

THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community



Latin students visit Rome

Issue 30
April 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of The Link.

Since our last newsletter, the Department for Education has given permission for Coast and Vale Learning Trust to join Delta Academies Trust.

This is exciting news and we are looking forward to them becoming part of the Delta family in September.

The Coast and Vale group of academies has some high performing schools, Lady Lumley's and Scalby being good examples, where they stand out from the very poor standards of education on the East Coast.

Together, we are setting out a vision to change outcomes for the children in that region.

This is not about growth of Delta; it's about the communities of our coastal region. It is our intention to use the vision of our Trust and the Education Exchange to transform education and develop new friendships.

Coast and Vale already provides Initial Teacher Training based in Scarborough; from September they will also be part of Exchange Teacher Training.

The outdoor centre at Dallowgill celebrates more than 6,000 children having taken part in residential experiences since it opened.

Patterdale is now nearing the completion of its planning process and our Board has agreed the comprehensive refurbishment and extension, giving us our own Duke of Edinburgh centre in the Lake District.

In this edition, we celebrate many amazing events and activities, including the students taking part in a trip to Rome as part of the Latin Excellence Programme.

The four-day visit by 53 students and eight staff from four of our academies as part of their Latin studies is a proud achievement for this Trust.

They were singled out by our external partner organisation who praised their conduct and commitment.

The Trust has agreed to continue support for Latin for our students, after national funding was cut.

This will ensure our children have the opportunity to study GCSE Latin Language and Civilisation.

My thanks to the MFL team for establishing the Latin Excellence Programme in our academies and for organising a memorable trip to one of the great cities in the world.

Finally, I am pleased to see further articles charting the progress of our Delta Stars framework across our primary academies.

Opportunity, once again, knocks.

Thank you to the whole staff team for the work you put in to ensure better outcomes for our children.

Enjoy your well-deserved break.



Paul Tarn
Chief Executive Officer

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Students taking GCSE Latin at four of the Trust's academies had lessons brought to life in a trip to Rome.

Our Roman conquerors!

The party included 53 students from Darton, De Warrenne, Garforth and The Vale and eight staff.

The four-day residential to the Italian capital took place thanks to support from the Latin Excellence Programme and funding from the Department for Education.

Each student is in their second year of studying GCSE Latin Language and Civilisation, the first to do so at any of their academies.

All agreed it had been an unforgettable opportunity to experience history firsthand in the Eternal City.

The visit was organised by Claire Hill, Latin and French lead at the Trust.

She said: "It was a jam-packed adventure which brought Roman history to life.

The trip was a journey through time, with students standing in the mighty Colosseum, wandering the ruins of the Roman Forum, and marvelling at the grandeur of the Pantheon.

The group also explored the National Roman Museum and the Baths of Diocletian, uncovering ancient artifacts that deepened



The incredible Colosseum is enjoyed by students from Garforth.

their appreciation of Roman civilisation.

Every moment spent in the heart of Rome was a powerful immersion into the past."

Claire said the educational trip included time to experience the beauty of modern Rome too.

"Students and staff enjoyed breathtaking views at Villa Borghese Park, relaxed in the lively Piazza Navona, and indulged in endless servings of authentic Italian gelato.

This journey to Rome was more than just a school trip—it was a chance to step into history, form



lasting memories, and experience the magic of the ancient world in a way no textbook ever could."

The group walked more than 80,000 steps throughout the trip, with each evening's meal enjoyed at a different restaurant.

Students loved the experience.

Will, from Garforth Academy, said: "A highlight for me was the Colosseum. It was truly awe-inspiring.

"Studying Latin has been a unique and enjoyable experience. I'm so glad I said yes to it."

Oliver, from Darton Academy, said: "This trip was very educational as it allowed me to understand the foundation and history of Rome as a city.

Seeing the old buildings with all the detail helped me understand how Rome was able to thrive as a city and as a capital."

Lydia also described the trip as "amazing".



"I'd love to do it again if they give me an opportunity to," she said. "It also helped with my learning of the foundations of Rome."

Ella, from De Warenne, described it as a "great experience".

"I think that studying Latin is very fun and something not a lot of people can do," she said.

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Lydia (left) and Sarah, both from Darton, who ordered their food in an Italian restaurant.

De Warenne students (left to right) Niamh, Elisia, Ella and Reece at Trevi Fountain.

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Alisha, who's at The Vale, said: "I really enjoyed the trip to Rome as I found it aided my Latin studies.

"My favourite parts were the Colosseum and the Pantheon as they really emphasised the skill and grand scale of Roman buildings."

While the four academies have been at Latin Conferences held at the Trust's head office in Knottingley, the trip was the first opportunity for students to connect beyond the classroom.

Claire said: "The experience was embraced wholeheartedly by all, with students forging new friendships and showing great respect for staff and fellow travellers.

This was my first time organising a multi-academy trip, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience.

The expertise of seasoned staff from four different academies played a crucial role in ensuring everything ran seamlessly."

Two representatives from PGL Beyond accompanied the group to observe the trip and explore ways to enhance school travel experiences.



Darton Academy students inside The Vatican.

Helen Holmes, Senior Director of Modern Foreign Languages, said it had been the first time a multi-academy trip of this kind had been undertaken.

She said: "In my 33 years of teaching, this is the best trip I have ever been on.

The students' behaviour was exemplary. The staff were outstanding, sharing the responsibility to ensure everything flowed seamlessly.

The PGL staff were amazed by the teamwork and unity of the eight staff members, which I believe is a testament to the 'Delta MFL' team spirit and the additional camaraderie the programme has built between our Latin teachers and Claire."

Stacy Barks, MAT Key Accounts Team Manager at PGL Beyond, thanked the Trust for the "incredible opportunity" to join the trip with colleague Kate Astley.



"It was inspiring to witness the power of multi-school travel and seamless collaboration among staff, led by the exceptional Claire Hill.

The staff's calm and resilient management of Rome's unpredictability was a testament to the strong culture of collaboration and dedication to excellence that Delta Academies Trust instils.

Every staff member was deeply committed to providing the best opportunities for each

pupil, creating an atmosphere of respect, growth, and mutual support.

The pupils, in turn, displayed confidence, politeness, and an openness to new experiences.

It was clear they felt safe, supported, and proud to be part of the Delta Academies Trust community.

We're excited to continue supporting staff and pupils and look forward to future opportunities for collaboration."

Enjoying the sun on the Spanish Steps are students from Darton, De Warenne, Garforth and The Vale and staff (front, left to right) History teacher at Darton Kieran Morse, MFL teacher at Garforth Cynthia Rozanski, MFL teacher at Darton Dounia Joys, Lead Teacher of Spanish at Garforth Stephen Dodds, Head of MFL at The Vale Giusi Perseu, Senior Director of MFL Helen Holmes, Lead Teacher of Latin Claire Hill, and Head of MFL at De Warenne Sebastien Le Gall.

Little stars shine

A treasure hunt helped launch the Delta Stars framework at Green Lane Primary Academy.

The children were tasked with finding the Delta Stars around the school in an event organised by SENco Pippa Kirwan.

Each class won a prize if they were able to solve the clues.

A whole-school assembly was then held to celebrate.

Head of Academy Jo Sercombe said: "We have had a great reaction from the community.

We have been inundated with updates from parents about the achievements and activities children have been completing to earn their cards.

"The framework provides an opportunity for all children to have new experiences, as well as celebrate with talents and achievements."

To secure the Talents and Interests card, Green Lane's Got Talent was held.

"We saw a vast range of skills including dance, singing, musical instrument performances, as well as a specific round for arts and crafts," Jo said.

This year's winner was Isbella, an accomplished pianist. Runners up



were drummer Dominic and Jarvis, an entertainer and magician.

All taking part earned their 'Talents and Interest' card.

Children at Green Lane have been earning their cards completing different activities.

Daniel, in Year 4, has worked on an animation, available to [view here](#).

Daniel spent many hours adapting and photographing his scene, taking 179 photos to create the animation.



Jo said: "We think he has great talent and determination. Well done Daniel!"

Reception class children have really embraced the opportunities in Delta Stars.

Isla raised £210 for the charity Tommys, which helps poorly, premature babies.

She was seven weeks premature and raised the money by doing a danceathon dressed as Elsa. This supported Isla in receiving her Moral Development card.



Give Now

£210

Raised

Bethan tried to get the Healthy Lifestyles card by riding her bike, playing in the park, attending at Clip n Climb and walking during half term.



Ida has been working towards her Career Development card by learning about, and saving, money. She also used money to pay for herself and family to get onto the bus.

Celebrations to mark the one-year anniversary of the Leeds Park Square World Peace Flame included two pupils from Green Lane Primary Academy.

Nina and Bea, from Year 6, accompanied Head of Academy Jo Sercombe at the gathering.

The flame, which symbolises peace, unity, and freedom, is contained within a specially designed and locally handcrafted replica miners' lamp.

The flame burns constantly to keep the idea alive.

During the event, peace was celebrated through songs, music and readings.

A key message was around children holding leaders to account in terms of how they are managing conflict and the actions they are taking to make the world a better place.

Jo said: "Raising young people's awareness of the role of peace in such difficult times is really important.

Bea and Nina did a fantastic job representing the academy."



Green Lane Primary Academy has a long relationship with the Garforth Peace Flame team, who were pivotal in establishing the UK's first peace flame in the town centre.

The Academy and the Peace Flame team work together regularly to continue the message of peace.

Bea and Nina earned their Moral Development Delta Stars card for their participation in the event.

Children Thrive



Activities throughout Mental Health Week in support of well-being helped Southmere Primary Academy pupils working towards their Delta Stars Healthy Lifestyles card.

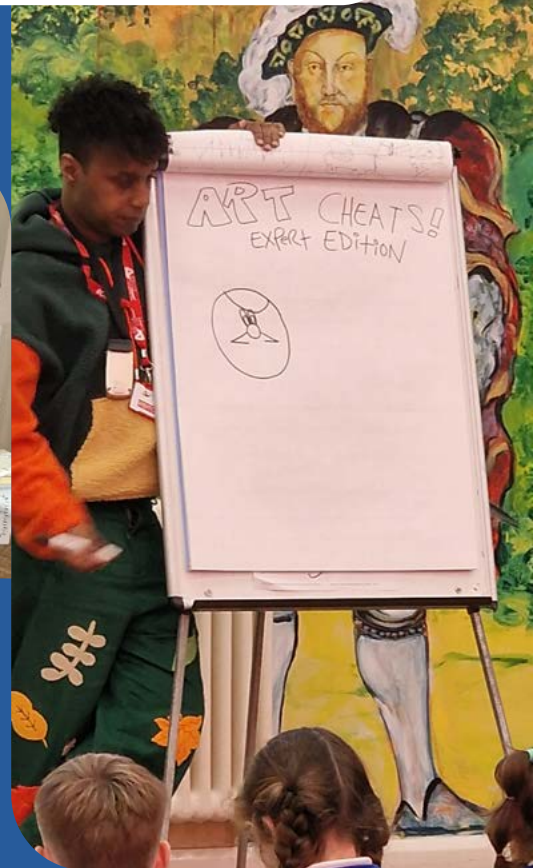
Principal Rachael Binns said they included mindfulness colouring, juice and biscuit time, happy breathing, Lego extra playtime and much more.

