

THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community



A Trust, transformed

Issue 31
July 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of The Link.

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff at Delta, each and everyone of you who make our Trust so special; from the outstanding classroom practice, to the quality of our learning environments. You do extraordinary things for the children and each other that make Delta a great place.

Gillian and I have shared an incredible journey since we met in 2016.

We've made great friends and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of our journey with you.

It's always good to reflect on our success as a team and we leave the Trust with some notable highlights:

- Key Stage 2 outcomes are at a record high at 73% combined. We have 45% disadvantaged and they are at National 62%. That's life changing for our children as they move to secondary school.
- In June, the DfE published a report that covered over 1,200 secondary schools, with more than 20% White Disadvantaged children in their cohort for 2024 exam results. There were only 21 schools nationally where these children got a positive progress 8 score. One third of the whole country's academies achieving

this are Delta, representing seven out of the 21 nationally.

- Our current predictions for the summer exams are set to break all previous records and we are looking forward to celebrating our A level and GCSE outcomes in August.

However, Delta is more than just exams and now have 100% Good or better Ofsted outcomes across the Trust! This reflects what you do for the whole child every day, in every classroom.

However, we remain ambitious:

- Over 7,000 children have had residential experiences at Dallowgill, with Trevor, his team and not forgetting Lottie, Trevor's faithful dog and the children's friend.
- The Trustees have now agreed a funding package of £7.1m for our Patterdale Youth and Duke of Edinburgh Centre in Ullswater. This will see us create a state-of-the-art, 90-place residential centre. In addition, it will provide a campsite, a hiking and walking centre and an opportunity for our children to take part in adventurous activities, climbing, canoeing and paddle boarding. £3.6m will cover the building work, £3m will provide funding to run it for the next 10 years and a further £0.5m will fund two new executive coaches.

Gillian and I are delighted to be handing over to Trudi Bartle, Deputy CEO Primary, and Andy Barnet, CEO from September.

We leave in theirs and your capable hands an extraordinary Trust, with over 30,000 students, with our friends from Coast and Vale joining us in September to form the country's second largest Trust, with lots of others keen to join you on your journey.

We will always take a keen interest in your journey and will keenly follow your success.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your CEO. I'd like to thank Steve Hodsman and the Board for their support and wish you every success.

Oh, by the way, I got Knighted!



Sir Paul Tarn
Chief Executive Officer

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Hanson's milestone report

A powerful turnaround at Hanson Academy in Bradford has been confirmed by Ofsted inspectors.

The school's celebrating a 'good' rating in all areas following April's visit.

After spending 11 of the last 15 years effectively in special measures, Hanson began a new chapter when it joined Delta Academies Trust on 1st July 2022.

In just under three years, a collective and determined effort from staff, Trust leaders and the wider community has reshaped the Academy into a calm, inclusive and aspirational learning environment.

Under the leadership of Principal Samuel Sheedy and the supportive guidance of Delta Academies Trust, Hanson is no longer defined by its past.

Instead, it now stands as a testament to what is possible, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Ofsted inspectors noted the calm atmosphere, clear routines and the way students now take pride in their school.

Behaviour has improved significantly, with suspensions falling and students feeling safe, supported and respected.

"Pupils enjoy the praise and rewards they receive," the report states, highlighting the Academy's strong culture of encouragement and recognition.

Academically, Hanson is on a steep upward trajectory.

The ambitious and well-structured curriculum allows students to connect prior learning with new knowledge, with younger students particularly thriving.

Results have been the most improved in Bradford and inspectors praised the quality of learning, observing clear strategies in place to close knowledge gaps.

The report also praises the school's focus on reading, with a revitalised library and targeted interventions that are helping pupils become more fluent and confident readers.

Sixth form students spoke positively about the changes they have experienced, and many take on leadership roles to support younger peers and contribute to the wider school community.

Personal development remains a clear strength. From mental and physical health to careers guidance, students are given

opportunities to grow into thoughtful, responsible individuals.

Language ambassadors, student councillors and sixth form mentors all contribute to a vibrant and compassionate school culture.

Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive targeted support from skilled staff, ensuring they are fully included in school life and able to succeed.

The school's ethos is clear: every pupil matters, and every pupil is supported to thrive.

This Ofsted judgement represents a significant milestone for Hanson Academy, demonstrating the impact of sustained improvement, strategic leadership and collective effort.

A school that once faced considerable challenges is now recognised as a place of progress and ambition, reflecting the shared commitment of staff, students and the wider community.

Delight at Whitgift

Exceptional conduct by students and high staff expectations helped John Whitgift Academy to “outstanding” features following an Ofsted visit.

Inspectors upgraded the Grimsby school's 2020 'good' rating in the areas of behaviour and attitudes and personal development.

In a further boost, it was put first in a Department for Education table comparing its attendance against 20 similar secondaries nationwide.

Principal Rob Spendlow was delighted with the inspection's conclusions.

“The Ofsted report is glowing in its praise of students and staff. I could not be prouder,” he said.

“The report's opening sentence is: ‘Pupils enjoy attending this inclusive school’.

“It's a powerful statement that summaries perfectly what we're about here.

“I'd like to thank everybody who contributes to making John Whitgift Academy a very special community and place of learning.”

Inspectors found “a culture that strives for excellence”.



They found exceptional behaviour, a happy place and the staff proud to work at John Whitgift.

It was named, for the fifth successive year, as North East Lincolnshire's best performing school in Department for Education league tables published last December.

Its Progress 8 score, measuring the progress pupils made between key stage 2 and the end of key stage 4, was the highest in the area last year at 0.21.

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Mr Spendlow said: "All the evidence points to a consistently high-achieving school.

"Those to benefit from these fantastic outcomes are the children who attend and the wider community.

"The report makes a point that it is not just about our academic strength but the wider opportunities we give our pupils."

Among highlights in the report, inspectors say:

- Pupils recognise and value the care that they receive.
- The children are proud to be part of the John Whitgift team.
- Pupils respond very well to the school's high behaviour expectations. Their conduct in lessons is exceptional.
- They are keen to support other members of their school community.
- The school's high expectations for pupils' achievement are realised by many.
- Pupils are proud to be leaders in the school.
- Children praise peers who demonstrate the school values. This initiative is known as 'Be Kind'.
- Pupils are integral to the positive ethos that is part of this ambitious and caring school.
- They study a broad and ambitious curriculum.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are very well supported.
- Pupils describe with enthusiasm an extensive range of enrichment opportunities. Clubs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, cooking and sports are very well attended.
- They enjoy high quality support for their future careers.
- Those responsible for governance provide effective support and challenge.
- Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school. A parent spoke for many when they said, 'The school supports my child and helps them reach their full potential.'



Strong attendance at John Whitgift was highlighted by inspectors and has earned it top spot in a Department for Education league table.

The report monitors attendance over the academic year up to Friday, 30th May, comparing it to 20 similar schools nationwide.

Data showed John Whitgift's overall attendance for the period was 94.4%, top of the 21 comparable schools and 4.9% greater than their average.

Persistent absence, at 13.6%, was 14.1% less than the average of similar schools (27.7%).

Attendance for different groups of pupils, including those with special education needs and on free school meals, are consistently higher than the comparable schools.

The report's authors say: "Your school's attendance is consistently higher than similar schools, and there are no areas to focus on."

Its conclusion follows the school's June Ofsted report, which also highlighted it as a strength.

Inspectors said: "The school's strategic approach to secure high attendance is impressive."

Principal Rob Spendlow said the drive for high attendance was relentless, led by the school's senior leadership team.

"Pupils' outcomes depend on them attending regularly. It is a priority every single day and our staff work with the children and their parents / carers to ensure they understand the importance of good attendance," Mr Spendlow said.

"The Department for Education report is welcome and makes a fair comparison, measuring our performance against others with similar issues around deprivation, numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals or with special educational needs."

Chair of the Academy Advisory Board, Gail Young, said: "Everyone associated with John Whitgift Academy should be incredibly proud of this report.

"Mr Spendlow and his staff team deserve an enormous amount of credit and, on behalf of the academy community, I'd like to thank them for everything they do for the children who attend."

Culture celebrated

Hull Trinity House Academy is proud to announce it has been rated 'good' in all areas by Ofsted following its April 2025 inspection.

This result reflects a school that continues to evolve with purpose, grounded in tradition, but focused firmly on the future.

Under the strong leadership of Principal Daniel Flack and the guidance of Delta Academies Trust, the Academy has built an inclusive, aspirational learning environment where every student is encouraged to grow in confidence, character and knowledge.

Ofsted inspectors recognised the unique identity of the school, noting the pride students take in its rich maritime heritage.

Daily parades and a respectful culture help create a powerful sense of belonging, with students saying they enjoy being part of this distinctive community.

Academic progress remains strong, supported by a curriculum that builds knowledge over time and helps students achieve well in public examinations.

The school's focus on literacy is having a real impact, early readers and pupils for whom English is an additional language benefit from expert support, while a genuine love of reading is being fostered across the school.

Inspectors commented that "the school has very high expectations for pupils who perform well in public examinations," recognising the Academy's ambition and drive for excellence.

The Academy's inclusive ethos stands out. Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported effectively and sensitively, ensuring they thrive alongside their peers in a culture that values every learner.

Personal development is a key strength. Whether students are working towards pilot licenses, exploring maritime careers, leading charitable initiatives, or taking part in community projects, they are empowered to shape their futures with confidence and care.

Staff feel valued and supported, and inspectors highlighted the Academy's positive culture of professional growth.

