



BRIGANTIA  
LEARNING TRUST

Creating Excellence Together,  
through a culture of care

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST

# Newsletter

Autumn 2022



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Catching up with our academies

Celebrating fantastic examination results

Superheroes and sports prowess

The power of collaboration

Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care



### MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Trust newsletter. We have had an incredible start to the academic year and a collection of good news stories from our enterprising academies is published here.

I hope you will enjoy reading all about the broadest range of visits from wildlife parks to the University of Cambridge. Our academies have also enjoyed visits from theatre companies to health visitors and a nursing team. Success has come from the widest sources from exam results, to sports, poetry and even cheerleading. Students have taken centre stage with their own initiatives including deep reading projects and our own mental health ambassadors.

Our students are our real inspiration and to hear about our Longley Park Sixth Form alumni and her plans to return to teach at one of our academies is music to our ears. We wish Katie Jackson and all her fellow Longley Park classmates the very best of luck as they embark on the exciting new chapters of their lives.

By way of an update from the Trust, we held our annual event with over 400 colleagues in attendance sharing their experiences and good practice. There is no question that company culture has grown in importance and must extend beyond traditional views with a culture-building approach endorsed by leaders and embraced and cultivated by everybody.

In listening to our own staff across our academies, I am struck by their words and what they have shared with us:

- I understand that I am a valued member of staff, with a wealth of opportunities to progress.
- The Trust is an employer who invests in their staff, dedicated to growing from within.
- Diversity and innovation are encouraged and implemented, staff have a voice, are supported and it is a place where good practice is shared and encouraged.
- Working at the Trust has been an incredible experience: teachers at all levels are given creative freedoms to express learning in their own style.
- I feel incredibly lucky to belong to a Trust that supports and encourages collaboration, development, teaching excellence and has a clear ambition for all.

- Belonging to the Brigantia Learning Trust brings many benefits for both staff and students: we work as a team, support one another and enable our learners to be the best they can be within our inclusive and welcoming environment.
- We genuinely care about one another and it's a very supportive working environment.
- The Trust's strong ethos of hard work, ambition and trust creates a culture we are all proud to work within.
- Working for the Trust is a truly unique experience, filled with opportunities for progression, and to make a greater difference to our whole Trust community.
- Our kind and caring culture is defined by working closely with families, developing strong partnerships, and providing support – all staff go the extra mile to care not only for the child, but their families too.
- I feel very lucky to work for a Trust that has evolved into a collegiate and integrated team of professionals working towards a common goal for all.

As we embrace our vision and strapline – Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care – we are clear what we want to achieve and celebrate; the importance of each individual within our organisation, celebrating our everyday heroes, everyone's a leader, valuing ourselves and each other, and the importance of working together, to name but a few.

As we strive to work together in harmony there are initiatives happening across all our academies from healthy minds, a new coaching model and the development of the whole child experience and the cultural capital of every young person.

**Mike Westerdale,**  
CEO



### Our Professional Partners

#### The Challenger Trust

The Challenger Trust's mission is for every child, regardless of their background, to have direct access to positive and life-affirming activities outside of school. Brigantia Learning Trust intends to commence work with The Challenger Trust in the new year, in a range of volunteering, community service, sports, performing arts, adventure and enterprise activities, alongside work with Sheffield Hallam University and the Mayoral Office. The programme's intended impact extends across a wide range of factors, including improved mental and physical health, improved attendance, behaviour and academic performance, increased employability and enabling social mobility.

#### ReconnectEd

ReconnectEd is a non-profit organisation, with the aim of reducing permanent exclusions in settings across the country. Brigantia Learning Trust first engaged in talks with ReconnectEd eight months ago and looks forward to rolling out the programme in Years 5-9 across the Trust. Promoting a trauma-informed approach to deal with the root cause of exclusion, ReconnectEd coaches will work in partnership with the pupil or student, academy and family to mentor, provide support, remove barriers and ultimately lower the exclusion rate, working in tandem with STEER Education to provide a well-rounded approach to this pastoral intervention.

#### Ingle Foundation

The Brendan Ingle Foundation was set up to address the needs of the socially excluded and those at risk of becoming socially marginalised and promote social inclusion, through sport, mentoring and education. The Brigantia Learning Trust has been incredibly privileged to work with Brendan Ingle for a number of years, with many positive student outcomes including improved wellbeing and the overcoming of personal challenges.



### Paws, Claws and Whiskers

In the summer term, we welcomed 10 eggs in an incubator to Wincobank, and after five days there was great excitement as they hatched into chicks! KS1 pupils were thrilled to watch them hatch from their eggs, and cared for them for two weeks, before they moved on happily to a local family's farm. Caring for the chicks supported pupils' learning about the life cycles of animals and the difference between living and non-living things - who knows who or what we might welcome next?



