turned to a positive link between

the two schools so the children at Hatfield Woodhouse send correspondence to the children in Merksplas and remember Corporal Harper.

Mr Brown's record of attendance at governors' meetings has been exemplary and deserves a gold star, Mrs Acton said.

"His sense of humour and passion for chocolate raisins has added a note of fun to the serious business of data and development planning.

Mr Brown has provided a valuable link between the local community and the school.

From his role as local councillor to his part in the gardening club means he has earned the title of Mr Hatfield Woodhouse so the children presented him with a crown and sash to that effect."

Mayor opens playground

A new Early Years Foundation Stage playground at Grange Lane Infant Academy was officially opened by the Mayor of Doncaster Cllr Ros Jones.



Mayor Ros Jones with Pastor Simpson (AAB Member), Katie Delaney (EYFS Lead) and Principal Louise Chappell opens the new EYFS playground with a group of reception children.

She greeted a small group of reception children who gave her a guided tour which included the new bike track, construction area and bridge over the stream.

The Mayor unclipped a sustainable linked ribbon made by gardening club to open the playground.

New site but tradition stays

Long-standing traditions at Hull Trinity House Academy were observed for the first time at its new Beverley Road site.

Students took part in its annual Dinner Day, historically the last for cadets in their final year.

The 'dinner' was a hearty meal, following which the cadets would leave the school and embark upon their naval careers. While this does not happen now, the tradition persists.

Following parade, Year 11 went to chapel for a service. They then enjoyed a formal sit-down dinner in the refectory, where the White Squad served food to students and guests.

When they left, they were invited to approach a crate of oranges, turn their backs and reach behind to select two.



School Captain Alfie performs a reading during the chapel service.



The Year 11 White Squad serve students, staff and the Brethren a traditional meat pie dinner.

This was traditionally to ward off scurvy, and backs must be turned so it is fair, and no one picks the finest oranges.

The event was organised by Maritime teacher Redd Boyce, Assistant Principal Lucy Hearn and Administration Officer Jane Robinson.

The 2024 White Squad said: "Today was the most important day that we have here at Trinity for all students but especially for us in Year 11.

We would like to say a massive thank you to staff for the support you have given us in preparing for

Dinner Day and helping us set the standards for parade.

Today was a resounding success and that only happens when everyone works together. We are proud to be Trinity students and honoured that we could be part of the White Squad."

Principal Daniel Flack said: "I was blown away by how fantastic the whole day was.

I could not be prouder of how our students conducted themselves and every member of staff worked together as an incredible team."



Farmer Olympics, combat archery, den building and fire making were among the activities that rewarded Year 6 at Kingston Park for their efforts this year.

Head of Academy Kerrie Longley said they had worked tirelessly this year and, with staff, put in 100% effort to ensure they leave at the age-related expected standard.

"They have worked throughout the day but have also stayed for booster classes and completed a lot of home learning so they deserved an end of year reward," she said.

"We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

A special thanks to the staff team who have supported our Year

Fun rewards efforts



6 pupils either academically or provided pastoral support."

They went to the Tournament ground for a day of competitive fun and were gutted when the coach came to collect them at 2.30pm.

One Year 6 pupil when asked what the best bit of the day was said: "Everything! It has been the best day ever."



Local heroes visit classes

Inspirational Barnsley-born celebrities who have classes named after them at Goldthorpe Academy have made enjoyable visits.

Actor Shaun Dooley and Olympic gold medal winning cyclist Ed Clancy took part in question and answer sessions, shared trials and tribulations and discussed strategies they used to overcome barriers in life to become successful.

Classes are all based on a 'Local Hero' as part of Goldthorpe Academy's mission to raise aspirations.

Each have been invited as part of the curriculum.

Head of Academy Tom Bower and Assistant Principal Holly Freeman said the visits had been appreciated by children and staff.

