

THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community



Island Bound: A Secondment to Remember

Issue 34
March 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter, highlighting the incredible work that goes on across the Trust daily.

Change is something we have all become used to in education.

The renewed Ofsted framework presents fresh challenges, but I am delighted with the outcomes of inspections to date.

I would like to congratulate colleagues at Strand, Morley Place, De Warrene and The Valley and thank them and everyone else involved following "the phone call".

Each inspection saw a fantastic team effort and colleagues can be very proud of their achievements.

Our fabulous work on SEND and inclusion was showcased at the Department for Education's RISE Inclusion Conference at the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

Led by Anna Heaton and Sarah Gill, the team delivered an inspiring session on how we use data to ensure no child is left behind.

We are incredibly proud that another aspect of our work is being used to highlight best practice across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Many are aware of my passion for sport and the important role it will play in all our academies going forward.

I was thrilled and deeply honoured that former World Cup-winning star Jason Robinson OBE had agreed to be our first Patron.

His passion to support every child reach their potential comes across every time he visits one of our academies and he will play a central role in our Sporting Pathways strategy, launched earlier this year.

The innovative programme provides our children with the opportunity to enjoy, play, compete and represent their school in a range of sporting activities, underpinned by investment in facilities and staff.

Sport – with lessons coinciding across our 24 secondaries from September – is one of the beneficiaries of our work to align the curriculum. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to this project.

Part of what makes this a great Trust to work for are the opportunities we can give staff, as well as students, because of our operational scale.

The Leadership Pathways programme continues to bring colleagues together from across the Trust to explore high-impact leadership in both primary and secondary. I am delighted to see the enthusiastic engagement from participants and the very high quality of the programme content.

Each session, delivered by a highly experienced Trust Leader, provides colleagues with the practical insights, strategies and tools to lead confidently and with purpose. I am certain that the success of the programme will strengthen even

further the learning experience for every child across Delta Academies Trust.

I am also very proud to welcome a partnership with St Helena Secondary School which will see three teaching colleagues spending 12 months on the remote island in the middle of the Atlantic. I wish them safe and rewarding trips.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved in organising the 16th Delta Academies Charitable Trust's Ball.

It was a memorable, inspiring night which resulted in more than £22,250 raised, money that will be put to excellent use ensuring barriers are removed and opportunities created for children across the Trust.

It is reassuring that commitment to our young people is one thing that won't change.

Andy Barnett
Chief Executive Officer



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Report reflects hard work



Lisa celebrates with the Pupil Leadership Team Jasper, Rio, Honey, Ruby, Mia, Lily, Charlie, Hana, Ella, Antony, Dina, Ali-Sina, Mila and Amin.

Proud staff celebrated at Strand Primary Academy after Ofsted, under its new framework, declared it strong for Inclusion.

The Grimsby school was judged to meet expected standards in Achievement, Attendance and Behaviour, Curriculum and Teaching, Early Years, Leadership and Governance and Personal Development and Wellbeing.

Head of Academy Lisa McCall said: "We are really proud of the report as it reflects the hard work that goes into making Strand a safe and happy place for all of our pupils."

The report coincided with Strand being placed joint eighth in North East Lincolnshire in the combined Key Stage 2 measure in 2025 out of 54 local authority schools.

Out of 13,779 schools that have 2023 and 2025 data, Strand is 31st in terms of the most improved attainment (+54%).

"That puts us in the top 1% for increase in attainment," said Lisa.

"A huge thank you to all of the staff and pupils as it really is a team effort."

Ofsted's report says: "A warm welcome is provided to pupils each morning as they enter school.

Staff know pupils and their families well. Pupils are well cared for and valued as individuals.

They enjoy coming to school and attend regularly. Pupils feel safe and nurtured."

It also says: "Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well cared for, educated and valued as individuals."

Idea boosts reading

Inspired by television hit *The Traitors*, Ingleby Manor Free School hosted a film literacy event *The Book Traitors* to celebrate World Book Day.

The production featured teachers taking on the roles of the "faithful" and the secret "traitor", in a series of book-themed challenges and discussions.

The episodes were shown to students throughout the week of World Book Day, building excitement and encouraging engagement with reading across the school.

Students watched closely for clues and, at the end of the week, had to guess the identity of the secret traitor for a chance to win books.

The event was designed to promote reading for pleasure in a creative and memorable way, while also creating a shared, whole-school experience around books, storytelling and discussion.

Head of History Katy Phenix said: "Being part of the World Book Day *Traitors* was an absolute joy.

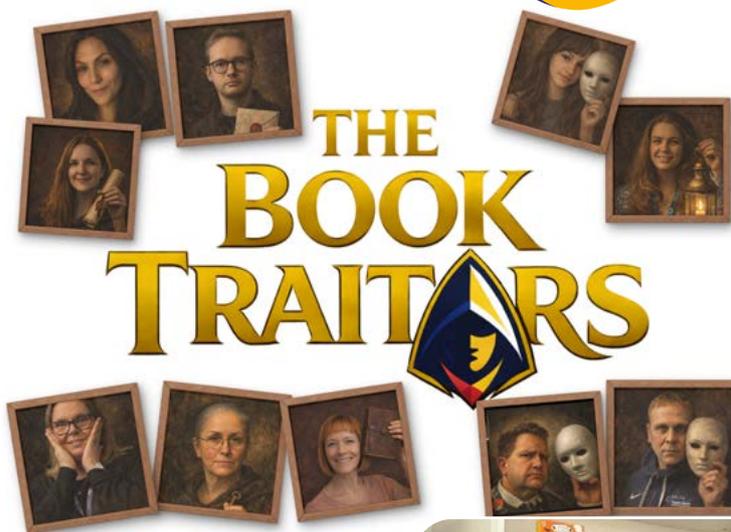
The atmosphere was electric, and it was wonderful to see students so engaged, excited, and buzzing about books.

I loved every minute of it — even if Mr Brookes and Mrs Bradford did 'murder' me for being correct!"

TA Caroline Richardson said: "It was the best experience I have ever had in a school, from filming to challenges, banishments and murders, the whole school were on tenterhooks."

Finance Manager Sarah Powell said it was "great fun, even being banished!"

The SLT's Katy Nelson said it had "even surpassed our Masked Reader event from last year."



"The excitement among students and staff about discovering the Traitor was unmistakable," she said.

"The episode drops for form time were eagerly awaited by all - better than Eastenders!"

To have our very own Claudia Winkleman has been a memorable experience. How can we top this for next year's World Book Day?"

For her part, Carol said *The Book Traitors* was a testament to how wonderful the staff who rose to the mammoth challenge are.

"They gave up so much time and put in in so much effort to make this event the talk of the school.

The school was buzzing with Traitor talk, with cries of 'Sir, you're a Traitor - I just know it' and 'Miss, is it you?' echoing around the corridors all week.



Carol 'Claudia' Brown putting our faithfuls to the test.

There were complex theories based on careful reading of each episode, which is just what we wanted.

It truly was a whole school reading event. Dressing up as Claudia and throwing portraits and insults around was a huge amount of fun too!"



Bus creates buzz

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Imagination of pupils was sparked by a bright yellow American school bus, brought to Whetley Academy by the National Literacy Trust to mark World Book Day.

Parked proudly on the school grounds, the bus created a buzz of excitement and curiosity, offering a unique and engaging setting to celebrate books and storytelling.

For many of the children, it was their first time seeing such an iconic vehicle up close, making the day feel even more special.

Inside and around the bus, Year 3 students took part in a range of reading activities designed to spark their interest and enthusiasm for books.

Head of Academy Jonny

Townsend said the National Literacy Trust team worked closely with the children, sharing stories, encouraging discussions, and highlighting how reading can open the door to new worlds and ideas.

"Their goal was clear: to encourage a lifelong love of reading, and the students responded with energy, creativity, and plenty of thoughtful questions," said Jonny.

"To ensure the experience would be remembered long after the bus had left, each child was



given a book to take home.

This thoughtful gesture not only marked the occasion but also reinforced the importance of reading beyond the classroom.

The visit left a lasting impression on Year 3, inspiring many to pick up a book and continue their reading journey with excitement and confidence."

Dressed to impress

Characters from favourite books came to life at Carlton le Willows as staff members dressed up for World Book Day.

Colleagues across all departments dressed up as famous figures from literature with everyone from Willy Wonka to Jane Austen and from Paddington to Sherlock Holmes gracing the corridors.

Students always enjoy seeing what costumes staff will be wearing for this most popular of days and to find out who will win Lead Teacher of English Tony Tenniswood's prize for best dressed.

This year the coveted title went to Learning Managers Rebekah Daley and Natalie Handley-Bullous, aka Dr Seuss' rascals Thing 1 and Thing 2.

To further mark World Book Day, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 received a free book, from a range of titles specially produced for the occasion.



The English team on World Book Day.



A cast from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Learning Managers Rebekah Daley and Natalie Handley-Bullous join in the fun.



Class characters

Each class chose a book with staff and children dressing up as its characters when Park View Primary Academy celebrated World Book Day.

They also took part in events leading up to and after the day itself.

Years 1 and 2 each had an in-school visit from the British Library, where they took part in story workshops and drama activities.

Year 2 also took part in a special day at Leeds Central Library as part of the British Library's Story Explorers and Drama Exhibition.

They had an amazing time bringing their imaginations to life and investigating the library. The activities were organised by Reading Leader Davina Crowther.



