

THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community



Seasonal cheer!

Issue 33
December 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the last edition of The Link this year.

We have enjoyed an exceptional autumn term and we have much to reflect on and celebrate.

I am also keen to look ahead and address the challenges that will, undoubtedly, come our way.

I am delighted we have so many opportunities this term to bring colleagues from across the Trust together to share many of our exciting initiatives in areas ranging from Primary Maths to Secondary SEND and Inclusion.

One of the many benefits of being part of a Trust is the breadth and scope of expertise we can draw on and share.

I would encourage you all to find Trust networks in your areas of interest and responsibility and make your contribution to our Trust-wide conversations.

We also continue to showcase our sector-leading skills, knowledge and experience with colleagues from outside the Trust on a local, regional and national basis. The recent Inclusion Strategy training day for secondary colleagues is an inspiring example of this approach and was very well received by Trust and non-Trust colleagues.

Personally, I have participated in a number of round table discussions in London with DfE colleagues, championing the work you do, in particular for our most disadvantaged pupils and students,

including white working class children.

This work has gained a lot of traction with senior DfE colleagues and we will continue to take every opportunity to highlight your achievements.

The Laurel Academy has recently become the latest in the Trust to achieve the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM), while both The Laurel and Willows academies have been designated by the Department for Education as Attendance and Behaviour Hubs, highlighting their outstanding practice.

As part of our preparations for inspection under the renewed OFSTED framework, we engaged in two pilot inspections, gaining valuable understanding and experience of the inspection process. I would like to thank colleagues from Goldthorpe and Ash Hill academies for their hard work in this area.

We have established a Sporting Pathway at The Vale Academy and sport will continue to play an important role in the Trust going forward. Although in its infancy, our conversations in this area are gaining momentum and we look forward to sharing our exciting plans with you in the New Year.

We are very well-placed to utilise our capacity, resources and expertise to offer not only an inclusive provision for all, but also to identify and nurture

talented young sportspeople towards their next steps in representation and competition.

Delta Leadership Pathways offers practical experience delivered by experts in their fields to complement the academic knowledge already provided by NPQs.

We are very excited at the potential to develop and broaden the opportunities available to colleagues at every stage of their leadership development journey.

We were inspired by the enthusiastic response to our initial invitation and welcomed our first cohort of aspirant leaders to the launch event this week.

It remains for me to thank every one of you for your work in support of our children over the past year.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful New Year.

Andy Barnett
Chief Executive Officer



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...Changing lives

Inclusive approach praised

Sarah Gill speaking at the conference

Principals and Executive Leaders were brought together for a conference to launch the Trust's Secondary Inclusion Strategy.

Led by Executive Principal Anna Heaton, she welcomed delegates and set the scene.

UNESCO states: "An inclusive approach to education means that each individual's needs are taken into account and that all learners participate and achieve together.

It acknowledges that all children can learn and that every child has unique characteristics, interests, abilities and learning needs.

Special focus is placed on learners who may be at risk of marginalisation, exclusion or underachievement.

For example, where a child has a disability he or she would not be separated from other learners in school and learning assessments and progress would take the disability into account."

Anna said inclusion was important because poverty, location, gender, language, disability, ethnicity,

religion, migration or displacement status were among factors that continue to dictate and limit opportunities.

"We have the drive, determination and ability to remove those limitations at Delta Academies Trust," she said.

"We want our pupils to achieve, belong, and thrive."

A new inclusion platform on SharePoint provides easy access to resources designed to support the Secondary Inclusion Strategy including "Using Enhanced Mainstream Provisions", "Wellbeing Strategy" and "Supporting Looked-After Children".

The conference was well received by all who attended.

An external guest, who travelled from the Midlands, wrote:

"The breadth of content and the clarity of each session made the day incredibly worthwhile and worth the drive!"

Feedback from Principals included:

"It was one of the best training days I've attended."

"Useful and inspiring. So much to take away and get started on."

"Made me feel positive about what we are doing as a Trust for inclusion and the direction we are taking together."

"This will make a real difference to our children's lives. 10/10 well done!"

"All the sessions linked perfectly together and time passed so quickly because the sessions were so engaging."

"First class CPD. Clear, concise and resourced strategies from experts in their field. Evident the amount of preparation that went into today, and the amount yet to come. Thank you."

Leadership pathways

There are four pathways aimed at aspirant middle leaders, senior leaders, Principals and executive leaders.

Each pathway offers bespoke training required at each level in areas such as timetabling, finance, HR, compliance, teaching and learning and inclusion.

The conference theme this year was being future ready for a changing landscape and future proofing exceptional leadership is central to this vision.

Future leaders of all levels are already in our schools.

Leadership pathways are a new development for Delta. Designed to complement the extensive range of NPQs delivered by the Exchange teaching hub, the pathways offer practical leadership experience delivered by experts in their fields to enhance the research informed and academic knowledge provided by the NPQs.

They will also gain experience beyond Delta, working with other highly effective Trusts and accompanying executive leaders providing external support to other schools and Trusts.

More than 150 people have gained a place on the programme.

It launched officially this month with input from CEO Andy Barnett on leading through vision and values and Director of HR

Helen Ruddle who presented on leading through people.

Kate Rowley, Director of Primary Education, said: "We are thrilled by both the number of applicants and the quality of applications.

"There is a real buzz around the programme and we are excited to get started."

Chris McCall, Executive Principal Secondary, said: "This is a real opportunity for colleagues to forge professional friendships that mutually enhance the leadership of all, strengthening the Trust and crucially enhancing the experiences of young people."

Part of the pathways are evening Expert Knowledge sessions that are open to all staff to attend.

These will be advertised in January.

Prestigious award

Delighted staff at St Wilfrid's Academy celebrated after it was named 'Alternative Provision of the Year'.

The prestigious award from the National Association of Special Educational Needs (NASEN) was announced at a glittering ceremony at The Vox, Resorts World, Birmingham.

The awards shine a spotlight on individuals and schools who go above and beyond to make education inclusive for all.

The judges said: "St Wilfrid's Academy gives SEN/SEMH students a true second chance, with inclusion at the heart of everything they do."

Over 84% of students in short-term assessment places successfully reintegrate into mainstream schools, and NEETs remain under 4% for six years running.

Recognised with the IQM National Award for Inclusion, Trauma Informed School Award, and Thrive Ambassador status, the school combines multi-agency support with personalised learning to transform lives.

Innovative projects, including research with Sheffield University on literacy and oracy, continue



Associate Executive Principal Dirk Pittard (second from left) and Executive Principal Jo Pittard (far right) receive the award on behalf of staff at St Wilfrid's Academy.

to push the boundaries of alternative provision.

It is a school where every child is seen, valued, and supported to succeed."

Staff were "very proud" to receive the award.

International exchange

A delegation of international guests visited the Exchange Research School as part of a learning exchange between the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Leerpunt, Belgium.

The 21 visitors spent the day exploring how the Research Schools Network (RSN) supports schools to access, understand and apply educational evidence in practice.

The day, organised by colleagues from Exchange Research School and The Exchange Partnership in partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation, was based at The Education Exchange, Knottingley, but also included visits to Simpson's Lane and De Lacy Academies.

Vanessa Hopkinson, Regional Delivery Lead for Education Endowment Foundation, said: "It was a joy to be back in real schools, as a reminder of 'what it is all about'.

We saw that schools can be what we all know they should be – a place for all learners, especially those placed in more challenging circumstances to be inspired and thrive."

Leerpunt is the newly established evidence centre for Flanders, Belgium. The visit formed part of its work to strengthen evidence-informed teaching and learning across Flemish education, supported by universities and teacher training providers from the region.

The morning began with a warm welcome from colleagues at Exchange Research School and The Exchange Partnership, followed by an overview of the Research School's approach and an introduction to Delta Academies Trust from Chief Executive Officer Andy Barnett.



Sally Adams, Head of Exchange Research School, discusses its work.

The visits to Simpson's Lane and De Lacy gave an insight into how evidence-informed approaches are embedded across primary and secondary settings.

Delegates were inspired by the inviting environments that the primary offered, and how committed the staff were to ensure all children made great progress.

At De Lacy Academy, delegates observed excellent teaching practice, with senior leaders at the school narrating the lessons and identifying the evidence-informed strategies embedded at the school.

In the afternoon, the group heard from Jo Twiby, Executive Director of The Exchange Partnership (TEP), about its wider professional development offer and the central role evidence plays in shaping it.

Exchange Research School At Don Valley Academy
Supported by the Education Endowment Foundation

The Exchange Partnership

This was followed by input from the Exchange Teaching Hub, opportunities to observe a National Professional Qualification (NPQ) session, and discussions on the practical realities of mobilising evidence across the school system.

The day concluded with a reflective session, enabling delegates to share key learning and consider how the English RSN model might inform the development of a Flemish equivalent.

The visit marked a highly successful knowledge exchange and highlighted the value of international collaboration in strengthening evidence-informed education.

Exchange Research School extended sincere thanks to all colleagues involved in the visit, with particular appreciation to Delta Academies Trust and the schools who welcomed the delegation and shared their practice so openly.

More information about the visit can be found [here](#).

Carols, candles and children – it must be Christmas at Dallowgill!

A magical Christmas

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11 of our primary academies came together at the centre's former church for a magical Christmas by Candlelight celebration in front of an invited audience that included residents and parents.

The children - from Friarage, Serlby Park, Wybers Wood, Norbridge, Morley Place, Pheasant Bank, Newby and Scalby, Worlaby, Southmere, Park View and Goldthorpe - had stayed the previous night.

They took part in a woodland walk, Forest School activities, songs around the campfire with roasted marshmallows, and games to collaborate with other children.

The event, in its second year, was put together by Director of Learning (Primary) Megan Rowley.

She was delighted with its success.

"I would like to thank everybody who made it such a special occasion, but particularly the children," she said.

"The renovated church is beautiful and a magical space to perform in. The collaboration with other schools at this fantastic, educational centre creates life-changing experiences for the children.

We built on what was a huge success last year to make it an even more special.

It is so important to give further opportunities and harness children's talents.

Schools selected children who have shown real musical skills or those who may not have these opportunities normally.