Leaders and the wider Trust are committed to giving every student the best possible start in life.

New behaviour systems are embedding well, helping to maintain a calm and focused learning environment.

Initiatives such as "Feel Good Fridays" celebrate success and attendance, further strengthening the school's sense of community and motivation.

Exceptional education praised

Wybers Wood Academy is celebrating its "exceptional" Ofsted report.

Previously rated good, the new, ungraded Ofsted inspection said the Grimsby school had improved.

Ofsted's report says: "Pupils achieve exceptionally well at this school.

The curriculum is highly ambitious.

It begins in the early years, where the school has thought about the essential foundations that children need for future learning.

Across the school, learning is connected to help pupils build knowledge effectively. The school thinks carefully about the order in which pupils learn key knowledge.

This allows pupils to build on their knowledge over time.

Pupils get many opportunities to practise and apply their understanding through well considered activities.

As a result, they become fluent in key skills and knowledge in all subjects. Pupils learn to think like, for example, an historian, artist, or mathematician."

The report also praised the school's provision for children with SEND, stating: "There is a strong commitment to ensuring pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) have their needs swiftly identified.

These pupils are well supported to access their learning alongside their peers. Across the school, staff thoughtfully adapt resources to enable pupils to be successful."



Pupils and Head of Academy Teresa Rouse celebrate the Ofsted report.

Teresa Rouse, Head of Academy, said: "This report truly reflects the exceptional quality of education we provide at Wybers Wood Academy.

I am incredibly proud that our highly ambitious curriculum and expertly delivered teaching have been recognised as supporting pupils to achieve so exceptionally well.

I'm deeply proud of our staff and leadership team.

Their hard work, professionalism, and shared belief in every child's potential is what makes Wybers Wood such a special place.

We are truly a really special team, and this outcome belongs to all of us.

I'm especially proud that the inspectors recognised our unwavering commitment to inclusion.

Every child matters here, and our staff go above and beyond to ensure pupils with SEND not only access the curriculum but thrive alongside their peers.

From the very start in Early Years through to our confident, articulate older pupils, reading is at the heart of our culture.

To have this strength highlighted so clearly is a wonderful recognition of the consistent, expert work of our team.

This report captures the essence of our academy – a place where pupils are not only achieving academically but are also well cared for, respected, and equipped with the life skills and values they need to flourish."

Excellent progress

Exceptional standards in education, behaviour and pupil development have been highlighted in an outstanding Ofsted report for Norbridge Academy.



Pupils at Norbridge who Ofsted say "thrive at this caring school and make excellent progress through the curriculum".

Inspectors praised the school's unwavering commitment to excellence, describing it as a place where "pupils thrive" and "make excellent progress through the curriculum".

The school motto, 'Be the best you can be', shines through in every aspect of school life, inspiring pupils to reach their full potential both academically and personally.

The report highlights the impeccable behaviour of pupils, who demonstrate high levels of respect and kindness from the Early Years to Year 6.

Inspectors noted a calm, nurturing atmosphere, where children feel safe, supported, and valued.

"Everyone is welcome here," one pupil said – a sentiment echoed throughout the school community.

The curriculum at Norbridge Academy was described as "broad, ambitious and well planned", with teachers using their excellent subject knowledge to deliver engaging and effective lessons.

Reading is at the heart of learning, with pupils becoming confident, fluent readers, who develop a true love of books from an early age.

Head of Academy, Rebecca Jackson, expressed pride in the report.

"We are absolutely delighted with this outcome," she said.

"It is a testament to the hard work of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children, and the strong support from our families and the wider community.

At Norbridge, we believe every child deserves the very best — and we're proud to be delivering just that."

The school's provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was also celebrated, with staff praised for using their expertise to ensure every pupil accesses the same ambitious curriculum.

Beyond the classroom, Norbridge pupils enjoy a rich variety of opportunities — from gymnastics and cricket to choir, beekeeping and leadership roles.

Children take pride in becoming team champions, eco-warriors and reading ambassadors, all of which help prepare them exceptionally well for their next steps.

With high attendance, strong parent partnerships, and a culture of aspiration, Norbridge Academy continues to shine as a model of excellence.

Thriving pupils proud of success

Estcourt Primary Academy was described as “a truly exceptional place” in an outstanding Ofsted report following a recent inspection.

Inspectors recognised the school's unwavering commitment to excellence in all areas, from the quality of education to leadership, personal development and Early Years' provision.

The report highlighted the Academy's high ambitions for every pupil and its warm, respectful environment where “difference is respected and celebrated.”

One of the many strengths highlighted was the school's commitment to nurturing the whole child.

“The school has created an environment that focuses on teaching pupils to be proud of their achievements, both academically and personally.”

The school's personal development curriculum was described as “vibrant and extensive,” offering enriching opportunities that help pupils grow in confidence, character and aspiration.

From the nurturing Early Years' setting to the inspiring learning taking place across all year groups, Estcourt is a place where pupils thrive.

Staff were commended for their dedication and consistency, with the report noting how shared approaches and high-quality support ensure that every child can succeed.

A heartfelt thank you to our entire school community — your support is what makes Estcourt Primary Academy such an exceptional place.



Trainees praise course and support

In a special feature, we asked trainees from The Exchange Partnership's Exchange Teacher Training programme about their experiences.



Zoe Aradipioti

What drove you to pursue a career in teaching?

I pursued teaching because music was my escape growing up, and I want to create that same positive, supportive space for my students and make a real difference in their lives.

What has been the most enjoyable part of the ETT programme this year?

It has been making lifelong friends. I could not have got through the training year without them.

Tell us how you have been supported on your learning journey.

My experience with ETT was a little different, as I was offered a salaried position and had to quickly step into the role as the academy's only music teacher.

ETT supported me massively by being flexible and understanding of my unique situation, especially during busy periods like the Year 11 exam season.

Their support allowed me to manage both my teaching responsibilities and training effectively.

How has the course helped to build your knowledge and/or confidence?

The course has really helped build my confidence in the classroom.

I've learned so much by being fully immersed in the role from the start. I believe you grow the most when you're pushed outside your comfort zone, and that is exactly what this experience has done for me.

How do you take care of your own well-being and mental health?

I take care of my well-being by making sure I always have someone to talk to, whether they are friends, family, or colleagues.

I also find it helpful to talk things through with other staff and to make my classroom feel like my own space, a positive environment where I feel comfortable and in control.

Peiyuan Harman (Pearl)

What drove you to pursue a career in teaching?

I believe that education is the key to transforming poverty into a better quality of life.

Therefore, I chose to pursue a career in teaching to support disadvantaged pupils in achieving higher grades and passing their GCSE Maths on their first attempt. This, in turn, opens up more opportunities for further education and future success.

What has been the most enjoyable part of the ETT programme this year?

Working directly with students and colleagues, and building trust and positive relationships with them, as well as with fellow teacher trainees.

Tell us how you have been supported on your learning journey.

The central training provided by

ETT has been well-structured and effective in equipping me with both pedagogical and subject-specific knowledge.

My mentors at both placement schools have offered constructive feedback that helped me improve my teaching practice.

They also supported me in planning lessons and preparing for interviews.

Throughout the year, I have felt fully valued and encouraged by those who recognised my potential and helped me develop it to the fullest.

How has the course helped to build your knowledge and/or confidence?

Through daily teaching practice, responding to feedback from host teachers, participating in ETT training sessions, and engaging with current educational research, I have become a more confident teacher with a



stronger foundation of knowledge.

How do you take care of your own well-being and mental health?

As a Christian, I care for my well-being and mental health through daily devotions.

Reading the Bible, singing worship songs, and praying provide me with strength, peace, and resilience to face challenges and work diligently.

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Dawson Stenton

What drove you to pursue a career in teaching?

I chose to pursue a career in teaching because I have always possessed a passion for my subject, and I wanted to be someone who can pass this passion onto a new generation.

What has been the most enjoyable part of the ETT programme this year?

The most enjoyable part of the ETT programme has been the placement schools, both of them, as they have given me the opportunity to work with hundreds of students and teachers of all varieties and backgrounds.

Tell us how you have been supported on your learning journey.

I have been supported throughout

the entire year by two sensational mentors within my placement school, and my lead mentor from ETT. Each of them have been monumentally helpful in my development over the course of the year.

How has the course helped to build your knowledge and/or confidence?

The course has helped me build my knowledge because there have been consistently well-planned and informative training sessions at ETT, which have helped me see how to implement what I have learnt into my practice.

How do you take care of your own well-being and mental health?

I take care of my well-being by balancing the workload that I have



with the hobbies I enjoy, such as football, snooker and quizzes. A day never ends until I am comfortable that I have planned everything I need to, and that I have answered/read any emails I have been sent, so that when I arrive home the time is all my own.



Nina Sheikh

What drove you to pursue a career in teaching?

I am incredibly passionate about young people and their development. I want to be able to support these children when they need it most and foster a love for learning.

What has been the most enjoyable part of the ETT programme this year?

Building relationships with all the students I have taught.

Tell us how you have been supported on your learning journey.

I have been supported by my mentor, host teachers, subject lead, and lead mentor.

How has the course helped to build your knowledge and/or confidence?

The course has enabled me to reflect critically on my teaching practice and identify areas for improvement. Through this process, I have become more confident in my abilities and more secure in my approach to planning, delivering, and evaluating lessons.

How do you take care of your own well-being and mental health?

I make time for myself and family to ensure a healthy work-life balance.