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Story in a jar

Creative students at Garforth Academy produced a variety of ideas for Garforth Academy's 'Story in a Jar' competition to celebrate World Book Day.

The competition was open to Years 7 to 9 and organised by Literacy Co-ordinator Sarah Garnsey, who praised the efforts children had gone to.

The entries were displayed in a glass cabinet for all to see.



Some of the many entries.



The design of Romy from Year 7 which won the use of creative animation section.

Machine sparks curiosity

Excitement filled the air at Serlby Park Academy when the school celebrated World Book Day with the grand reveal of a brand-new book vending machine.



Principal Kirsty Smith, as Little Red Riding Hood, about to reveal the new book vending machine at Serlby Park.



Miss Smith helps Harry select a book.



Harry with his choice, a book about Liverpool Football Club's skipper Virgil Van Dijk.

The creative reward initiative is designed to inspire a love of reading.

Forty students received special invitations to attend the unveiling event, organised by Reading Lead Claire Natriss, supported by Assistant Principal Tara Hunt and Librarian Kadie Smith.

The celebration brought together staff and pupils for a memorable moment that highlighted the school's commitment to literacy and the joy of books.

The event began with a few words from Head of English Martin Ford.

Principal Kirsty Smith then spoke about the importance of reading and the opportunities books provide for young minds.

She had the honour of unveiling the new Book Vending Machine to an enthusiastic audience.

Adding a touch of magic to the occasion, three lucky students discovered "golden tickets" hidden under their seats.

Harry, Ugo and Lily-May were invited to the front to receive special tokens, allowing them to become the first students to use the vending machine and choose a book of their own.

As the first books were selected, excitement quickly spread across the Academy.

Throughout break and lunchtime, the vending machine drew curious crowds of students eager to see the new reward system in action.

Kirsty said: "The launch proved to be a fantastic World Book Day celebration, sparking enthusiasm for reading and creating a real buzz around books at Serlby Park Academy."



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Who are they?

Book characters had to be guessed from clues in a "Who am I?" competition held at The Elland Academy to celebrate World Book Day.

It was one of a number of activities during the day.

The winner of the door decoration competition was the Academy's primary class for their "planet full of plastic" display.

Staff embraced the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character and were even featured on the lunchtime edition of BBC Look North.



Books distributed to area



Happy after exchanging vouchers for a book.

More than 500 books were distributed across the community by The Laurel Academy after it was selected as an official distributor for World Book Day.



Staff at The Laurel in costumes to celebrate World Book Day.



Assistant Principal Dan Kilner helps pupils choose their books.

In addition to providing its students with WBD books, the Academy welcomed children from primary schools on the day, allowing them to exchange their vouchers for a free book of their choice.

English Teacher Hannah Courtney, who organised the day with Librarian Janice Wilkes, said: "We were ecstatic to be chosen.

It has been such a pleasure and a privilege to see so many pupils excitedly exchanging their vouchers and discovering new books."

Janice said: "We really enjoyed giving out WBD books to the local primary schools.

It was lovely to see them in their fabulous fancy dress outfits and choosing a free book with their vouchers.

Parents were saying it was great to be able to come somewhere close to home to get the books."

Year 8 pupil Lily said: "I was so excited to get the Chocolate Factory book. Normally, my mum has to take me to Asda to get a book, so this was way better."

Praise from Princess

The Princess of Wales has written to a Greengates Primary Academy pupil congratulating him on a story he wrote – revealing she had read it to her children.



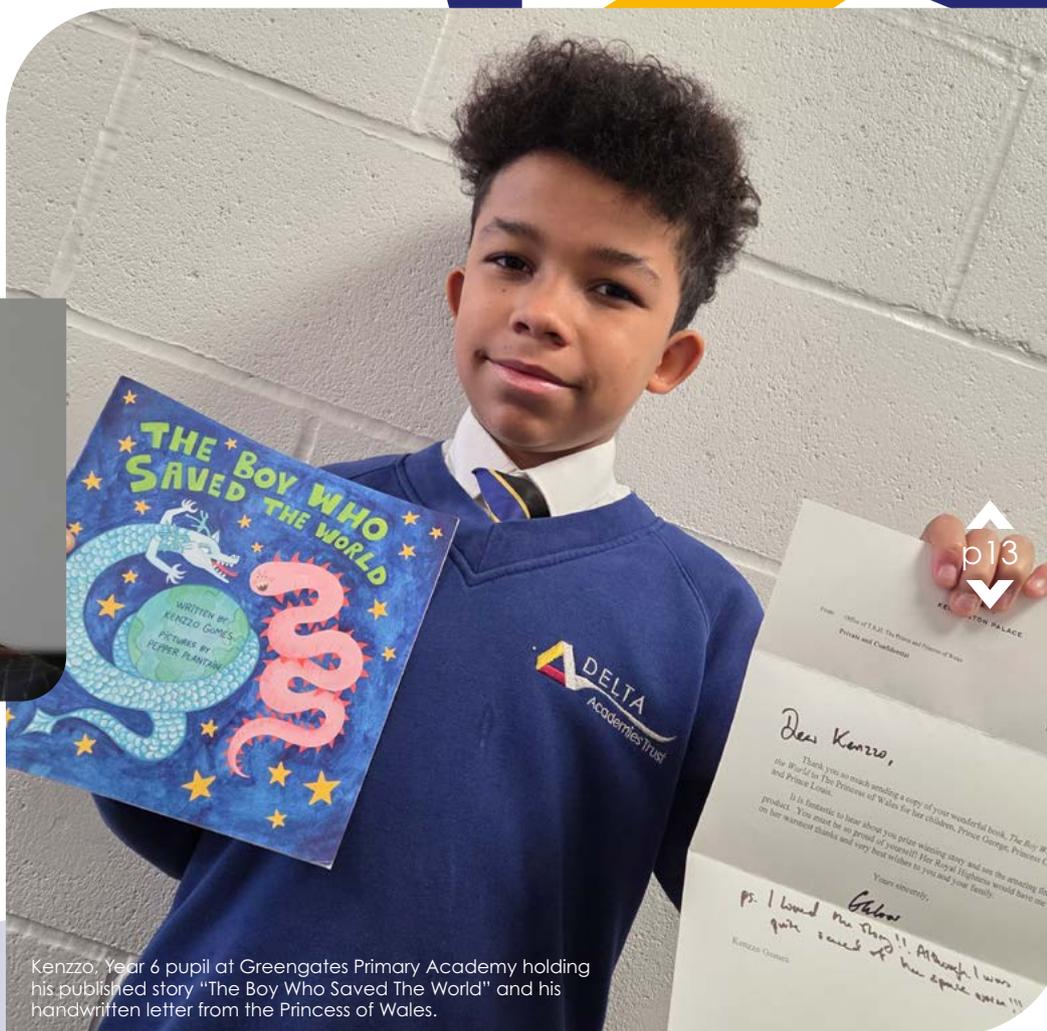
The Princess of Wales, read the story to her children.

Kenzzo, in Year 6, won a local writing competition last year, with his book *The Boy Who Saved The World* then published and illustrated.

His parents sent a copy to the Royal Family and he received a handwritten letter of thanks from the Princess of Wales.

She loved the story and has read it to her three children: Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.

She wrote: "Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your wonderful book!



Kenzzo, Year 6 pupil at Greengates Primary Academy holding his published story "The Boy Who Saved The World" and his handwritten letter from the Princess of Wales.

It is fantastic to hear about your prize-winning story and see the amazing finished product!

You must be so proud of yourself. I loved the story - although I was quite scared of the Space Worm!"

The writing competition was organised by The Gateway Community Centre, Ravenscliffe, Bradford.

Island adventure

Three teachers will spend 12 months on a remote island in the middle of the Atlantic after the Trust agreed to support its secondary school.



Teachers Luke Maguire from Don Valley Academy and Briony Purdy, from Garforth Academy near Leeds, looking forward to their secondments.



Ryan Moody, from Rossington All Saints Academy, points the way to St Helena.

to extend sincere thanks to Delta Academies Trust for supporting our ongoing educational improvement work.

"Without Delta's supportive and charitable stance to offer secondments, St Helena Secondary would face challenges in meeting curriculum demands across its core subjects. "Delta's commitment to partnership working is making a tangible difference to the educational provision available to young people on St Helena.

"The Delta Academies Trust interview process highlighted the exceptional skill, knowledge and experience of all those who expressed interest in the secondments.

"The strength of the candidate pool made selection extremely difficult, a testament to the quality of professionals within the Trust.

"We are very much looking forward to welcoming this wave of Delta teachers to our small island.

"Their arrival will play an important role in strengthening teaching and learning, supporting curriculum development, and building sustainable capacity within our school.

The partnership will see members of staff from English and Science leave for St Helena in September in a "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

The British territory, with a population of around 4,500, sits off the west coast of Africa, 1,210 miles from Angola to the east and 2,500 miles from Brazil to the west.

Saint Helena Secondary School, the only one on the island to serve Years 7 to 13, approached Delta.

Executive Principal Chris McCall said: "We work with many schools in a supportive role across the UK, however the approach from Saint Helena was certainly unusual.

"This partnership will enable us to support children to thrive, which is our core work, but it does more.

"We are extremely focussed on developing our staff through our workload policies, our staff benefits platform and our leadership pathways initiatives.