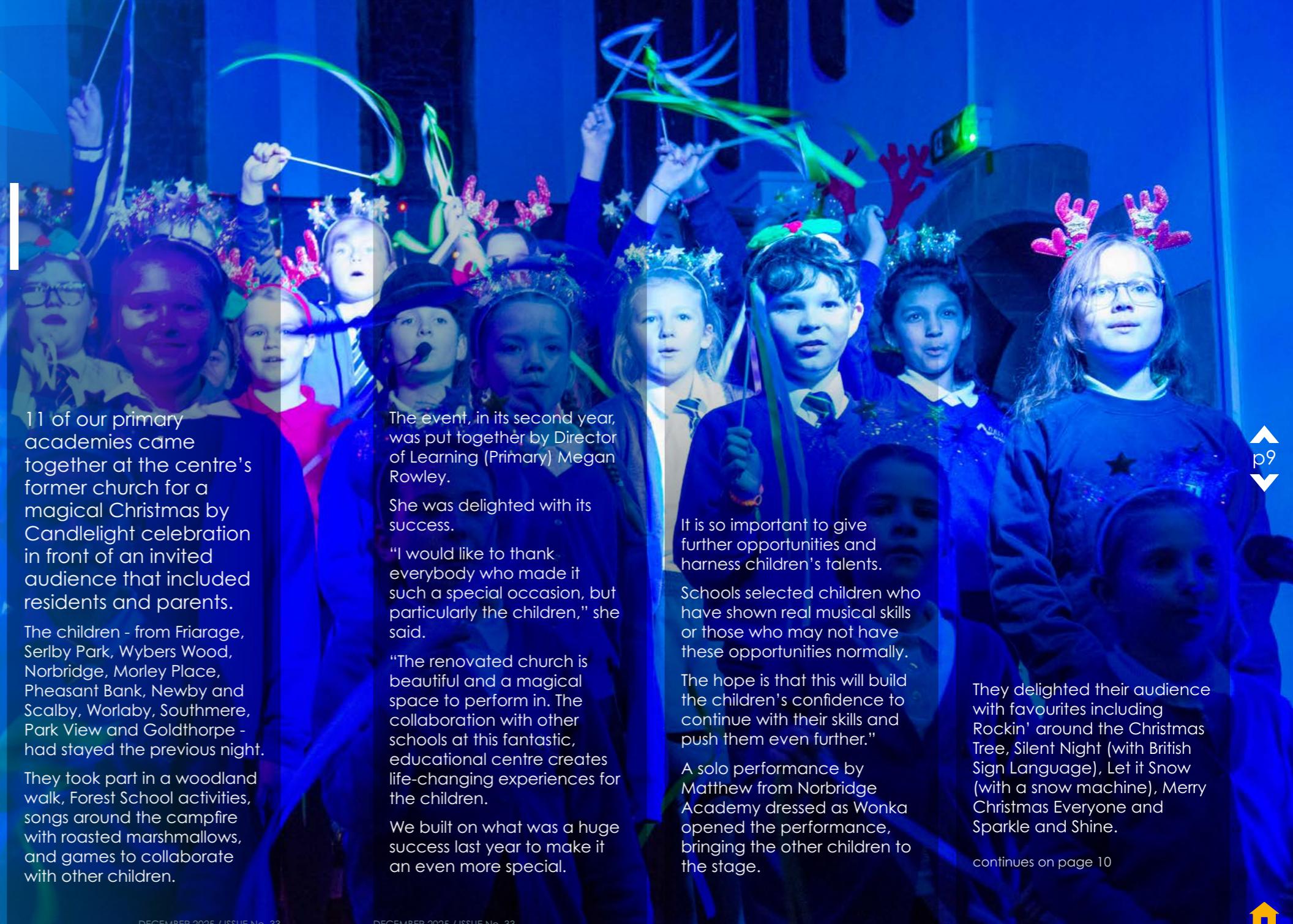
The hope is that this will build the children's confidence to continue with their skills and push them even further."

A solo performance by Matthew from Norbridge Academy dressed as Wonka opened the performance, bringing the other children to the stage.

They delighted their audience with favourites including Rockin' around the Christmas Tree, Silent Night (with British Sign Language), Let it Snow (with a snow machine), Merry Christmas Everyone and Sparkle and Shine.

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A highlight was the heart-warming Believe, the children singing about believing in themselves and trying their best. Elliott from Worlaby Academy and Beatrice from Friarage Academy respectively, started the song.

Children from each school compered between each, sharing information about Dallowgill and the songs in a promotion of oracy.

They had rehearsed in their schools since the beginning of October, using recorded tracks and videos from Megan.

She went into schools to rehearse individually with the children. The first time they sang together was in the rehearsals at Dallowgill.

Megan thanked Andy Barnett and Deputy CEO Trudi Bartle for helping to make the concert happen.

She was grateful to John Devine for his organisation from the Dallowgill end and coach driver Darren Buckingham.

Megan also wished to thank the staff at the Academies for their support:

- Friarage: Cheryl Cappleman (Head)
- Serby Park: Katie Williams (Music subject leader)
- Wybers Wood: Teresa Rouse (Head)
- Norbridge: Rebecca Jackson (Head-organised), Bayan Alwail (Teacher)
- Morley Place: Linda Maxfield (Music subject leader)
- Pheasant Bank: Fiona Evison (Music subject leader)
- Newby and Scalby: Tom Wrigglesworth (Head), Rachel Clayton (Music subject leader)
- Worlaby: Sharon Hatton (Head), Daniella Snowdown (Music subject leader)
- Southmere: Emma Firth-Rymer (Assistant Head), Heather Rowley (Teacher)
- Park View: Louise Taylor (Head), Rebecca Turner (Associate Head of Academy)
- Goldthorpe: Millie Bamforth (Music Subject Leader)



Megan said: "It was an absolute pleasure to organise and be there for the event because of the joy, experiences and skills it brings to the children. Teachers and the community benefit too. It was wonderful to see the children perform together so confidently, with huge smiles and as one Delta choir, regardless of the different schools they attend.



Festive treats

p12 Two amazing festive events brought the community together at Weelsby Academy.

It transformed into a cosy theatre for a very special Polar Express Movie Night.

Pupils arrived in their comfiest pyjamas, ready to settle in under warm blankets with friends.

A dedicated team of Weelsby staff served delicious hot chocolate and tasty treats throughout the evening but the biggest surprise of all came when Santa arrived, bringing chocolate coins for every child.

The event was such a huge success that tickets sold out immediately - and an extra night had to be added so everyone could take part.

Even better, the evening helped raise money for DACT, making our magical movie night meaningful as well as fun.

The Academy's second festive celebration was the Weelsby Christmas Fayre, where families were invited into school for an evening filled with seasonal activities.

Inside, visitors explored a range of stalls, with one of the biggest highlights being the festive raffle - packed with fantastic prizes.

All the money raised will help continue to subsidise school trips. Outside, families gathered under the gazebo to enjoy hot dogs and steaming hot chocolate, while children visited Santa in his grotto.

The Academy would like to extend a special thank you to the Grimsby Cleethorpes Lions Club for its incredible support in organising and running the event and making it such a success.



The Delta Academies Charitable Trust (DACT) continues to make a huge difference and support talented children's dreams and aspirations.

DACT: Supporting dreams

Here are some examples from this past year.



Sam – Garforth Academy

Sam received £1,000 from DACT to support his goal of becoming a professional golfer.

Playing since age five, Sam is working towards securing a US college scholarship and competed in key multi-day tournaments across the UK this year.

Recent highlights include winning the Leeds & District Division

Championship and 2020 Junior Tour Open, plus achieving a bogey-free 68 at Garforth Golf Club and a 66 at the Hawksworth Trophy.

Sam also claimed the 2025 Leeds & District Order of Merit title.



Tayla – John Whitgift Academy

Tayla received £750 from DACT to support travel costs to compete at the All Star Worlds Championships in Florida.

A dedicated cheerleader for nine years, Tayla trains multiple times a week, takes tumble and stunt classes and coaches younger athletes.

Her team, Glitter Dolls, competed against 77 teams worldwide, placing third overall and earning an All Star World bracelet for placing first in their semi-final subdivision.



Teddy – Morley Place Primary Academy

Teddy (eight) received £700 from DACT to support his go-karting journey.

In the 2024 season, he competed in the Bambino class, winning the Wombwell Kart Club Championship and achieving second in both the MSUK and Fulbeck Sprint Series.

He has progressed to the Cadet class, racing against drivers aged 8 to 13.

Thanks to the generosity of staff and students, DACT raised £2,665 last year, and this year we're aiming even higher, £1 per pupil, which could see us reach an incredible £33,000.

Schools are already off to a fantastic start, with Darton raising £665, Simpsons Lane £200, and Norbridge collecting £780 through their Jingle Jog.

Another great way to contribute to DACT is through Change for Charity, the Trust's automatic payroll deduction scheme.

This takes the pennies from monthly pay and uses them to support the charity.

For example, if take home pay is £864.42, the staff member will receive £864, and 42p will go to DACT.

Staff can opt out at any time by completing the form again. The target for 2025/26 is for 10% of staff to sign up.

Every penny counts. Scan the QR code and sign up today.



DACT Ball 2026 tickets on sale

Booking is open for the Delta Academies Charitable Trust Ball 2026 for all Delta staff.

Early bird tickets are £60 (save £5 before 31st December). After 1st January, tickets will be £65.

Enjoy a fizz reception, three-course meal, and dancing with live music from Central Avenue Function Band.

ION returns as Platinum Sponsor, and Document Solutions are covering the evening's entertainment.

Overnight stay: The Met Hotel offers special rates from £179/£189 per room (single/double with breakfast). To book, call 0113 2595318 and mention the DACT Ball.

Tickets for the event of 2026 is limited to 150 places, so sign up now to avoid disappointment.

Book now by scanning here:



Author plots to inspire pupils



Author Ally Sherrick, writer of the gripping historical adventure Black Powder, was welcomed to Whetley Academy.

Students had studied the book and she delivered an inspiring and engaging talk about the novel, discussing its dramatic Gunpowder Plot setting and explaining how she researches real historical events to bring the past vividly to life through fiction.

Following her presentation, she led a series of hands-on creative writing workshops, guiding pupils as they explored their own ideas and developed characters, settings, and plots.

Her warm encouragement and

practical tips helped students gain confidence in their storytelling abilities.

The visit, organised by Reading Director of Learning Paul Quarry and Assistant Principal Caitlyn Fraser, generated a real buzz around reading and writing, with many pupils eager to continue working on their stories and to read more historical fiction.

It was a memorable experience for everyone involved and a wonderful opportunity to learn from a published author.