"We are extremely passionate about creating and encouraging ambitions for our children, instilling an aspirational culture to provide a multitude of life chances for all, and our Local Heroes have been chosen carefully to represent the place we come from.



Actor Shaun Dooley reads to Dooley Class.

Having two of those Local Heroes pay us a visit is an experience that our children will never forget.

Mr Dooley and Mr Clancy were so kind and respectful and took their time to have conversations with every class in the school.

These characteristics mirror our school values of kindness, respect and courage. Seeing this so tangibly from such successful role models will stay with our pupils forever."



Shaun with Business Manager Dovile Kereisaite and Assistant Principal Holly Freeman.



Ed Clancy supporting active sessions.

Students' rollercoaster treat



Alton Towers was the destination for 134 Year 10, Darton Academy students as a special reward for attendance, hard work, being motivated and a good attitude to learning.

Students enjoyed the time to relax and have fun with their friends, as well as enjoying the rollercoasters.

Organisers Katie Gibson and Gemma Hope, Year 10 Learning Manager, said students' behaviour was impeccable.

"It was great to see the year group having fun before their trials begin and before embarking on their final year of study."

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Ticket to drive

Excellent behaviour and attendance by Years 11s at Darton Academy was rewarded with their first driving lessons.

Students drove around a course set up on the school's basketball courts.

The enrichment opportunity was set up by Principal Joe Spencer and Learning Manager Vanessa Houghland, who were proud of the students.



Grant builds palace

A £10,000 nature grant was secured by a HLTA at The Elland Academy from the Royal Horticulture Society to improve its biodiversity.

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Avid gardener Michaela Boiston-Green applied in a bid to turn grey space into flora rich environments.



The new area is opened by Jen Davies watched by (left to right) Michaela, Year 4 student Kayon, Mattie and Tony.



This has been achieved through innovative changes to the Academy's outdoor space.

The students wanted to improve it and re-house the Academy chickens.

With the help of Senior Site Supervisor Tony McMenamin and Site Supervisor Mattie Gowlett, the space was transformed into a flora rich area for the students and staff to enjoy, complete with a living roof on the new chicken coup and new outdoor classroom.

Jen Davies, from the RHS, cut the ribbon on Cluckingham Palace.

The Elland strikes gold

Gold status has been awarded to The Elland Academy by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools.



A reverification process highlighted the Academy's unwavering pursuit of providing a high standard of mental health and emotional wellbeing support for staff and students.

The centre's report said: "As an Alternative Provision for pupils who are struggling with mainstream education, mental health and wellbeing are at the heart of the work that the Academy does.

It has seamlessly interwoven therapeutic and academic elements to create a holistic experience for pupils."



Outdoor antics

Outdoor learning has climbed to new heights at Grange Lane Infant Academy after an area was relandscaped.

The project, undertaken by Newby Leisure, has created a multisensory cycle track, a natural climbing area, a bridge over a stream and a builder's yard.

Principal Louise Chappell said the outdoor environment was of the highest standard.

"The project's provided multiple outside learning opportunities for all children to develop resilience, independence, communication skills and teamwork.

This will really take our outdoor learning to another level."

A sensory room, installed with the support of City of Doncaster Council, has also improved facilities.

Louise said the purposeful, multisensory resource will be used across the school.

The room includes a bubble tube, an infinity mirror, calming music, a mist diffuser and cause and effect resources.



Joe's message on international stage

A Year 9 student spoke about his experience of having Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) at an international conference.

Garforth Academy Year 9 student Joe was invited to attend a joint conference of the International Motor Development Research Consortium and the International Society of Research and Advocacy for Development Coordination Disorder in Ghent, Belgium.

Around 200 professionals in education, researchers and clinicians attended Joe's session entitled "What a 13-year-old with DCD thinks his teachers need to know."

Joe spoke about growing up with DCD and some of the strategies his teachers have used to make his learning experience more positive.

His slides, which captured a day in the life of a teenage boy with DCD and his constructive advice about what makes for a good school experience, were particularly welcomed.