"The Saint Helena partnership allows us to give our staff a once in a lifetime opportunity whilst simultaneously developing their leadership skills and boosting the life chances of young people."

A long-term relationship is envisaged, with Delta staff sharing resources and facilitating access to CPD in the United Kingdom.

A new wave of staff will be given the opportunity to fly out next year and build on the work done by the first.

Phil Toal, Headteacher at Saint Helena Secondary School, said: "I would like

"This partnership represents more than staffing support; it reflects a shared commitment to raising standards, investing in professional expertise, and ensuring that every young person, regardless of geography, has access to high-quality education."

Chief Executive Officer Andy Barnett was delighted with the initiative.

"I am excited about the opportunities it will bring, firstly, to the children in St Helena and, secondly, to the staff selected to experience a different way of life," Andy said.

"It is a powerful demonstration of our commitment to develop colleagues and another benefit of being part of a large Trust which is prepared to offer these experiences.

"I am sure the partnership will evolve and develop over time and I am excited to see the positive outcomes."

The three teachers setting out to St Helena in September are Briony Purdy, from Garforth Academy near Leeds, Luke Maguire from Don Valley Academy, Doncaster, and Ryan Moody from Rossington All Saints Academy.

Briony will take up the role of Advisory Teacher of English.

She said: "From Yorkshire to the South Atlantic, this is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with teachers and students at St Helena school, and to share best practice in



Phil Toal, headteacher at Saint Helena Secondary School.

English and Literacy on the island.

"My family and I are immensely excited for the adventure ahead." Luke was "thrilled" to have been selected.

"I can't wait to begin teaching on Saint Helena," he said.

"As Advisory Teacher of Science, I'm looking forward to collaborating with colleagues and supporting the continued development of Science across the school."

Ryan's "really excited" to be taking on the role of Advisory Science Teacher.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with staff and students across the island, sharing ideas and

supporting great Science teaching in the classroom," he said.

"A big thank you to Delta and the Principal of St Helena for giving me this opportunity. I'm very grateful for the support and can't wait to get started."

Saint Helena Island is perhaps best known as the place selected for Napoleon's imprisonment after his escape from Elba in 1815.

The 10-mile by 5-mile tropical island is one of the most isolated spots on the planet.

As a British overseas territory, it shares many links with the UK, including its education system.

Exchanging best practice



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Year 6 Teacher, Megan Allatt, and her class at Eastborough Academy.

Effective scaffolding interactions will be exemplified in a new video created by Exchange Research School at Eastborough Academy.

The team spent a “fantastic” morning at the Dewsbury primary filming its next Clips from the Classroom catching “inspiring” practice.

It was organised by colleagues from Exchange Research School with the help of Head of Academy Stephanie Merrick, Year 6 Teacher Megan Allatt, and Director of Learning Chris Parkinson.

The video will follow the Education Endowment Foundation scaffolding framework.

Head of Exchange Research School, Sally Adams, said: “We are so grateful for the support of everyone at Eastborough Academy.

We’d like to thank them for their time, generosity and willingness to share their great practice to help other schools across the country.”

The team was looking forward to reviewing and editing the footage.

Once complete, the new video will join the growing library of Clips from the Classroom already available on the Research Schools Network’s website.



Robot supports pupil

Filey Academy has become the first in Delta to introduce an AV1 robot to support a student.

It has been supplied by North Yorkshire Council to allow Year 7's Archie to access education and help him stay in contact with friends whilst undergoing treatment for cancer.

Teachers successfully tested the robot in a variety of classrooms and settings for when Archie felt ready to resume his learning in between his treatments.

The robot acts as a physical presence in the classroom, enabling Archie to be part of lessons and to ask questions through it remotely.

The academy has been working with North Yorkshire Council's Medical Education Service and Leeds Children's Hospital at Leeds General Infirmary to ensure that Archie has a rounded offer during the time that he is away from school.

Academy and Trust colleagues met with Archie and his family to create a bespoke learning package to suit him as he undergoes treatment.



The AV1 robot with Year 7 students Sonny, Archie and Ava.

Archie began joining lessons via the robot at the beginning of March. The Academy and Trust continue to wish him all the best as he recovers from an operation.

Pride in work rewarded

A celebration of fantastic effort and presentation in written work each week by De Lacy Academy students is being marked with a new PROUD Thursday Plaque.



Henry, from Year 7, with work which won him a sticker and chance to stand by the new sign.

Every Thursday, staff are on the lookout for pupils who demonstrate outstanding dedication and a real pride in their work.

Those who shine will be awarded a special PROUD Thursday sticker.

Students who receive a sticker will be given the opportunity to take a photograph in front of the Academy's new plaque, celebrating their success and sharing their achievement with pride.

Organised by Emma Cassells, Associate Assistant Principal (AAP) who leads on rewards, and AAP Mason Mapplebeck, the initiative recognises effort, celebrates progress, and encourages every student to take pride in everything they do.

They could not wait to see the incredible work students produce!

Sessions for parents with SEND children have been created at De Lacy Academy to provide a supportive and welcoming space.

They offer an opportunity to come together, share experiences, and discuss effective strategies to support their children.

With regular visitors from the Wakefield Parents and Carers' Forum, families also benefit from wider expertise, guidance, and access to additional support networks.

A key strength of the sessions is the opportunity for parents to connect with one another—building confidence, exchanging ideas, and realising they are not alone in their journey.

The feedback from those who have attended has been overwhelmingly positive, with many parents expressing how much more supported and informed they feel as a result.

They were launched by Associate Assistant Principal Mason Mapplebeck and Aspiring SENDco Lily Davies.

He said: "We are incredibly proud of the impact these sessions are already having and look forward to continuing to grow this valuable support for our school community."

Twilight mission



A dedicated group of 18 friends and colleagues from Goole Academy laced up their trainers to take part in the Twilight Walk for The Brain Tumour Charity.

It was a day defined by tired legs, warm hearts, and a shared mission to fund a cure for a disease that touches so many. They raised almost £1,500.

The team took on a scenic (but demanding) loop through the local landscape, covering significant ground as the sun went down, walking from Goole to Airmyn, across to Howden and back to Goole.

The proceeds go toward world-class research and much-needed support for those living with a brain tumour diagnosis.

Every step taken between Goole and Howden helps move the needle towards a future where this disease no longer takes lives.

Huge thanks to the 18 walkers, with their stamina and smiles.



To everyone who donated, their support means the world. The milestone could not have been hit without them.

MP praises transformation

Record results and consistently high standards at a transformed John Whitgift Academy brought praise from Grimsby's MP.

Melanie Onn was invited into school to help celebrate its achievements.

She toured the academy with Principal Rob Spendlow, accompanied by head girl Lily Sheppard and head boy Kaleb Shaw, before hearing the reasons for its success.

Melanie said: "I've been most impressed. It is transformed from the school I once knew when I came here swimming with the Brownies! Some of my family attended and they would not recognise it now.

"Students are achieving outstanding results helped by a supportive staff team and brilliant resources."

The academy has consistently topped North East Lincolnshire's performance league tables on the progress of students between joining in Year 7 and leaving after GCSEs.

With no progress 8 figure this year, Department for Education data puts John Whitgift as the best performing in North East Lincolnshire for what it terms 'disadvantaged' students.

The figures show 52% in the category achieved grade five or higher in English and Maths and 62%



grade four plus with an attainment figure across eight subjects of 44.88.

They are figures that delight Rob.

"I don't like using the term 'disadvantaged' because everybody who comes here, no matter what their background, is treated the same.

"They all receive the same high-quality education and we have the same expectations for all of them."

He thanked the MP for visiting.

"The tour of the academy enabled Melanie to experience the culture of learning, with our high standards and expectations.

"We have spoken about our outstanding outcomes and what the data says about the school.

"All groups of children achieve at John Whitgift, whether they are low, middle or high ability.

"Melanie was aware of the national picture and the difference between the achievements of children on free school meals and those who aren't.

"We have 45% on them but we have bucked the trend here. Children on free school meals are out-performing other local academies.

"We are in the top five in the country for outcomes for children with free school meals. This is something that we think should be celebrated."

Melanie recognised the academy's achievements.

"A substantial number of children are on Pupil Premium and it is a credit to everyone here that the results are where they are," she said.



MP Melanie Onn was shown around John Whitgift Academy by Principal Rob Spendlow, head girl Lily Sheppard and head boy Kaleb Shaw.

"Having had the system explained, I am impressed with the accountability of staff by the Trust at a senior level and that this is passed down to teachers at all levels.

"There is nowhere to hide."

The MP for Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes thanked Rob, Lily and Kaleb for the insight.

"It was lovely to meet such confident, polite young people," she said.

Lily and Kaleb, both in Year 10, had enjoyed the experience.

Lily said: "I really appreciated the career advice she gave me as I am thinking about politics and it is something I'd like to explore.

I thought she was inspirational."

Kaleb said: "She told me not to be scared about not knowing what I wanted to do. I just need to see what happens. It's been fun learning from her and Mr Spendlow who spoke about the school."

Overseas visitors welcomed

University lecturers visiting the UK as part of a British Council-funded scheme to improve English language teaching in Central Asia were hosted at Carlton le Willows.

The five teachers from Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan were in Nottingham as part of the British Council's AELLCA programme (Accelerating English Language Learning in Central Asia) funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Organised by Head of MFL at Carlton le Willows Natalia Strumnik-Brown, following an approach from UK programme partners Nottingham Trent University, the visit gave the team the chance to see best practice in a highly-regarded UK secondary school.