Laura Jackson

What drove you to pursue a career in teaching?

I've always been passionate about mathematics and wanted to inspire the same enjoyment and curiosity in others. I left my previous career in finance and worked in a primary school initially before moving on to an inclusion support worker role in a secondary school.

I loved supporting students and running intervention groups, whilst taking advantage of other opportunities to build up my experience in school.

Working in schools has allowed me to make a difference every day – helping young people grow in confidence, overcome challenges, and achieve things they did not think possible.

What has been the most enjoyable part of the ETT programme this year?

It has been great to teach a range of classes in each of the placement schools, and build relationships with students.

The programme provides opportunities to spend time in a variety of schools across the Trust and hear about the different challenges each are facing as well as the success stories and progress that have been made.

The support from fellow trainees and mentors has been fantastic and has made the training a very enjoyable experience.

Tell us how you have been supported on your learning journey.

I have felt genuinely supported throughout – from expert guidance during placements to constructive



feedback that helped me reflect and improve.

My mentors and colleagues have been generous with their time and advice, always encouraging and approachable.

How has the course helped to build your knowledge and/or confidence?

The ETT programme has given me a solid foundation in both subject-specific pedagogy and classroom practice.

It's helped me grow in confidence – not just in delivering lessons, but in managing a classroom, adapting to different learners' needs, and reflecting critically on my teaching. I feel well prepared to take the next step as an ECT.

How do you take care of your own well-being and mental health?

I spend time with my lovely family and friends, or get out for a long walk in the countryside.

Author fires imagination



Excited pupils from a number of primaries spent the afternoon with top children's author Cressida Cowell MBE, creator of the *How to Train your Dragon* series.

Kingston Park, Norbridge, Montagu and Serlby Park travelled to Pheasant Bank and listened to Cressida talk about her life growing up, what inspired her to be a writer and what it was like to have her books turned into films.

The experience was organised by Kingston Park's Head of Academy Kerrie Longley, working in partnership with "fantastic, independent" children's bookshop Wonderland Bookshop in Retford.

Kerrie said children at Kingston Park had only just finished studying the first *How to Train your Dragon* book as part of the reading strategy and

were so excited to meet Cressida. She didn't disappoint!

She spoke about her holidays as a child on a remote island off the coast of Scotland and how the look of one hill - which she thought looked like a sleeping dragon - inspired the series of books so loved today.

Cressida held a book signing and had photographs with children from all the academies.

Kerrie said: "Meeting Cressida Cowell was an unforgettable experience—an incredible opportunity to hear from one of



the most beloved and imaginative authors of our time.

Her passion for storytelling and creativity was truly inspiring, especially for young writers who left feeling empowered to dream big, write boldly, and believe in the power of their own stories."

Abilities shine

Three Year 8 students from The Vale Academy followed up a fantastic performance in the Junior Mathematical Challenge by earning silver and bronze certificates in the UKMT Junior Kangaroo.

The Academy was so happy about the achievements of Jasper (silver), Dom and Sam (both bronze) in this prestigious competition.

Rosalind Carlile, Second in Maths, said: "Remarkably, each student missed out on the next level of award by just one question; a testament to their exceptional problem-solving skills and mathematical ability."

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next."

To celebrate their success, all three were invited to a special breakfast with the Principal, Vice Principal, and acting Head of Department, where they were recognised for their hard work and dedication.



Breakfast with (clockwise from left): Principal Dr Sarah Stokes, Second in Maths Department Mrs Carlile, Sam, Jasper and Dom.

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Harley's prize

Year 5 children at Montagu Academy entered the Maths Through Stories writing competition.

The children had to create and animate a story including maths that could be shared with younger children.

The competition was open to the whole of Doncaster.

The judges were impressed with the entries and, although Montagu did not take first prize, they decided to award one other entry a 'runner up' prize and it was to Harley for her story 'Hammy's Hunt for Biscuits'.

Harley was presented with her prize by Phil Sheppard from the Literacy Trust and she was delighted with the selection of books she received.

Harley with Head of Academy David Longley and her amazing prize.

Phenomenal class score

Highest ever Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check results at Crookesbroom Primary Academy were achieved.



The class recorded a mean score of 24.6 out of a maximum 25 in the national tests.

Their teacher Dylan Crank said: "The resilience and perseverance of the children have been outstanding."

Head of Academy Rob Harvey said: "Our amazing teacher, Dylan Crank, has worked tirelessly alongside his great learning support assistant Dawn Leggett and under the guidance of our brilliant maths leader, Nicola Gudgin, to allow our children to record such phenomenal scores."

This check is so much more than a test in Year 4; it sets the platform for children to make the most progress in their arithmetic.

Beyond that, I believe it gives children the confidence to achieve anything because they see that hard work really does pay off.

I am so proud of the children and both proud and grateful to the wonderful Year 4 team because they are proving that greatness starts here."

Teacher Mr Crank with his record-breaking Year 4 class.

Camera, lights . . . Louisa!

A starring role is played by a Garforth Academy student in the Royal British Legion's VE and VJ Day teaching resources.



proportion of the information Louisa processed throughout the day.

"Louisa listened carefully and was engaged fully for several hours at a complex undergraduate level of learning.

Quite honestly, she was absolutely incredible all day.

At one point I was moved to tears, because I was just so happy she was able to do this for us.

She was representing all the children in the country who want to find out more, and we hope she inspires a new generation to do just that. We are so grateful to you and your school for facilitating this."

Louisa can be seen in a further education drama documentary and in a secondary Q&A, where there is a 'who do you think you are' focused on Louisa's Great Grandfather Edmund.

He was at Dunkirk and went on to be a Chindit, operating behind Japanese lines, in the Burma campaign.

A further education Q&A follows the story of Louisa's grandfather Harry, who was in the RAF in Burma, and who, unfortunately, became a prisoner of war, but happily did come home.

Louisa will also appear in three bonus films, due to be released by the Royal British Legion, talking to a Burma veteran and Dr Lyman.



Louisa was described as a "wonderful ambassador" for the school after taking a lead in the documentaries, available at the **Teaching Remembrance website**.

Her great grandfather was at Dunkirk before going to Burma while her grandfather was in the RAF and captured by the Japanese in what is now Myanmar.

Producer Seren Irvine, in an email to Head of History Sarah Wynn, said: "I can't tell you how much of a wonderful ambassador Louisa was for your school.

She was absolutely exemplary and we hope you love watching her as much as we enjoyed having her with us for the day.

One thing I did want to mention to

you is how brilliantly she rose to having an equal conversation with one of the world's leading military historians.

Dr Rob Lyman has written over 20 books, and I first encountered him when I produced the BBC's VJ Day 75 event five years ago.

He is excellent at explaining history and adding context. He's basically a walking encyclopedia!"

Seren said the live footage was a tiny

Out of Africa



An African experience day was enjoyed by Year 1 at Montagu Academy.

They learned about African culture and dressed in traditional clothing.

A group of African parents kindly volunteered to cook a traditional meal and the children loved tasting it.

The children were joined by Reptile Rendezvous, which brought a variety of African species into school.

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Head of Academy David Longley with a meerkat.



Stunning showcase

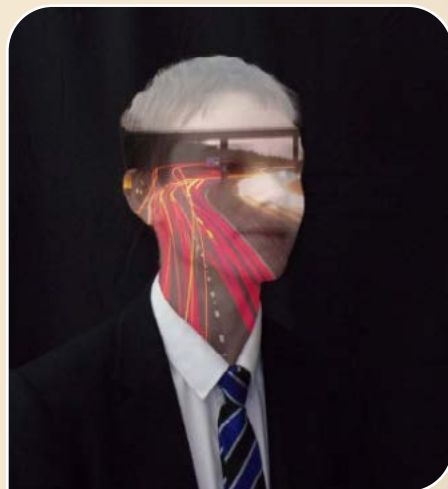
Talented students at Don Valley Academy showcased their work in the annual Summer Exhibition.

It featured a curated selection of GCSE Art and Photography final pieces alongside Key Stage 3 sketchbooks.

The exhibition celebrated students' artistic achievements and reflected their creative journeys, technical development, and personal expression through art, said event leader Nichola Treble.

Throughout the academic year, students have explored a wide range of themes that have challenged and inspired their creativity:

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The piece of work from Lewis.



Lukrecija's exhibit.

Year 10 Art students investigated the theme 'Human Form', developing skills in observational drawing, proportion, and expressive techniques.

Year 11 Art responded to the theme 'Portraiture', exploring identity, emotion, and character through a variety of media. Their work culminated in a personal response to the AQA exam paper, where they demonstrated independent thinking and artistic maturity.

Year 10 Photography explored the themes 'Still Life' and 'Fantastic and Strange', experimenting

with composition, lighting, and surreal imagery to create visually compelling photographs.

Year 11 Photography engaged with the themes 'Plastic', 'Commercial', 'Fragile', and 'Nature', using photography to explore environmental, conceptual, and aesthetic ideas. Their portfolios concluded with a personal response to the AQA exam paper, showcasing their ability to develop and communicate a creative vision.

The exhibition in the Academy's Main Hall provides a platform for students to share their work with peers, parents, and the wider school community, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment.

It also serves as an inspiration for younger students and a testament to the high standards of teaching and learning in the Art Department.

Curriculum Leader of Art and Design Nichola said: "We are super proud of our students and the incredible work they've produced."

The exhibition was accompanied by live music and included refreshments.

She thanked Julie Bellas for coordinating the accompanying music and Chloe Haughan for technical support.