New scheme rewards reading

New reading rewards scheme 'Perks for Pages' was introduced to Years 7 and 8 at Goole Academy.

It encourages students to write book reviews in exchange for stickers and prizes and, so far this academic year, nearly 300 reviews have been submitted on library website Accessit.

Several individuals have already earned scratchcards and prizes for their hard work.

Year 7 were visited by author Tom Palmer who gave a very interesting and thought-provoking assembly on his career and the stories behind his war books.

The students asked lots of fantastic questions and Tom was swamped after school by excited autograph-seekers.

Lots of students are eagerly awaiting the delivery of their signed books which have been ordered through school with Tom's bookseller.

He also held a more informal workshop with 24 aspiring authors from Years 7, 8 and 9 where he talked in more depth about his career as an author and his publishing journey.

The students then grilled him for more information on his writing process, his upcoming books, and even got tips and ideas for their writing.

Finally, the long-awaited delivery of BookBuzz books arrived and were handed out to a very excited Year 7.

Students have been diving right into their new books and several are already almost finished.

The books have generated a lot of discussion during library lessons with students eager to tell each other about their chosen book and hear what others think.

Bahez completes route

Congratulations to Bahez at Hull Trinity House Academy who has completed all 54 Reading Routes' books from Years 7 to 9.

Learning Resource Centre Manager Natalie Turnbull was proud of his achievement in the Trust scheme.

"He really took the challenge in his stride," she said.

"I started at Hull Trinity House when Bahez did, so we have been through this entire journey together. Reading Routes launched during Year 7 for Bahez and he was so committed that he backtracked and read the books he had missed. I loved when Bahez would check in and tell me what book he was on and whether he was enjoying it.

I currently have some Year 9s who are hoping to follow in his footsteps and complete them all too!"

Bahez was "honoured" to take part in Reading Routes in his first three years at Hull Trinity House Academy.

"I believed that the variety of the books would always improve as the terms progressed," the Year 10 student said.

"'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak was my absolute favourite of all the books from Years 7 to 9 and I would recommend it. It is an overall amazing read for anyone."



Anyone can start it no matter who you are, as long as you can commit to reading all 54 books in the full collection, no matter how long you take, or just read the ones you think you can enjoy the most.

I also enjoyed how I could pick any book I wanted to read in any order so was able to pick the ones that seemed less enjoyable for either the last ones or the first.

I would like to thank the academy for providing the opportunity and the challenge" Bahez said.

Laurel's Laureates lead the way

Exclusive enrichment, leadership opportunities, and weekly writing projects are being offered to the top 10% of readers at The Laurel Academy in its new Reading Laureates programme.

Recent Reading Laureate topics include:

- World Mental Health Day – reflections on wellbeing and W.H. Davies' poem Leisure
- Diwali – celebrating light, tradition, and cultural identity through a student-written poem
- Guy Fawkes Night – explaining the Gunpowder Plot and Bonfire Night traditions
- World AIDS Day – challenging misconceptions and promoting awareness

Additional themes include Remembrance Day, Children in Need, International Men's Day, Human Rights Day, and Winter Solstice.

The Academy's incredibly grateful for the hard work, creativity, and commitment shown by its Reading Laureates and immensely proud of the exemplary standard they set for the whole academy.

Their work embodies its mission to "Read. Reflect. Respond."



Team race to global glory

Jubilant students from Scarborough UTC celebrated a “phenomenal” global triumph at the STEM Racing World Finals in Singapore.

SBA Unity Racing was declared FIA Scrutineering World Champions and gained an incredible third place overall at the event, previously F1 in Schools, held to coincide with the Singapore Grand Prix.

The team, representing Scarborough UTC, Delta Academies Trust and the United Kingdom, competed against more than 80 elite international teams.

Each had progressed through school, regional and national levels, showcasing world-class engineering, creativity, and teamwork from 1.8 million students globally.

Their dedication and precision earned them the FIA Scrutineering Award, a prestigious honour recognising the team whose car demonstrates the highest level of compliance to technical regulations, quality of technical drawings and renders comparable to the same rigorous standards used in professional Formula 1.

The team's journey to the world stage has been equally remarkable.

Earlier this year, at the UK National Finals in March held at Magna

Science and Discovery Centre in Rotherham, SBA Unity Racing became record holders for the highest points ever scored 965/990 in the UK competition's history.

They were supported by amazing industrial partners such as Castle Group, Ooh Hula Hoop, IGUS, McCain, Ansys, Dale Power, Ceratizit, Made Smarter, Scarborough Business Ambassadors and Myonic.

Without their support, the team would not be as good as they are, nor would they have been able to raise the nearly £40,000 to compete on the world stage.

Team Principal Jack Metcalfe was awarded a highly prestigious position with the Williams F1 Team Race Academy, recognising his outstanding engineering talent.

Williams F1 only recruit future engineers through the STEM racing world finals and Jack is one of only 10 to be awarded this incredible opportunity.

He said: “Becoming FIA Scrutineering World Champions, finishing third in the world, and setting a UK record has been an



unforgettable journey, and one that without the UTC would not have been possible.

We've put everything into this project, so many hours of design, research, development, and testing.

Representing Scarborough UTC, Delta Academies Trust, and the UK on the global stage has been a privilege, and I am so thankful to the UTC and Rob Shephard, Director of Engineering.”



Principal Helen Dowds said: “This team are exemplars of what can be achieved through a high quality UTC curriculum.

The partnership work between employers, students and staff came together to create this inspirational outcome.

I am so pleased the students are going on to support future teams and other students through the work they are doing at Baker Dearing and within the Trust.”

Rob was “incredibly proud to have taught and mentored the team”.

“Their achievements are a testament to their professionalism, resilience, and technical excellence,” he said.

“They have shown what is possible when young people are given the opportunity to apply STEM in a real-world, high-performance environment.”



SBA Unity Racing were honoured to share their story and success with leaders from across the Trust at the Delta Academies Trust Heads' Conference in October.

They inspired colleagues with their journey, professionalism and the impact the UTC and STEM education has had on them.

The STEM Racing World Finals, held alongside the Singapore Grand Prix, bring together the best young minds in engineering, design, and technology.

SBA Unity Racing's success demonstrates the power of applied STEM learning and the exceptional opportunities provided through Scarborough UTC and the Delta Academies Trust — embodying the Trust's mission of Changing Lives.

Experience builds opportunities

Engineering students at Goole Academy completed seven weeks' work experience with a construction company - and were involved in the design of the town's new leisure centre.

The initiative at Willmott Dixon offered students a hands-on opportunity to explore the world of architecture and construction, working on a real-world challenge to create concepts for the building.

Throughout the placement, the Year 10s collaborated with industry professionals, learning how projects move from initial ideas to detailed proposals.

They explored key areas such as sustainable building design, project planning, budgeting, and floor planning.

Guided by Willmott Dixon mentors, the students developed innovative and environmentally conscious ideas that reflected the needs of a modern leisure facility.

The programme culminated in a presentation where students showcased their design concepts, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, and growing confidence to staff from Willmott Dixon, teachers and the Senior Leadership Team.

Willmott Dixon representatives praised the group for their enthusiasm, strong communication, and professional approach.

The group were rewarded for their efforts, with the winning team TGMB Construction receiving a prize, and the pupils being invited on a site visit to the new Goole Leisure Centre.



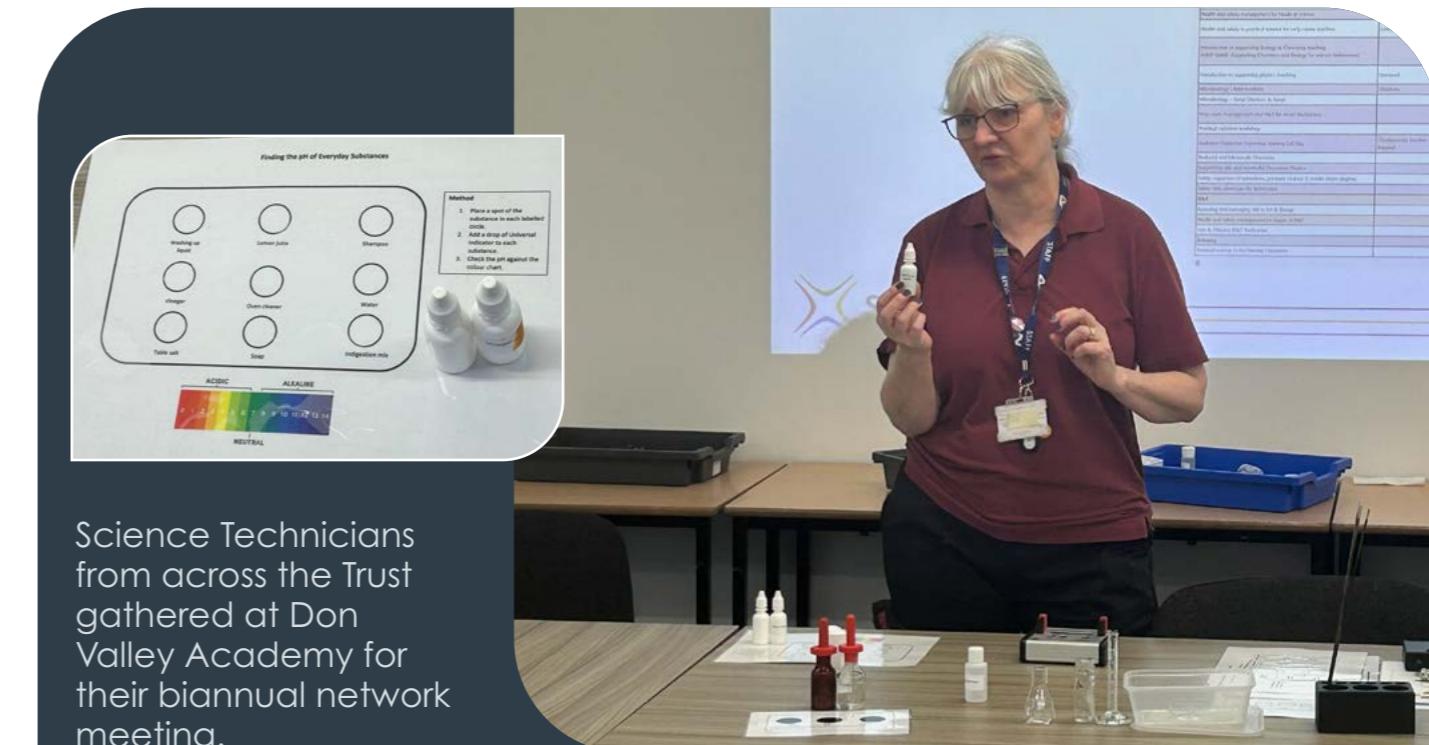
Abigail May, Assistant Social Value Manager for Willmott Dixon, said: "Over the seven weeks, it was a pleasure working with the students on their bid proposal for a new leisure centre.