Jane Vickers, Senior Lecturer in English for Academic Purpose at NTU, said: "We felt very welcome.

The organisation of our visit was impeccable and everyone we interacted with was amazing, generously sharing their knowledge and responding to questions.

My guests were particularly delighted to have been invited into three classrooms to observe.

It was a very valuable learning experience - from the signing in process, to the prospectus and



GCSE pass rate banner in reception to the 1:1s taking place in quiet spaces, the inspirational artwork and behaviour messages in corridors and the classroom layout, random name generator.

My guests really discovered a lot to 'takeaway' to potentially implement in their home countries."

She added: "We are attending a summit in Uzbekistan this month with the other 11 partnerships involved in the programme and I am sure the visit to Carlton le Willows will be mentioned!"

Colourful cause



A colour raffle at Weelsby Academy raised money for OPAL playtime equipment.

Each year group was given a colour for a non-uniform day and asked to bring an item of that colour to donate to the raffle.

All coloured items were grouped to create a coloured hamper. Raffle tickets were sold to parents and the winners received the hampers created.

The school raised £300 for the equipment.

Teachers Megan Smith, Emily Roche and Stephanie Willerton, plus the school improvement team, organised the fundraising.

"The school improvement team have loved being involved in this event, from creating posters, drawing the raffle and handing out the prizes to the winners," said Megan.



Iftar appreciated

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An Iftar, the fast-breaking evening meal of Muslims during Ramadan, was held at Southmere Primary Academy.

The event was organised by Higher Level Teaching Assistant Osman Iqbal who sourced donations from community businesses, plus a donation from Bradford born cricketer Adhil Rashid.

Staff made donations, such as table decorations and fruit platters, and two made 150 milk cakes.

Staff set up the hall, served families and organised the event to the nth degree.

Year 6 pupil Baran said the call to prayer, which was extremely moving.

Classrooms were set up for families to pray, before they returned to the hall for the feast.

Principal Rachael Binns said Osman was supported by an army of teachers and support staff whose event organisation was next level.

"Families spoke to me about how much they appreciated the gesture for the community and they were impressed with the level of organisation and quality of the food we provided," she said.

"It was a real pleasure to see so many families, friends and members of our community gathered for this special Iftar.



A sincere thank you to all those who generously donated food, time and resources to make the evening possible.

Your kindness and willingness to give truly reflects the values of compassion and community that we are so proud of in our school."



Community celebrates together

Park View Primary Academy's Community Iftar celebrated its third year.

Originally the idea of a former Year 6 pupil, it was great to see the event still being well attended.

Head of Academy Louise Taylor said the Iftar was always a great opportunity to invite families into school and celebrate the diversity of the community.

"It is a moment of gratitude, reflection and connection that allows us to share in a significant event in the Muslim community's sacred calendar," she said.



Initiative targets Year 5s

Transition leads were appointed within each department at The Laurel Academy and designed bespoke, subject-specific lessons tailored for Year 5 students.

The initiative has seen 238 Year 5 students from a range of primaries visit between January and March, spending an afternoon at the Academy in a session within a subject area.

Following their lesson, students were given a tour of the Academy led by school ambassadors.

The programme has been highly successful, and the school is keen to see whether it has a positive impact on intake for September 2027.

For next year, our intention is to refine the delivery of the Year 5 transition visits and to extend invitations to a wider range of primary schools.

A special thank you to Jack Owen who has supported Heather Beardshall in the planning and delivery.



Some of the subject specific sessions the Year 5 students took part in.

Kay's kindness rewarded

Kindness by Grange Lane Infant Academy's Pastoral Manager earned her a special community award.

Kay Shaw was surprised by parish councillors in school who handed her the Rossington Community Kindness Award, passed around the community through nomination via the Parish Council and the Royal Care home.

Kay was nominated by Fiona's Flowers, a florist in the village. Her nomination said:

"I have decided the next person to receive the kindness award should be Kay Shaw.

The impact this lady has on the community through the school is amazing. She is a real-life hero!

Many a time her name is brought up in conversation on a day-to-day basis from multiple people she has helped.

I truly don't think this lady realises how special and how loved she is from parents and children.

It is an absolute honour to pass this award on to someone who is so deserving."

Children in Tigers class were discussing kindness and asked, as a surprise, to write about what Mrs Shaw does that is kind.

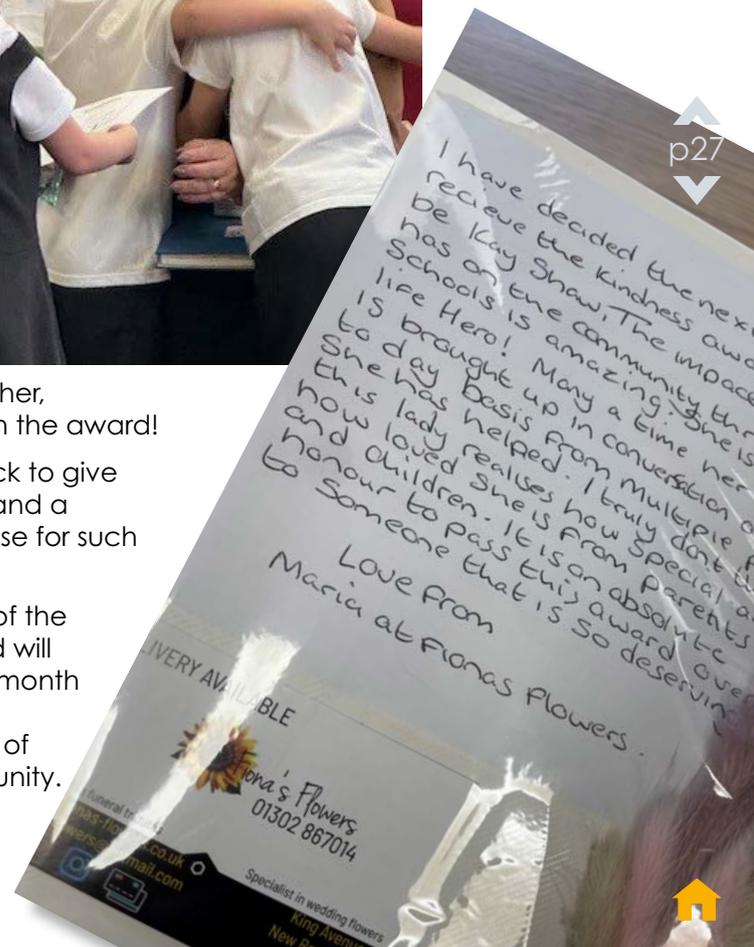


Children congratulate Mrs Shaw on her nomination (below).

On sharing these with her, councillors arrived with the award!

The children were quick to give her celebratory hugs and a huge round of applause for such wonderful praise.

Mrs Shaw will be part of the book of recipients and will keep the trophy for a month before she nominates another kind member of the Rossington community.



A night to remember: The 16th DACT Met Ball raises over £22,000

The 16th Delta Academies Charitable Trust (DACT) Ball took place on Saturday 7 March 2026 at The Met Hotel Leeds, bringing together Delta colleagues, sponsors and supporters for an evening of fundraising to support children and families across the Trust.



Guests included rugby legend Jason Robinson OBE, Delta CEO Andy Barnett, Deputy CEO Trudi Bartle and former CEO Sir Paul Tarn. The evening featured a raffle, cash bonanza and auction, with prizes including signed rugby boots from Jason Robinson and a cycling jersey signed by Sir Bradley Wiggins. Guests also enjoyed live entertainment from Central Avenue Function Band, kindly provided by Entertainment Sponsor, Document Solutions.



A special thank you goes to our sponsors for their generous support:

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Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, the evening raised an incredible £22,253.60 to help remove barriers and create opportunities for pupils and families across Delta academies.

Recent grants awarded

Ruby-Mae, The Laurel Academy: £504 to support swimming with Dearne Valley Swimming Club.

Alexander, De Lacy Academy: £500 for Sheffield Ice Hockey Academy.

Kayden, Hull Trinity House Academy: £400 to support running.

Francesca, Lydia and Darcie, Rossington All Saints Academy: Each awarded £450 for the Bobby Barr Freestyle Scholarship.

Change for Charity – staff challenge update

Total staff signed up: 268

Total raised in February 2026: £135.92 – almost double the £73.93 raised in September 2025!