Eighties inspire best show

Tireless rehearsing led to Goole Academy's "best show ever" when 45 students performed 'Back to the 80s The Musical'.



The performance showcased the amazing talents of the students, who rehearsed at evenings and over weekends.

The show was a massive success and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Bonjour from Conisbrough

Keen linguists at De Warenne Academy have begun an exchange with French students.

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The Year 7s wrote letters to French students at the Collège de la Croix-Rouge in Brest, Brittany.

Their French teacher Seb Le Gall took those letters to France during half-term as he was visiting the school.

This should be the beginning of a great exchange between keen linguists.



Children mark 80th anniversary



Children were put through their paces at Grange Lane Infant Academy in a special visit by 'Sargent' Gary to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe.

Strict marches and tests, such as reading and saluting, helped him decide who would be suitable for conscription into the Army to help fight the war.

The training was so good by the end of the session some soldiers were awarded medals!

Year 1 and 2 children also found about rations and evacuation and the different jobs people had to do in this most difficult time.

All children made some amazing bunting, flags, decorations and keepsakes as part of the celebrations.

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Successful campaign

A campaign to promote active travel was initiated by Goole Academy's student council.



It seeks to encourage students to utilise bicycles as a healthy and environmentally sustainable mode of transportation, in conjunction with Modeshift.

The campaign was put in place after a successful virtual presentation by the student council which awarded the school £200 towards it.

A week-long special event saw nine bikes receive a golden ticket, redeemed as LoveToShop vouchers, valued at £20.

Additionally, one bike was awarded the diamond ticket, worth £40.

The Academy congratulated all who participated in biking to school as part of this campaign and those who received the special tickets.

Brilliant bunting

To mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, Goole Academy students were invited to take part in a history house competition.



The task was to design a piece of bunting for a school display.

A range of fantastic entries followed, including many dedicated to individual soldiers, original poems and messages of peace.

There were more than 40 in total, with the winning student in Year 7 and Reeve as the winning house.

The bunting made a fantastic display in the dining room.

Fun way to learn about careers

Role play exposed children to a breadth of experiences at Hatfield Woodhouse Primary School in a Little Cities' Careers visit.



Having fun in the beauty salon are Logan (left) and Lucan.

Foundation Stage (nursery and reception) and Key Stage 1 navigated a range of careers, from doctors and veterinary surgeries to shops, schools, office and construction work.

The visit also developed children's communication skills, as they interacted with one another.

Foundation Stage Lead, Claire Kantecki, said: "We hope the experience will raise aspirations, broaden horizons, challenge stereotypes and develop the skills and sense of self to help reach their full potential."

Amy Holdworth, from Little Cities, said: "It was so lovely to see the children exploring different careers through role play."

It was great to see Key Stage 1 join in too, as often they are deemed 'too old' to join in with this form of play, but they all really enjoyed the session.



Vet Sonny makes his poorly Fox better.



Alyssia is working hard on the construction site in a princess dress!

Patient Edie is looked after by doctor Vienna.

I feel like they thought they had been given permission to play so it was okay to really get stuck in and let their imaginations run away."

Year 2 Teacher Zoe Burnett-Smith said: "Year 2 were mesmerised when they first entered the hall and quickly became fully engaged in the activity."

Janine Parkin, Year 1 Teaching Assistant, reported "the children

became fully immersed in the characters they were pretending to be in all of the different scenarios and jobs they tried out."

Last year, only Foundation Stage children participated but the school saw a benefit to opening it up to Key Stage 1.

"I am so pleased we did and will be booking again for next year!" said Claire.



Lunch break feeds opportunities

A community Careers Fair was hosted in John Whitgift Academy's canteen for the first time to enable all year groups to access during lunch break.

The focus was on local training providers and employers and a wide range of options were on offer.

Year 10 students revisited the fair during their period 5 lesson to further discuss options.

After the academy day, parents were invited to attend the fair if they had any specific questions for employers or course providers.

Students loved exploring the fire engine, uniform and breathing apparatus showcased by the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service.

Humberside Police brought in a confiscated electric bike, helmets and riot gear for students to experience.

The children were shocked with these uniforms and the weight of them.

RWE allowed students a VR experience of a wind turbine with their fantastic headsets.

The hands-on activities didn't end there as TesTex NDT LTD showed students how to measure the thickness of a metal plate using ultrasound technology.

Further education providers, Grimsby Institute, Bishop Burton College and the National Horseracing College, and Sixth Form providers, Franklin College and John Leggott, were hugely popular.

There was a buzz of excitement surrounding these stalls and some students questioned their original



choices as they explored new career options.

The National Horseracing College offered students something different to consider which they had not experienced before.

Higher Education providers, Bishop Grosseteste University College and the University of Hull, provided vital information on courses offered and potential pathways.

Care Plus Employability Services, Foresight, The Lincolnshire Housing Partnership and NHS representatives were bustling stalls, displaying the popularity of the school's health and social care course and helping students to understand where this subject could take them.

Barclay's Bank, the RAF, Wilkin Chapman, Bridge McFarland, North East Lincolnshire Council and GMI Construction were engaging and inspired students to think about careers they may not have previously considered.

JWA's careers advisor, Katharine Atkinson from progress careers, was on hand to support students with any questions they had about potential future pathways.

It was a fantastic, engaging and informative afternoon which was enjoyed by all.

JWA looks forward to making the Careers Fair bigger and better in the future.

Ex pupil Deakin's on the beat

An ex-pupil returned to Macaulay to talk to Year 3/4 about how he became a Police Officer.

PC Deakin Hullett told stories of catching thieves, high speed chases and general day-to-day jobs.

PC Hullett, from Humberside Police, let the children pass around his uniform and equipment, including all of his riot gear, which sent a buzz around the room.

To add to the excitement PC Hullett had organised a police van in the car park so children could get inside and even use the sirens and flashing lights.

Assistant Principal and Personal Development Lead Ashton Hinson organised the visit.

"Inviting ex-pupils to school is very important to us to show that our children can achieve their goals in life and for them to aspire to great things," he said.

"The children were so engaged by the visit and it inspired many to start talking about different careers."

This experience will form part of the criteria to earn the Year 3/4 Career Development Card for Delta Stars.

Year 4's Sara said: "I found the job of a police officer really cool.

I don't think I would like to be one though because I think I would be scared of the bad guys.

Ella, also in Year 4, remarked: "I enjoyed trying on the different uniform and passing around all PC Hullett's equipment. The hat was really big on me."



Head of Academy Tom Herrick is handcuffed by PC Deakin Hullett

Rhuebben is shut into the back of a police van.

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Rhuebben, Year 4, said: "When I got shut in the police van I actually enjoyed it but I don't think I would like it for real.

When I got out I was relieved. My head touched the ceiling."



Sara and Aliyah try on the uniform.



Celebrating success are Aalian, Alana, Alman, Amaan, Amaar, Ella, Eva, Evie, Fatimah, Lola, Mollie, Phoebe and Sophie.

Brilliant work rewarded

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Determined and hard-working Manor Croft Academy students celebrated their successful completion of the Scholars Programme at the University of Sheffield.

Their graduation marked the end of this year's academic journey and highlighted the valuable skills and experiences gained as members of The Brilliant Club.

The Scholars Programme, designed to inspire a love of learning and raise academic achievement, provides students with an introduction to university-level education.

Through this programme, students have had the opportunity to engage with higher education concepts, develop practical skills, and gain a glimpse into the life of a university student.

It was organised by Inclusion Manager Suzanne Simpson and Dr Meg Dyson at The Brilliant Club.

The ceremony at Firth Hall was a joyous occasion.

Surrounded by friends, other graduates and staff — including Suzanne and Zubair Bulbulia — students were called to the stage to collect their certificates, receiving applause that was as heartfelt as it was loud.

A hot day did nothing to dampen the spirits of the graduates, as they stood proud in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

The event was not just about receiving awards.

The day featured a reflective session that allowed the scholars to look back on their journey, consider the skills they had developed, and discuss how they could transfer their new-found knowledge into their future academic and career pursuits.

A lively Q&A session with university students provided attendees with an insight into university life.

They asked questions about university routines, the differences between secondary school and university, and the wide variety of academic pathways available, including the possibility of studying abroad for a year.

To earn their place at the graduation event, each scholar had to complete a series of tutorials with their PhD tutor, Matt Smith and submit a 2,000-word essay titled "Think Together, Grow Together: Collaboration for Creative Solutions."

This rigorous process gave the students a taste of the academic workload they can expect at university, while encouraging collaboration and critical thinking.



Mollie, one of the graduates, shared her thoughts on the essay, saying it gave her a real insight into university-level expectations.

Lola echoed this sentiment, highlighting how valuable it was to discuss ideas with their peers and tutors during the process.

It was useful to talk to each other and our tutor," she said, reflecting on the collaborative nature of the programme.

Matt shared his pride in the group's accomplishments.

"I would like to communicate that there are some brilliant grades and some outstanding work being undertaken by the students—well done to all," he said.

"It has been a pleasure to work with yourself and your students over the past academic year, and I hope we can continue this next year.

The sessions were extremely enjoyable, and the students all engaged in the tasks and discussions with enthusiasm and excitement. The students are a credit to your school."

Congratulations to all the graduates, and best of luck on a journey towards university and beyond!

Hands-on experiences

Taster sessions linked to career aspirations were enjoyed by Manor Croft Academy's Year 10 when they visited Wakefield College's two campuses.

At Castleford campus, students participated in practical vocational workshops, including bricklaying, hair and beauty, and engineering.