They embraced every aspect of the challenge, from design and planning, to costs and sustainability, and worked brilliantly in their teams. Their final presentations were outstanding. They had clearly applied their learning, and it was

great to see how much they had developed throughout the programme.

The future of the built environment is in safe hands."

This experience broadened students' understanding of careers in the built environment and highlighted the value of school-industry partnerships in inspiring the next generation of designers, engineers, and project managers.



Science Technicians from across the Trust gathered at Don Valley Academy for their biannual network meeting.

Andrea, Science Technician from John Whitgift Academy, demonstrating a way to reduce consumption and cost of materials in Year 7 Chemistry lessons about everyday acids and alkalis.

Network sparks idea

The delegates were thanked for their contributions to the Trust's ongoing success and the incredible efforts made supporting practical work in all three areas of Science.

Organised by Directors of Science Rebecca Brigg and William Inglis, the event provided an opportunity for colleagues to network, share their experience and spend time observing prep rooms, routines and facilities in another Trust academy.

Items covered included working safely updates, a "show and tell" of techniques and apparatus, discussions of research into reducing consumption of materials, and a supplier showcase highlighting useful new apparatus and further support available from them to technicians.

A key theme that emerged through the day was how can school Science Technicians, teachers and departments play a key role in helping develop the Trust's strategy to become ever more sustainable?

For further details about the DAT Science Technicians' Network, please contact Rebecca. Briggs@deltatrust.org.uk or William.Inglis@deltatrust.org.uk

Team's national accolade

A prestigious national accolade has been awarded to the Geography Department at Ash Hill Academy.

It has achieved the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) by the Geographical Association, putting the team among a select group of 20 schools nationally recognized for outstanding Geography teaching and learning.

Ash Hill is the first school in the Trust and in Doncaster to achieve the accolade.

Head of Geography Tiffany Smart, supported by Director Emma Green, were behind the entry, starting the process in September 2024 and being awarded it a year later.

Emma said: "This award reflects the dedication and expertise of our Geography team.

Their innovative approach ensures that students not only learn about the world but develop the skills to understand and shape it."

The process to attain the SGQM involves a detailed self-assessment and submission of evidence, showcasing excellence in curriculum planning, teaching strategies, and student outcomes.

Ash Hill Academy's success highlights its focus on collaboration, creativity, and continuous improvement, said Tiffany.



The award is celebrated by Teacher of Geography Katie Atkinson, Head of Geography Tiffany Smart and Head of EPC and Teacher of Geography Katy Conlon.

Memorable trip

An unforgettable educational trip to the Netherlands was enjoyed by Scalby Academy students.

The Year 9s explored the rich tapestry of Dutch history, culture, and nature in the History and Geography trip.

Over four, action-packed days, they visited poignant memorials, thrilling theme parks, and immersive wildlife exhibits. Each day offered new experiences and lasting memories. Head of Geography Helen Banks said: "Throughout the trip, our students showed maturity, empathy, and enthusiasm.

They returned with new friendships, broader perspectives, and a deeper appreciation for history and nature.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff who made this enriching experience possible."

Students enjoyed the experience.

Joseph said: "I believe that the Holland trip was really fun and educated me thoroughly about many different topics in History and Geography.

In my opinion the zoo was the best because of the range of habitats shown."

Jacob said: "Holland provided an amazing insight into the subjects of

Geography and History, especially the visits to Kamp Vught and Burger's Zoo".

The journey began with a powerful visit to Camp Vught, a former Second World War concentration camp turned national memorial. Students walked through the preserved grounds, gaining insight into the lives of those who suffered and the importance of Remembrance.

Later, at the Overloon War Museum, they explored extensive exhibits on the Second World War, including tanks, aircraft, and personal stories that brought History vividly to life.

Day two was all about magic and adventure at Efteling, one of Europe's most beloved theme parks.

From the enchanting Fairytale Forest to adrenaline-pumping rides like Python and Joris en de Draak, students experienced the joy of storytelling and imagination in motion.

It was a day of laughter, bonding, and wide-eyed wonder.

The third day took students to Burger's Zoo in Arnhem, where they



had the opportunity to explore a variety of ecosystems that directly connect to the Geography curriculum on biomes.

Burger's Zoo is unique because it recreates entire natural habitats, allowing learners to experience the diversity of life across the globe without leaving Europe.

The final day concluded with a visit to the Arnhem War Memorial, commemorating the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Arnhem.

Students reflected on the courage and sacrifice of those involved, deepening their understanding of the impact of war and the value of peace.

Thank you to the staff members who joined Helen on the trip: Head of History Sam Cook, Teacher of Geography Caroline Perrin, Teacher of History Joe Hall, Head of Year 9 Kelly Roberts, administrator and first aider Danielle Rowley and technician and first aider Owen Richards.



Icelandic adventure

Forty students from Goole Academy set out on a Geography adventure to Iceland that brought textbooks vividly to life.

Over five days, students travelled across Iceland's dramatic landscapes—walking through lava fields, exploring glaciers, soaking in geothermal pools, and experiencing the raw forces that shape our planet every day.

Students witnessed the processes that shape the planet in real time, developed independence and resilience, and brought classroom knowledge to life in unforgettable ways.

Day two saw the group's Golden Circle adventure, one of Iceland's most famous and geologically rich routes.

They visited Kerið, a vivid volcanic crater lake, the Secret Lagoon, Gullfoss Waterfall, Geysir Geothermal Area and UNESCO World Heritage site Þingvellir National Park.

The third day took the party to Iceland's dramatic south coast, where volcanic forces and glacial processes combine to create some of the country's most iconic views.

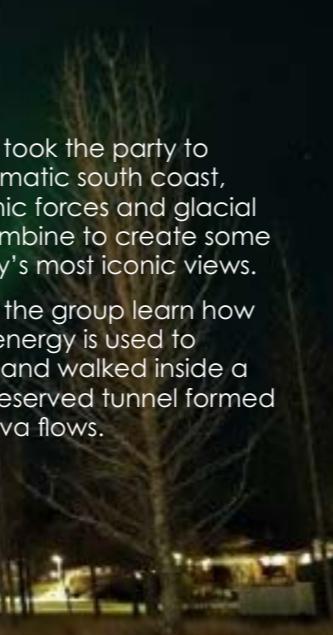
Day four saw the group learn how geothermal energy is used to help farming and walked inside a beautifully preserved tunnel formed by ancient lava flows.



We look forward to many more adventures in the years ahead.

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They then headed to Reykjavík, where students experienced the colourful streets of Iceland's capital.

The final morning began at FlyOver Iceland, a spectacular immersive experience that lifted students into a simulated flight across the country's most iconic landscapes.

Thank you to all staff, students, families, and travel partners for making this remarkable journey possible.

Unforgettable experience

A memorable trip to Krakow in Poland, which included a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau, was taken by a party from John Whitgift Academy.



For some of the 79 students, it was the first time they had travelled abroad, said Head of History and organiser Luke Hawley.

On the first day, they enjoyed a walk around Krakow's beautiful Old Town, including visits to Ghetto Square and a synagogue.

They had watched the award-winning 1993 film Schindler's List - depicting the true story of Oskar Schindler, who saved over a thousand Jews during the Holocaust - before the visit.

The tour guide in Krakow referred to the film and pointed out to the party where different scenes were shot.

Their visit to the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was on the following day, an incredibly moving experience for students and staff.

They visited the Salt Mines in Wieliczka, near Krakow, the following day. During the Nazi occupation in the Second World War, several



thousand Jews were transported from forced labour camps to the mine to work in the underground armament factory set up by the Germans.

The students had free time later that day to do some shopping.

Luke said: "They were so positive about the experience. For some, it was the first time they had been abroad. Others said it had been the best trip they had been on and were eager to do more.

They were really grateful to the staff, which was lovely.

Their behaviour throughout was amazing. It was the second time I'd been to Krakow but the first time I have ran the trip."

The party included Principal Rob Spendlow.

He said: "The 79 children were phenomenal throughout the trip. I've not had, in my whole teaching career, airport staff compliment the children on their exemplary conduct, as happened this time."

What an experience it was for them, particularly for those who had not been abroad before."

Brave soldiers remembered

Historical sites were visited and respects paid during Garforth Academy's annual battlefields trip to Belgium and France.

More than 60 pupils and seven staff heard about the brave soldiers who gave their lives fighting for Britain and the Commonwealth in the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

The party visited the Menin Gate and took part in the moving ceremony that included 'The Last Post'.

Head of History Sarah Wynn said the party also traveled to sites including the Somme battlefield, the Yorkshire Trench, the Essex Cemetery, Lochnagar Crater, the In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres, Tyne Cot British and Langemark German Cemeteries and the Thiepval memorial.



High-tech delivers stirring testimony

Interactive eyewitness testimony was included in a Holocaust Educational Trust presentation delivered to Year 10 History students at Goole Academy.



Their Testimony 360 programme proved an incredibly powerful experience that allowed students to hear, and reflect upon, the personal story of a Holocaust survivor.

They were able to engage in real time questions with the survivor and had the opportunity to experience site-based learning.

This involved the use of VR headsets and allowed students to explore

some sites of the Holocaust, such as Auschwitz.

This experience was important for increasing awareness and will, hopefully, inspire students to learn more throughout their GCSE course.

Students were a credit to the Academy during both sessions.

Powerful poem



Students and staff from Ingleby Manor School gathered over each floor overlooking the atrium to pay their respects to The Fallen and recognise those serving today.

The service was led by the Principal with Student Leader Sophia reading her poem (right).

The Last Post played as students in military uniforms laid a wreath, followed by a two minute silence observed by all.

This concluded a week of Remembrance Day assemblies delivered by Assistant Principal Katy Nelson and the History department.



This powerful poem about the importance of Remembrance was created by **Sophia**, a Year 11 Student Leader at Ingleby Manor School.