"We have created new Thrive zones in each classroom and each class has been working towards their Thrive target," she said, thanking Thrive Practitioner Leanne Crowther.

"In Year 3 we have made West Indian soup while Year 5 made vegetable spring rolls in classroom kitchens."

Proud of pupils' achievements

Every child from Foundation Stage 2 to Year 6 at Kingston Park Academy has earned at least one Delta Star card since the framework was launched in the Autumn term.



Head of Academy Kerrie Longley said some children were getting very close to achieving silver cards.

Lots of children have earned cards for activities including:

- Visits and Visitors (including visits to the National Space Centre, Perlethorpe and Conisbrough Castle).
- Extra-Curricular for attending clubs such as crochet club, choir and paper craft club
- Healthy Lifestyles for participating in things like Bikeability and athletics tournaments
- Spiritual Development for visits to the Buddhist Centre or listening to stories from a Holocaust survivor
- Community Links for children hosting parent events
- Career Development for our journalism club children who met with the editor of The Worktop Guardian and for children in Years 4 to 6 who participated in a session with an illustrator Ramzee.
- Pupil Leaderships for all the children who have a role in school such as our Reading Ambassadors or Pupil Ambassadors.

Kerrie said: "We have had so many children who have earned several cards and are well on their way to gold."

"The Personal Development offer at Kingston Park is something which is forever developing and we are incredibly proud of what we offer our children."

**DELTA
STARS** ★

'Phon-tastic' lessons!

Pupils continue to be engaged and enthused by Delta Stars at Macaulay Primary Academy.

All have achieved their Debate and Sharing Views badge with oracy being a focus across the academy.

Children were awarded their badges in assembly and their achievements were celebrated.

It was great to see the collaboration between year groups.

This term children will be earning a variety of badges from Keeping Safe On and Offline with Year 5 taking part in a children's first aid session and Years 3 and 4 learning about railway safety.

Year 2 will be earning their Spiritual Development badge by making mini beast hotels.

Year 1 and Year 6 have collaborated on exploring the local area safely and looking at nature. There is so much more to look forward too.

Assistant Principal Ashton Hinson has been the driving force behind the scheme.

Year 4 pupil Noah said: "I gained my Debating and Sharing Views badge by teaching Year 1 a phonics session.

I was a mini teacher and taught them a new sound using their robot arms."



Teddy, from Year 1, has a phonics session taught by Year 4's Rheubben.

Year 4 pupil Sara said: "I really enjoyed teaching Year 1 a phonics lesson because it was fun to see what it is like to be a teacher. I want to be a teacher when I am older."

Year 3 pupil Darcie-Rae enjoyed reading and sharing a book to the Year 1 children.

"I read the book like I was a teacher with actions and the Year 1 child really enjoyed it," she said.

Year 6 pupil Jacob said: "We tried to persuade people that Macaulay Primary Academy is the best school ever.



Mia, Year 4, teaches Harrison, Year 1, a phonics session.

DELTA STARS ★

I used positive language and hyperbole to get my view across to others. I think I persuaded them well."

Edward Bown from Year 6 had enjoyed walking with the children in Year 1.

"We taught them how to cross roads safely and explored the local area where we live. The rest of Year 6 enjoyed looking at the nature, down by the River Freshney and at the park too."

Author stars on World Book Day

Author and illustrator Martin Impey was the star at an event attended by students from Melior Community Academy on World Book Day.

The trip to The Baths Hall was one of the events that celebrated the day at the Academy, organised by LRC manager Allison Peden, assisted by Literacy Lead Kala Shaplin.

Others included Melior Masked Reader, five-part story read throughout the day, cipher book quiz and 'My teacher's favourite book' quiz.

North Lincolnshire Libraries organised the author event at The Baths Hall, with Allison and Intervention Teacher Jade Ronald accompanying students.

"It was great to see the students enthusiastically taking part in the reading-related activities," said Kala.

Jade said: "Meeting Martin Impey was a great experience for the students. He showed great passion and enthusiasm for the process of producing his books."



Ethan and Izzy had books signed by Martin Impey.

Great characters

Staff at Carlton le Willows Academy pulled out all the stops as they dressed up as well-known literary characters for World Book Day.



The chance to see staff in costume has become a much-loved annual feature of the school year and always brings a different surprise.

This year was no exception, with our Learning Manager Team creating quite a stir popping up in their Where's Wally costumes. Just how long did it take students to spot all six?

As ever, the English department was out in force, along with our

Teaching Assistants, with a varied array of fictional characters gracing the classrooms.

There was everyone from Gandalf, Hagrid and Sherlock Holmes to Sully and Mike from Monsters Inc.

Always with an eye on those set texts, Head of English Matt Ruffles even came as Birnam Wood!

Inspired by illustrations



Jack and Adam with Martin Impey.

Author and illustrator Martin Impey inspired Year 6 from Willoughby Road Primary Academy on World Book Day.

They attended the author event at The Baths Hall in Scunthorpe when he spoke about his new book 'Blitz'. Year 6 teacher and Reading Lead Jayde Hunt was responsible.

Martin talked to the children about how he had written and illustrated his book. He drew some of the characters as he talked which the children thought was amazing.

Jack, from Year 6 Ash class, said: "I really enjoyed listening to him. He is so inspiring."



It's rhyme time



Year 2's Penelope, showcasing the tray of jam tarts for the Queen of Hearts before the Knave of Hearts stole them away!

Nursery rhymes and their importance was celebrated by Macaulay Primary Academy on World Book Day.

Pupils were creative and found ways to dress up as their favourite nursery rhyme. Even the older children got involved!

Time was spent buddying up classes to learn and perform a range of rhymes, alongside fun activities to engage the children.

These included crafting, baking, musical instruments, drama and much more. A fun-filled day was had by all!

Organiser Lisa Hammond, Reading for Pleasure Lead, said: "We are passionate about developing our children's language and communication skills and understand the vital role that nursery rhymes play from the moment they enter school right until they leave.

The children had a fantastic day and demonstrated so much enthusiasm regardless of their age.

You're never too old for Nursery Rhymes!"

Year 6 pupil Maza said: "I really enjoyed teaming up with another



Year 3 pupil Darcie-Rae and Year 4 pupil Sara teamed up to recreate 'Hey Diddle Diddle'. The cow jumped over the moon!

class to learn nursery rhymes, it's always good to work together."

Year 1 pupil Lottie "just loved it"!

"We dressed up and listened to nursery rhymes and made a spider with the big kids," she said.

Year 5 pupil Theo commented: "It was nice to see everyone in different costumes and we got time to draw with another class and it was really fun."

Ready, teddy, go for big celebration

Pyjamas and a teddy were prerequisites when Whetley Academy celebrated World Book Day.



Everyone met on the playground for a special photograph.

Head of Academy Jonny Townend said: "It was great for all the school to be together and celebrate their love of reading."

Students were able to see their siblings in other year groups that they might not see on a day-to-day basis and it had a great feeling of community and family."

Ukraine initiative



Collaboration with a school from Ukraine will result from De Lacy Academy being accepted onto a government initiative.

The UK-Ukraine School Partnerships Programme focuses on sharing stories and promoting reading for pleasure between matched schools to commemorate a 100-year partnership between the two countries.

Teacher of English Phoebe Miskell said: "This programme will enable De Lacy to collaborate with our partner school and celebrate our love for reading, diverse literature across the two countries as well as engaging younger readers."

The programme is designed to promote a love for reading through a connection with a wider community by allowing students to understand viewpoints and events from around the world and challenge their perceptions.

We hope this will encourage cultural awareness and reading a wider array of fiction within Key Stage 3.

This is a year-long project that will have activities taking place within lessons and hopefully lead to a long-lasting relationship between the two schools."



Big-hearted trip

A popular book adapted for stage proved to be a big hit with Ash Hill Academy students.

The Year 8s travelled to the Sheffield Playhouse Theatre to watch 'Pig Heart Boy'.

Teacher of English Emma Brameld said they had been "deeply moved" by the performance and had also enjoyed the setting.

One member of the party said: "They were talented actors and the staging was atmospheric."

Another noted: "The lights looked and sounded like a beating heart."



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Match made in library



Evie, Liliana and Margo with their 'book dates'.

Blind date was played with books to mark Valentine's Day at Melior Community Academy.

They were wrapped up in brown paper, with clues as to the contents written on the front.

Pupils could look at the information to see if they thought they would be a good match and then borrow the book.

LRC manager Allison Peden said: "To tie in with the theme of Valentine's Day, the library held a 'Blind date with a book' event."

This turned out to be incredibly popular, with more than 50 books being taken on dates."

Design of the times

Montagu Academy was visited by Yorkshire based interior designer, Siobhan Murphy, and the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, to share the plans for the redesign of the Children's Library at Mexborough.

Siobhan talked through her ideas and worked with the children on some ideas to be incorporated in the design.

Siobhan shot to fame after featuring on Alan Carr's Interior Design Masters in 2021.

Siobhan said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to be redesigning the Children's Library at Mexborough. It's such an exciting opportunity to create a space that will inspire and engage young minds.

I loved collaborating with the children that potentially use the space to ensure the design reflects their ideas and needs."

Expect a fun, playful, and vibrant space full of bold colours and creative design elements, perfect for sparking creativity and offering the ideal backdrop for reading, learning, and imagination!"

Mexborough Library is undergoing a major refurbishment. The Library Service recognised that the space



was rather tired and in need of an overhaul and secured £182,000 from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Libraries' Improvement Fund which is administered by the Arts Council England.

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, spoke to the children about the power of reading and invited all the children down to the library to see the finished design.

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Boost to exam countdown

A 'Six Week to Success' programme for Year 11 students has been launched at Goole Academy.

The initiative is designed to provide the tools and strategies needed to tackle the final stretch before exams.

Led by Head of English Bekki East and Teacher of English Sophie Abeysekera, the programme aims to help students feel confident, organised, and ready to succeed when the big day arrives.