Our aim: 10% of staff signed up at each academy for Change for Charity

Current progress: Over 26% of core staff are already on board

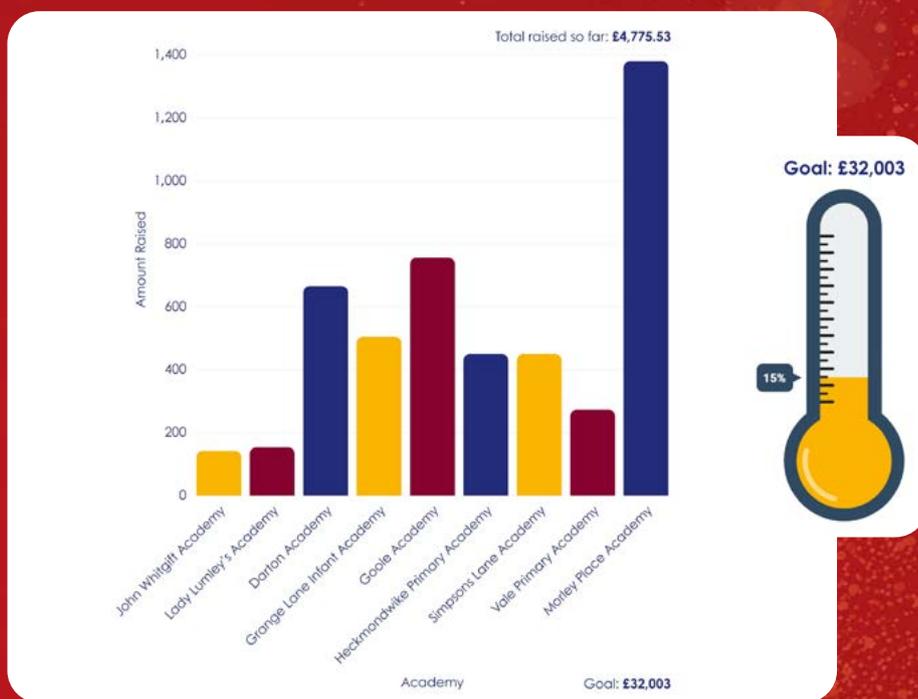
Top signed-up academies:

John Whitgift – more than 26%

Craven Primary – more than 20%

Almost there: Friarage, Green Lane, Park View, and Rossington all around 9% – just shy of the 10% target.

Keep it up everyone! Every contribution counts for Change for Charity.



Pound a Pupil competition update

Some of our academies have been busy getting creative and fundraising through our Pound a Pupil challenge. Here's the money they've raised so far!

Haven't organised your event yet? Let us know what you've got planned and when, and we'll feature it in the next edition of The Link.

May prize draw

Please keep your eyes peeled for our May Prize Draw.

We are giving a chance to win a £50 meal voucher, a vineyard picnic tour, a selection of Next goodies, and even a bottle of Champagne!



Verna Hector

Green Lane Primary Academy nominated Family and Pupil Support Worker Verna Hector for our staff profile feature.

Tell us about your background:

I have worked at Green Lane for 26 years. My twin boys, Jamie and Aidan, attended Green Lane and I started out as a volunteer.

What are your hobbies / interests?

Outside of work I like walking my dog, Berny, who is a Wired-haired Dachshund. I also volunteer at a stables which provides riding for people with disabilities. I really enjoy family skiing holidays in the Alps. I enjoy socialising with friends and family, as well as attending musicals and shows. In the good weather I enjoy gardening. Retail therapy is also a hit with me!



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

Peter Kay (pictured) as he makes me laugh! I would also like to dine with David Attenborough, as I love animals.

What's your favourite food?

I love Thai and Italian food, but my favourite meal would be a Sunday dinner, cooked by my lovely husband, John.

Stupid things you've done:

The list is endless, but once I set my own eyelashes on fire, with a novelty lighter, as I thought it was a mini camera.

What was your first car?

A blue Ford Fiesta.

Your favourite word: Fabulous!

Your passions: Holidays and my grandchildren.

Favourite music: I have eclectic taste, but my favourite genre is disco and pop!

Significant influences: My parents, Rita and Brian.

On your bucket list: I would like to buy a camper van and travel to other countries with John and Berny.

Favourite film: Grease.

If you had one wish, what would it be?

For my family to be happy and healthy!



Challenge success

Swiss mathematician, physicist, astronomer, geographer, logician, and engineer Leonhard Euler founded the studies of graph theory and topology.

The old town of Königsberg has seven bridges.

Euler was asked if it was possible to walk through the town, visiting each part and crossing each bridge only once? If this could be done, a particular diagram is said to have an Euler path.

After simplifying the problem by creating a diagram, Euler determined that it was not possible.

On 6th February Goole Academy celebrated Euler day with a competition where Key Stage 3 students had to identify whether or not various diagrams had Euler paths.

They were 48 entries from Years 7, 8 and 9, and five correct ones won a prize.

Congratulations to the winners.

Students in Years 9 and 10 at Goole Academy took on the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The 60-minute, multiple choice challenge is designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

They are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

The exasperating 60-minute paper was completed by pupils across the country and the highest scorers are invited to compete in the even more perplexing Kangaroo papers.

Across Goole Academy, pupils earned 2 gold certificates, 14 silver and 20 bronze.

One impressive entrant scored highly enough to automatically qualify for the Pink Kangaroo

follow on paper. Some were very close and were invited to participate.

Here is an example question from the challenge.

The five numbers 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 are each paired with one of the five numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 (each number used once). The larger number of each pair is then divided by the smaller, giving five integer answers. What is the difference between the smallest and the largest of the five integer answers?

A 96 B 86 C 76 D 66 E 56

And here is a tougher example.

The numbers x and y satisfy the equations $x + y = 6$ and $x^3 + y^3 = 198$. What is the value of xy ?

A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5

Solutions below:

Solutions

Question 1

97 is prime, so must be paired with the 1. 97 divided by 1 = 97.
95 is the only multiple of 5, so must be paired with the 5. 95 divided by 5 = 19.
98 is the only multiple of 7, so must be paired with the 7. 98 divided by 7 = 14.
99 is the only multiple of 9, so must be paired with the 9. 99 divided by 9 = 11.

Therefore 96 must be paired with the 3. 96 divided by 3 = 32.
The largest and smallest of the five integer answers are 97 and 11.
The difference between these is $97 - 11 = 86$.

Question 2

The value of xy is 1.



Brilliant bakers

Contestants produced the highest standard of entries seen in the many years The Laurel Academy has held an Easter Bake Off.



Chloe was runner-up in the competition.

In third place was Sonny.

Gabija with her entry.

George with his Easter cake.

Another good entry from Lucy.

Lyla with her creation.

Cooking Teacher Sian Howells and Art Teacher Sarah Hague said they would have struggled to choose a winner - so were pleased the decision was made by staff and students!

Students applied to take part with only 10 chosen.

They came in on the day to complete a technical challenge of baking an Easter chocolate cake.

Students were then required to decorate it in whichever way they saw fit.

Cakes were displayed at lunch time so all students could cast a vote for the best presentation/ best looking cake.

A total of 610 students and staff voted for the best-looking cake.

At the end of lunch, eight School Council representatives were invited to taste test each cake.

Scores were counted and the top three students were presented with a prize.

Those chosen to compete were Chloe, Lucy, Gabija, Eva (all Year 10), Darcey (Year 9), George (Year 8) and Sonny, Mackenzie, Hannah and Lyla (Year 7).



First place in the bake off went to Eva.

Languages are not a secret

A group of Carlton le Willows' French and German students took part in an online outreach session with GCHQ (Government Communications Head Quarters).

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The purpose was to see how language skills can help students to be recruited by the Government's cyber and security agency, whose mission is to keep the UK safe.

The outreach event began with a presentation to the Year 9 linguists on the role of GCHQ and why Language Analysts are crucial to the agency's work in dealing with counter terrorism, cyber security and serious and organised crime prevention.

The students then took part in language scenario activities, which involved de-cyphering the French/German coded messages sent by criminals in possible national security scenarios.



Head of MFL Natalia Strumnik-Brown, who organised the session, said: "The session ended with a Q&A.

Unfortunately but unsurprisingly, GCHQ were not able to answer a couple of our students' questions due to the top secret nature of their work.

The students really enjoyed the session which helped them to start thinking about their future careers and how languages could play a vital role."



Special project



St Catherine's staff checking in with students Billy and Caitlin.

A Memory Tree is being created for a local hospice by Year 12 Mechanical Engineering students at Scarborough UTC.



Noah and Caitlin hammering at the forge.



Daniel and Neill using vices as they hammer.



Max cutting metal to size.

St Catherine's Hospice wanted to display one in its reception seating area that family members could commission leaves for.

Students volunteered to produce the memory tree, with the project used to develop their machining, hand tool, forging and welding skills.

The final design will consist of a large trunk with roots that will form the base, then main branches with 'twigs' that will be attached to a central branch.

Staff from St Catherine's have been to visit students to check on its progress, and the tree should be completed by Easter.

Assistant Principal Natalie Griffiths said: "Aside from being a very worthwhile project for a good cause, this again showcases the UTC's technical qualifications.

"Students can utilise their skills on a real-world project, following a design brief and manufacturing a product to client expectations within specified timescales."

Course brought to life



Jake, Jayden and Dexter learn about medicine in the First World War.



A replica of a World War One gas mask.

Great interest and excellent behaviour were displayed by 36 students from Ash Hill Academy on a visit to the Thackeray Medical Museum.

The visit brought the Edexcel GCSE History: Medicine Through Time course vividly to life, allowing students to engage with historical medical practices and developments firsthand.

Staff praised the group for their enthusiasm and excellent subject knowledge, making the experience educational and inspiring.



Logan and Isabella looking at First World War case studies.

Amazing experience

A trip to the theatre – many going for the first time – was enjoyed by students from Melior Community Academy.

The Key Stage 3 students went to Hull New Theatre to watch the new Percy Jackson musical *The Lightning Thief*.

Head of Humanities Cate Mayoh said their behaviour was amazing and they were fantastic.

Percy Jackson is a favourite with students who love the books, television show and films . . . but the musical took it to the next level.

The fast pace kept the party on its toes, and the students were enthralled from the first note.

They loved every moment, as Percy's journey with Grover and Annabeth was followed to find Zeus' lightning bolt and rescue his mum from the underworld.