Equipped with PPE and tools, they gained hands-on experience that offered genuine insight into skilled trades and the world of work.

The college staff were highly impressed, noting that students were a "credit to the Academy."

Meanwhile, at Wakefield City Centre campus, students experienced a range of A-Level and vocational taster sessions.

They stepped into real college environments, interacted with tutors, and got a true sense of post-16 learning.

This trip, organised by Paige Phoenix and Sophie McArdle, was part of Manor Croft's planned careers education programme, aligned with its



vision to support students in making informed decisions about their future pathways.

Year 10 students also took part in a formal interview preparation, featuring external employer-led mock interviews and assessment-centre style activities, tailored to strengthen their readiness for post-16 transitions.

Police partnership provides engaging

A valuable and eye-opening intervention programme by West Yorkshire Police has been attended by 14 Key Stage 3 students at Hanson Academy.



Delivered over six engaging sessions, the initiative aimed to inform, inspire, and empower students with knowledge and awareness around some of the most pressing issues facing young people today.

Emma Hall, Personalised Learning Centre Key Stage 3 Provision, said: "The sessions covered a range of impactful topics including knife crime, gang culture, speed awareness, and the dangers of illegal substances.

Through interactive discussions and real-life case studies, students gained insight into the

consequences of these actions—not just from a legal perspective, but through the lived experiences of those who have been affected.

A highlight for many students was the opportunity to get hands-on with police uniform and equipment, offering a glimpse into the day-to-day life of police officers and paramedics."

These sessions gave an insight into the roles of emergency service workers and offered students a better understanding of the responsibilities and challenges they face.

"Throughout the programme, the emphasis remained on education, prevention, and making informed choices," said Emma.

"The sessions opened up important conversations and created a safe space for students to ask questions, reflect, and think critically about the influences around them.

To celebrate their commitment and engagement, each student received a certificate of participation, recognising their effort in completing the programme.

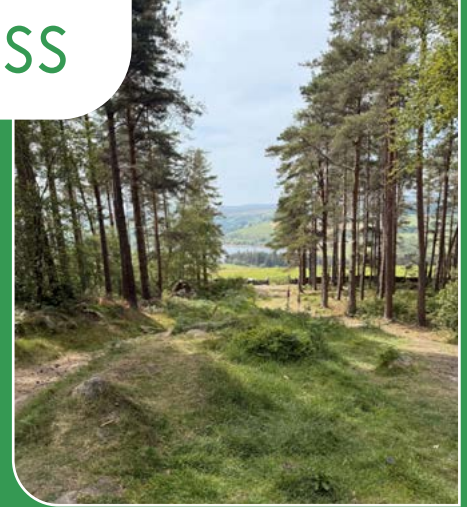
sessions



This initiative has not only equipped our students with essential knowledge but has also strengthened the relationship between young people and local law enforcement—an important step towards safer, more connected communities.

We are incredibly proud of the students for their openness and participation, and we thank the police, Hanson staff and local youth workers for their dedication to youth engagement and education."

Silver challenge success



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Unforgettable experiences were had by Manor Croft Academy students taking their silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

They travelled to Dallowgill for the three-day expedition to Ivy Bank Staycation, organised by DofE Manager and Teacher of Maths Zubair Bulbulia.

Student Eesa said: "My DofE experience, both practice and the main expedition, was a one-in-a-kind experience I will forever be grateful for.

Despite the extreme distance, heat, weight, fatigue, discomfort and arguments, it was a useful life skill, development and a great way to improve your mindset.

I learnt many things on this expedition, including teamwork, map reading, cooking, tent work and much more! Thank you to Mr Bulbulia for allowing this event to take place."

Charlie thanked Mr Bulbulia for making it so worthwhile.

"Thank you for all of the effort, hard work and time you have put in through our Bronze, Silver Practice and now the real Silver," Charlie said.

"It really means a lot to me that I am able to do things like this. But thank you very much for organising this.



DofE has been such an amazing experience and we would not have been able to do it if it was not for you. I hope you are well rested from all the walking and driving the minibus."

Zubair said DofE was probably his favourite thing in a high school.

"It is an amazing thing, watching the students experience outdoor

events and learning outside the classroom in non-academic environments," he said.

"They overcome challenges and survive using their outdoor skills. The students did fantastic and some managed to walk 113,000 steps during the three days on the silver expedition."

Teamwork pays off

Eight pupils from Goole Academy successfully completed their DofE expedition to Dallowgill, Ripon.

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Day one saw them undertake an 8km walk with equipment, using their navigational skills and working as a team.

In the evening, they cooked on their stoves, set up camp and enjoyed the summer evening with friends.

On the second day, they were up early and ready for an 11km walk, with all their equipment in the summer heat.

Working together as a team, after five hours they accomplished their task.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their expedition and have learned a lot of valuable life skills.



They will receive their bronze award which shows their dedication to improving their individual skills, volunteering in the community and working on a physical activity.

From learning to play the guitar to volunteering at local charity shops, the pupils have showed great individual organisation and determination to complete their tasks.

Summer's inspirational award

A Year 9 student from Carlton le Willows has been honoured at an awards event run by Nottinghamshire Police.



Summer with PC Amie Whitehouse at the ceremony.

Summer was among 14 nominees invited to a glittering awards ceremony, at police headquarters for the Live Our Best Life Awards 2025, celebrating the achievements of young people in their communities.

The 14-year-old Academy student was runner up for the Schools' Empowerment Award, which was presented by PC Amie Whitehouse, one of Nottinghamshire Police's School Early Intervention Officers.

Amie, who works with Carlton le Willows and its students and who nominated Summer for the award, said: "Summer is working hard towards achieving positive outcomes.

Her teachers speak very highly of her and has been described as an 'outstanding' student.

Summer is working hard towards achieving her grades so that she can hopefully go to university one day and hopes to be an architect."

Summer's was one of seven awards at the event, which aims to shine a light on young people who have made positive choices, inspired others and overcome significant challenges in their communities.

Nottinghamshire Chief Constable Kate Meynell said: "I want to congratulate you all for being an inspiration to society and other young people for showcasing your wonderful talents and overcoming challenges. Keep striving for excellence in the future."

Prom reflections



Head of Academy Debbie Cartwright and Vice Principal Erica Cherry with students (left to right) Riley, Sam, Mia, Poppie, Aaliyah and Caitlin.

A memorable evening of celebration at the Year 11 Leavers' Dinner was created by staff at the Elland Academy.

The event marked the end of an important chapter for students.

They came together with staff to reflect on achievements, resilience, and growth shown throughout the year.

The event included well-deserved recognition of individual successes.

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Parent partnership praise

Carlton le Willows has received a prestigious award in recognition of the Academy's commitment to build positive and effective partnerships with parents.



The Leading Parent Partnership Award is a nationally-recognised award granted to organisations who have demonstrated consistent efforts to create effective parent partnership, imperative for the wellbeing of students.

To achieve the award, Carlton le Willows submitted evidence towards a number of objectives.

They included ensuring the Academy is a welcoming, communicative and friendly place for parents, providing parents with relevant and user-friendly information to help them support their child's learning, implementing parent-friendly policies and providing a good induction for parents.

During a day-long assessment the verifier spoke with staff, parents, pupils and members of the Academy Advisory Board to assess the actions and impact of parental engagement.

Principal Jas Mehat said: "I am delighted to have achieved this award which recognises the work of our whole staff team to ensure that parents are fully involved in every aspect of their child's journey through school.

I would like to say thank you to our stakeholders for all their support as we sought to achieve this award."

Debaters' great job



A group of Garforth Academy's Year 10 students attended Leeds Trinity University – City Centre Campus to battle three other schools across three separate law debates.

They covered the use of AI to prepare for GCSE exams, Film & PEGI ratings not being adhered to and social media access age being 16.

The team were runners up in the event organised by Paula Watson, Careers and Beth Betts, Lead Careers.

"It was a long day but all students did a great job," said Paula.



Lynda thanked

Praise has been heaped on a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant at Grange Lane Infant Academy who has spearheaded an area's transformation into a green oasis.

Lynda Waterhouse leads the school's Watch Us Grow Gardening Club.

Two years ago, the school was very fortunate to receive funding from the Royal Horticultural Society, but with the specific request to turn a grey area into a green one.

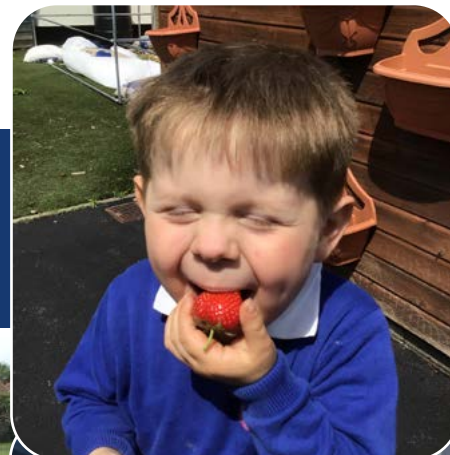
The school had a square of tarmac with some overgrown borders that needed some TLC so it was decided it would be a perfect place to turn green.

The area was designed to make it inclusive for all. For example, the width between the planters installed ensures it is wheelchair accessible.

The planters are of differing heights so even nursery children can enjoy planting and watering.

Bug hotels, animal boxes and even a nature pond have been added to encourage all forms of wildlife into the area.

Lynda is a keen promoter of recycling so has added rain barrels; compost bins and even special ways the children can reuse materials and be as ecofriendly as possible.