A highlight of the programme is the return of the 4:30 Club, where students gather after school for focused, productive study sessions.

The atmosphere is relaxed yet purposeful, offering students the perfect environment to dive deep into their revision.

The support from staff, combined

with the energy of their peers, makes these study sessions motivating and effective.

Over the course of six weeks, a range of workshops are led by different members of staff, each bringing their expertise to the table.

These workshops are designed to equip students with practical skills for exam success.

Some focus on creating a revision timetable, helping students organise their time and ensure they are balancing their subjects in a way that works for them.

Others introduce useful recall techniques, offering strategies that

help students retain important information and feel more confident in recalling it during exams.

Workshops on stress and exam pressure management are also added. These sessions offer students valuable techniques to manage anxiety, stay calm, and approach their exams with a positive mindset. Bekki said the 'Six Week to Success' programme had been met with enthusiasm.

The Academy was incredibly proud of the effort and dedication shown by students and staff throughout the programme.



A celebration of maths

Around 120 students from 30 primary academies travelled to Education House for a full, fun-packed day of Maths.

The Primary Maths Challenge, at the end of last term, saw students participate in a variety of engaging activities, including a thrilling maths relay, a challenging maths challenge, code-breaking puzzles, and even a creative "Math in a Bath" activity.

Throughout the day, the students displayed an incredible passion for the subject, demonstrating their problem-solving skills, innovative ideas, and eagerness to learn.

Their enthusiasm was matched by their outstanding behaviour and positive



attitudes, as they represented their academies with pride and respect.

They tested and stretched their mathematical minds, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

Throughout, plenty of prizes and certificates were awarded to celebrate their achievements, adding an extra layer of excitement and recognition.

Students and staff expressed their gratitude, with many sharing how much they had enjoyed the day.



Some students even called it the “best day ever,” and there were heartfelt thanks from parents, who shared how their child felt truly special.

One parent mentioned their child loves maths even more than before, a testament to the impact the day had on fostering a deeper passion for learning.

It was a day filled with smiles, growth, and a renewed excitement for maths. It was a celebration of maths, teamwork, and the joy of learning!

Amazing efforts added up awards

A huge congratulations to the academies and students who took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Director of Maths, Danielle Lockett, said students had gone above and beyond, exceeding last year's outstanding results with an incredible 427 awards.

"This challenge is all about nurturing mathematical reasoning, precision, and abstract thinking and our students have truly excelled in all of these areas," she said.

"The UK Mathematics Trust challenges are known for being challenging and accessible, sparking a love for problem-solving and offering a real sense of accomplishment.

This year, across the Trust, 259 bronze, 131 silver, and 37 gold awards were achieved, "an amazing feat!"

She gave a special shout-out to the Trust's top-performing academies: first, Garforth; second, Carlton Le Willows; and third, Hull Trinity House.

Danielle said: "A massive well done to the students who



Students from Goole Academy, who helped it achieve two gold, six silver and 23 bronze awards.

have secured a place in the next rounds of the Pink and Grey Kangaroo and Olympiads. This is an incredible achievement.

"We are so excited to see what's next and can't wait to share the results of the Junior Maths Challenge, taking place on Thursday, May 1st. Keep up the fantastic work!"



Students from Serlby Park Academy with their bronze certificates and Vice Principal Kirsty Smith.

Feeling chipper



A Year 11 Maths QLA Chippy Challenge was held at The Laurel Academy.

Students used their QLAs and Sparx Independent Learning to improve their understanding of 15 of their weakest topics.

Students collected chocolates and other prizes for completing the tasks during the event,

organised by Head of Maths Joy Harvey between Assessment 2 and Assessment 3.

Everyone who completed all 15 was entered into a prize draw to win a special chip shop treat.

Creative way to enjoy maths



Maths-themed stories were explored by Year 5 at Montagu Academy during a visit by Phil Sheppard from the National Literacy Trust.

The children completed two workshops and realised this was a great way to visualise mathematical concepts.

They imagined using maths to solve problems and found it could be enjoyed in a new and creative way.

The children worked together and created their own story for others to enjoy called Money for Honey.

This can be viewed on The **National Literacy Trust website** or on YouTube.



From pinhole cameras to eating insects...

Adapt and change was the theme of this year's British Science Week.



A pinhole camera is tested at Lincoln Castle Academy.



Pupils from De Lacy Academy test their pinhole camera.

Six lessons were planned for Years 7, 8 and 9:

- 1) Adaptations,
- 2) Changing eating habits,
- 3) Going through changes,
- 4) Changing ideas about the Earth,
- 5) Natural selections,
- 6) Changing light.

The lessons and week were organised by Science Director Sarah Holloways and Associate Lead Teacher at Goole Alex Taylor Lockett.

it must be Science Week!



A brave pupil at Garforth Academy eats an edible insect.

They thanked the Science Technicians across the Trust because the lessons would not have been possible without their hard work and preparation.

Teachers and pupils enjoyed taking part.

Pupils at De Lacy Academy said how much fun they had throughout the week.

There were mixed reviews for the edible insects in lesson two.



Adaptation animal made by Lyla and Tilly at The Vale Academy.

Science Technician at The Laurel Claire Travis asked pupils what they thought of the edible insects.

They found the changing eating habits lesson fun and interesting but a bit gross at the same time.

Many said they did not like the taste or texture of the insects, so will not be adding them to their meals any time soon.

A pupil from Darton said the crickets tasted like rice crispies.

Year 9 pupils at Hanson Academy particularly enjoyed the maggot racing in lesson three.

They raced the maggots and then calculated their speed. Most were not brave enough to touch the maggots without the tweezers, describing them as too wiggly.

Rather than racing maggots, the pupils at Melior raced hissing cockroaches!



A pupil from Lincoln Castle completes the natural selection practical.

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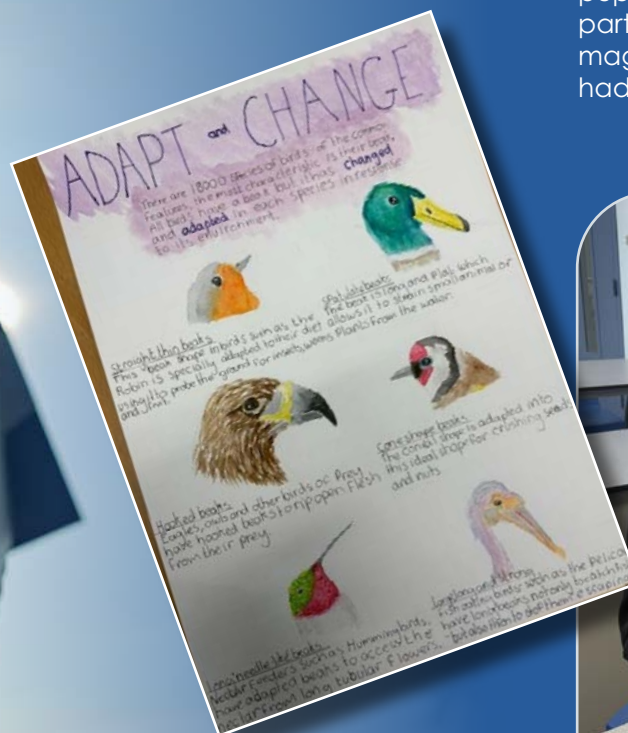


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During the week, there was a poster competition on the theme 'adapt and change'.

The winner is yet to be decided but the standard of the entries was incredibly high.

Science Technician at Darton Academy Wendy McGready said pupils really enjoyed the lessons - particularly the edible insects and maggot racing - as these lessons had the 'Ergh' factor.



A poster entry – with watercolour paintings – from Harriet at Ingleby Manor.



A Year 7 from Hanson Academy tries a mealworm.

A camera is tested at John Whitgift Academy.

At Darton Academy, Year 10s and 11s were interested in the lessons and were lining up to try the edible insects.

Everyone at Darton is excited to see what next year's lessons bring.

Below: Scouts take part in a British Science Week lesson at Scarborough UTC.



Tilly and Brooke, Year 9 pupils at Hanson Academy, race maggots and calculate their speed.

"Many said they didn't like the taste or texture of the insects, so will not be adding them to their meals any time soon"

Energy gives a real spark



The Royal Institute visited Hanson Academy to run its Energy Live! Show.

Year 7 pupils were nominated to attend by their teachers, based on their effort in lessons.

Key Stage 3 Lead Gill Strecker said: "Energy Live was an exciting, audience-led show that gave pupils lots of opportunities to get involved."

They learnt all about the different energy stores and left with a better understanding of energy stores and transfer and how these can be applied to everyday life."

Head of Science Simon Todd also got the chance to be set on fire. Pupils said the show was "really informative and really exciting".

This event was funded by a grant given by The Royal Institute. The Academy's hoping to secure funding for another show in the next academic year.

Fun and interactive time

Workshops by 'Sublime' celebrated British Science Week at Hatfield Woodhouse Primary School.

Children from Foundation Stage 2 up to Year 6 attended, with every workshop including fun and interactive experiments to showcase the wow of science.

Some of the activities included:

- Airzooka smoke ring which visualises pressure waves
- Smoke bubble to show the surface tension of the mix which holds smoke inside until gravity reduces the thickness of the bubble walls; bubbles bounce off clothing but burst when coming into contact with smooth non-porous dry surfaces
- Sherbert making where children learnt the importance of accurately measuring out chemicals to get the correct (tasty) mix.

Science Lead Zoe Burnett-Smith put the event together.

She said: "The children were thrilled with their workshops."

Every class left with such a buzz of excitement over the fun and immersive experiments."

Ivy, in Year 1, said: "I was really excited to make sherbet. It tasted sweet and fizzy in my mouth."



"It was really fun and interesting," commented Year 5's Eva while Seth, in the same year group, wished they could have Science Week, every week.

Students praise enjoyable week

Students in Key Stage 3 at Ingleby Manor reflected positively on British Science Week.



Daniel said: "I have really enjoyed doing all the experiments and learning about things which we have not been able to before. It has really opened my eyes to how much the world around us is changing and what I can do to help it."

Olivia said: "I found science week very interesting, and I feel like I have learnt things that I wouldn't normally."

Alfie had found the week "really enjoyable".

"It has opened my eyes to strands of science I had never learnt about before which I have discovered I enjoy," he said.

Ava found science "really exciting" and praised teacher Josie Strickland.

"Miss Strickland makes it better and more lively. With science it opens me up to jobs like a forensic scientist."

Eden said: "I really enjoyed Science Week as it has helped me

understand more especially about earth.