### Going on a Bear Hunt

As part of our Voice Brigantia initiative and English curriculum, Parrot and Puffin classes embarked on a bear hunt, using one of our favourite books. Pupils learnt to orally retell the story, drew pictures, produced their first attempts at writing parts of the story and depicted different parts of the tale both creatively and collaboratively, developing the characteristics of good learners and making a fantastic start to their learning!



### A Very Exciting Visit

Pupils across Wincobank enjoyed a magical and memorable experience, as a Theatre Company visited the academy and performed Beauty and the Beast. The performance gave pupils the opportunity to discuss inclusion and care around an engaging subject matter. Our young people were inspired in their oracy and writing, and were introduced to new vocabulary and unique forms of communication and allowed them to explore feelings and situations in a safe space.



### Wincobank Superheroes!

Pupils in KS1 dressed up as superheroes for the day, as they explored the different types of superheroes in our society and learnt that not all of them wear a mask and cape. Pupils learnt all about modern day superheroes, how they help us keep safe and healthy, and how they can be superheroes every day too. A visit from the Clever Cogz Company recruited pupils into the police force: together they solved clues, gave chase and caught the villain and served to introduce the pupils to the new topic and an early opportunity to explore citizenship.



### Extending the Curriculum

With our partners at Learners' Trust, we are very excited to be able to offer a range of diverse and interesting after-school clubs this year. These free clubs are high quality fun exciting opportunities, led by fully qualified specialist staff and it is our aim that by the end of the year every child will have participated in at least one club of their choice. Children have already enjoyed Disney Dance, Arts and Crafts and Science clubs. Over the year they will have the opportunity to participate in acting, dancing, circus skills, trampolining, robotics and karate and many other clubs.







### Sporting Prowess!

At the end of October, Concord attended the Sheffield City Heads Football Championships. In the morning, pupils took part in a league which they won, progressing into the afternoon knockout with a 100% record and unbeaten. Once more in the afternoon, the pupils won the league against the winners from each morning group, and placed first out of the city of Sheffield, progressing to the Yorkshire Finals where they will compete against the champions of each city. Overall, it was a fantastic event, with huge crowds drawn in due to the talent and skill of pupils, with the added bonus of coaches from Sheffield United praising their football prowess! Stay tuned to find out if we make it to Wembley.

### Times Tables Festival

This term, the whole Concord Academy participated in the Brigantia Times Tables Festival, a fantastic virtual event. The event aimed to challenge children on their multiplication skills, on their speed and engagement, as they competed as they competed against other academies both within and outside the Trust. We are delighted to announce that Concord won the **Most Engaged Academy Award** and **Most Correct Answers Award**!



### Extra-Curricular, Extra-Fun!

Pupils across the academy have enjoyed the wealth of after-school activities on offer, with 46% of pupils already taking advantage of our enrichment programme! Our offer is wide and extends beyond the classroom, including sports and creative clubs, enhancing the wider curriculum offer. We are delighted with the plethora of experiences pupils have been taking part in, including creating their own sculptures within pottery; sequentially building skills over the half term and ultimately developing their own unique piece of art; programming their own robots in robotics club and fine tuning their football skills with Sheffield United, amongst other things!



### A Venture to the Wildlife Park

Linked to their learning in science about adaption and revolution, Year 6 investigated adaptations in plants such as cacti and ivy, with outstanding observational skills and detailed drawings displaying their findings. Pupils explored camouflage and habitats, learnt about Darwin's theory of evolution and observed animal habitats, to apply their science knowledge in real-life situations, in a topic that culminated in a visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.



### The Sheffield Sharks

Year 3 pupils enjoyed an incredibly exciting visit this term, from our very own Sheffield Sharks basketball team! We are very lucky to benefit from a partnership with the team on the B Healthy B Braun School Programme, focusing on the impact of exercise on a healthy lifestyle, and using a basketball to facilitate.

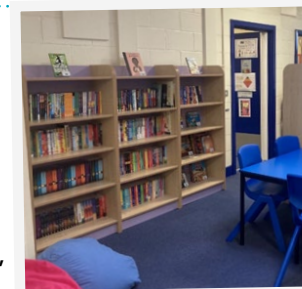
During their first session, pupils developed their dribbling skills, and working alongside a professional coach who taught them their top tips. These sessions will build up to a basketball competition, that will be hosted by the Sharks. Throughout the year, pupils will continue to be visited by professional basketball players, they can't wait!