The stage evolved creating everything from a beach to the minotaur, the amazing lighting and sound effects were 'out of this world'.

Cate said: It was a fantastic evening and the students had an amazing experience."

Year 8's Ethan said: "It was like no other musical I've ever been to."

For Lilybeth, in Year 9, it was the first time she had been to the theatre.

"My favourite character was Grover," she said.

"I also loved how much detail there was in the set and the characters' costumes."

Overall, it was an amazing experience."

Ellee (Year 7) said: "It was my first time going to the theatre. It was so fun and lively and so many flashing lights made it so exciting."

"We enjoyed it. Percy Jackson was my favourite character and the acting was amazing," said Reagan-Jay in Year 9."

Guests leave rave reviews



Scenes from Carlton le Willows' production of Beauty and the Beast.

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Carlton le Willows' rising stars took to the stage for another knock out school production.

The CLW Stars! pulled out all the stops for the academy's interpretation of Beauty and the Beast Jr.

The performance to staff, students, friends and families was a roaring success, with audience members leaving rave reviews for the cast and backstage crew.

Prior to opening night, the cast performed their first full dress rehearsal in front of an audience of Year 5 and 6 pupils from local primary schools, with Burton Joyce, Netherfield and Willow Farm Primary Schools getting front row seats.

As always, a huge well done to everyone involved including our Academy council who raised around £70 with their bake sale in aid of the mental health charity Mind.



The bake sale organised by Academy council.



Doncaster Knights' Cheerleaders, ready to open the Dance Showcase.

Dance spectacular

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An unforgettable celebration of movement and community was experienced at this year's 'Dance in a Day' at The Laurel Academy.

The event has grown so much in two years with nine primary schools attending this time, bringing together more than 250 students across the two days.

Organiser Heather Beardshall said the atmosphere on both days "buzzed with excitement".

"Dancers of all abilities collaborated, supported one another, and pushed themselves creatively," she said.

"It was truly remarkable to see how quickly routines came together, reflecting not only talent within our primary schools, but

also the dedication of our Sports and Dance leaders."

The excitement did not end there. Following the workshops, 85 students from the Academy took to the stage for a spectacular Dance Showcase.

The performance featured an impressive 19 routines, with Doncaster Knights' Cheerleaders opening the show.

Heather said: "The showcase highlighted the versatility and commitment of the students.

Every routine demonstrated confidence, expression, and a genuine love for dance.

It was clear that the students had poured their hearts into their performances, resulting in a truly captivating show.

We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and look forward to seeing even more amazing performances in the future."

Young Voices is a hit

Musical extravaganza Young Voices was enjoyed by 45 children from Weelsby Academy at Sheffield Arena.

Year 2 Teacher Emily Roche said it was the second year the school had participated and it just gets "better and better."

"We had incredible seats this year and had an amazing view of absolutely everything," Emily said.

Audrey, in Year 4, said it was "amazing". Her favourite part was singing 'Power in Me', her favourite Young Voices song.

Joan, Year 5, said: "I loved it, it was a blast!

My favourite part was singing 'Move Towards the Light' because me and my friend Hayley were dancing and having a great time. I would go back 100 times!"

Having fun is Joan, from Year 5.



Maia with a torch during the Sheffield event.



Lachlan, from Year 6, enjoying Young Voices.

Meghan's great win

Inspired by nature and up-close photography, a Year 11 student from The Elland Academy came first in the Barnsley Young Photographer of the Year's 11 to 16 category.

Meghan experimented with layers and homemade filters to create her triptych of images. She is studying GCSE Photography.



River inspires designs

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Ceramic artist Angie Hardwick worked with Montagu Academy's Year 5s on a creative river recovery project.



The children made their designs out of clay linked to the local river.

The finished designs will be displayed around Mexborough before going on permanent display in Doncaster art and gallery/museum.



New York adventure



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A whirlwind trip to New York City left 42 students with stories to tell, shoes well worn, and suitcases noticeably heavier than when they left.

The visit included some of the city's most famous landmarks, although Mother Nature decided to add her own dramatic flair. Students saw the Empire State Building... in fog, and the Statue of Liberty... also in fog.

While the skyline refused to reveal itself properly, the mysterious mist only added to the adventure, turning famous views into scenes worthy of a movie trailer titled New York: The Cloudy Edition.

One of the standout moments was attending a Broadway show, giving students a taste of world-class theatre and a chance to





see New York sparkle under stage lights instead of streetlights.

Between sightseeing and shows, the group embraced another key part of New York culture: food. Lots of it.

From giant portions to endless snacks, the students quickly became experts in "just one more bite" and proved that sightseeing burns enough calories to justify dessert... twice.

Staff were full of praise for the students, who showed enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and impressive stamina while navigating one of the busiest cities on the planet.

Organising and supervising 42 students in New York was no small task, but teamwork and good humour ensured the trip ran smoothly from start to finish.

Trip leader Scott Willis said: "The journey provided unforgettable memories, cultural experiences, and a shared story that will be retold for years to come, especially the part about seeing two world-famous landmarks without actually seeing them at all."

Activities build confidence

Resilience, teamwork and independence were among the valuable skills gained by students at Lady Lumley's Academy during a busy season of winter residentials.

Year 9 spent a week at Peat Rigg Outdoor Training Centre near Pickering, on a challenging education residential, taking part in activities that built confidence and strengthened relationships.

Year 10 completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition, braving the tough, stormy January weather on the North York Moors National Park.

Despite the cold, students demonstrated excellent teamwork, navigation, and campcraft as they prepared for their assessed expedition later this year.

Finally, Years 11 and 12 took part in intensive silver and gold DofE training across the North York Moors.

They excelled in developing high quality micro-navigation skills and showed impressive resilience throughout.

The school's Outdoor Education Lead Dave Mann said: "We are immensely proud of the resilience our outdoor heroes at Lady Lumley's Academy have shown this winter and look forward to a summer of further exciting challenges."

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Magical memories



The party ready to go into the studios.

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Magical memories were created when Year 9 students from Don Valley stepped out of the classroom and into the world of Harry Potter.

They travelled to experience the Warner Bros. Studio Tour, The Making of Harry Potter, one of the most successful movie franchises of all time.

It was organised by Assistant Principal Becci Cooper for the Life of a Student Programme, part of Personal Development.



Aiden takes a ride on a broom.

The group encountered the Weasley twins' pranks throughout the tour and discovered the secrets behind the making of the levitating cake and Harry's flying acceptance letters.

Aspiring witches and wizards even tried their hand at making an origami howler, just like the one delivered to Ron by Mrs Weasley in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Becci said: "I think it is really important to give our students a range of experiences throughout their time at secondary school that they will remember for life.

This magical day immersed our Year 9s in the filmmaking trickery required to pull off the magical mishaps seen in the Harry Potter film series and lots of fun was had by all.

We loved the green screen experience to fly the brooms and catch a golden snitch!

"A fabulous day was had by all.

Students excelled at representing the Academy with lots of staff at the studios commenting on their politeness and behaviour."

The tour included a model of Hogwarts castle.

Capital highlights

Unforgettable experiences were enjoyed by Melior Community Academy students during three days in London, packed with culture and history.

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From exploring the vibrant streets of Chinatown and Soho, to taking in breathtaking views from The Garden at 120, the trip began with excitement and curiosity from the first day.

Students stepped back in time at the Tower of London, walked iconic routes across London Bridge, and soaked up the atmosphere of the South Bank.

A highlight for many was an evening at the theatre, enjoying a spectacular performance of Hercules in the West End.

The final day continued the adventure with hands-on learning at the Natural History Museum, a walk past world-famous landmarks, and visits to Harrods and the historic Cutty Sark.

Organiser Charlotte Morfett said throughout the trip, students were outstanding ambassadors for the Academy – demonstrating excellent behaviour, curiosity and resilience while making lifelong memories.



She gave a huge thank you to staff, families and students for making the residential such a success.



Great insight

Skills needed to work in the health sector were explored by 12 Year 9s from Goole Academy during a two-day insight programme with the Hull and York Medical School.

They took part in a session in school on day one to give them an idea of what to expect on the second when they would be visiting the teaching hospital at Castle Hill.

During that second day, students took part in a range of teamwork activities.

They toured the teaching hospital and took part in a 'messy ward' activity.

This had the students explore a makeshift ward where the staff were being far from competent.

Students had to identify the issues within the ward and feedback to the facilitators.

The day ended with the students showing what the ward should look like by carrying out a full correction.

The students had a fabulous experience and walked away knowing more about careers within the health care sector.

Meanwhile, Year 10 triple scientists had the opportunity to work with two fourth year medical students from the Hull and York Medical School to carry out a brain and eye dissection.

The topics are taught in the Triple Science curriculum and this was a great opportunity for students and staff to apply their learning to a dissection that would not normally be performed.

Medical students delivered a one-hour session to two sets of Year 10s, focussing on higher level understanding of the structures of the eye and brain.

This opportunity applied to their current learning and gave them an opportunity to be inspired and take part in something they would not usually get the chance to do.

This was also a great opportunity for Science teachers to develop their skills and understanding around these two topics by having a soon-to-be-doctor teaching the deeper details.

Crochet Club is a great yarn

No pulling the wool over anybody's eyes, Don Valley Academy's hit after school club is . . . crocheting.

Associate Lead Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages Kat McCarthy started the hobby and decided to see if there was interest among students. Now, more than 35, from Years 7 to 10, attend the club every Wednesday.