Miss Strickland makes it fun and lively. It has opened my eyes to appreciate people who do jobs in science."

Izzy's favourite part of the week was learning about metamorphosis.

"I found it so cool how some animals literally change form."

Benny said: "I really liked eating the bug and doing all of the practical lessons ... but I am never eating a bug again!"

Effie had found the week fun because of the "exciting experiments".

"It has opened my eyes to why change is important, and we should embrace it."

Bella said: "British Science Week showed me how many animals there are in the world and it's fun and interesting to see how they change and adapt."

We can talk to the animals



Tarantulas, tree frogs, snakes, snails and cockroaches that normally live in a rainforest paid a visit to Serlby Park Academy.

Zoolab gave Year 7 students a "fabulous experience" to meet and discuss animal adaptations.

Thank you to them and Geography Teacher Ms Kirton for organising the repeat visit.

A Zoolab representative said: "This was an excellent visit. The students were highly engaged and extremely interested in the various creatures.

It's a pleasure to come back year after year."

Head of Faculty Sasha Belk said: "Thank you again to Ms Kirton for organising.

The students love the experience and can use the visit to recall excellent animal adaptations in the summer term when we teach rainforests."



Positive destinations secured

High quality CEIAG continues to be championed by St Wilfrid's Alternative Provision Academy after it renewed its National Quality in Careers Standard and offered its first apprenticeship to a previous student.



Hayley Morrice, Careers Lead and Aiden, Apprentice Site Manager with the National Quality in Careers Standard.

Principal Dirk Pittard said the St Wilfrid's careers programme had gone from strength to strength since the initial award was gained in September 2019 and thanked Teacher, aspiring SENco and Careers Lead Hayley Morrice.

"Under her guidance the school has continued to support Year 11 students achieve positive destinations at Doncaster College, North Notts College, sixth form and local training providers including British Rail," said Dirk.

"This is reflected in a remarkably low NEETS figure - below 4% for the sixth consecutive year - which bucks the national trend for students in PRU and Alternative Provision who often do not achieve the academic qualifications of their mainstream peers."

The careers assessment said: "Everyone met with and spoken to as part of the visit has demonstrated the care and compassion the Academy gives to all their students to give them the best start possible on their career pathway and their journey beyond Year 11.

This is demonstrated in their excellent progression figures and the ongoing support offered to the students beyond them leaving the Academy."



Year 11 students with visiting speakers from the NHS.

National Apprenticeship Week was celebrated in February, raising awareness of the local labour market and the opportunities it gives to Doncaster students for employment and post 16 training.

Aiden, a past St Wilfrid's student, was ever present during the week to share his own experiences of becoming the Academy's first Apprentice Site Manager.

National Careers Week in March offered the opportunity to inspire this year's leavers through form time activities, visiting speakers from the NHS and Armed Forces, staff career journeys and an end of week fair at 'Opportunities, Doncaster Live'.

Staff team's Ramadan support

More than 30 staff took part in Manor Croft Academy's annual Ramadan fast.

They come together to remember on one day what it is like for Muslims all over the world for a month.

The fast started at 3.56am and lasted until 6.26pm. While staff fasted, students were asked to donate to the chosen charities of One Nation and Forget Me Not Children's hospice.

The Senior Leadership Team stands on the blue line to welcome students wearing badges which show solidarity in Ramadan.

It is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims around the world show their commitment to God by fasting for a whole month from sunrise to sunset.

Fasting is a form of spiritual discipline and means to empathise with those less fortunate.

At Manor Croft, the staff community provides meals for those who are fasting. This year, they were supported by local bakers and caterers, providing hot meals and desserts for staff.

The school community comes together to support each other, with regular check-ins and motivation to enable people to complete their fast.

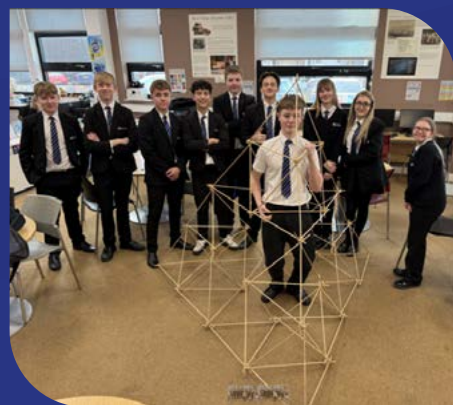
Meaningful relationships are built, and students are empowered to have conversations about Ramadan and what it means to them.



Assemblies and workshops are run throughout the holy month to raise awareness and create a diverse ethos and inclusive community.

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Students stand out from crowd



A group of year 10 Goole Academy students volunteered to take part in a work-based project with EQUANS, a provider of technical services, regeneration and energy services.

They attended for six weeks and researched methods of building energy efficient houses, created site plans for a housing development, pitched ideas to an EQUANS employee and completed a structural task as a team.

Each student received a certificate of completion and a reference from the employer that will support Year 11 post-16 applications.

These students are doing their best to stand out against the crowd.

Feedback from EQUANS was great. They spoke highly of pupils' resilience, determination to get stuff done and the respect and tolerance for each other.



Careers recognition

The Quality in Careers Standard has been awarded to John Whitgift Academy for the second time.



It is awarded under licence by Ixion (Part of the Shaw Trust Group) 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.

Paul Tuffnell, Operational Lead CEIAG at John Whitgift, said the three-year award was earned initially in 2021.

"The Academy is delighted to again be recognised nationally, showing what we deliver is valued and recognised by parents and carers but, essentially, by our students.

We recognise the important role school plays in helping students develop their knowledge, skills and experience so they can go out into the world and achieve success as part of the Personal Development element of the curriculum.

This 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.

Our partnership working with Progress Careers, The Careers and Enterprise Company, Humberside Outreach Programme and all our local partners allows our students to understand what a bright future they have."

Partners include British Aerospace, Women in Manufacturing and Engineering, PRAX and Champions for Wind programme.

Inspecting Officer Mark Gray noted: "John Whitgift Academy has a comprehensive, embedded and joined up approach to CEIAG.



Students engaged on the Academy's Opportunity Grimsby project, meeting employers at various locations to experience the work environment.

There is a strength and depth of evidence to support this across all units.

Of particular strength is the approach to the world of work, links with FE, support to students with either SEND or other vulnerabilities, and the focus on aspiration.

The prevalence and quality of visual displays is very impressive and are well placed.

There is a clear whole school approach to CEIAG with the concept of careers and the life / employment skills to be successful in a chosen path is well embedded.

All staff spoken to in the assessment spoke passionately about their role in this and were able to talk in depth about how they contribute.

The extremely low level of NEET, in an area of some challenges in terms of aspiration, are testament to how well the Academy prepares its students for transition."

'Awesome day' with wild animals

Park rangers gave an "exceptional talk" on animal welfare and career opportunities when Year 8s from Ash Hill Academy visited Yorkshire Wildlife Park.



It was organised through Ambition Unlimited, a programme developed for young people to raise aspirations and broaden horizons.

Its founder Sarah Ward and Academy Librarian Sarah Liddle put the day together.

It was certainly a hit with Brendan who declared: "It was the best day of my life."

Santosh said: "It was awesome seeing the polar bears so close to us."

"Wow! I want to work with animals when I leave school now," said Enes.

Another student remarked: "I loved holding the hissing cockroach because I'll never get the opportunity again in my life."



Problem solving and working as a team came to the fore when Ash Hill Academy students visited Enigma Escape Rooms in Doncaster.

Jake led some "fabulous workshops", teaching the Year 9s how to look at clues and work out how to use the answers to escape.

It was organised by Ambition Unlimited's founder Sarah Ward and Librarian Sarah Liddle.

Josh said he had "Loved it!".

"It was so frustrating sometimes but I loved that we escaped with 7 seconds to spare," said Jimi.

Logan commented: "Some of those clues were hard but our team smashed it."

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Unicycle ways

It is not all work, work, work at Goole Academy.

A Monday night enrichment club sees Teaching Assistant Dave Saxton teach students the skills and poise needed to ride a unicycle.

Dave has been teaching the club for many years and has dozens of students happily whizzing around the campus on one wheel. Some

more adept students even help to teach the new recruits a trick or two.

Some have travelled to school by unicycle and a few braver ones have tried out the higher cycle sitting at nearly 1.5 metres high, which is not for the faint hearted.



Bonds built in Dales

Scientific knowledge was developed and team building activities helped build bonds when De Warenne Academy students visited Dallowgill.

The Year 10 science class trip had a great time shooting air rifles followed by some targeted intervention for their upcoming exams.

The trip also enabled them to experience the great outdoors away from Wi-Fi and a phone signal, taking part in a walk in the amazing countryside around Ripon

and meeting some farm friends along the way.

The evening allowed students to take in the wonders of the night sky.

Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would want to go again.

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Inaugural trip success

Maths students made Lincoln Castle Academy's inaugural trip to Dallowgill.

The residential for the 21 Year 11 students was organised by the mathematics department to encourage meaningful revision while having the opportunity to focus on mental health and wellbeing.

Following an afternoon of life-sized loci problems and a maths relay, the group arrived at Dallowgill on a Friday evening.

A snow shower meant plans to sit around the campfire toasting marshmallows were replaced with hot chocolates and games of Headbanz and Uno.

After a delicious, cooked breakfast, the party headed out on a hike

in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, finishing off with a visit to a farm where the pupils met newly born lambs.

Thank you to Daren the coach driver for giving up his valuable time to make this happen.

After lunch there was a further revision session before the party returned on a sleepy, uneventful journey to Lincoln.

Thank you to the mathematics department for organising and giving up Valentine's Day for the trip.

The next visit to the Yorkshire Dales is being planned.



Dallowgill boosts confidence

Support for Hanson Academy's New to English (NTE) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) students came in a trip to Dallowgill.



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It rewarded them for their progress in learning the language, and adapting to a new way of life and British culture.

Many are refugees and asylum seekers who have had limited opportunities to explore new places, so this trip provided them with a memorable experience while fostering their confidence and integration.

It was organised by Teacher of EAL/ NTE Iqra Khan and Cover Supervisor Sahabia Bibi.

Iqra said: "This trip was a fantastic opportunity for our NTE students to experience the outdoors, build friendships, and celebrate their progress."

Seeing their excitement and engagement was incredibly rewarding."

"It was wonderful to see the students enjoying themselves in a new environment," said Sahabia.

"The trip helped build their confidence and gave them an experience they will cherish."

Year 8 student Afsanul appreciated the visit.

"I had so much fun! It was my first time going on a trip like this, and I loved being with my friends and teachers."

The Academy plans to repeat the visit because it was incredibly beneficial for the students, helping them build their confidence and relationships with their peers.