## PRIMARY PHASE

### Reading for Pleasure

With reading for pleasure in mind, last year Hinde House Primary invested in a range of new library books across the academy, providing children with access to books for reading at home, with an adult, and independently. Our book choices reflect a diverse range of authors and characters and align with many of the extracts we use in our reading comprehension lessons, and we caught up with some of our Year 3 and Year 6 Reading Leaders to find out more...



**What are you enjoying most about your role?**

*"I like recommending books and helping people find books they enjoy!" A*

*"I love seeing friends enjoying books I've recommended." R&P*

**What are you enjoying about the library?**

*"It's got so many new books and lots of favourites of mine like the Alex Rider and Percy Jackson series" R*

*"It's a calm environment for reading and it's quiet. We get to use it for our after-school club too!" P*

**What books would you recommend to your peers?**

*"I would recommend any Roald Dahl books for creative and funny stories." H*

*"I would choose a book that matches their interests, so they enjoy reading as much as me!" P*

### Focused Fridays!

Ride for Focus is an initiative that provides the opportunity to get pupils' bodies moving and minds ready for learning in weekly cycle sessions at Hinde House Primary. With the aim of encouraging pupils to set targets, focus on these and improve their performance. Our pupils' self-confidence, resilience, mental health and perseverance will be boosted at the same time. Thank you to Mr McDermott from Beyond the 4 Walls for delivering these sessions, it is great to see pupils so excited and motivated.



### Hello Yellow

To mark World Mental Health Day, pupils and students across Hinde House wore yellow ribbons, carefully prepared and distributed by our Student Mental Health Ambassadors, who volunteer their own time to raise awareness of mental health issues and mobilise efforts in support of mental health. Across the academy, pupils and students participated in activities run by Peer Mentors and Mental Health Ambassadors including mindful colouring, crafts, quizzes, art activities and gingerbread decorating.



### Supporting our Families

This term, Hinde House Early Years warmly welcomed Harleen Singh from Burngreave/Shiregreen Health Visiting & School Nursing Team and parents to the academy. We were thrilled that Harleen was very positive with how we actively seek to work together to support parents and families, and she provided an array of information related to children's health and routines. We were pleased to receive feedback from parents, highlighting that they appreciated having access to someone they could share any concerns with.





## SECONDARY PHASE

**Best Results Ever!**

This summer, students and staff celebrated the best GCSE results Hinde House has ever seen! Students worked tirelessly with the support of our committed staff team to secure the grades they needed and sought after, to progress to the next stage of their education. We were thrilled that over half of our students achieved Grade 5 in both Maths and English, with 66% attaining a Grade 4 in both. In addition, academy progress figure shows that our students make above average progress, putting us ahead of other schools and academies across the country. Visit our website for more information!

**Young Poet Award**

Huge congratulations to our Year 11 student Lola, who has achieved a place in the Top 85 Commended Poets in the biggest international poetry competition in the world for under 17s! Lola placed in the top 85 from more than 13,500 entries by over 6,600 poets, from over 100 countries worldwide, judged by acclaimed British poets Anthony Anaxagorou and Mona Arshi. Make sure to keep an eye out for the Spring Anthology, in which her winning poem will be published.

**Movement Evening**

In the 2021/22 academic year, Hinde House Secondary launched the very first Movement Evening. The evening was a celebration of the talent and courage of our students, in a range of Expressive Arts and Physical Activities, which performers work tirelessly to perfect, with great success. From cheerleading and dance to gymnastics, drama and musical performances and solos, the evening was truly fantastic. This academic year, the Movement Evening will return even bigger and better – with students already lining up to showcase their talents! Watch this space.

**Visit to Cambridge**

Year 10 students from Hinde House and Yewlands Academies were inspired during their visit to a world-class university, the University of Cambridge. The visit began with an introduction to the university and tour of Homerton and the opportunity to ask questions and immerse themselves in university life. The day culminated with a taste of life at Cambridge, as students explored city life with a visit to the Museum of Zoology. The visit formed part of our careers programme, which aims to raise aspirations and instil a sense of self-belief in students to aim high.

**Hurricanes Sweep Success!**

Our multi-talented cheerleading team, the Hinde House Hurricanes, travelled to Belle Vue Sports Centre in Manchester to compete at the UK Cheerleading Association National Schools' Finals. The team has worked incredibly hard over the last ten months, competing with a difficult routine which they executed perfectly, securing third place overall, against all schools across the UK. We are very much looking forward to building on this success this year with the squad already committed to weekly practice – congratulations!

**We Are Proud!**

In early October, Yewlands Academy celebrated the very first PROUD Day, where students across all subjects were nominated by teachers to share work they were most proud of with senior leaders. Our senior staff were blown away by the quality of work and outstanding presentations, with over 100 students selected and praised through comments in their books, postcards home and extra applause house points.