She has also developed a very special learning programme for the Watch us Grow Gardening Club, encouraging children to engage with nature and enjoy their own produce in many different ways.

Some of the topics they have looked at are:

- Horse chestnuts, growing trees and making soap, (Year 2)
- Growing our own food (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2)
- Identifying and aging trees, homemade Nutella, (Year 1)
- Sustainable products, Peat Moss (Year 1, Year 2)
- Herbs and our senses Nursery, Reception, (Year 1)
- Forest bathing, relaxing and inspiration
- Seeds (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)
- Insects and mini-Beast, Bee awareness/planting (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)



Along with this every child in school has planted a potato and sunflower seed to take home.

Lynda twists the arm of her lovely husband Brian to help her during the hot evenings and the school holidays.

They keep the plants watered and the area tidy and the school knows she contributes a lot of her own time and money towards making this club what it is.

The pictures show how much the children benefit. Thank you!



Festival frolics

A fun-filled day that gives children a taste of what it is like to attend a festival was held at Weelsby Academy.



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Maia meeting
Stitch.

Nico doing an
amazing job at
balancing!



Ava, Raven and
Jasmine Williams.



Weelsby Fest included circus-skills workshops, bouncy castles, ice creams and live music.

It also had visits from the police, fire service and some very special visitors – Stitch and Sonic!

There were lots of games for the children to enjoy including 'splat the rat', 'penalty shoot-out', and their favourite game – 'wet the teacher'!

It was the second year for Weelsby Fest and was organised by ECTs Emily Roche and Megan Smith.

Kamelia, from Year 1, said: "I loved it because there were bouncy castles and face painting.

My favourite game was coconut shy – I loved throwing the balls at the coconuts!"



Lexie enjoying the circus skills workshop.

Logan and Ensley, from Nursery, said the bouncy castle was their favourite.

"We also loved learning some circus skills and seeing Sonic and Stitch!"

Aaron, from Year 5, said: "Weelsby Fest was absolutely incredible.

The snacks were really good; there were sweets everywhere!

The bouncy castle was mayhem – but the good sort! When everyone was on the bouncy castle it was an absolute blast.

I loved the circus skills workshop, especially the unicycle.

It was so hard but once you got the hang of it, it was so fun!

We even got an ice cream from an ice cream van – that was my favourite part of the day!"



Teacher Jasmin Puckey and Evie-Mae.



Harvey looking like the coolest little boy in school.



Nevaeh Autumn having fun on the bouncy castle.



Leylan having a go at spinning plates at the circus skills workshop.



Pupils enjoy show challenge

Weelsby Academy took part in the Lincolnshire Show Schools' Challenge for the first time.



A group of 15 children spent the last few months researching their project about Grimsby's fishing heritage and future, ready to present it to the judges.

The project was close to pupils' hearts, as the fishing industry has shaped the school community.

The children had a fantastic couple of days at the show and left with two awards: second place in category (large primary school) and second in 'best newcomer'.

ECT Emily Roche, who organised the entry, said: "I was so proud of the hard work and dedication that the children showed and the commitment they made to the project. It really paid off."

Year 3's Sofia had "really enjoyed" the Lincolnshire Show.

"It was a really nice project and I was so proud of what I did. I learnt loads of new things about fishing in my local area."

Holly, from Year 5, said: "The Lincolnshire Show was really fun because we got to meet lots of new people and tell them about what we had learnt."

They were so impressed with our confidence and knowledge of our project. We worked so hard and I was so pleased that we came second!"

The Lincolnshire Show team with their second-placed plaque.



Weelsby Academy's stand at the Lincolnshire Show.

Greater together

Unity and togetherness were celebrated at the annual 'Kumon Y'all' community event proudly hosted by Manor Croft Academy.



The Kumon Y'all trophy.

Enjoying the evening together

Part of the Jo Cox Foundation's Great Get Together, people from all walks of life enjoyed an evening filled with connection, competition, and community spirit.

At the heart of the celebrations was a lively Boccia tournament, featuring teams made up of students, staff, and residents.

The MCA student team gave a fantastic performance, showing great teamwork, skill, and resilience throughout the tournament.

But it was the MCA men's staff team who stole the spotlight this year,

lifting the trophy after a thrilling and hard-fought final.

Their victory was cheered by all.

A huge thank you goes to Farooq and his team for their excellent organisation, special thanks also to Carolyn Wheatley for her work coordinating with Farooq and helping to make the event such a success.

What truly stood out, though, was the spirit of unity.

Families, neighbours, students, and staff came together to play and

support the Boccia games and to connect with one another in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

The evening came to a perfect close with a delicious meal of curry and freshly made samosas, bringing everyone together one last time to share food, laughter, and good company.

MCA looks forward to continuing this fantastic tradition, keeping the spirit of togetherness alive for years to come.



Beautiful space created by project

This article is written by Mrs Beeson and Charlie Thompson, Year 8



Mrs Beeson and Miss Kendall ran a community gardening project in the quad at John Whitgift Academy.

The focus of the project was the impact that gardening can have on mental health.

Staff, students and parents worked together to create a wellbeing garden and dig a pond for the nature garden.

Students made and painted a fantastic wishing well, installed stunning metal sculptures, and planted many beautiful plants as well as erecting a new memorial bench and building bird boxes and bug hotels for wildlife to enjoy.

As part of the project, the memorial garden was revamped and repainted and more plants and ornaments were added to create a celebration of the lives we have lost.

A beautiful new memorial for soldiers has also been added to this garden.

We did this because we wanted to show respect to those who battled for our freedom, we wanted to pay them back for what they have done.





This project took a lot of hard work and dedication from everyone involved, but it all paid off and the gardens look lovely.

Staff and students look after the gardens daily, watering plants and refilling bird/animal seed.

Mrs Beeson and Miss Kendall could not be prouder of how students worked together to create such a beautiful space.

Eco Council's on litter trail

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Cleaner, safer, rubbish-free environments were created by children around Montagu Academy when they participated in the Keep Britain Tidy National Great British Spring Clean.

The school's Eco Council joined community groups in organised litter picks across Doncaster to mark the campaign's 10th anniversary.

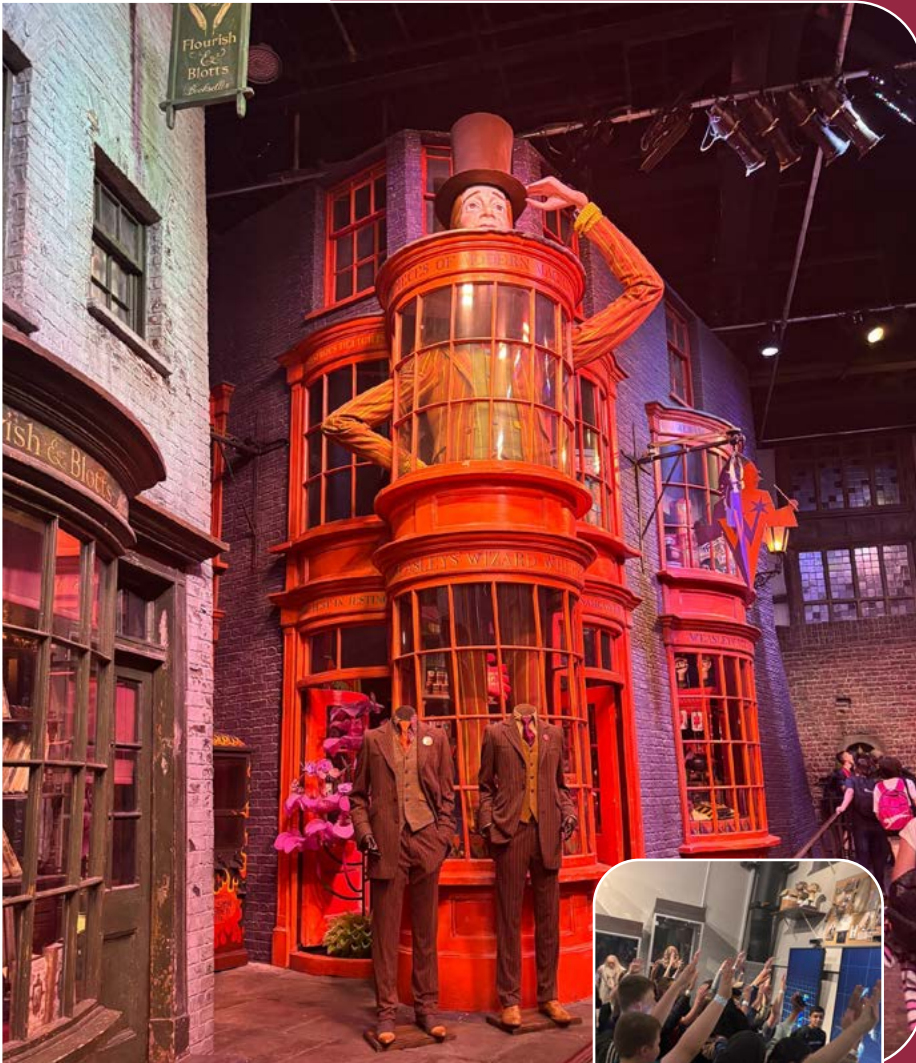
They completed daily litter picks on the playground during break times and extra ones outside the front of school during Eco Council meetings.

All litter collected was taken away by the City Council's Street Scene Teams.



Harry trip's a hit

Magic was in the air when students from Manor Croft visited the Harry Potter Studios in Leavesden near Watford.