Visit completes DofE challenge

A fantastic visit to Dallowgill enabled 12 Key Stage 4 students from The Elland Academy to complete the final part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



The students worked with an outdoor instructor on a variety of activities, including navigating the river by constructing a rope bridge crossing, and orienteering, including a night walk.

All students had "an amazing time" and the Academy's incredibly proud they gained the award.

Pupils pen Dales diary

An “unforgettable experience” at Dallowgill was enjoyed by Year 6 from Montagu Academy.

Key Stage 2 Phase Lead Katie Marshall asked her class to write about their time in the Yorkshire Dales.

This is what they wrote:

“Our Year 6 residential at Dallowgill was an unforgettable experience filled with adventure, teamwork, and fun!

We had an amazing time building dens in the woods, testing our survival skills, and working together to create sturdy shelters.

A highlight of our trip was visiting Daren's farm, where we had the chance to see and even stroke the adorable baby lambs.

We also embarked on a scenic walk to the Greygarth Monument, taking in the stunning views along the way.



One of the most magical moments was completing a night walk and watching the stars—it was incredible to see the night sky so clearly!

We gathered around the campfire to toast marshmallows, sharing stories and laughter.

Another exciting part of our trip was the bin bag fashion show, where we designed and modelled creative outfits made entirely from bin bags!

We also had the fantastic opportunity to make our own pizzas from scratch, which were absolutely delicious.

Playing table tennis at the church and watching a film together was the perfect way to end such an incredible adventure.

This was truly the best experience we have ever had, and we would love to go again!”





Trips to Dallowgill by Worlaby Academy are just getting better and better!

Lifetime memories created

Principal Sharon Hatton said they offered "an amazing opportunity" for the children and lifetime memories were created in each visit.

"The Year 6 children have been working so hard towards their SATS," she said.

"These few days away gave them a chance to reset, ready for the hard work to begin again on our return."

She was accompanied on the trip to North Yorkshire by Year 5/6 teacher Anna Partyka, Teaching Assistant Amanda Furmage and

Caretaker/Lunchtime Supervisor Sharon Carnaby.

Beatrix and Miley were proud to complete the five-mile hike as they did not think they would be able to walk that far.

Ada loved spending time doing lots of fun things with everyone in her class.

Jenson enjoyed all of the tasks such as making the beds, cleaning up and preparing food.

Annabelle and Miley helped Sharon to cook spaghetti bolognese on the first evening and loved making the food.

Sharon said: "This was my first visit and I was amazed at the facility and all the opportunities offered.

It was a great time building relationships with children away from the school environment."

Sharon thanked the Trust for making this opportunity available and Trevor for managing the centre so well and leading the hike.

She was also grateful to Daren for driving safely and allowing the Year 5s and 6s to visit the new-born lambs.

Glorious time on the Alps



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A trip of a lifetime skiing in the Alps was enjoyed by 54 students and six staff from Manor Croft Academy.

The destination was the fantastic ski resort of Folgarida in the north of Italy.

After a smooth flight from Manchester to Venice, followed by a coach journey to a hotel in Dimaro, students were treated to five glorious days of sun, snow and excitement as they honed their skills on the slopes.

It was amazing to see so many students develop their confidence

from complete novices on skis to being able to tackle blue, red and even some black routes down the mountain.

Students also took part in a full evening activity programme including ice skating, pizza night, quiz nights and everyone's favourite . . . karaoke!

At the end of the week, an awards night saw students presented with ski awards from their fabulous

instructors as well as some others nominated by staff.

All in all, it was another hugely successful trip and students have been left with memories they will cherish forever.



MP hosts in Parliament

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Memories were created for Student Council members from Ash Hill Academy in a trip to London, taking in the Houses of Parliament.



It was part of MP Lee Pitcher's Parliament Schools Programme and organised with Teacher of History Eleanor Stokes and Assistant Principal Sophie Lanaghan.

The Member of Parliament for Doncaster East and the Isle of Axholme said: "Students experienced a tour of the historic Palace of Westminster, led by a guide who brought to life the 800-year-old institution."

Eleanor said: "The Student Council represented the Academy perfectly throughout the trip to London.

They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the importance of political debate and engaging with our intrinsic British values."





Sherwood treat

Deserving students from John Whitgift Academy were treated to a three-day residential stay at the Youth Hostel Association's Sherwood Forest base to reward their environmental activities.



Students in Sherwood Forest taking part in activities.

The school's Eco Committee took part in a range of activities including a discovery treasure hunt, nature's orchestra, archery and a visit to the Royal Oak.

The trip was part of the YHA's Generation Green 2 project, helping raise awareness of nature and combatting climate change across the globe.

It was organised by Operational Lead CEIAG Paul Tuffnell on behalf of the Eco Committee and he, Charlotte Schubert and Rachael Every attended at some point over the three-day period.

The students were praised on their hard work and outstanding manners.

Paul said: "The students have worked extremely hard across the Academy.

Recently they planted more than 300 snow drops within the groups and continue to push for more awareness."



Memorable Malham



The group, some muddier than others, at Malham Cove.

Nature walks, stargazing and stories by the campfire were enjoyed by a party from Ash Hill Academy in a fully funded residential trip to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales.

The 25 students stayed at Malham Youth Hostel as part of the YHA's Generation Green 2 project, which is connecting thousands of young people to rural life.

They were accompanied by Head of Geography Tiffany Smart and Head of ICT Dean Short, also the group's photographer!

She said: "Students thoroughly enjoyed visiting the famous landmarks of Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar and Malham Cove.

Although chilly, the weather held out keeping students dry, until they slipped in the mud!"



Ellie, Freya, Rosalie and Erin completing their Nature passports at the end of the trip.



Racing up the hill to reach Malham Cove.

Poignant first



Chloe and Freya at Menin Gate.



Riley dressed as a soldier from the First World War.



The Thiepval memorial at sunset.

The battlefields of the First World War were the destination of Don Valley Academy's first foreign trip since before the pandemic.

Six staff and 64 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 visited France and Belgium in a "hugely successful" visit put together by Head of History Chloe Lay.

She said: "The three-day trip was an eye-opening experience for all students who bore witness to the scale of loss during the First World War. This really helped with our GCSE work when we visited a casualty clearing station. It enabled students to see, touch and feel the cramped dangerous conditions of war.

A few had the opportunity to visit fallen relatives' graves and memorials while in Ypres.

We are so proud of Year 11's Chloe and Freya who represented the academy at the Menin Gate ceremony in front of hundreds as they laid a wreath."

Students also visited sites such as Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval memorial and Tyne Cot Cemetery, and rounded it off with a relaxing cup of tea at Talbot House, an Every Man's Club in Belgium.



The party laid a wreath laid at Menin Gate.

They had time to celebrated the birthdays of Year 11 students Amber and Roxanne.

Chloe said it was a huge success for DVA but would not have been possible without Teachers of History Natalie Lodge and Emma Sockett, Teacher of MFL Richard Hardman, Teachers of Geography Morgan Winyard and Casey Richardson and herself giving up their half term and being such a huge support.

Top award retained

Continued commitment to working with parents and families has seen De Lacy Academy retain its Leading Parent Partnership Award.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

Principal Hellen O'Brien said it was "a huge achievement" and thanked colleagues for their contributions.

Assistant Principal Nichola Taberner said its previously held award was due to expire and the reassessment meant the award would stand for a further three years.

The assessor said: "The Academy shows a continued commitment from all staff to work in partnership with parents, families and external agency provision where necessary to achieve positive, relevant outcomes for pupils, continues to evolve in line with needs."

They highlighted areas of strength within the Academy.

"Curriculum overview information is provided weekly to Key Stage 3 to enable parents to gain information on what learning is, together with further information on assembly topics, word of the week and any celebrations or key events that maybe happening that week."

Student Council members were interviewed during the reassessment.

They were asked for one word each that summed up the Academy.

The answer from President of the Student Council, Jessica, from Year 10, was "resilient". The school does not give up on pupils.

It does what it can "in their power" to help and keep supporting pupils to succeed and try.

Year 8 Laney's word was "accommodating". This was due to the helpful nature of staff in terms of information provision and meeting the needs of all learners.

The Academy holds the Leading Parent Partnership Award and the Wellbeing Award, both nationally recognised and undertaken to look at how an Academy can improve to best serve its communities.

Vital work highlighted

A hygiene bank run at Grange Lane Infant Academy was highlighted on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour.

The programme was discussing the growing need for them and Pastoral Manager Kay Shaw, who has run the one at the school for more than five years, was interviewed.

She highlighted how the initiative is addressing a critical issue in the community.

"There's a massive need for it," Kay said. "Toothbrushes, nappies, sanitary products — we are seeing the demand more and more.

At first, parents struggled to ask for help, but now they are happy to come and accept what they need.

One child even said, 'We can have a toothbrush each? We haven't got to share?'."

Kay shared the work of the hygiene bank has fostered a sense of community, with parents giving back in small but meaningful ways.

"Parents whose children have outgrown nappies often donate them back to us because they've been so appreciative of the help we've given. It's lovely to see," she said.

The discussion also featured author and lecturer Katriona O'Sullivan, who shared her own experiences growing up in extreme poverty, emphasising the life-long impact of hygiene poverty.



"I used to roll out of bed in the morning, having wet my bed, no soap, no towels, no one to teach me to wash, and head into school. I didn't have a toothbrush for 12 or 13 years," Katriona revealed.

"The shame was horrendous. Kids are cruel, when you're smelly or you don't have what everybody else has, you're a target.

Hygiene poverty is like a blanket of shame, and I'm still shaking it off now."

Hearing Katriona's story resonated deeply with Kay. She reflected on the parallels to what children and families still face today.

"We've got better at identifying families in need. We have Pastoral Managers like myself in schools, so we have more insight and are better at seeking and getting the support in."

There are small but impactful ways the Academy makes children and parents feel valued.



"At Mother's Day and Father's Day, we let children find a gift for their parents and we wrap it up nicely.

Not only does the child feel proud to give their parent something, but the parent has something very special. To me, that is very rewarding."

Kay emphasised the need for more people to contribute essential hygiene items alongside food donations.

"If people knew the difference it makes, they'd be amazed," she said.

Katriona added her gratitude for those who give their time and resources to support families.

"Without people like Kay and the listeners who donate, my childhood would not have been survivable.

Giving your time or donating products really makes a difference to a child's and an adult's life."

The segment ended with a powerful call to action from the presenter,

encouraging policymakers and communities to address this often-overlooked form of poverty.

Delta Academies Trust celebrates Kay's extraordinary dedication to supporting children and families in need.