**Sporting Success**

Our enrichment programme is designed with students in mind, encouraging their passions, enhancing their life skills and developing them into well-rounded citizens. The academic year has seen an impressive increase in not only the uptake of extra-curricular opportunities, but the wealth of activities on offer, with Science Club doubling in numbers, more than 100 attendees at Badminton Club and Art Club extending into another room! The Football and Netball Teams have enjoyed impressive starts to the season, with Year 8 Netball winning two games at the SFSS Tournament at Tipton School, Year 7 Football beating our local rivals from Chaucer School and other teams displaying commitment and skill during their training, in preparation for upcoming competitions.

**Introducing Our House System**

The first half term of the academic year saw the introduction of the brand-new House System at Yewlands Academy, with great success! Belonging to Houses instils a sense of strong identity during their time at the academy, provides students with consistent academic and pastoral support figures and encourages healthy inter-house competition, with students awarded points for their attendance, positive attitudes, equipment and uniform, homework and extra-curricular participation. Well done to House Don who were the winning house this half term, with an incredible 12367 points!

**Yewlands: Bake Off!**

One of our greatest successes this term was the Yewlands Great British Bake Off, where students and staff were challenged to bake a sweet treat which represented their house. We were overwhelmed by the incredible (and delicious) response and want to thank everyone for their generosity and kindness, as we raised over £150 for our chosen charities.

**Class of 2022**

Once more, Yewlands Academy has continued to improve the outcomes for our young people. Results in our vocational qualifications – including Childcare, I-Media and Health & Social Care were significantly above average in terms of attainment and progress. Other subjects performed 0.5 grade above average compared to other academies across the country, and students studying Sport performed exceptionally well with an average grade of 5.84 and Childcare average grade of 6.62.

A special mention must go to all of our students who have excelled, not only in their results but in making great progress and displaying commitment and hardwork to their studies. We wish you all the very best.





## Longley Park

SIXTH FORM ACADEMY

Creating Excellence Together,  
through a culture of care

### Success Once More

Once again, Longley Park students rejoiced on results day, with many securing excellent outcomes and access to their chosen destinations. This year, over 75% of our cohort have accessed higher education, with an increasing number accessing Russell Group universities, whilst many secured placements on competitive apprenticeships, further training and progressed straight into the world of work.

We are incredibly proud to have realised our vision to raise learners' aspirations and increase social mobility, and that our area of focus preparation for the skills required by industry and workplace is providing our learners with an insight into careers, and they are benefitting from our network of links with business and organisations across the city.

### Career Ready!

Our Career Ready applications have now closed, having received a wealth of excellent student entries and interviews commencing at the end of October. The Career Ready programme places students with mentors, in a valuable and enriching experience, culminating in a 3-week internship with a local or national employer. Stay tuned to find out more!

### Scholastic Scholarships

Three students on the Financial Studies Diploma course have been awarded a Scholarship, from the London Institute of Banking and Finance, following their incredible A Level results in the qualification this summer. We look forward to welcoming our scholarship recipients back to Longley Park in January for a celebration event with our current cohort, to commemorate the outstanding work of both students and teachers on this course.

### Congratulations are in Order...

...For Longley Park student Becca Williams, first year student studying A Level Maths, Psychology and Criminology. Becca has now achieved Gold for the third time in the WMO World Championships also achieving the title of Sensei and is now a Martial Arts Instructor teaching her own class every Saturday. We are incredibly proud of her success.



### Catching up with our Alumni!

We caught up with Longley Park alumni Katie Jackson, to find out more about her experience with us, and what she is up to now.

*"Whilst at Longley Park I studied Law, Criminology and Politics. For me, Longley Park was the only post-16 option, because of the vast variety of course options, the blend of A Level and BTEC, which I knew would suit my learning style perfectly. From the moment I visited for their open day, I knew it was the right choice for me, and I was right! I loved every single second of my journey, in particular the support I received, and the teaching styles that both challenged and supported me. I also thoroughly enjoyed being a Student Ambassador, which came with so many opportunities to develop my leadership and public speaking skills, such as meeting prospective students, and delivering assemblies across the Trust and academies. I am now studying at Sheffield Hallam University, reading LLB Law, and I am even thinking about returning to Longley Park as a teacher to inspire the next generation!"*



### ProjectYou

The beginning of October marked the launch of ProjectYou this academic year. The Freshers' Fair provided students with the opportunity to sign up for one of more than 35 different societies, from trying their hand at solving crimes, to developing their creative side in our writing clubs, embarking on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to engaging in healthy competition in one of our many sports societies.