Organised by Head of English Emily Groves over two days for Year 8, she said their behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school and Trust.

"From the moment we stepped onto the grounds, the enchanting atmosphere transported us straight into the wizarding world," she said.

"The tour took us through iconic sets like the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, and the Forbidden Forest, showcasing the incredible attention to detail that went into bringing J.K. Rowling's books to life."

Aysha Sikander, Second in English, also enjoyed it.

"It was a truly magical and enchanting experience that the pupils at Manor Croft will remember forever," she said.

Year 8's Harvey Butterfield said: "I absolutely loved it. I have never seen anything like it."



The amazing, infamous Diagon Alley in all its glory.

Year 8 students using interactive technology to make Dobby wave and move.



From Italy with love and special

Historic sites and beautiful coastal formations were among the highlights when 45 Year 9 students and five teachers from Darton Academy explored the Bay of Naples.



Students in Pompeii town square with Mount Vesuvius in the background.

The three-night trip to Italy included a boat tour around Capri to see numerous caves, arches, and huge limestone cliffs.

The party climbed Mount Vesuvius and walked around its crater to see the lava path from the 1944 eruption.

They also endured the heat to explore Pompeii, walking through Roman homes, a fast food building and even a laundrette, all preserved following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius.

Between all this, the Darton contingent made and tasted some delicious lemon gelato as well as eat genuine Napoli pizza.

Teacher of Geography Emma Laver organised the trip.

She said: "The trip was brilliant from start to finish.

The Bay of Naples is a beautiful place full of geography and history and was the perfect place to explore.

memories



Will, Nathan, Ellis and Lily in their matching sunhats on Capri.

Mt Vesuvius was a highlight for me, climbing an actual volcano with so much history, and being able to walk around and see into the crater was an experience I'll never forget.

The breathtaking views of Naples on such a clear sunny day as well as the cherry on top.



The climb to the top of Mount Vesuvius.

At the crater of Mount Vesuvius, enjoying the views and the sunshine.

I feel the students have learnt so much by being immersed in this extraordinary place.

Being able to walk around Pompeii itself, seeing caves and arches around Capri with their own eyes, exploring the food and culture of this part of Italy – it is truly the best form of learning."

Kirsty Stephenson, Head of Department, also went on the trip.

"The way that students were able to see and experience geography happening in the real world was wonderful – it brought the classroom to life as well as giving them memories that will last a lifetime," she said.

Pupil Sophie said: "I loved the boat ride especially and seeing the island. It was so beautiful. I would definitely visit again."

Zane really enjoyed Pompeii.

"We learnt how Roman's lived and what their daily lives were like," he said.

"We saw a food building and a laundrette where they washed their clothes. I would love to go again one day."





Noah Rhuebben and Elliott with the giant snake.

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Children travel to Gulliver's

Fun was had by a party of 55 Year 3/4 children from Macaulay Primary Academy on an overnight residential to Gulliver's Valley in Rotherham as part of curriculum enrichment.

The children had a great time playing laser tag, holding a range of reptiles including a 10ft snake, and enjoying a disco and toasting marshmallows around the fire pit before settling down to a night camping in the JCB digger soft play area.

The next day the children enjoyed a hearty breakfast before finding out how all the different rides worked in the park. Finally, they were let loose on a range of different rides for the day.

Assistant Principal Ashton Hinson said: "The children had so much fun and the teachers were so tired!"

Elliott, in Year 4, said: "Gulliver's was incredibly fun, because I really enjoyed the Dino World water slide, it was so high and we got splashed as we went down.

We even got to stay overnight and sleep in the JCB digger world."

Analise (Year 3) said: "On the night time we enjoyed a party and got to do some dancing on the stage.



Oskar holding a giant tarantula.

The pirate ship was really fast it made my stomach feel funny. I put my hands up in the air!"

Oskar, also in Year 3, said: "The swings were really fast, and they made me feel a bit dizzy. I had a good view of the park from them."

I loved being able to hold different reptiles, especially the huge spider and snake. Miss Hinson was so scared!"



Children enjoying the rides.



Felicity around the fire pit toasting marshmallows.

Brilliant Barcelona

Memories to last a lifetime were created when students from The Laurel Academy travelled to Barcelona in its first foreign residential trip in four years.

For some in the 39-strong party, it was their first ever flight, taking them to three nights and four days in Catalonia.

Sites visited included the FC Barcelona Camp Nou, La Sagrada Familia, Cosmo Caixa Museum, Casa Batllo, La Boqueira Market, Las Ramblas and Barceloneta beach.

Trip leader Michelle Laing said: "I've been planning and running trips for more than 15 years, and this truly was the best yet.

The opportunities that our students and staff witnessed was amazing.

They walked more than 39 miles and covered so many of the attractions that Barcelona has to offer.

The itinerary was jam packed and each of our students were an absolute credit to our school.

To be part of a student's first flight or trip abroad is just the best feeling.

Some of our pupils had never been in a city or travelled on an underground. The metro was an incredible experience.



We ate in some amazing places including La Boqueira Market and Mexgal Restaurant where we enjoyed traditional Catalan food. We even managed to fit in Hard Rock Café Barcelona.

Thank you to Team Barcelona and Kate at NST for planning a super trip."

Five staff accompanied the students. It was the first foreign trip under Principal Katy Taylor Clarke and she was kept updated every step of the way.

Staff member Ann Peart felt privileged to go.

"I was nervous but excited," she said. "Even though a lot of work went into the organisation of the trip, our students were a true credit to the academy and had a brilliant time.

The trip ran very smoothly, was very well organised and the city was an amazing place.

The sites that we visited have created memories for me that will last a lifetime.



I can't thank Mrs Taylor-Clarke and Mrs Laing enough for giving me this opportunity to go.

Also, the other staff members that went really worked together and it was a pleasure being in their company. Teamwork really did make the dream work!

I hope that more students get opportunities to visit cultural places abroad as I would highly recommend the trip."

Students were full of praise.

Abi said: "I enjoyed my first plane flight."

Liv marvelled at Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece La Sagrada Familia.

"I enjoyed the cathedral a lot because of the architecture," she said.

Oliver's favourite destination was Camp Nou, home of Barcelona football club.

"Visca El Barca!" he said.



Jennifer and Oliver enjoyed the trip and learned a lot of new things about Barcelona.

"It allowed us time together and time with friends," they said.

Hannah, Amelia, Millie, Ruby, Alicia all loved the beach.

Kate Astley, from organisers NST, part of PGL Beyond, said: "It was another successful trip – all thanks to Michelle Laing's passion and enthusiasm, creating a true wow!

What an experience for the pupils. It was a perfect collaboration; our Expertise at NST with the group leaders' clear vision helped turn their goals for the pupils into reality.

It's always a pleasure working with teachers and colleagues across the Delta Academies Trust. I can't wait to work on the next unforgettable trip!"

The party outside Number 10 Downing Street.

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Capital gains

A memorable and educational trip to London was undertaken by Morley Place's Pupil Parliament.



Pupils meet the Secretary of State for Defence

They were accompanied by Head of Academy Ash Duncan, Teacher of Year 6 Jo Shaw, and member of Delta's Board of Trustees Lesley Bailey.

The day was packed with visits to iconic landmarks.

The group experienced the grandeur of Buckingham Palace and witnessed the precision of the King's Guards along The Mall.



Excited to be on the London Underground.

A highlight was a comprehensive tour of the Houses of Parliament, offering these aspiring young leaders a first-hand look at the heart of British democracy.

They saw an important debate take place in the House of Commons before completing the tour of Westminster Hall.

They met with Secretary of State for Defence The Rt Hon John Healey MP for an engaging question and answer session and concluded the day with a visit to the historic 10 Downing Street.

Mr Duncan said the pupils represented their school and community with exceptional conduct, embodying the potential of inspiring leaders of the future.

"It was a truly special and enriching experience for all involved," he said.

"Witnessing our Pupil Parliament explore the Houses of Parliament and engage with John Healey MP was truly inspiring.



Buckingham Palace was another stop on the tour.

These young people, our future leaders, represented Morley Place impeccably, and I have no doubt this experience will stay with them for a very long time."

Educational Visits Coordinator Mrs Shaw said: "Their engagement and insightful questions throughout the day, especially during the Q&A with John Healey MP, filled me with immense pride.

Experiences like this are invaluable in shaping their understanding of democracy and their role within it."

Lesley Bailey said: "The visit provided pupils with a valuable opportunity to experience democracy in action and enrich their role as Pupil Parliament Members."

The Pupil Parliament members who went were Year 3: William R, Teddy W and Emmie G; Year 4: Poppy M, Alfie M and Laura R; Year 5: Theo C, Thea W and Jason K; and Year 6: Lily B, Darcey W and Evie P.

Lily said: "Going to the Houses of Parliament was amazing.



I learned so much about how our country is run, and meeting an actual MP was really cool. It made me think about what I want to do when I'm older."

Parents said:

"Thank you to all involved for organising today. The pictures are brilliant and the children very lucky to experience such an opportunity. William had a brilliant time."

"Thank you to all involved. Poppy has had such an amazing experience."

"Thank you so much for giving Emmie this opportunity, she has loved every second."

The splendour of Westminster.



Fabulous effort

More than £2,900 was raised by Grange Lane Infant Academy staff when they took part in Race for Life.



The 19-strong team, including one who was 31 weeks pregnant, ran the 5k event at Doncaster Town Fields to help raise essential funds for Cancer Research.