Her work exemplifies the Trust's commitment to nurturing the well-being and development of every child.

Kay is the subject of our profile feature – see page 66

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Prom push

Prom fundraising is well underway at Ash Hill Academy.

The Year 11 Prom Committee, supported by Learning Manager Paul Goodwin, organised a Donut and Milkshake Drive.

It was a great success, with support from all year groups, raising £335 towards the Year 11 celebration on Thursday, 26th June, at Mount Pleasant Best Western in Doncaster.

Further fundraising events include a lollypop sale and Easter extravaganza.



Left to Right: Paul with (left to right) Prom Committee members Connie, Abi and Mollie.



Attendance best practice shared

Best practice employed by John Whitgift and Willows Primary Academies to maximise attendance was highlighted at a special conference in Grimsby.



Rob and Sarah present at the workshop.

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Rob Spendlow and Sarah Cox, in charge of the Delta schools, were asked to present a workshop at North East Lincolnshire's first Attendance Conference.

John Whitgift and Willows are designated Attendance Hubs in the borough. They were tasked with explaining how they used data to maximum effect and rapidly responded to what it told them.

Rob told delegates it was important the lead on attendance was the head.

"It has to be top down, sending a clear message to the rest of the team," he said.

"We need to lead by example and I'm a member of the team knocking on doors and getting students into school if needs be."

Clear signage around the academy, reflecting the importance of attendance, played a key role.

"Our messaging on attendance is highly visible. Each tutor room door has the attendance from the previous week.

A sense of competition between tutor groups is healthy. On Monday, I had 17 tutor groups with 100% attendance."

Tokens were handed out for 100% attendance in a week, entitling a student to spin a "wheel of fortune", with chocolate, drinks and lunches among the items to be won. Sweets were also given to students with 100% attendance over a week.

A weekly £30 supermarket voucher was offered in a weekly draw for

parents / carers whose children had perfect attendance over a week.

Termly draws and prizes were also offered for 100% attendance. Texts and letters home acknowledged the efforts being made.

"We have had to invest but it is worth it," said Rob.

Education welfare officers, with the power to issue penalty notices, were important members of his team. He took delegates through a typical day in the life of an EWO.

Attendance that dipped below 95% was acted upon quickly.

Academy Attendance Panel meetings set four-week targets for students falling below the standard.

For students failing to meet the targets and dropping below 92% attendance, a Principal Attendance Panel was held, with parents / carers aware it was the last meeting before a prosecution referral should improvement not be made.

Rob highlighted the importance of punctuality and the measures in place to ensure high standards were met.

Afterwards, he said he was pleased to have been asked to present at the conference, organised by a partnership of multi-academy trusts, further education colleges and North East Lincolnshire Council.

"We're incredibly proud of the considerable efforts that go in to

ensuring high attendance is achieved," said Rob.

"I had some great feedback from the session and delegates appreciated our efforts to share best practice."

Sarah told the workshop it was vital senior leadership teams knew the school's attendance data and how it compared to 12 months ago and nationally. It informed practice.

Where pupils' attendance caused concern intervention was swift, with personalised support offered.

"Attendance is everyone's responsibility," she told the workshop.

She outlined the different levels of responsibility between the administration team, teachers and the attendance lead.

All played key roles in ensuring attendance was a daily priority.

A formalised plan using the data ensured staff, children, parents and the attendance team knew what they were doing and when.

Rewards were handed out daily, weekly, half termly, termly and annually. The Head of Academy also gave spontaneous prizes for excellent attendance.

Sarah said: "We are an Attendance Hub for a reason and our good practice ensures it is a priority. We're happy to share and help inspire others."

Strength recognised

Work on supporting the health and wellbeing of its students was recognised when Darton Academy became the first secondary to achieve Barnsley's Healthier Futures Award.

The accreditation, key in helping to promote healthier options among students, was awarded by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Public Health Team.

Assistant Principal Dan Kilner said: "We are immensely proud to receive the Healthier Futures accreditation, a recognition that highlights the ongoing partnership and collaboration between our school and local authority services.

This award is a testament to the dedication and collective efforts of our entire staff and the invaluable contributions of professionals beyond education in equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to navigate their teenage years and embrace a happy, healthy future."

He said working with public health had strengthened the Academy's relationships with healthcare services, providing students with valuable opportunities to engage with expert advice from public health professionals.

"Through the accreditation, the Academy has also learned how important it is to have a coordinated and adaptable approach to supporting students and preparing them for life beyond the classroom.



Assistant Principal Dan Kilner receives the award from Hannah Rowley, Senior Public Health Officer at Barnsley Council, watched by Principal Joe Spencer and Anna Hartley, the council's Executive Director of Public Health and Communities.

Lessons and activities are now more thoroughly informed by the resources the school has developed, adopted, or adapted as part of the accreditation process," added Dan.

Schools can achieve the accreditation through an online platform where they receive feedback on four key pillars; physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing, food, drink and oral health, and PSHE.



MP's praise in Commons

Success at Crookesbroom Primary Academy was highlighted in the House of Commons by its local MP.



The Junior Leadership Team with the MP in front of newly installed artwork showing local landmark, Hatfield Main Colliery.

It followed a visit to the school by Lee Pitcher MP, organised by Head of Academy Rob Harvey.

He said: "It was a pleasure to welcome our MP and really kind of him to fit a full morning with us into his hectic schedule.

He is an inspirational man who spoke passionately about his challenging upbringing and how, through perseverance and education, he made it to where he is today.



Mr Pitcher explains his role and background to Years 5 and 6.

This echoes the message we give to our children; through hard work and a great education, you can achieve your dreams. We believe that greatness starts here."

Mr Pitcher promised the children he would mention them in The Houses of Parliament which he duly did shortly after his visit.

Speaking in the House of Commons, he said: "I'd like to land some terrific news about primary schools in my area.

Firstly, Crookesbroom Primary Academy who have ranked first among the schools in Doncaster for their English and Maths results . . . will the Leader of the House join me in congratulating these outstanding primary schools . . . thank you very much."

Deputy Head Boy Archie said: "I felt honoured to meet someone so important."

Natasha, Deputy Head Girl, commented: "I watched a video of Lee Pitcher talking about our school in the Houses of Parliament. We were the first thing he spoke about which made me really proud."

Head Girl Sophie said: "He taught us so much knowledge that we can use in real life."

Kayden, the school's Head Boy, said: "We made lots of suggestions for improvements to our local area which Lee asked us to send to him by email.

I hope we can accomplish these to improve where we live."

New Student Council's key role

Students at Carlton le Willows Academy are using their voice and encouraging others to get more involved in school life following the formation of a new Student Council body.

A total of 16 students – four each from Years 7 to 10 – get together each week to discuss how best to make an impact, have their say and get everyone involved in Academy life.

Developing Leader Holly Orme, who is running the project, said: "Being on the Student Council is a valuable platform for giving students a voice."

Allowing all different year groups to work together has enabled greater team working and positivity around the school."

One of their first roles was to help organise the annual foodbank appeal and they have been representing the student body at parents' evenings.



The council has presented a range of ideas to Principal Jaspal Mehat they would like to implement including charity event, bike safety assemblies and getting more involved with rewards events for students and staff.

The student councillors secured their roles after an election process at the beginning of the academic year.

Following a launch in assembly, students submitted application forms answering questions about what ideas they may wish to see implemented and why they would be a good choice for the council.

More than 200 students applied to join. The Learning Manager Team and Holly selected 12 applicants from each year group.

These students were invited to write anonymous manifestos which tutor groups were asked to vote on and winners were selected from the top votes.

Keen to ensure they let everyone be heard, the Student Council is conducting a student voice to find out what they would like them to focus on.

Alliance link

Links have been created between Estcourt Primary Academy and Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA)) to support Nigerian families in the community.

A safeguarding workshop was held to support parents to understand the UK law.

The school's safeguarding officer Samantha Capon and HAN project manager Taiye Fatoki organised the event.

One parent said: "We are very grateful that Mrs Capon has given us this opportunity.

We feel that are voices are being heard and that we are strengthening communities together."

Due to the workshop's success , other local schools booked their own workshops with HANA, including safeguarding information, benefit advice and support that families can access.

Sam attended HANA to present safeguarding expectations in a primary school and discover how parents, new to the country, could be supported.



Sam , Taiye and parents at the Academy's first workshop.

Social workers are asking for support from Taiye with regards to safeguarding concerns that include a cultural element. Taiye will support families alongside the social workers.

Sam said they were looking forward to an upcoming Nigerian night, being held at school.

Taiye has arranged workshops to include traditional dress, music and food.

For more details go to www.hanaonline.org.uk

Students driving for success

A series of rewards days in association with Young Driver have seen Manor Croft Academy students get behind the wheel.



Over the course of four days, more than 140 students enjoyed the experience.

Students received expert tuition from the Young Driver instructors as they drove around the school yard navigating a carefully designed course.

Students were selected based on their attendance, attitude to learning, and their engagement with intervention sessions.

Students who had this reward loved every second and it gave them the motivation to continue working hard in school.

Many students commented on how fun the driving was and how it has made them even more excited about taking lessons when they leave so they can get out on the open road.

Mature approach praised

Violence on social media was discussed by Serlby Park's full Student Council as it is the key item for this year's UK Parliament Youth Select Committee (YSC).

The council organised a questionnaire for Key Stage 3 students to answer via Microsoft forms in form time.

It found more than half of the students at Serlby have seen or experienced violent content on social media.

It was reassuring to discover 72% of parents are involved in supporting students' use of social media.

The questionnaire was followed up with the writing of a report submitted to the YSC for the use in the debates in summer term.

Year 10s then led an assembly to inform students on the report's outcomes and to start the next steps on making a change at Serlby as to how violence on social media is presented.

Head of World Studies Faculty Sasha Belk described the Student Council meeting as "amazing".

"They approached what is a sensitive subject with mature attitudes and developed a successful plan to take this investigation further," she said.

The Year 10 students Ethan, Reece, Amelia and Agata, prepared and wrote the report sent to the UK Parliament.

"The teamwork shown in this and the delivery of the assembly made



SLT and myself very proud of their achievement and resilience.

I look forward to the next steps that are in the plan – to meet again and move Serlby forward in how this sensitive subject is approached and delivered by the Academy," Sasha added.



Active prize



A campaign to increase the numbers of staff and students traveling actively to and from The Laurel Academy won a £200 prize.

The Laurel's Student Ambassadors, who have been working with charity Active Travel, presented ideas in a Dragon's Den-style pitch to members of Network Rail and Leeds City Council at Sheffield Town Hall.