A Solitary Poppy

*Within the field, solace is found:
Quiet, serene and so profound.
Where gentle tales are whispered soft
Of lives once lived, of hearts which cost.*

*A solitary poppy blooms, not far,
A silent witness, a too deep scar.
Its crimson petals, soft and worn,
Reflects the lives which war has torn.*

*In its heart lays the darkest ink,
A black void of memory which makes us think:
Of the names forgotten, yet still bright,
In the silent shadows of once fought fights.*

*The poppy grows where tears were shed,
At a time when telegrams of sorrow spread.
A mother's cry, a lover's plea,
Now lives in petals: long, lost, free.*

*Beneath the bloom, a story weaves,
Of the hope, the loss, the whispered pleas.
Each stem lay a tribute, each leaf a tear
For those who served and disappeared.*

*And in the meadow, still it stands,
A symbol etched throughout the lands.
A quiet sacrifice, a grief-filled sigh,
An eternal reminder of those who died.*

Legion rewards pupils' efforts

Heartfelt poetry won pupils awards when members of the Knottingley branch of the Royal British Legion came to England Lane Academy to join its Remembrance assembly.

It was a very emotional event, especially when they presented the Year 6 class with their awards.

The competition was open to all schools in the Knottingley area but the Academy was the only one to take part.

The children won the whole school prize for their fantastic poems and had three overall winners. First place was Xander, second Skylah and third Melody.

Each had their poem read out by a member of the Royal British Legion.

Head of Academy Lisa Cooke said each wrote different styles of Remembrance poems, full of heartfelt words and very poignant.

"The Academy is extremely proud of students and staff for all of their support towards the Royal British Legion," she said.

The event was organised by HLTA and Royal British Legion member Susan Johnson, along with other members.

Lisa said one described the poems as phenomenal and almost all brought a tear to their eye when judging as they could not believe how much time and effort had gone into making the poems so heartfelt.



Pupils (left to right) Melody, Skylah and Xander receive their prizes after winning the poetry competition.

Staff commented on how emotional they felt when listening to them being read out.

The Academy was grateful to Susan for ensuring it played its part.

"A huge thanks to Year 6 for putting so much time and effort into their wonderful poems and well done to Melody, Skylah and Xander for being the competition winners," said Lisa.

Year 3 students visited the Cenotaph at St Botolph's Church with community group Warwick Ahead and cleaned and tidied the area ready for the Sunday Service.

to see the memorial-stained glass window that is more than 100-years-old."

A further thank you to the Royal British Legion for providing a trophy named after Harry Turner, President of the Knottingley branch.



It handed the school £100 for the prize poetry competition and gave gifts for each Year 6 and the Works vouchers for the winners.

The winners and Susan met up with Anne Penistone, RBL Poppy Appeal organiser for Knottingley, at Holyrood House to visit Harry.

A huge thank you to Amy Oakley, Kaylee Thompson, Kayleigh Woodfroe, Josh Tennant, Peter Girt and Aaron Riley for supporting the children.

Wreaths laid during special service

Special guests joined students and staff in the annual Remembrance Service at John Whitgift Academy.

The moving, whole-school tribute took place in its memorial garden and, as well as remembering those lost in battle, was also an opportunity to remember former students, colleagues, family members and friends.

The service was conducted by teacher Paul Tuffnell, who served in the Royal Air Force, while students from Years 7 and 8 read poems.

Students and staff joined Principal Robert Spendlow in laying wreaths and sprays at the school's poppy tree.

Paul said: "Remembering the conflicts of the past and the sacrifices which were made, we hope and pray for a world where war is still a grim reality.

As we remember those who have lost their lives, help us to renew our fight against cruelty and injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and oppression."

Hearts went out to all who mourn a loved one.

"When we lose someone close, we feel that part of us dies as well but part of them lives on in us," said Paul.

"We look for strength and understanding to honour and cherish that gift.

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns fell silent on the Western Front, to bring to an end the First World War.

Our nation and Commonwealth have recalled that moment through our Armistice and Remembrance events down the decades, during which the men and women of our Armed Services have continued to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

And so, more than 100 years later, we stand here today to remember lives sacrificed in the service of our country, and those traumatised and injured in conflict.

The silence was impeccably observed.



A cadet remembers.



Teacher Paul Tuffnell took the service.



Principal Robert Spendlow lays a wreath at the academy's poppy tree in its memorial garden.

May we have such a devotion to justice and freedom as those who gave so much."

Students were informed about the symbolism of the poppy, one of Remembrance and hope for the future.

During the First World War, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over repeatedly.

Beautiful landscapes turned to mud where little or nothing could grow. The bright red Flanders poppies were an exception, flourishing in the middle of chaos and destruction.

The famous poem by John McCrae, In Flanders Fields, was read out.

The Last Post was played, followed by a two-minute silence and buglers sounding Reveille.



Poems are read by students during the Act of Remembrance.

Academies' moving tribute

A stunning annual collaboration formed the centrepiece to Remembrance Day commemorations at Rowena and De Warenne Academies.

The two schools once again joined with members of the community from St Peter's Church and Rowena House Care Home to erect the display.

It took pride of place at the front of Rowena Academy, inviting members from the community to visit.

The windows were adorned with beautiful poetry written by Rowena and De Warenne pupils, who had worked together on

the planning and delivery of the project throughout October.

The final display was installed on Friday, 7th November, and remained in place over the weekend and following week.

Members of the community visited the display and talked to the schools about the beautiful work produced, while taking a moment for thoughts and reflections.

Every Rowena pupil participated in the creation of hand painted poppy prints on the large poppies across the front of the school, as

well as working with their older peers from De Warenne who visited the infant academy to write the poetry together.

Following this, the schools, care home and church took part in their annual Remembrance service, held on De Warenne Academy's grounds.

The community joined together in silence to remember The Fallen, listened to readings, and laid handmade wreaths.



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Lest we forget.
RAGING WARS
EVERYWHERE
MIGHTY MEN FACE THE
ENEMY
BRAVE NO MAN'S LAND
EVEN WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH
ROWENA AND DE WARENNE REMEMBER.
STUDENTS FROM DE WARENNE AND ROWENA
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Silent reflection



DECEMBER 2025 / ISSUE No. 33

A moving and meaningful Remembrance service at Darton Academy saw students and staff come together to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many.

The respect, thoughtfulness, and engagement shown by the school community made the event special.

The Academy is proud to facilitate these services as they provide an important opportunity to honour the past, remember those who served, and inspire reflection and gratitude in our young people.

Assistant Principal Keeley Norton and Associate Assistant Principal Esther Freeman put the event together.

"We are incredibly proud of how our students approached this year's Remembrance event," Keeley said.

"Their engagement, empathy and thoughtful participation made it truly special.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who supported and attended, helping us honour the past with dignity and respect."

Leah, in Year 11, said: "Taking part in the Remembrance event helped me understand the importance of honouring those who sacrificed so much.

It felt special to be part of it."

Sam, in Year 9, said: "It was really powerful to come together as a school and reflect.

It made me think about how lucky we are today."

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The school stands to attention.

Parade instils pride

Those who served their country with courage and sacrifice were honoured by Hull Trinity House Academy's special Remembrance Day parade.

The Brethren attended and laid wreaths of poppies in memory of The Fallen.

The Drum Corps and bugler performed, as students and staff paused to reflect and remember.

This was followed by Principal Daniel Flack carrying out a reading of "For the Fallen".

He thanked "staff and students for making the Remembrance parade such an excellent example of what we do at Hull Trinity House Academy."

"The Master Warden and the Brethren have asked me to pass on their thanks because they thought it was excellent," he said.

"You will not find any other school in the country that does what we do, giving the young people of Hull and the surrounding area a sense of pride and belonging.

It makes me very proud to be part of this special community."



The Master Warden laying a wreath.



Principal Dan Flack during the service.



The drum corps during their performance



Cenotaph visit

Coloured paper poppies were designed and joined together to make wreath displays and put on form groups' doors to help mark Remembrance Day at Melior Community Academy.

Students and staff joined together on 11th November to pay their respects and took part in a two-minute silence.

In addition, two students were chosen to represent the academy and attend the Cenotaph in Scunthorpe town centre.

The pupils were joined by Principal Amber Bradley and Chair of Governors Peter Raspin and placed a wreath on the Cenotaph as part of the community remembrance for those who have served within the Armed Forces.

We shall remember them.



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Pupils plant donated trees

More than 100 trees were planted at The Parks by its Academy Council.

Donated by the Woodland Trust, the project had been originally planned by previous Science Lead Chloe Noble, currently on maternity leave.

Current Science Lead, Olivia Moy, took up the scheme.

She said: "The Academy Council planted more than 100 trees that were generously donated by the Woodland Trust.

We chose to work with this charity because we share a commitment to the belief that trees are vital for people, wildlife and the environment.

Through this project, we aimed to play our part in tackling climate change and supporting a greener future."

Faythe, from Year 3, said: "We planted trees because they help nature.

They help the air be fresh and help us breathe."

Year 5's Nova said: "Trees are important because they release oxygen and are a habitat for some animals."



Artist supports creativity

A fantastic day exploring creativity and nature with local artist James Brunt was held at Weelsby Academy.



The Year 2 children collected natural materials from around the school grounds and worked together to create a beautiful collage inspired by the outdoors.

The day, organised by Year 2 Class Teachers Megan Smith and Emily Roche, was fun and also helped the children connect with nature and think about how art can be inspired by the world around them.

Well done to all of Year 2 for their amazing creativity and teamwork.

150 trees enhance landscape

A group of 15 enthusiastic Year 7 students from De Lacy Academy rolled up their sleeves and planted an impressive 150 trees around the grounds to celebrate National Tree Week.

They were supported by Wakefield Tree Warden Roger Parkinson, who shared his expert knowledge and inspired students with fascinating facts about the importance of trees in the environment.

Teacher of Science Rachel Corcoran, who organised the event, said the students planted native species including hawthorn, holly, birch, dogwood and wild cherry.

"These trees will not only enhance the landscape but also support local biodiversity by providing nectar, berries and habitats for a wide variety of wildlife for years to come," she said.

"Beyond their ecological value, the new trees will also play a role in combating climate change, acting as natural carbon sinks by absorbing carbon dioxide and storing it within their trunks, branches and roots."



Mural celebrates sporting icon

Pioneer and sporting icon Arthur Wharton is celebrated in the latest mural created at Crookesbroom Primary Academy by Year 9 students from Ash Hill Academy.