Staff completed the 5k either running or walking in sunny conditions and in a fantastic atmosphere.

Best of all, thanks to donations from Delta staff, parents, friends and family, more than £2,900 for the great cause.

They give a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored them. They are so pleased with the total.





Fun-soaked run!



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Spirits were high despite soaring temperatures as participants from all year groups, plus staff, took part in the Forget Me not Children's Hospice 5k charity fun run at Manor Croft Academy.

With the sun blazing down, staying cool became part of the challenge, and the fun.

Thanks to some creative thinking - and a few well-aimed super soakers - runners were kept refreshed along the route.

Associate Lead Teacher Katy Connor, second in department MFL, was thrilled with the amazing turnout and proud to have raised money to support the vital work of Forget Me Not.

"Events like this remind us of the power of community, generosity, and a little water-based fun!" she said.

A huge thank you to Miss Connor for her brilliant organisation and tireless enthusiasm in making the event such a success.



Poorly children benefit

Sensory toys and lights were purchased for a ward at Leeds Children's Hospital after a big fundraising effort by a class at Whetley Academy.

The charity push formed part of the Personal Development curriculum and helped pupils of 5MA collect their Delta Stars Moral Development card.



They set themselves the target of raising £100 but ended up with £300, selling home-made cakes, having a raffle and holding a non-uniform day.

The beneficiaries are children who have long stays in Leeds Children's Hospital's Paediatric Critical Care Unit.

The efforts were organised by the pupils of Year 5MA, Aneela Mahmood (LSA) and Suzy Morrison (class teacher and Assistant Principal).

Pupil Rayyan said: "We enjoyed fund-raising for the sensory lights and it is good that children who are

poorly will have them to brighten up their rooms."

Hiva was surprised by the amount raised.

"I did not think we would be able to raise this much. When we first discussed it, we were hoping to raise £100, so I feel really proud that we managed to make such a big difference."

A letter, addressed to Head of Academy Jonny Townend, staff and pupils, thanked them for the "very generous donation".

"Your money has enabled us to buy some much-needed sensory equipment that helps the children to feel safe and secure and gives them something to look at which aids stimulation and development.

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts from all the nurses, doctors, physios, play staff, family care sisters and all other Paediatric Critical Care Unit staff, patients and families on Leeds Children's Hospital PCCU."

Trophy haul at hall

A total of 62 Carlton le Willows students enjoyed a weekend of sport and other activities during a residential to Condover Hall, as well as bagging a couple of trophies.

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Six netball teams and two football teams from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 spent the weekend competing against a range of teams – of all abilities – from across the country.

While netball teams have been attending this event for some years, this was the first year the PE department had taken the football teams, with the Year 9 plays winning the final cup and plate competition.

PE Teacher Donna Jones said: "It is the first time we have taken girls football teams on the residential.

The experience of playing five-a-side was new for most players who responded well to the challenge, winning both the cup and plate competitions."



She added: "The girls' netball teams had some difficult competition, but we learned from our experiences and made huge amounts of progress over the weekend.

We generally finished in the top five for each age group which pupils should be very happy with due to the standard of netball."



Throughout the stay, pupils also got to experience a range of outdoor adventurous activities and evening entertainment so, all in all, a great weekend was had by all.



Champion effort



Athletes from Carlton le Willows have been named county champions after scooping gold medals in a sports hall athletics competition – one of a series of athletics contests in a busy season of sport.

The Academy sent two Year 7 teams – boys and girls – to represent Gedling at the Nottinghamshire County Finals in Harvey Hadden Sports Village at the end of April – with both teams taking home gold thanks to a top place position. A team of Year 8 athletes also finished in bronze medal position.

All three teams earned their place at the event – which included the

best eight schools from across the county – after taking part in the Gedling area sports hall athletics event.

During the Gedling event the team of eight Year 8 girls finished in first place and the Year 7 teams won their competitions.

PE Teacher Hannah Jones said: "This is a great achievement.

Pupils should be really proud of themselves. Their commitment to training and their behaviour whilst out on the school trip was fantastic."

The achievements in the sports hall athletics were swiftly followed by the Year 7 and 8 Gedling Schools Athletics Championships last month.

This is always a close competition but this year Carlton le Willows were crowned champions.

PE teacher Donna Jones said: "There were some outstanding performances on the day, with the Year 7 girls relay team being one of the highlights."

A summer term of athletics finished with the Delta Games.

Carlton le Willows entered six teams – two boys' teams, under 13s and under 15s, and four teams of girls from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Mrs Jones said: "We had a really good day with some excellent results all round.

There were some stand out performance on the track with some really strong finishes and our Year 7 and Year 9 teams did an amazing job as they were competing a year up but still held their own."

Dedicated Lucas reaps reward



Commitment to water polo has seen its rewards for a De Warenne Academy student after his team became national champions.

Lucas was in a North East of England under 14 team that won every game in the sport's talent games held at Sandwell. Six talent centres from across the country competed.

Mum Laura Wright said he has been playing water polo for almost two years.

"It just started as something to keep him still swimming," she said.

"He trains at Maltby, and plays for Rotherham Metros.

After being acknowledged to have talent as a keeper he trialled for

both the North East boys team and the North East talent centre. Both of which he plays for now.

Some weeks he can train up to eight hours in the pool, and does other training at home, always with a smile in his face.

His goal is to one day play for Great Britain."

Laura said anyone can go to a free session in water polo at Maltby Leisure Centre, Sunday evenings 4pm until 6pm.

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Ollie grateful for DACT's support



A student in Year 10 at Lincoln Castle Academy participated in the National Karting Cup at Fulbeck in Lincolnshire.

Ollie is sponsored by Delta Academies Charitable Trust and received funding allowing him to participate in several national competitions.

Ollie recently qualified for the Fulbeck competition after a strong performance in the local heats.

Ollie finished second in the B final which resulted him qualifying for the A final.

Ollie finished 20th in that final out of 34 and, overall, he produced an amazing performance to come 20th out of 80 in the national finals.

He said: "I have racing now for nearly three years.

I am really thankful to Delta for allowing me to participate in lots of events all over the country.

I spend the sponsorship on rave tyres, fuel and entry fees. Without the support I would not have been able to participate in as many local and national competitions."

Triumphant teams

Triumphant teams returned to Don Valley Academy after winning competitions in football and rugby.

They secured a convincing 2-0 victory against Armthorpe to lift the Doncaster Schools Cup in a well-contested match that showcased the team's skill and determination.

A hard fought first half ended 0-0.

In the second period, pressure paid off when forward Nathan capitalised on a defensive error and found the back of the net with a well-placed lob.

He doubled the lead after jinking past his marker and creating space for a well-placed finish into the bottom corner.

In addition to goalscorer Nathan, key players were Tayzer and Harley who controlled the midfield and created attacking opportunities.

Olly and Lukas were solid defensively and limited attacking chances.

On a thrilling day of rugby, Don Valley Academy showcased their talent and teamwork at the Rugby 9s tournament, emerging victorious against strong competitors Campsmount, Hungerhill, and Ridgewood.

The tournament kicked off with Don Valley facing Hungerhill.

The first three sets saw Evan score three tries, with standout

performances from their key players, who exploited gaps in the Hungerhill defence. Despite a spirited effort from Hungerhill, Don Valley maintained their lead, finishing the match 30-16.

In their second match against Campsmount, Don Valley continued their momentum.

Don Valley's relentless pressure paid off as they scored three tries in quick succession. Their defensive line held strong, preventing Campsmount from breaking through. The final score was 44-0.

The final match against Ridgewood was a nail-biter. The final whistle blew with a score of 26-12, crowning Don Valley Academy as the champions.

Their victory was a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to the team for their outstanding performance and for bringing home the trophy. The team move onto the national finals in Warrington.

Meanwhile, Don Valley Academy BTEC students visited Nottingham Forest's museum and stadium.

This visit was a resounding success and enhanced their understanding of sports science, history, and the



cultural significance of football in the community.

The insights will undoubtedly enrich their understanding of sports science and inspire their future endeavours in the field.

In a further success story, Elliott competed for Barnby Dunn Colts in the Copa Jordi tournament in Barcelona. His victorious team won every game and did not concede a goal.



Cricket coaching bonus

Six weeks of fully funded cricket coaching was secured by Montagu Academy for its Year 6 children.

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for those graduating from All Stars Cricket and is the perfect introduction for eight-to-11 year-olds new to the sport.

Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket.

The children received their Dynamos Cricket New Balance T-shirt, personalised with their name and number.

They had a great time developing their skills.



Gold rewards sporting offer

An ongoing commitment to sport and a broad offer has seen St Wilfrid's Academy awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award.



Led by PE Teacher Jamie Major, students from Key Stage 2 to 4 enjoy a broad range of activities including swimming lessons, basketball, and traditional sports such as football.

This offer sits alongside wider enrichment opportunities, including mountain biking and outdoor gym, culminating in an end of year sports day. Rewards visits have included one to the Etihad Stadium to watch a Champions league match.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme

launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of sport across their school and into the community.

Executive Principal for Alternative Provision, Jo Pittard, said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

"With an increased number of young people participating in PE and Enrichment this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of sport, including those who have stepped out of their comfort zone, made progress and demonstrated an enthusiasm for sport.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, staff workforce and enrichment, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

St Wilfrid's continues to encourage all students to engage in sport with a welcoming approach.

We continue to intend with the increasing participation, developing student confidence and social skills whilst encouraging the enrichment that sport brings."





THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community

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