Students conducted research to identify the issues around traveling actively to and from the Academy and came up with a campaign to tackle the issues.

It included a 'Loan a Lock' bike lock scheme to enable students who wish to cycle but do not own a bike lock the opportunity to do so, as well as rewards for traveling actively through a raffle and prize draws.

Students involved were Lucas, Charlotte, Callum, Priya, Louise, Lexi H, Faith, Lexi B, Harper, Brogen and Tyler and their participation was supported by Associate Assistant Principal Rowena Stainrod.



Cultures celebrated

World Culture Day was hosted by Hanson Academy's Sixth Form, providing a perfect opportunity for students to learn about different cultures.

They could engage with a variety of stalls representative of different continents.

The event showcased the vibrancy of the school culture and enabled students to celebrate their differences through tasting new foods, admiring traditional dress and learning facts about countries within the continents.

Years 7 and 8 had the chance to try sweet and savoury food dishes from parts of Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, including Spanish omelette, fried plantain, chaat and sweet popcorn.

The food stalls were manned



by members of the Sixth Form Leadership Team, who cooked the dishes, explained their origins, and explained the importance of the dish, on a cultural and personal identity level.

The event was organised by Sixth Form students, Assistant Principal Adam O'Neill and Year 12 Learning Manager Polly Slater.

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Playtimes transformed

Playtime has been transformed at Willows Academy after the launch of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning).



Headteacher Sarah Cox thanked the Play Team for its work and described the change as "a huge success".

"It began this half term and OPAL has transformed our lunchtimes completely," she said.

"We have been delighted to observe children interact positively with each other and develop their imagination through a whole range of activities and zones.

From scooters and bikes to playing



with a canoe and den building – the children have had the best time!

A wide range of ages have come together to play and explore new zones that are introduced on a weekly basis.

This is just the beginning of our journey – we can't wait to see what the future holds!"

Visitors inspire

A variety of visitors have been welcomed at Morley Place Academy as part of its careers programme 'Fridays for Your Future'.

NHS workers, including a trainee nurse, pharmacist and paramedic, have been joined by the police and an ex-Royal Marine since the programme's launch in September.

One of the Academy's most interesting visitors came on four legs, Moose the therapy dog and their trainer.

The Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey MP, has been another.

Head of Academy Ash Duncan, who's behind the initiative, said: "As part of the career sessions, visitors share a short assembly about their job, the journey they have taken to get there, as well as the knowledge and skills required.

Some visitors have even provided activities and workshops for our pupils, providing fantastic opportunities for hands-on learning.

The aim of this programme is to inspire our pupils for their own future by providing real-life examples to learn from.

Our pupils are shaping this programme and they have made suggestions for future visitors and we are looking forward to welcoming in a member from a racing team,



The Pupil Parliament with Richard Mitchell from South Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

an actor, as well as a doctor, in the next few weeks."

Aria, In Year 5, said: "Fridays for Your Future have opened my eyes to so many different jobs.

We have learned about lots. But the one that really stuck with me was when Moose the therapy dog came to visit.

Seeing how he could comfort people, especially those going through tough times like operations, made me realise that helping others can come in all shapes and sizes, even with a wagging tail!"

Year 6 Teacher Jo Shaw said it was vital to provide pupils with a broad understanding of the opportunities available.

"This initiative has done just that," she said.



Year 5 Teacher Nicola Walker with Moose.

"Seeing the children engage with such a diverse range of professionals, from healthcare workers to environmentalists, has been inspiring.

It's our responsibility to help them envision and create their futures, and this programme has been a fantastic tool in doing just that."

The Academy's always on the look out for volunteers to help keep inspiring our pupils.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in supporting us, please complete the details on this link.



Grants support success

Students from across the Trust have benefitted from the latest round of grants handed out by the Delta Academies Charitable Trust (DACT).



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It awards grants to those who attend or have attended Trust academies and assists them in meeting one of the following criteria: **pursuit of excellence, international relations or enterprise.**

Eight-year-old Morley Place Primary Academy pupil, **Teddy**, a young go-karter, competed in the Bambino class during the 2024 season, achieving remarkable success.

At the Wombwell Kart Club, Teddy claimed the championship title, and in the MSUK and Fulbeck Sprint Series, he secured second place in both championships.

This year, Teddy steps up to the cadet class, where he will compete against drivers aged eight to 13.

He received £700 from Delta Academies Charitable Trust to make this experience possible.

Benjamin, a 15-year-old student at Garforth Academy, had the incredible opportunity to compete on the world stage at the World BFF Championships in Budapest.

Having taken up CrossFit just 18 months ago as an alternative to gymnastics, which he had practiced since the age of four, Benjamin has quickly excelled in the sport.

Training regularly at his local CrossFit gym in Pontefract, Benjamin performed exceptionally well at the BFF competition, earning a place to represent the UK in the 15-16 male category.

In Budapest, he finished 14th overall in his age group and contributed to the UK junior squad's achievement as the best-performing country.

Benjamin received £500 from Delta Academies Charitable Trust to help cover the costs of entry fees, kit, travel, and accommodation, making this amazing experience possible.

Other recent awards have included:

Layla, John Whitgift Academy, £400 to support costs of an ice skating gala including 1-1 lessons, transport and costumes.



Jenson, Goole Academy, £1,000 to contribute to ice hockey tournaments.

Tayla and Nancy, John Whitgift Academy, £750 each to support costs of cheerleading championships in Florida.

Noah, Goole Academy, £500 for training and competition fees in Taekwondo.

Connie, Ash Hill Academy, £700 for travelling costs relating to Taekwondo Championships.

To apply for a grant, **follow this link.**

The DACT committee hosted a Trust-wide quiz at Head Office.

Academy colleagues and the core team came together for an evening of laughter, teamwork, and a bit of friendly rivalry.

With six rounds of trivia, including the special 'Delta Dozen' round that tested everyone's knowledge of the Trust (and revealed some surprising facts!), teams battled it out for top spot.

In the end, De Lacy Dazzlers claimed victory with an impressive 39 points out of 50, winning some tasty treats.



Beyond the fun, the event had a meaningful purpose.

Entry fees went to Delta Academies Charitable Trust, helping to fund a grant for a well-deserving student.

Given the fantastic response from all teams who participated, the committee is already looking forward to hosting more quizzes in the future.

Donations cheer community

Members of the Student Council helped gathered donations for the annual foodbank appeal at Carlton le Willows.

Students from all year groups bring in donations of food or essential household items to help people in need over the Christmas period.

Boxes of goods were gathered in the canteen and then loaded on to the school minibus ready to be taken to the Hope Foodbank in Netherfield.



A bigger and better 'Dance in a Day' event returned at The Laurel Academy with 168 primary pupils attending.



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Dance extravaganza

Students involved in The Laurel Academy's Dance showcase 2025.

They spent the morning in Dance workshops - led by the Academy's Year 9 and 10 Dance leaders - where they explored different Dance styles.

In the afternoon, The Laurel Academy students performed a Dance showcase.

Teacher of PE Heather Beardshall, who organised the event, said: "The atmosphere was incredible with all students up on their feet clapping along.

We are extremely proud of the journey Dance enrichment has taken over the last two years at The Laurel Academy.

We have gone from seven students attending the first Dance

enrichment session to 94 students involved in the showcase this year."

A representative from Montagu Academy said: "Thank you to yourself and the sports leaders for a brilliant day.

The children from Montagu had a great time and carried on their dance back at school during break time.

Alex was a fantastic dance leader. He had lots of patience with the children, was confident and adapted the dance for them when they struggled, great thinking on his feet.

Ella also stood out as a sports leader for our group too. She really looked after the children, showing them

where to go. She even sat and had her lunch with them.

Thank you again."

Students repeated their performances for parents / carers, family and friends for The Laurel Academy's first Dance showcase 'All things Rhianna'.

Heather said: "It was wonderful to see every aspect of the showcase led by our students. This included lighting, sound and set.

"We are already looking forward to planning next year's event and are hoping to run everything over two days to allow us to have more primary schools involved and grow the event even more."



Shrek delights audiences

Talented students were the heart and soul of Manor Croft Academy's big production of Shrek Jrs.



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Lealand and Harrison.

Head of Performing Arts Natalie Miller said their passion, creativity, and hard work was inspiring to watch.

"They made us proud, and we look forward to seeing all the amazing things they will continue to achieve in the future," she said.

"The growth, learning, and self-expression that has taken place over these past few months is something we will all carry with us for years to come.

To everyone involved; thank you for your time, dedication, and effort.

This production has been an unforgettable experience, and it's all thanks to the incredible teamwork and passion from our staff and students.

Roll on next year's production! We can't wait to see what we'll create together next."



Choir's tribute

The Parks Academy's choir was invited to perform at former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's high-profile funeral at Hull Minster.



The choir and Teacher Emily Thompson at Hull Minster.

The invitation came after the work it has been doing with Hull Choral Music Service this academic year. Choirs from all schools involved attended.

Attendees at the funeral included Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and former Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, along with numerous MPs and House of Lords' representatives.

Mike McGrath, Principal at The Parks Academy, said: "The children were wonderful and performed numerous, challenging songs at very short notice.

A special thank you goes to Emily Thompson, Year 5 Teacher and Music Lead.

She comes from a substantial music background and worked her magic with the choir in the few weeks we had ahead of the funeral.

It was an experience the children and staff will never forget."

The Year 5 and 6 children attending the performance were Szymon, Israel, Millie, Isabelle, Skyla, Scarlett, Hollie and Sophie.

Amazing event hits right notes

Note-worthy memories were created when Weelsby Academy pupils joined thousands of others at Young Voices for the first time.

Held at Sheffield Arena, their performance was organised by Abbie Smith and ECT Emily Roche.

Headteacher Catherine Davenport said: "Drum roll, please! Weelsby Academy was chord-ially invited to Young Voices in February, to showcase their choir's singing talents.

The children had a wonderful time and were abso-flute-ly amazing!"

Emily said it was an incredible experience for the children, teachers and parents.

"It was amazing to see everything that the children had spent so much time practicing all come together."

HLTA Sandra Emslie said: "It was amazing to see so many smiling faces and angelic voices.

To see all the children mixing together and helping each other was worth the long day."

Kai, from Year 4, described it as "the best day ever"!

"We sang to all our parents who came to watch us; my mum was so proud of me. My favourite part of Young Voices was the rave – it was so fun!"

Destiny-Rose, from Year 6, said: "It was a magical night. The lights all looked like stars after it turned dark.



It was a great evening and I really enjoyed myself."

Year 5's Taylor-Mai said it was "amazing".