This is the third successive year talented students have showcased their skills in a project started by Head of Academy Rob Harvey.

Design and Technology Teacher at Ash Hill Emily Gatt led the students.

Rob described the result as "amazing".

"This year, the brilliant DT team, led by Emily, took on the brief of honouring Arthur Wharton and did so spectacularly, adding laser-cutting and 3D elements to the project," he said.

Wharton was the world's first, black professional footballer; held the world record for a 100-yard sprint for more than 30 years; played professional rugby and cricket; and won a cycling championship.

From then on, he blazed a trail, not only as an exceptional athlete but also as being the first person of his heritage to reach such heights."

Wharton is recognised by a posthumously-made statue at St George's Park, the home of the England women's and men's football teams.

He also has a charity in his honour, the Arthur Wharton Foundation, based in Darlington.

Shaun Campbell, founder of the charity, recognised our superb mural, saying, "Fabulous!! Thank you so much for keeping his legacy alive and well with your pupils and staff. We are very proud of you."

Thanks to the Ash Hill students involved Peyton, Ashleigh, Milla, Katelyn, Elaina and Logan and staff member Simon Parsons.

Rob said: "I would like to thank Mat Hicks, Principal at Ash Hill Academy, for being so supportive of the mural projects.

The murals not only look superb but give the Crookesbroom children real inspiration of what they could achieve with Delta, as well as allowing the talented students at Ash Hill to have a real-life design brief."



Passports were issued as students passed through "airport security" to enter a vibrant international fair to mark Languages Day at Melior Community Academy.

Languages day takes off

The Modern Foreign Languages Department transformed the sports hall for the event.

When students arrived, they picked up their passport from Melior Airlines before setting off to explore destinations from across the world.

The Academy's fantastic Year 9 Language Ambassadors ran country-themed stalls, with many students proudly sharing their languages and cultures.

Each stall offered a unique experience. Students sampled Mexican food, ordered breakfast in a French café, tried fortune cookies in China, wandered through a Moroccan souk, celebrated British Values and even had a go at learning Arabic and Polish.

Farah Shah, Lead teacher of MFL who masterminded the event, said they were delighted to welcome a special visitor who delivered Japanese taster lessons throughout the day.

"The celebrations continued across school with the library showcasing international authors, tutor groups taking on a language quiz and a whole-school Languagenut competition," she said.

"Languages Day was a tremendous success and highlighted just how much our school community has grown. We are already looking



forward to our next journey with Melior Airlines."

She was supported by Head of Department Louise Wenn, Teacher of MFL Beth Hewitt and other staff from Humanities and PE.

Senior Director of MFL Helen Holmes was invited to the event by Farah.

"In 33 years of teaching, I have never seen an event like this one," said Helen.

"It was spectacular and so imaginative. Melior MFL is out of this world!"



Event celebrated

European Day of Languages was celebrated across secondary academies.

Events on 26th September were organised by departments and Delta MFL staff.

These were some of the highlights:

De Warenne Academy

- Mr Seb Le Gall (Head of MFL) sang a song in French in Year 10 assembly
- Two Year 11 boys sang the Swedish Eurovision entry in Year 7 assembly
- Praise stickers in different languages for all subjects
- Lunch menus in different languages
- Language quizzes
- A video was made of the students who speak a different language

Serlby Park Academy

- Foreign idioms form quiz
- A continental menu in the canteen
- On every door, staff information about their foreign language learning

The Vale Academy

- European pastries at break, European food at lunch, in the canteen
- French film night
- Day of the Dead mask making
- Russian/Italian taster lessons
- Salsa dancing
- European Day of Languages quiz
- Staff tapas

Ash Hill Academy

- Croissants and pain au chocolat at break



Examples of the food produced at Carlton le Willows to celebrate European Day of Languages.

Rossington Academy

Different European food in the canteen every day
Form activities based on celebrities who speak different languages
All teachers doing the register in different languages

John Whitgift Academy

- Registers in different languages
- Tutor quizzes, with prizes, on language facts/idioms
- French/Spanish music

Goole Academy

- A poster competition based on the day's motto "Languages open hearts and minds"

Girl band strikes chord



New girl band XO inspired students with music and positivity at Manor Croft Academy.

The Polydor label's representatives performed an energetic set to students in Years 7–10, showcasing their incredible talent and passion for connecting with young people. Following their performance, the group led a thoughtful question-and-answer session, where they opened up about important topics such as mental health, wellbeing, and the power of positive affirmations. Assistant Principal Natalie O'Brien said: "Their honesty and encouragement created a warm and uplifting atmosphere, sparking valuable conversations among students.

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Musical memories

Flux capacitors were fired up and coordinates set for the most electrifying event of the century when De Warenne Academy held its 'Back to the 80's Musical'.

Organiser Scott Willis said: "From the opening number, the cast hit the floor like they'd just stepped out of a Wham! music video.

It was full of energy, charm, and a healthy dose of shoulder pads.

The story may bounce around like a pinball machine, but honestly, that is half the fun.

It is the kind of plot you would

expect to find scribbled on a love letter: high-school crushes, radical dance-offs, and enough 80's references to make you want to dust off your Walkman!"

The musical raised £256 over its two nights for Doncaster charity Firefly, which transports patients undergoing cancer treatment to Sheffield.



Tour's tasty treats

Classroom learning was connected to real-world food culture when Don Valley Academy students visited city venues.

Students had the opportunity to explore a vibrant food hall, hear from talented street food vendors, and sample a delightful variety of cuisines.

The carefully curated food tour took in Sheffield Plate, Leah's Yard and The Cambridge Street Collective and offered a fascinating insight into the intricacies of running a hospitality business.

Becci Cooper, Assistant Principal and Teacher of Hospitality and Catering, said it was part the Academy's Our Life of a Student Programme under Personal Development.

"It was so easy to work with Sheffield Food Tours to organise this experience and show our students a range of foods that they might not have had a chance to try before," she said.

I felt really proud of our students and how willing they were to try new foods and ask lots of questions

about menu choices, careers and how the vendors started their businesses.

The students were a credit to Don Valley Academy and we can't wait to make this a regular part of our Life of a Student Programme for Catering students in Year 10.

I can't wait to see how this inspires our Year 10 choices for controlled assessment dishes this year after some great conversations around multicultural dishes and how many options they liked the look of."

Freddie, in Year 10, said: "We were really lucky that Miss organised this trip for us as it was amazing to be able to speak with the vendors and explore menus with a range of multicultural dishes.

I loved tasting the different dishes especially the slow pulled beef taco. I am definitely going to make tacos for my controlled assessment now!"

Baking fun

Wild West fun was had in a baking competition at Goole Academy.

The Food Department welcomed Years 5 and 6 parents for the Open Evening, with visitors trying themed snacks, taking in the country air and listening to music from the plains.

They had the opportunity to put their fist full of dollars where their mouth was and judge the bake off.

There were participants from all year groups, and some fantastic, decorated cakes, cupcakes and biscuits.

First place went to Nela (Year 8), second Ebony (Year 10) and third Aubree (Year 9).

The winners of the staff competition were first, Sandra Shaw, second Ellie Parker and third Maddison Scrivener.

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Hats off to terrific chefs

Two talented chefs from Serlby Park Academy won through to the FutureChef regional finals at Sheffield College.



Anaya and Patryk with Len Unwin from Sheffield College, one of the judges.



Champion Patryk with his winning certificate.

Year 10 students Anaya and Patryk cooked beautiful meals but it was the latter's sweet and sour chicken that tantalised the judge's taste buds.

Patryk won the event and progresses to the regional East of England round later this academic year.

Everyone at Serlby Park Academy is proud of Anaya and Patryk and would like to thank Teacher of Food and Nutrition Jo Phillips for organising the event and supporting the students on the night.

Heights of fashion

Textile students from De Lacy Academy enjoyed an unforgettable trip to one of the world's great fashion capitals, Paris.

They immersed themselves in the world of art, design, and fashion exploring the iconic Louvre Museum, discovering the elegance of La Galerie Dior, and experiencing the excitement of a live catwalk show at Galeries Lafayette.

A huge thank you to Assistant Principal Nichola Taberner, Deputy Director of Inclusion and DSL Helen Jackson, and Year 8 Learning Manager Chris Winter for accompanying the GCSE students.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for them to see how creativity and craftsmanship come together in the heart of the fashion capital.

Their behaviour and enthusiasm were exemplary, and they returned inspired and full of new ideas for their coursework.

Bravo to all involved for making this a truly memorable experience.



Welsh wonders

Commitment, courage, and skills were demonstrated when Duke of Edinburgh students from Darton Academy travelled to Aberdovey in Wales.

The Year 9 expedition was such a success because it pushed students beyond their comfort zones while helping them grow in confidence, resilience and teamwork.

Throughout the expedition, students showed determination as they navigated routes, carried their own equipment and supported one another through challenges.

It gave them the chance to develop vital life skills such as problem-solving, communication and independence, while also strengthening friendships and a real sense of belonging.



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Most importantly, students returned proud of what they had achieved, with a greater belief in themselves and a clear understanding of how perseverance and teamwork lead to success.

Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator Richard Syrett said: "Their enthusiasm and perseverance throughout the weekend were outstanding.

"A big thank-you to the leaders, instructors, and everyone who contributed to ensuring a safe and rewarding experience for all."

One student remarked: "Being part of the DofE expedition taught me new skills and gave me so much confidence.

I loved every part of it, even the tough bits!"

Another said: "The expedition was challenging but amazing.

I learned so much about myself and how to work with others under pressure. It's an experience I'll never forget."

Joining Richard were staff members Kirsty Stephenson, James Elliot and Bella Cashmore.

African adventure

A once-in-a-lifetime journey to Kenya was experienced by five students from De Lacy Academy.

Months of dedication and hard work saw the group successfully fundraise to cover the full cost of their expedition.

That alone was an achievement that showcased their determination, community spirit, and teamwork, said Assistant Principal Nichola Taberner, who led the trip.

Their adventure involved an unforgettable safari, where students had the chance to witness Kenya's breathtaking wildlife up close.

A major highlight was spending time at a local Kenyan school.

"Our students rolled up their sleeves and took part in a variety of projects: supporting classes, helping with activities, and contributing to

improvements around the school grounds," said Mrs Taberner.

"The connections they formed with the children and teachers were heartwarming and eye-opening, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved."