Joe addresses the conference.

"I learn much better from having a go and do much better when my teachers and classmates encourage me, rather than pointing out what I can't do," Joe said.

"There is nothing wrong with my IQ, I just struggle to learn in a traditional way, like loads of other kids.

I don't think improving learning for me needs to be hard. Small adaptations make a huge difference, like when you recognise effort and not just end marks.

Please don't assume that I can't do things, think about your teaching style and maybe it's time to change things up!

I am pretty sure this would benefit everyone and not just kids with DCD."

Joe had the opportunity to attend a range of talks and seminars about the research being done around DCD and motor coordination more broadly.

Joe also had a chance to explore the incredible city of Ghent.

Library's magical feel

A new library was opened at Crookesbroom Primary last month with an amazing, wrap-around look celebrating the work of Quentin Blake.



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Its team of keen Year 5 librarians worked with Head of Academy Rob Harvey to design the look.

They chose a green theme for its calming qualities and picked the sofas for a grown-up and classy feel.

The Year 5 librarians were delighted with the result.

Natasha said: "The library is so majestic that, once you walk in, you

feel like you have been consumed into the books like a magical fairytale."

Sophie agreed.

"Every time you enter the library, you spot something new," she said. "Imagination is key!"

Codan said: "The books are a one-way ticket to anywhere; anywhere you can imagine."

Callie adored the new library because it felt "magical and extremely calming."

Olivia said: "Our new library is filled with fantasy; the walls are adorned with magic and imagination. This library will inspire you and let you follow your wildest dreams."



Team meets Rhinos' stars

An unbeaten Year 10 netball team from The Laurel Academy met professional players at a weekend event in Skegness.

They travelled to Butlins in the Leeds Rhinos Netball weekender and played high quality netball.

PE teacher Heather Beardshall said they were now ready and raring to go for the new season, starting in September.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to play a weekend of high quality netball," she said.

"Our students also had the opportunity to meet some of the Leeds Rhinos Netball team. What an incredible opportunity for them."



The Laurel Academy students meeting some of The Leeds Rhinos Netball team.

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Triumphant Rossington



Left to right – top: The triumphant team with Teaching Assistant Haydn Briggs (left) and Mr Deasy are (top, left to right) Darren, Elliot, Harvey, Joe, Phil, Riley, Ashton, Kian and Josh and (bottom, left to right) Gio, Jack, Callum, Ollie and Sam.

Rossington All Saints Academy Year 11 boys' team were crowned Doncaster Cup winners, bringing to an end five years of success.

Unbeaten in the league last year, goals from Jack, Gio, Ollie and Ashton saw them cruise to a comfortable win to make it a league and cup double.

Chris Deasy, their PE Teacher and manager, said "It's a great way to end their time at RASA. They've deserved some silverware as they've been an excellent team."

Keen students earn qualification

A fully funded coaching qualification was taken by some sports-minded Year 9 and 10 students at Serlby Park Academy.

Organiser Darren Huart, of DH Community Sports, contacted Assistant Principal Andrew Hofheinz about the opportunity.

The fully-funded course consists of a first aid element, a 'skills activator' which encourages students to develop their leadership skills, and an ICT-based safeguarding element.

All were completed on-site at SPA within a six-week period.

Darren said: "We had an enjoyable session and the young people engaged really well."

"The students had a really good collective knowledge of how to administer first aid."

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Family's effort buys kit

Fundraising by a family has bought a new football kit for Grange Lane Infant Academy.



Holly with the Grange Lane team who played at the Eco Power Stadium.

Toni and Gemma Roberts, parents of Layton in Year 1, organised the £910 donation raised through a workplace raffle at Max Spielman.

The money also bought footballs, agility equipment and a coach's jacket for Holly Housley.

Toni said when her son took part in the football festival at the Eco Power Stadium Doncaster, she noticed how many schools had football kits.