Senior Director of MFL Helen Holmes had seen on Kat's social media that she had started to crochet.

"When I was in Don Valley, we started to talk about it as I had done a little crochet many years ago," Helen said.

"When there for a MFL interview, I noticed the wool in Kat's classroom and she explained that she has started a club.

"Intrigued, I emailed to ask why?"

Kat replied: "I started crocheting myself as a way to switch off, relax, and express myself creatively.

I found it had such a positive impact on my own well-being that I wanted to share this with students.

I had lofty visions of a classroom full of students in zen-like reverie, crochet hooks in hand. The reality is much noisier and wilder, but we're getting there!



Some stunning work has been produced.

So far, students have mastered slip knots, the yarn over technique, chaining, and double crochet stitches and creating their own friendship bracelets.

We have begun working towards making our first coasters."

Kat explained they were following the free online Crochet 101 course, which culminates in creating beanies.



A beanie hat students are aiming to make.

"To go from no experience at all to making their own hats will be such an incredible achievement.

Fortunately, we were generously donated yarn, hooks, needles and more by the Wool Den at Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

Their donation was huge (my car was heaving!) and, as a result, some of our students who already know basic stitches have been able to take yarn home with them to work on blankets, soft toys, placemats and more."

Helen said: "Throughout the years I've worked with Kat, I become more aware as to the wide range of her talents.



Friendship bracelets made by students to practice simple stitches.

She speaks several languages (Welsh, Spanish, French and German) and is also an IT whizz.

It comes as no surprise to me that she has picked up this new skill and has reached a high level herself in such a short space of time.

Her passion is clear for all to see and her Crochet Club is such a hit with the Don Valley students."



Fun characters made because of the enrichment club.



Budding entrepreneurs pitch ideas

A 13-week online business education course run by Young Entrepreneurs Smart Start (YESS) has been taken by 10 students across Years 9, 10 and 11 at The Vale Academy.

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Students and guests at the Graduation and Awards Evening.

The YESS Foundation is a global community of business leaders dedicated to inspiring and educating young people about the fundamentals of business to develop the next generation of business leaders.

The 13-week programme builds confidence, resilience, and a success-focused mindset - empowering young people to thrive in school, work, and life.

The course has required the commitment and discipline to work independently, to watch over 80 videos (each 8-10 minutes long), complete assignments each week and pass a weekly exam.

In addition, students have submitted three assignments: a Vision Board, Business Plan for their business idea and a Business Pitch Video recorded at a Dragon's Den type event held at The Vale.

This month, a Graduation and Awards Evening was held for the successful entrepreneurs to celebrate their hard work, enthusiasm and business ideas.

The Vale also celebrated being the first UK school to introduce and complete in-person, school-led sessions.

The ceremony brought together students, families, local businesses, and community champions for an inspiring evening.

Those attending the event included Cllr Carol Ross, Mayor of North Lincolnshire, Dr Sarah Stokes, Principal of The Vale Academy and Steve Hodsman, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Delta Academies Trust.





YESS facilitator Catherine McHale.

Four local business leaders took on the role of 'dragons' at the Dragon's Den-style business pitches which the students undertook as part of the course.

Thanks go to John McHale, Actioncoach Business Coach; Nichola Threadgold, Jason Threadgold Funeral Directors; Karen Eddy, SC4; and Sharleen Lawless, Rocal Group; as well as Denise Pitou, the UK YESS Foundation Coordinator for the time and constructive feedback they gave to the students.

YESS Facilitator, Catherine McHale said: "All students have worked incredibly hard and have demonstrated tremendous dedication and commitment to complete three hours of work each week.

The students' research into their business ideas was evident in the detail included in their business plans.

It would be very exciting to see all these business ventures taking off – we have some incredible budding business entrepreneurs!"



Louis is presented with the best business pitch award.

The 'Dragons' kindly donated towards the prizes given on the evening.

The award for Best Vision Board went to Sophie; Best Business Plan, Amelia; Best Business Pitch, Louis; and the Facilitator's award for Best Effort went to Kaari.

Well done to the winners and all who completed the programme.

The YESS programme is fully funded meaning courses are provided free.

The Vale is very appreciative of the sponsor who enabled this course to run. John McHale, Actioncoach business coach, paid for the students to be registered on the course and for all the materials.

If you are interested in finding out how this course could be run in your school, please contact catherinemchale@actioncoach.com



Issues explored

Youth leadership and climate action were the focus of a 'Power of 10 Festival' at Sheffield Hallam University attended by Student Council representatives from The Laurel Academy.

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They joined others from schools across South Yorkshire for the event, organised by youth-led environmental charity Another Way.

It aims to empower young people to take positive action for the planet and recognise the important role students can play in shaping a more sustainable future.

Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of interactive workshops and activities designed to help them explore environmental issues and develop the skills needed to create change.

Sessions included discussions about climate action, sustainable communities, and the creative industries' role in raising awareness of environmental challenges.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from experts working in green careers and participate in a



question-and-answer session with local leaders, where they could ask questions about environmental policies and the role communities can play in protecting the planet.

Working alongside students from other schools, The Laurel Academy representatives shared ideas and began designing collaborative campaigns that could be implemented in their schools over the coming year.

The event brought together around 150 secondary students from across the region, providing a valuable opportunity for young people to connect, learn from one another

and feel empowered to make a difference.

The experience allowed the students to develop important skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication, while also gaining a first-hand insight into university life.

The students returned to school inspired and full of ideas, which they are now looking forward to sharing with the wider Student Council and school community.



South Yorkshire Campaign Junction

Tuesday 3rd March

ATA Funding Awards!



Travel ideas earn award

Healthier and more sustainable journeys to school have been championed at The Laurel Academy through an exciting campaign led by its Modeshift Active Travel Ambassadors.

They delivered a creative initiative aimed at encouraging more students to walk or cycle to school. Their campaign included two engaging competitions.

The first initiative, the 'Send a Selfie', encouraged students to take a selfie while walking to school and submit it to be entered into a prize draw.

The competition helped promote the benefits of walking, including improved wellbeing, increased physical activity and reduced traffic around the school.

The ambassadors also launched a Golden Lock competition for students who cycle to school.

Those who arrived by bike had the chance to find the special golden

bike lock among the cycle stands, rewarding those choosing an active and environmentally friendly journey.

The campaign formed part of the national Modeshift Active Travel Ambassador programme, which empowers young people to lead projects that promote active travel within their schools.

To showcase their work, The Laurel Academy ambassadors presented their campaign at Sheffield Town Hall, where they shared their ideas, the impact of their competitions and how the initiative helped raise awareness of active travel across the school community.

Their efforts were recognised by the judging panel, and the team was

awarded £200 to support further active travel initiatives at the school.

Associate Assistant Principal and Head of Ethics, Philosophy and Citizenship Rowena Stainrod praised the students for their work.

"It was lovely to see students so enthusiastic about helping the environment, and to watch skills such as teamwork, organisation and communication develop in such a short space of time," she said.

"The project has not only encouraged more students to consider walking or cycling to school, but has also given the ambassadors valuable experience in leadership, teamwork and public speaking."

Big day sees students shine

Increased numbers meant Hull Trinity House Academy hosted its largest ever Dinner Day.

Known also as Founders' Day, it is one of the most special and historic days for a Year 11 student. It has been celebrated for more than 200 years, not long after the school opened in 1787.

Long ago, the school helped prepare students for life at sea.

Dinner Day celebrated the Academy and marked the moment older students were ready to begin their maritime careers.

Today, students don't leave school to join ships straight away, but the tradition is still proudly celebrated to remember the past.

The day began with a parade. Important visitors, including members of the Hull Trinity House Brethren, Governors and the Lord Mayor, inspected the students.



It showed the discipline and naval traditions, part of the school's history.

Year 11 students then attended a special chapel service.

They listened to speeches from Principal Daniel Flack and School Captain Zackary Smith.

It was a time to reflect on their journey through the Academy.

Students, staff and guests went on to share a traditional sit-down meal together.

Members of the White Squad, the Academy's top officers, served the food, showing teamwork and responsibility.

After the meal, each student took two oranges from a crate behind them — without looking!

This was started to make sure everyone was treated fairly. In the past, oranges were very important for sailors because they helped prevent illness at sea.





Dinner Day is important because it helps students to:

- **Remember the Academy's proud maritime history**
- **Celebrate fairness, teamwork and community**
- **Feel connected to the many students who came before them**

It is a day full of tradition, respect and school pride — and one that students will remember long after they leave.

Victory, in Year 7, said he "loved that lots of people from around the city visited".

"The drum corps was well practiced and sounded great," said Year 7's William.

Chanel, in the same year group, said: "it was nice to be a part of.

It was really well organised and I think we presented ourselves really well."

Teacher Elysia Chettle said: "Students really rose to the occasion"

Colleague Ambi McCleish, also a teacher, said: "It was inspirational for the younger students to see the Year 11s shine on their big day."



Options laid out

Strong engagement from families was fantastic to see at De Lacy Academy's Year 9 Options Evening.

Organiser, Vice Principal Nicholas Harrington, thanked parents and carers who, by attending, had shown interest in supporting students as they begin making important decisions about future pathways.

Their involvement plays a vital role in helping students feel confident and informed at this key stage.

Mr Harrington also thanked the dedicated staff, who gave up their time to stay behind and showcase the wide range of excellent courses on offer.