Nichola praised the group for their enthusiasm, resilience, and maturity throughout the trip.

She highlighted how the students truly embraced Kenyan culture and represented the school with pride.

"We are incredibly proud of these five students, not just for raising the money to make the trip possible, but for approaching every moment with curiosity, kindness, and courage," Nichola said.



"They returned home with unforgettable memories, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around them."

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Victorian verdict

Students from The Elland Academy visited Ripon to take part in a full day exploring what it would have been like to live in Victorian England.



This visit was part of their thematic learning this half term, based on crime and punishment.

They started the day with a visit to the Prison and Police Museum where they discovered the harsh regimes of the Victorian era.

Next stop was the Workhouse Museum where students experienced what it was like to be poor in Victorian times,

before the introduction of the welfare system.

The day ended at The Courthouse Museum where students and staff took part in a trial, taking on the roles of the accused and judge and jury before deciding on a verdict and sentence.

Careers event success

Curiosity from students and enthusiasm from visitors "created a real buzz" at a Darton Academy careers event.

It was declared a "fantastic success", with students engaging confidently with a wide range of employers, colleges and training providers.

The event was organised by Careers Lead Dave Bond.

Assistant Principal (Personal Development) Keeley Norton said it demonstrated how bright the future could be for students.

"The enthusiasm from employers and the curiosity from students created a real buzz throughout the day," she said.

"We're incredibly grateful to all the organisations who supported us and helped make the event such a success.

It was great to see students exploring future pathways, asking thoughtful

questions and gaining a clearer sense of the opportunities available to them.

We are incredibly proud to facilitate events like this, as they play a vital role in inspiring our young people, broadening their horizons and helping them take meaningful steps towards their future aspirations."

There was excellent feedback from students and exhibitors.

"I didn't realise how many different career paths were available to me," said Emily from Year 10.

"Speaking to employers today really opened my eyes and gave me more confidence about my future."

One visitor said: "We were impressed by the maturity and interest shown by the students.



Events like this are vital, and we're grateful to have been invited to take part."

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Record-breaking medal haul

Fantastic achievements of students from Lady Lumley's School were celebrated at its annual Duke of Edinburgh Award presentation evening.

A record-breaking 60 students passed the bronze award this year, in addition to the healthy silver and gold cohorts we have.

This was a chance for parents, students, staff and local councillors to share the experiences and success of our young people and pay tribute to their dedication and commitment.

The event was held at The Kirk Theatre, Pickering, and supported by Pickering Town Council.



Home

Home

Hearty meals served up



Nutritious, balanced meals made simple were served up by De Lacy Academy's community engagement programme.

Led by Mason Mapplebeck and Robert Palmer, students, families, and staff came together for a hands-on Healthy Heart Cooking session.

Participants learned about choosing heart-friendly ingredients.

The star dish of the evening was a delicious chicken and rice creation, packed with colourful vegetables.

It showed healthy eating can be easy to make and full of flavour.

Options explained

Chances to explore the wide range of opportunities available after Year 11 were given to De Lacy Academy students at its Post-16 Marketplace Event.



Guests from a range of organisations helped Years 9, 10 and 11 look at college courses, apprenticeships and career pathways.

Organised by Careers Lead Demi Moffat, the Academy was thrilled to welcome Selby, Wakefield and Castleford Colleges and employers including Dovecote and the NHS.

"Each visitor shared valuable insights into the skills, qualifications, and experiences that can help students succeed beyond school," said Demi.

"Students asked thoughtful questions, explored future career options, and gained a clearer understanding of the exciting routes available to them after GCSEs.

Events like this help young people make informed decisions and inspire them to set ambitious goals for their next steps."



It's good to talk

World Mental Health Day was marked with activities at Darton Academy.

It focused on positivity, kindness, and support and was organised by Assistant Principal Keeley Norton and Teacher of English and JLT lead Tanya Addy.

"World Mental Health Day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage, reflect, and start important conversations about wellbeing," said Keeley.

"We are incredibly proud of how thoughtfully and positively they participated."

Taylor, in Year 8, said: "World Mental Health Day helped me understand more about looking after my wellbeing and supporting my friends.

I feel more confident talking about mental health now."

Year 11's Sarah really enjoyed the activities.

"They made me think about my own mental health and how to take care of myself. It was good to know I'm not alone and that it's okay to ask for help."

Remember: showing respect means caring for others, and showing strength means asking for help when you need it.



First aid training took place for Duke of Edinburgh Award students at Darton Academy.

The CPR workshop taught students life-saving skills.

They were shown how to recognise the signs of cardiac arrest, how to perform effective CPR, and why acting quickly can save lives.

The session helped build confidence to stay calm in an emergency and understand the responsibility to help others.

Resilience, teamwork and sense of community were developed by the session, organised by Kirsty Stevenson and Richard Syrett.

Isaac, from Year 9, said: "I feel proud knowing I have the skills to save a life if needed."

"I never knew how important CPR was," said Martha, from the same year group. "Now I feel confident I could help someone in an emergency."

Assistant Principal Keeley Norton said: "It was fantastic to see students so engaged."

Lords uncovered

An insightful look into the workings of the House of Lords was offered by a special visitor to Manor Croft Academy.

Lord Best spoke to students about its role within the UK's Parliamentary system, offering a fascinating look at how laws are discussed and developed.

He shared his personal story of how he became a member of the House of Lords and discussed the key areas

of public policy and law-making in which he has been particularly involved.

Head of EPC Carolyn Wheatley, who organised the visit, said students impressed Lord Best with thoughtful and intelligent questions.

"They sparked a lively discussion and deepened their understanding of how Parliament shapes the country.

It was a truly inspiring opportunity to learn first-hand from someone with such extensive experience in public service," Carolyn said.



Renowned speaker and advocate Paul Hannaford delivered a series of powerful and insightful talks to students at Manor Croft Academy.

Awareness talk

Paul works with schools across the country to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs, knife crime, gang involvement, toxic masculinity, and anti-social behaviour.

His message to Years 7 to 10 was hard-hitting and deeply inspiring.

Through his honest account of his experiences, Paul captivated students from start to finish.

His story of personal transformation and resilience offered a vital lesson in the power of making positive choices and the importance of self-belief.

Students described the talks as "eyeopening," "powerful," and "something they'll never forget."

Assistant Principal Natalie O'Brien said: "We were extremely grateful to Paul for sharing his journey with us and for the lasting impact his visit will have on our school community."



Positive day

Year 8 students at Garforth Academy took part in a collapsed curriculum day, Positive Choices, run by the Leeds United Football Club Foundation.

They attended workshops, listening to guest speakers who shared lived experiences, covering important issues including, Joint Enterprise, day to day life in prison, red flags and relationships, money management and positive masculinity.

The issues spoken about were sensitive and hard hitting; the students loved the day and got so much out of it.

The aim was to help them make positive choices about their futures, understand the consequences of decisions, and the impact on themselves and others.

Grandad's memory inspires Ethan

Fond memories of time spent with a grandad inspired a Don Valley student to get on his bike and raise hundreds of pounds for charity.

Ethan, in Year 8, smashed his target of riding 150 miles in September by completing 175, including a 57-mile journey home from Cleethorpes.

It meant he raised £858.60 for Cancer Research UK. He lost his beloved grandad to the disease in the summer after a short battle and wanted to do something in his memory.

His final ride from Cleethorpes took him five hours 44 minutes. His grandad would have been very proud. His academy is.



Mentoring initiative

An exciting Student Mentoring Project was launched at Manor Croft Academy, delivered in partnership with Northorpe Hall.

A specialist coaching session was attended by 18 outstanding Year 10 students following a rigorous application and selection process.

The students developed key skills in communication, empathy, leadership, and emotional awareness; all essential qualities for supporting their younger peers.

Assistant Principal Natalie O'Brien said staff were incredibly impressed by the dedication, maturity, and compassion shown by the new mentors.

"They demonstrated a genuine commitment to helping others and are now fully equipped to begin their work with Year 7 and Year 8 students," she said.

"Through this mentoring programme, our Year 10 mentors will play a vital role in building confidence, promoting

wellbeing, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment across Manor Croft Academy.

Their support will help younger students settle into school life, build resilience, and thrive socially and academically.

This initiative marks an exciting step forward in empowering our young leaders to positively shape our school community.

The mentoring scheme is already up and running, and we are now in our third session, with students gaining a great deal from their involvement.

We look forward to seeing the continued impact of this inspiring project and celebrating the achievements of our mentors as the programme develops."

Record breakers!

World record holders can be found at Greengates Primary Academy!



Year 4 children were among more than 2,000 others who took part in the largest air drum ensemble and the biggest ever body percussion lesson at Bradford Live.

The event was organised by the Bradford Music and Arts service and supported by the Bantams of the Opera and special guest, Pudsey Bear.

William and Bobby, from Year 4, said that the experience was amazing.

They loved being involved in such a big event with so many other children from different schools, said Head of Academy Steph Tempest-Mitchell.

"Not everyone can say they are world record holders, but we can!" they said.



All staff have helped organise the opportunities, said Head of Academy Laura Hartmann.

"Personal Development is essential because it gives every child the chance to explore new experiences, celebrate their achievements and feel valued for the unique person they are," she said.

School trips had offered exciting opportunities to learn beyond the classroom in the "Out and About" part of the programme.

Highlights included a visit to the Street Life Museum and a special trip to St John's Church to celebrate the Harvest Festival.

Under Parental Engagement, the Academy welcomed families into school through "Stay and Play" and "Stay and Read" sessions, fostering strong connections between home and school and supporting children's learning and confidence.

Community spirit has also been celebrated with fun and memorable events, including a 'spooktacular' Halloween Disco.

Little stars shine

Children at Craven Primary Academy have been actively engaging in a wide range of experiences to support Personal Development as part of the Delta Stars programme.



Joys of colour

Fun was had in a colourful Rainbow Run at Weelsby Academy as part of Reception's learning about the theme Celebrations, Parades and Festivals.



Children explored the question: "What and why do we celebrate?"

They learned why people throw colours during Holi. They discovered why Diwali is called the Festival of Lights and how light symbolizes hope and the triumph of good over darkness.

Through discussions about celebrating Pride, children explored the importance of caring for others and why it is important to be kind to everyone.

The children noticed how colour is a common symbol in these celebrations.

To celebrate, they took part in the Rainbow Run with parents and carers, throwing powder paint and enjoying a vibrant experience of colour and community.