"It was overwhelming to be in such a huge venue. I was nervous to start

with, but when I started to sing it felt incredible.

I can't wait to do it again next year!"

Gallery offers great opportunity

GCSE Art and GCSE Photography students from The Elland Academy had an exciting trip to the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield.

Students had a wonderful time exploring the gallery and taking part in a print making workshop that encouraged them to draw and create among Barbara Hepworth's sculptures, as well as creating a collagraph from their designs.

As well as understanding the technique of printing, students enjoyed taking photographs of the gallery using the Academy's digital SLR cameras.



Great work blitzes competition

A talented artist from Melior Community Academy won a competition held to celebrate World Book Day.



Maisie with her winning artwork, and her signed Martin Impey painting.

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Organised by North Lincolnshire Libraries, it was run in conjunction with a visit to the area from author and illustrator, Martin Impey.

The theme was the Second World War as his new book is called 'Blitz'.

There were lots of entrants from primary and secondary schools in North Lincolnshire but Year 7 student, Maisie, was selected as the winner.

She received a signed painting from Mr Impey.

Children were invited to produce their artwork at home.

Reading Intervention Teacher Lucy Boczkowska said: "We are delighted that Maisie's brilliant artwork was recognised by the amazing illustrator, Martin Impey."

The Reading Team at Melior are so proud that she participated in this World Book Day competition – she fully deserves her unique prize.

Thanks to Mrs Peden, our LRC manager, for organising the entries."

Staff profile: Kay Shaw

Pastoral Manager at Grange Lane Academy

Pastoral Manager at Grange Lane Academy Kay Shaw is the latest subject of our profile feature.

Tell us about your background:

I am married and a mum to three daughters, and I have six grandchildren.

I worked at C&A when my children all started full time school and worked my way up. The store closed its doors for the last time in Doncaster on 13/1/2013. I started working at Pheasant Bank two days later as cover Teaching Assistant.

In the September when the school amalgamated with Holmes Carr, I was offered a permanent position. I worked my way up to Senior LSA and then as PSA for the authority but in all the primary schools in

Rossington. In 2015 I was offered a position at Grange Lane Academy as their Pastoral manager where I still am today.

What are your hobbies / interests?

I love spending time with my family and friends, and I like to go on nice walks and spending quality time together.

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

Boris Johnson. There are a lot of questions I would like to ask him re Covid.

What's your favourite food?

Think this would be a traditional Sunday lunch.

Stupid things you've done:

Oh too many, but I did once park my car and forgot where I had parked it and reported this to the police. Only to remember at 9pm that same evening.

What was your first car?

Orange Beetle

Your favourite word:

Darling. I call everyone darling apparently.

Your passions:

I asked a friend/colleague what she thought my passion was and she said 'The children and the families that I work with' and that's why she feels I don't want to retire.

Favourite music:

I love Motown and some classical music, as I've got older.

Significant influences:

My parents.

On your bucket list:

I always wanted a tattoo and go to Bingo. For my 60th two years ago Grange Lane staff booked me in for my tattoo and we all went to Bingo Bongo.

Now just to keep well.

Favourite film:

Instant Family.

If you had one wish, what would it be?

Health and happiness to all.



Pool makes big splash

Pupils at Macaulay Primary Academy have made a big splash!

Children from Years 1 to 6 have taken part in swimming lessons without leaving the school site.

Located in the playground, a 10m x 5m pool was erected in partnership with JB Sports.

Principal Tom Herrick, who organised the lessons with PE Co-ordinator Emma Lancaster, said: "We have been so lucky to be able to provide regular swimming lessons over the last five weeks for more than 270 pupils, with a further 70 having a fun, water play session.

Water safety and confidence around water is critical, and learning to swim is one of the most important life skills a child can have.

Through our school's swimming programme, students are taught the basics of swimming, floating, and how to respond in emergency situations.

Having a swimming pool at our school is more than just a luxury – it's a valuable resource that supports the physical, mental and emotional development for every student.

It provides a space for all pupils to learn, grown and have fun whilst promoting the important of this important life skill."

He said bringing the pool to Macaulay had had multiple benefits for a holistic learning approach.

"It has guaranteed all pupils are getting top quality swimming lessons delivered by two specialist swimming teachers.

Swimming is carried out in small groups to ensure faster progress and

development in confidence is at its maximum capacity throughout the whole term.

It has also reduced the impact of lack of learning time for pupils as the pool is in our playground!

Already we are seeing fantastic development in children's swimming ability. The confidence and progress which has been made by all pupils in the last two weeks has been outstanding."

Harper, from Year 3, said: "I really enjoyed swimming because, at the beginning I needed a noodle to swim with, but because we did lots of swimming, I now don't need anything."

Year 6's Freddie commented: "We all loved the swimming because we don't normally get to do it again after Year 4 but we got to experience it again this term.

The teachers were great and we all improved during this term. I would highly recommend it to other schools."

Mrs Stringer, SEND support Teaching Assistant, said: "It was so delightful to see some of our SEND children grow in confidence in the pool whilst it was at school.

They were in a small group and were supported incredibly well by the teachers. They were so excited every day they swam.

Seeing their faces in the pool filled everyone with so much joy."

Arabella, from Year 2, gave the sessions 10 out of 10. "I didn't know how to swim but now I do. The pool



was nice and warm too," she said.

Elliot, from Year 4, said: "It was so cool having our own pool at school. I needed a float to start with but now I don't need a back float. I really enjoyed it and want to do it again next year."

Tom went on: "It was a big decision to change our swimming provision, however it has been incredibly successful.

We have never been able to provide swimming lessons on such a large scale.

It has saved on teaching time, without the need to travel, and the progress of the children has been rapid.

Lots of children were nervous to begin with but the teachers were fantastic and have supported the children so well.

We look forward to having the pool back again next year and are proud we have so many confident swimmers now."



Kai's Thai training camp honour

A Carlton le Willows footballer, who has been playing since he could walk, was selected to take part in a training camp for the Thailand national football team.

Year 11 Kai, who plays for Nottingham Forest, spent three weeks in Thailand where he lived and worked alongside other hopefuls at the FA Thailand's under 17s' training camp.

Said Kai: "This was the opportunity of a lifetime for me, and an honour.

Facilities at the training camp were great and once I had got used to playing in the heat I was able to settle into training.

If I had the chance, it would be a dream to play for the national Thai team."

The move follows an offer for the 15-year-old, who plays right back, to play in the Asia Cup qualifiers last year – an opportunity he had to miss due to injury.



However, the President of FA Thailand sent her European team scout to invite Kai to this spring's camp.

Kai, who has dual nationality as his mum is from Thailand, says he has been playing football from a very young age.

"I come from a big footballing family.

My grandad played for Nottingham Forest and my dad played when he was younger, so I was brought up to play football."

His first club was in Rushcliffe, from where he moved to a Gedling team.

Kai was scouted at the age of 14. After a two week trial, he signed a two-year deal with Nottingham Forest.

As a Forest player, Kai has a busy schedule of fixtures coming up against teams from Newcastle, Derby and Manchester City in the next few weeks, all while studying for his GCSEs.

The Academy wishes him the best of luck as he follows his dream career.

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Don Valley's top team

Competitive students from Don Valley Academy emerged victorious in the Doncaster Indoor Athletics Competition held at the English Institute of Sport.

A total of 21 students from Years 7 to 10 competed in under 13s and 15s' categories and were taken to the event by Curriculum Leader of PE Sophie Masters, Assistant Curriculum Leader of PE Rikki Banks and PE Apprentice Finley Wynton.

Associate Executive Principal Robert Burton was "extremely proud" of the students.

Sophie and the PE department were thrilled at the outcome.

"All students performed exceptionally well throughout the

day," she said. "We cannot wait to see what they bring to the summer athletics competitions."

Key performers included:

Ella (Year 10): first in 200m

Eagle (Year 10): first in 400m and triple jump

Maja (Year 10): first in shot put

Maisie (Year 9): first in speed bounce

Under 13 boys (Issac, Archie, Euan and George): third in 4x100m relay

Jake (Year 10): second in 400m

Kyle (Year 10): third in 800m

Under 15 boys (Elliot, Jake, Kyle and Joe): second in relay

Cailey (Year 8): third in the 200m

Mia (Year 8): third in 800m

Under 13 girls: second overall

Under 13 boys: second overall

Under 15 girls: first overall



Programme crowned by Jules

Ten Year 5s from Montagu Academy participated in the 'Friends Through Football' programme - and had an opportunity to play with a first teamer from Rotherham United.



Rotherham United defender Zak Jules with the Year 5 children.

The six-week scheme is a Premier League initiative and was delivered by the Academy's Rotherham United coach, Drew.

Key Stage 2 Phase Lead Katie Marshall said it was introduced to support children in developing positive social skills with a range of peers.

"Through the programme, children have built resilience, learned the importance of teamwork, and demonstrated kindness and good sportsmanship," she said.

"Additionally, they have gained a better understanding of how

to exhibit positive behaviours throughout the school."

The programme is underpinned by the Premier League's four key values: to be ambitious, be inspiring, be fair, and be connected.

"The children have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and are now displaying positive behaviours across the school," said Katie.

As a special surprise at the end of the programme, they had the exciting opportunity to play football with Rotherham United defender Zak Jules.

Sports tracksuit tops have been bought to foster a sense of team spirit and pride at **Ash Hill Academy**.



Jade, Harry, Lucas, Oliver and Flynn were the first to receive their Ash Hill Academy Sports Team Tracksuit tops.

Lee Bullock said the number of students who have represented the academy in sports fixtures this academic year has passed 100 for the first time in many years.

"In order to foster a sense of team spirit among our athletes and pride in representing the academy we bought sports team tracksuit tops which were made available to students who had represented the academy on a number of occasions," he said.

"The uptake has been very positive as students are able to wear the sports team tops in PE lessons, at enrichment and on fixtures.

This is ongoing and we have just placed an order for some more tops so the next group of students can access them."

Wheelchair workshop

Challenges faced by people in wheelchairs were better understood by Year 6 children at Pheasant Bank Academy after taking part in a Go-Kids-Go wheelchair basketball workshop.



Year 6 students Heidi and Daisy during the workshop.

The session, organised by the Pupil Leadership Team, was a great success and was designed to help a deeper understanding of mobility challenges, accessibility, and inclusion.

Throughout the workshop, students had the opportunity to experience manoeuvring a wheelchair, navigate different obstacles and

discuss the importance of empathy and support to fellow wheelchair users at the Academy.

This experience broadened their perspective and encouraged meaningful discussions about inclusivity and respect for all individuals.





THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community

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