Their passion, expertise, and commitment to providing the very best opportunities for students were clear throughout the evening.



Health and Social Care Teacher Kerry Hodgson at the event.

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Engineering experience



Students (left to right) Aiden, Bradley, Archie, Jack, Cecilia, Ava, Alfie, Kobe, Sonny and Cameron with completed lobster back pipes, one of the work experience activities.

Work experience at an engineering firm was enjoyed by Serlby Park Academy students.

The visit to Wright Engineering in Worksop was part of the work experience enabler (WEXp Enabler) programme and organised by Assistant Principal Andy Hofheinz.

Sarah Collins, Head of Administration at Wright Engineering, said "Thank you for a great event today.

The students were exceptionally well behaved, and it was great to see them actively engaging with the activities."



Century of memories

Garforth's only centenarian visited the town's Academy to reflect with Year 8s on an eventful life.



Maurice Norman has lived in Garforth since the 1960s.

He celebrated his 100th birthday last month with numerous parties and events over a two-week period. He has led an eventful and varied life.

Maurice remains very active in Garforth, serving on various committees and taking part in community events.

He has written poems about his life, picked up by a poetry group which has asked permission to read them at their events.

Maurice gave students a great insight into life across the 1930s and 1940s and then held a very interesting question and answer session.

New course



For the first time, Melior Community Academy students took part in a Bikeability level 3 course.

During the morning, they and staff cycled the streets of Scunthorpe under the guidance of the Bikeability staff.

Students learnt more advanced skills for cycling on busy roads and how to respond confidently when situations change on the roads.

All passed the course and thoroughly enjoyed the morning so much that the event has been booked for multiple days next Academic year.

Well done to all students and staff involved in the course, organised by Amanda Stockdale and Francis Bowden.

On way to bronze award

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Ten Key Stage students from The Elland Academy had a fantastic visit to Dallowgill, completing the final part of their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

The students worked with staff on a variety of activities including orienteering, with a night hike.

Head of Academy Debbie Cartwright said: "All students had an amazing time, demonstrating teamwork and resilience and we are incredibly proud that they all gained the award."



High standards met

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifications were completed by students from St Wilfrid's Academy during a Dallowgill residential experience.

The trip was organised by Delta's Alternative Provision Coordinator of Sport and Outdoor Education, Jamie Major, supported by Personal Learning Advocate Mel Bielby and Principal Dirk Pittard.

Staff at St Wilfrid's raised the bar once again, setting the highest expectations and never giving up on this year's cohort of Key Stage 4 students.

Dirk said a group of Year 10s and 11s participated in the three-day residential in North Yorkshire.

"All have now completed their Bronze DoE qualification at our exceptional Outdoor Education Centre, Dallowgill," he said.

"Most had never been away from their homes or families overnight, many banned from trips because of the risk of 'bad behaviour'.

We saw nothing but kindness, compassion, teamwork, resilience and enjoyment.



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This is what happens when you remove barriers, unpick the trauma and, more importantly, never give up on helping the students see what they can become.

It just shows that if we invest in all our students, no matter what their needs, abilities or starting points, there will always be a way to improve and change lives for the better."



Pupils inspired to aim high

A week of career development was enjoyed by Year 6 pupils from Park View Primary Academy in partnership with Into University.

Its centres are set up to support children from least privileged neighbourhoods, offering a safe space for young people to learn, explore and succeed.

Park View's relationship began last year thanks to a referral from Shane Lavery, Assistant Principal at Delta's Lowerfields Primary Academy in Bradford.

Since then, the project has gathered momentum, targeting pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Head of Academy Louise Taylor and Assistant Principal Lucy James lead the partnership.

"The work undertaken is about allowing pupils to realise their ambitions, achieve their academic potential, develop vital skills and gain experience of the world of work," said Louise.

Year 6 pupils attended a week of targeted learning linked to creative arts. This was on the back of their engineering focus last year.

This fully funded scheme saw them create their own projects, visit the Beyond the Visual



Year 6 pupils Chawan, Inayah, Maham, Fatima and Amnah graduate at the University of Leeds.

exhibition at the Henry Moore Institute and tour the University of Leeds campus with current students.

The week culminated in a graduation ceremony at the university, which parents were invited to attend.

Louise said: "Projects like this are supporting pupils understand the options available to them as



Sudais receives her certificate.

they progress through school and allow them to consider career options they might not have known about."

Activities enjoyed

Winter Olympics-inspired activities were enjoyed by pupils from Park View Primary Academy when they joined other south Leeds schools at The Mandela Centre.

Through their connection with the Leeds Well Schools Partnership, the Key Stage 1 pupils took part in a range of winter style sports.

They had a great afternoon trying curling, the skeleton, bobsleigh and shooting from the biathlon.

PE Leader Rob Crowther said: "It's always lovely to see our pupils taking part in different activities.

Events like this are incredibly important at widening the opportunities our children access.

We want our pupils to see what's out there and just have a go. You never know who a future Olympian could be."



Alfie's England trials

A 10-year-old from Willow Green Academy has been selected to take part in trials for England's under-15s angling team.

It is an incredible achievement for Year 6 pupil Alfie.

The trials take place across three matches over the next few months, with the final team selection being made after the third match.

Successful anglers will go on to represent England at the World Championship in France this summer.

Only 40 junior anglers from across the country have been selected for these trials, making Alfie's a fantastic accomplishment.

Martin Rollin, Head of Academy, said: "We are incredibly proud of Alfie.

He has a real talent, and we have been delighted to support him on this journey. It's wonderful to see his hard work paying off."

Alfie's efforts have not gone unnoticed in the wider community.

The Mayor of Wakefield, Cllr Maureen Tennant-King, presented him with a recognition award.



Mayor of Wakefield, Cllr Maureen Tennant-King, recognises Alfie's achievements.

Twickenham test

Pupils from three Delta Academies Trust primary schools enjoyed an unforgettable sporting experience, taking part in a festival delivered by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).



A team of 10 pupils, made up of five boys and five girls, were selected from across Morley Place Academy, Montagu Academy and Pheasant Bank Academy to represent the trust.

The group set off bright and early for the four-hour journey to Richmond, full of excitement for the day ahead.

The morning session featured a range of engaging rugby activities, giving pupils the opportunity to develop their skills while having fun.

A particular highlight was the chance to have photographs taken with the Women's Rugby World Cup trophy, a moment the children will no doubt remember for years to come.



Following lunch, the team travelled to the iconic Twickenham Stadium, where they had the incredible opportunity to play on the pitch itself.

Competing in a pool of teams, the pupils delivered an outstanding performance, playing five matches, winning three, drawing one, and narrowly losing another (a result that still sparks some debate!).

Throughout the day, the children demonstrated exceptional teamwork, determination and competitiveness.

Their conduct and effort truly embodied the values of Delta Academies Trust, making it a proud and memorable occasion for all involved.

Ash Duncan, Head of Morley Place Academy, added: "The pupils were outstanding throughout.



They participated in all the activities with energy and competed against schools who had a pedigree in rugby, showing a true northern grit."

Ryan Schofield, Head at Pheasant Bank Academy, said: "It has always been a dream to visit the iconic home of rugby and to score a try on the pitch is something that will live long in the memory."

The festival built on the strong foundation of rugby already being developed across Doncaster primary schools through the Jason Robinson Foundation.

The experience provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their progress and passion for the sport.



David Longley, Head of Montagu Academy, commented: "This is a great platform to build on. Having worked with the Jason Robinson Foundation, we can now start to see a pathway being formed."





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On road to Wembley



Half time entertainment at a recent Rotherham United match was provided by pupils from Montagu Academy.

They were thrilled to play on the pitch, fighting hard as a team and recording a victory on penalties.

Away supporters from Cardiff City graciously celebrated with the pupils.

The team progresses to the next round on the Road to Wembley competition.



Tops reward effort

Dedication to sport is being recognised at Ash Hill Academy with students being given the opportunity to purchase exclusive sports team tracksuit tops.

The initiative rewards pupils who have represented the academy on multiple occasions throughout the year in fixtures and competitions.

Students who have consistently shown commitment to representing Ash Hill are invited to purchase the tops as recognition of their efforts.

The tracksuit tops provide a visible symbol of pride for those who regularly represent the academy and highlight the importance of dedication, teamwork and school spirit in sport.



Adam and Tyler receiving their sports team tracksuit tops.

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Darts has proved a fantastic success at De Lacy Academy.

A brilliant club was set up by Jud Cross and Terry Hill, part of the site team.

It has been great to see students from all year groups and abilities coming together to socialise, enjoy the game, and develop new skills.

From first-time players to budding pros, everyone has had the chance to get involved, build confidence, and, most importantly, have fun!

The Academy's proud to see such a positive and inclusive space thriving in the school community.

Fantastic sessions

Weekly football after school on a Friday for students in Years 7–10 has proved a success at De Lacy Academy.

The sessions, supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and run by Teacher Lindsay Anfield, have provided a fantastic opportunity for students to come together, stay active, and enjoy being part of a team.

It has been great to see so many students engaging positively, developing their skills, and building strong friendships through sport.

The feedback from staff has been extremely positive, with

student behaviour and attitudes throughout the sessions described as excellent.

Participants have shown respect, teamwork, and a real commitment to making the most of the opportunity.

Congratulations to all involved.





THE LINK

Connecting Delta's Community

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