The event was organised by Reception Class team Jasmin Puckey, Steph Willerton, Carol Islip and Inga Jarman.

They said: "Celebrating together like this reminded us just how special it is to share joy and kindness with others."

DELTA STARS



Visit strengthens community links

All children achieved their Delta Stars' 'Community Links' card when the Personal Development programme was launched at Eastborrough Primary Academy.

The Deputy Mayor of Kirklees Council, Cllr Munir Ahmed, visited the academy and spoke with pupils, teachers and parents.

Head of Academy Stephanie Merrick said Cllr Ahmed commended pupils on being community minded and completing tasks which positively affected their school and home community.

"Cards created by the children were provided to our neighbours within the community, including the local nursery, shop, mosque and hospital," she said. Mosque representatives shared an image and said "students from the school have sent cards to the mosque as a thank you gesture following their visit. We look forward to welcoming everyone again in the future."

Special guest



Foreign Secretary The Right Honourable Yvette Cooper MP visited England Lane Academy to see its new Early Years' outdoor provision.

It was the third visit by the constituency MP to the school and organised by Nicola Parish, Year 3 Teacher and Academy Council Leader.

Head of Academy Lisa Cooke said it was an honour to have Yvette visit and the school had a great relationship with her and her team.

She was shown around by EY Lead Sarah Sheppard and Yvette then spent time with the Academy Council in a question-and-answer session.

She then led a Parliamentary debate with Year 6. The children had roles such as Whips and had to stand up when they wanted to speak, just like they do in Parliament.

They debated whether to lower the voting age and the children then had to vote.

The winners were those who wanted to keep the voting age as it is.

Tobi's talent



World success has landed at the feet of martial arts maestro Tobi from Don Valley Academy.

The Year 10 started in the sport aged seven and became a black belt at 12.

He started competing at 13 and has progressed massively in the last two years, competing at a national level and winning big tournaments.

In March this year

Tobi medalled at the English national World Karate and Kickboxing Commission's championships.

This success allowed him to be selected to represent England at the WKCC World Championships at Niagara Falls in the USA over half term.

He was entered in the point fighting and continuous categories.

Tobi was eliminated by the USA top seed in point fighting but, in continuous, he beat a Canadian and American to reach the final. He won gold in an English final.

During the week of competition, he was selected to represent England in team fighting.

The team managed to beat favourites USA before winning bronze.

This was Tobi's first World Championships and to win is very rare, especially abroad. He fights for Team ACMAC Inspire and his home club is ACMAC Carcroft.

It has several clubs throughout Doncaster and Worksop. Tobi trains, competes and is also a junior instructor. He is working towards an instructor qualification.



Skating star

A promising skater from Carlton le Willows has glided to victory taking a podium position at a national skating competition.

Year 7 student Ellie came third out of 21 competitors when she took to the ice against some of the best skaters in the county at the British Ice Skating competition earlier this term.

Ellie (11) began skating at the age of six, just after lockdown, and was quickly spotted by a 1 to 1 coach who suggested she join Nottingham-based Ice Cubs to build her skills.

She was even lucky enough to be coached by a former Russian world champion skater forced to flee her country due to the war in Ukraine.

Ellie started competing as a beginner in June 2023 and, around the same time, joined the Nottingham Synchronised Skating Academy in their Juvenile team, Ice Gems.

She and her team have been British Champions for the past two years, a streak they hope to continue with a new squad in 2025/26.

Juggling synchro and figure skating, Ellie currently spends about an hour and a half, five days a week at the rink, often starting early in the morning to be in school on time.

The Academy looks forward to hearing about the next stage of her journey on ice. Well done Ellie.

Football boss opens pool



Gifted footballers were encouraged to keep working hard on the pitch and in the classroom by Grimsby Town Football Club boss David Artell when he reopened John Whitgift Academy's swimming pool.

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The facility has undergone a £2.5-million transformation and is available again to the community for the first time in three-and-a-half years.

Principal Rob Spendlow invited the Mariners' boss to cut the ribbon on the 25-metre pool and meet footballers also in the club's academy set up.

David said: "It's a brilliant facility right in the heart of the community and it's a pleasure to reopen it.

Swimming is a life skill but can also lead on to brilliant things. You can become an Olympian from a pool like this.

There are all those health and life benefits. It ticks all those boxes and is a fantastic facility for this area."

He said sport teaches young people to be humble.

"There is always somebody better than you. It means you are constantly striving and working hard to be the best you can be."

My message to young footballers is you need to work hard academically too.

If a playing career doesn't work out, you'll need those exams sooner than you'd hoped and, even if it does, at 32 you'll need them anyway," David said.

One of those meeting the Town boss was 14-year-old Harry, who has been called up to have a trial with England's under 15s.

The central midfielder's been on Grimsby Town's books since he was six and watches home games from the Main Stand.

He was Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year last season for Town's under 14s.

"My aim is to be playing in Artell's team," he said. "It's been inspirational meeting him."

He also plays for a Whitgift side that, last season, swept the board locally in terms of cups won.

David watched Harry and his Town team-mates against Doncaster.

"To Harry and the others, I say keep developing. If they know how to learn at school, they will learn more in football."

Rob thanked David for visiting.

"We really appreciate him spending time with some of our footballers," he said.

"His words meant a lot to them and he made a great impression. It's something they will remember."

This team are just a great bunch of young people. They are passionate about sport but academically strong as well.

They have good manners, top skills and terrific personalities. As David said, they just need to keep developing and it is our job to ensure they do just that."

Joe's angling for a prize

A 12-year-old angler at Melior Community Academy is making a name for himself among adults.

Joe started fishing around five-years-old and has fished on a regular basis in the area ever since.

He has become a very capable match angler using both pole and rod and he has fished in and won a number of junior matches.

It has got a little more serious this year, with him successfully becoming a sponsored angler for the fishing Brand "Middy".

He was asked to fish in an adults' summer league this year for Northmoor Fisheries. Joe was the only junior in a 26-strong league.

In one winning round, he beat all the adults catching a new personal best weight of 125lb 8oz.

He documents his fishing adventures on Facebook.



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Melior's karate king



Dedicated Melior Community Academy student Noah is seeing his efforts pay off.

Noah has been doing Freestyle Martial Arts with KRMA in Brigg since he was eight and is being graded for his black belt this month.

He has competed in many competitions and, in September, became a third place world champion for the third time.

He aims to qualify for the world championships in Austria next year.

Noah also does katana (sword) and traditional karate at the same school.

Girls return triumphant



Girls representing Southmere returned triumphant after winning a Trust under 11s' football tournament held at Hanson Academy.

Teams from Eastborrough, Greengates, Norbridge, Whetley and Wybers Wood also competed but it was Southmere A who won on the day, not conceding any goals.

Year 6 class teacher and PE Lead at Southmere Zohaib Pasha organised their participation.

Zohaib said: "Each and every child represented their academies to the highest of standards and were amazing throughout."

Principal at Southmere Rachael Binns said it was a "fantastic event".

"It is so great to see pupils getting to know each other across the Trust," she said.

"A great big thank you to Zohaib for providing such a great opportunity for the children and congratulations to Southmere on their win!"

Slopes provide escape

Snowsports lessons were offered to children at Hanson Academy as an additional offering to the PE curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

The six hours tuition spread over a number of weeks at X-scape, Castleford, for skiing or snowboarding were enjoyed by 30, Year 8 students.

Teacher of PE Laura Elford, who organised the sessions, said it had been "an amazing experience" for the students.

"It was terrific to see their resilience when learning a new skill and the progress each student made over the weeks," she said.

"We are very proud of our students and hope to offer further opportunities for Snowsports in the near future".

Teacher of PE Reilly Shaw felt students had really enjoyed the opportunity to learn skiing or snowboarding.

"A lot of the students have really come out of their shell during the lessons, which has been lovely to see, as they take this confidence with them into school and daily life."

All students really made the most of the opportunity and improved week on week!"

Head of Department Liam Hastie said: "Having the opportunity to learn and develop skills in the different forms of Snowsports has been amazing and unique for our pupils.



I am extremely grateful to our PE staff, especially Miss Elford, whose innovativeness presented these opportunities, expanding our PE Curriculum.

Our pupils have progressed greatly and really enjoyed the experiences."

A very polite Year 8 student, Maliah, said: "Thank you so much for taking me to skiing, I really appreciate it. I had the best time."

Kyle said: "I didn't want it to end. I wish we were going again next week!"

"It's so good when you make it up the big slope and you can go so much faster," Harry said.



Teamwork ensures progress

Terrific ability saw Manor Croft Academy's Year 7 boys' rugby team win the Kirklees Champion Schools' Rugby Qualifiers and "sail through" to the next round.

They played against St John Fishers, Holmfirth High School and Salendine Nook High at Dewsbury Celtic.

In their first game against St John Fishers, the team came away with a 10-10 draw, a good result against close rivals every year.

The scorers were William, who played with the Year 8 team a week previously, and Igor.

In their second game against Holmfirth High School, the team started to work well together and were victorious with a 26-4 win.

William was on the scoresheet again with four tries and Zackary added a fifth.

In their final match against Salendine Nook, the team secured another victory, this time 28-4. Scorers this time out were William, Alfie with two, Harvey and Oliver.

PE Teacher Jack Crook said: "The team showed outstanding teamwork, skill and ability to dominate the qualifier and sail through to the next round.

I am excited to see how they can



progress as they move through the competition and I am hopeful of making the finals."



Champion Abi

A dedicated acrobatic gymnast at Garforth Academy has racked up accolades in the UK and further afield.

Abi, with her partner Elsie from Leeds Gymnastics Club, have just been crowned Yorkshire champions after winning the county's open championships.

Earlier in the year, the Year 9 student competed in Lisbon, Portugal with the Display Team in the fifth World Gym for Life Challenge.

Mum Vicki said: "They were amazing and secured a world silver medal and were very close to gold."

They were the highest ranked team from the UK."

Next came the English Championships, Abi and Elsie's first competition of the season and their first in a higher grade. They did a "beautiful, clean routine" and were placed fifth.

Abi (centre) with some of her team-mates competing in Lisbon.

At the Blackpool Ministrada Abi and the display team received an award for variety and technique.

Abi and Elsie were second at the Point Open in Wales against partnerships from England, Wales and Ireland.

They were then first at the Diamonds Open last month before their Yorkshire triumph.

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THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community

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