She decided to do a fundraising event within her workplace. She was delighted with the money raised and how much it has contributed to the extracurricular and sports activities.

Holly said this was such a generous gift and one that will help be a proper team when pupils take part in after-school club games or participate in football tournaments, like the one at the Eco Power Stadium.

Cup tribute to James

The sudden passing of teacher James Lancashire made sports day a special event for pupils, families and staff at Highfields Primary Academy.



It was undoubtedly the Year 4 / 5 teacher's favourite event and teams competed for the Mr Lancashire Cup.

Blue Team had the privilege of raising it as this year's winners.

The day was organised by the school's Ministers for Sport and Fitness and the School Parliament.

VIP treatment

Excited pupils from Grange Lane Infant Academy took part in a football festival at Doncaster Rovers' stadium – and enjoyed a VIP tour hosted by one of their own.

Teaching Assistant and Cover Supervisor Holly Housley plays for Doncaster Belles and took the children from Years 1 and 2 behind-the-scenes.

She had helped organise their participation in the Club Doncaster Foundation Football Festival with teacher Rachel Vickers at the Eco Power Stadium.

There were 3v3 games, with various teams playing across the numerous pitches.

Each had rule changes according to the football format to help the children understand the game better and they got to play against other schools too.

Rachel said: "We have often missed out on opportunities like this as many events are geared towards the older age groups, so it was amazing that the Foundation thought of us. Thank you!"

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

She has since played with Sheffield FC and Leeds and is a versatile, left-sided defender who likes to drive the team forward and assist in scoring goals.

The children love taking part in her lessons at school and were



Holly and Layton at the festival.

'buzzing' when they saw the stadium she plays in.

Holly said it was brilliant to see the children learning new skills within the tournament but also inspired by the stadium tour.

"I hope that I have shown the children that anyone can achieve their goals if they work hard enough," she said.

Principal Louise Chappel said the children had had a fantastic time at the festival and tour.

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The pupils on their special tour of the stadium and taking part in the tournament.

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"Holly has helped to develop girls sport with football and athletics clubs and we are extremely proud to have her as part of team Grange Lane," Louise added.



We are the champions!

ATHLETES at Carlton le Willows Academy have ended this year's season on a high, having been crowned Gedling Sports Hall Champions and scooped the prestigious accolade of Delta Champions – at their first appearance!



The triumphant squad at the Delta Games.

Carlton le Willows was one of 19 schools taking part in the Delta Secondary Games and proudly took top podium position in three out of four categories. Under 13 girls, under 15 girls and under 15 boys took first place, with

the under 13 boys taking silver overall.

PE teacher Hannah Jones said: "This was the first time we have been to this competition and it was a different format to that we are used to.

Staff were so proud of how our pupils performed. We had some stand out performances during the day and a few personal bests achieved.

I am so proud to say that we were the only school who had a team place in the top three for each age group."

The Delta Games comes at the end of a busy season which started in spring term with sports hall athletics.

Carlton le Willows entered Year 7 and Year 8 girls' teams into the Gedling Schools Sports Hall competition with both winning their category in the event.

Both teams went on to represent Gedling district in the Nottinghamshire games with Year 8 finishing in bronze medal position, proud to be the third best school in the county.

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Early in the summer term, Carlton le Willows athletes competed in the Gedling Schools Athletics championships.

The Academy entered a team of 56 pupils from Years 8 and 9 for the junior competition and Year 10 and 11 for the inter.

Competing against all the other schools in Gedling at Harvey Haddon Sports Village, Carlton le Willows finished second, with 10 pupils progressing to represent Gedling in the county championships.

A handful of pupils then qualified to represent Nottingham the following weekend at an event in Stoke on Trent.

Alongside this, was a stand out performance by Year 7 and Year 8 boys and girls in a Gedling schools competition, where Carlton le Willows took silver medal, losing out on the top spot by just five points.



The Year 8 team after becoming the Gedling Schools' Sports Hall champions.