



BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST

Creating Excellence Together,
through a culture of care

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST

Newsletter

Summer 2023



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Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

A warm welcome to our summer newsletter with features and articles from the Trust and our academies. We are delighted to share the news of this highly successful year and the achievements of so many across the Trust. This overflowing newsletter is just a snapshot of the wide-ranging opportunities both academic and linked to cultural capital that is being experienced by our pupils and students.

In sharing the successes of the children and young people in our academies throughout these pages, we are also delighted to bring you news at Trust level. We are truly proud to announce that we are this year's winners of the procurement award at the national Education Business Award ceremony in London. News has also reached us that we have been successful in reaching the next stage of our free school application to open a new academy for alternative provision in the region – a final decision will be made in the latter part of the autumn term.

This is also the perfect opportunity to thank some of our hard-working staff that will be leaving us at the end of the academic year. A special mention goes to Alison Dennis, Deputy Principal of Longley Park Sixth Form, who has dedicated 10 years of her career with us and is now taking on an exciting new role as one of the region's His Majesty's Inspectors. We truly believe in the training and development of our teaching and support staff in order for them to thrive in new roles and/or promotion as well as preparing them for career opportunities beyond the Trust. You have given us so much and we are very grateful for your dedication and for being part of Brigantia Learning Trust's journey. We wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Concurrently, we welcome new members of the team who will be joining us from other well-respected local educational organisations who share in our vision, believe in us, know who we are and what we stand for. You join us at an exciting time of growth and change within our Trust and we look forward to meeting you in the autumn term.

Our young people and staff have enjoyed exceptional experiences this academic year and you can read about these throughout the newsletter. A huge celebratory cheer goes to our Concord pupils who recently played at Wembley as Champions of the North of England in an unforgettable final – we are so very proud of you.

Our Trust values of **AMBITION, CARE, CONFIDENCE, CREATIVITY, INTEGRITY & RESPECT** were witnessed that day, as they are every day within our academies. In this edition, we highlight our 'Respect' value and what it means for our children and young people. In our academies at the heart of respect is caring – caring how words and actions may impact others. Respect doesn't have to come naturally – it is something we all learn. Being respected by important people in our lives growing up teaches us how to be respectful toward others. It is important that our pupils and students understand having respect for someone because of how their actions impact others and showing respect by changing personal actions to be sure they don't have a negative impact on other people's lives.

As an outward facing organisation and aiming to be community-driven through an array of partnerships and understanding of our civic responsibility, this was ever more present when Longley Park Sixth Form hosted the 'Seeing is believing' event that brought together influential business leaders not only to meet each other and to be instrumental in being part of the future of our young people but to immerse themselves in our communities – see page 8 for further information.

And finally, strongly linked to our community, I would like to send out a huge thank you to our four Academy Advisory Councils who support and represent our academies in their respective communities. Thank you to Karen Smith, the outgoing chair at Yewlands Academy for her wonderful support and guidance throughout her tenure. And a warm welcome to Andy Nice, from the Brendan Ingle Foundation which is an organisation that creates opportunity and togetherness through various local projects and whose aims are to build a safer, kinder and bigger community that everyone will benefit from.

On behalf of Brigantia Learning Trust, I extend our best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer to our pupils, students, staff, families and communities. See you again in September.

**Mike Westerdale,
CEO**



The Academy Advisory Council (AAC) @ Brigantia Learning Trust

What is an AAC?

This is the Trust's equivalent of a local governing body and consists of a group of people who could be parents, community nominees and academy staff. There is also a link Trustee to ensure that the voice of the local stakeholders is heard first-hand by the Board of Trustees.

What is the role of the AAC?

Each AAC has five key roles including to advise/act as a critical friend; to advise the Trustees about local issues they need to consider that affect the academy; to represent the interest of the academy community in the running of the academy; to represent the academy in its community; and to provide support to the Academy Principal.

How can we get involved?

We are always looking for new members so if you know of any local residents, parents or business owners who bring with them the voice of the community and who would like to join us please ask them to make contact.

Full details are available on our Trust website: www.brigantiatrust.net





Sharp focus, high ambitions and investment in pupils – Concord Junior Academy recognised by Ofsted as 'Good' in all areas

In June 2023, Concord Junior Academy underwent a two-day Ofsted inspection, and we are incredibly proud to share that the academy has achieved 'Good' status, lauded across all categories.

Inspectors praised leaders high ambitions, high expectations and strong safeguarding culture.

Governors and senior leaders across both the academy and Trust are delighted that the relentless drive, in raising standards, changes to the curriculum and dedication to providing the highest quality education and experiences have resulted in the confirmation that Concord Junior Academy is 'Good'. We thank our community of staff, committed parents and governors and of course our fantastic pupils. We remain determined to build on our success.

Highlights of the Ofsted Inspection Report include:

- Concord Junior Academy is calm and welcoming
- Pupils feel happy and safe
- Staff invest in pupils
- Relationships are nurturing
- Leaders have high ambitions for pupils
- Leaders ensure there is a wide range of opportunities to develop pupils' interests
- Leaders have high expectations for pupils behaviour... they behave well in lessons and at breaktimes. Pupils are polite and respectful
- Pupils new to the academy settle in quickly. These pupils are well supported by extra sessions, a skilled pastoral team and strong relationships with staff and pupils
- Leaders focus sharply on improving pupils' ability to read
- Leaders have a clear vision for staff...staff say that they are empowered by the Executive Principal... Leaders have created a culture of trust and collaboration
- Leaders have established a strong safeguarding culture.

The Ofsted inspectors also positively recognised the strengths of Brigantia Learning Trust in the role of the academy, in that 'leaders engage with the support offered by the multi-academy trust leaders'. The report also highlighted that 'Governance is a strength...Trustees and governors can challenge and support leaders to improve the academy'.

Our Executive Principal, Kelly Howes commented: "I would like to acknowledge, praise and thank our pupils, staff, families, governing body and wider Trust community for all that has been achieved at Concord. Our academy has celebrated an upward trajectory of improvement and success, and I am delighted that the Ofsted report has recognised our achievements and progress. I am delighted to be leading the academy and look forward to continuing our journey of success".

CEO of Brigantia Learning Trust, Mike Westerdale, stated: "On behalf of the Trust, I would like to add my congratulations to everyone involved in the transformation of Concord. I am incredibly proud of the academy team, and their determination in providing every pupil with the highest quality education and enrichment opportunities. It is a pleasure to see that this recent Ofsted inspection reflects the reality of Concord Junior Academy."

Receiving a Good Ofsted judgement provides strong affirmation for all that the academy seeks to achieve for the pupils. To read the full report, please visit the academy website.



Celebrating the Coronation

Pupils enjoyed celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III at Concord with a lovely lunch, summer games and classwork with a 'Royal' theme. We are incredibly proud that some of the amazing artwork was chosen to be displayed in the Wincobank Community Centre and the public were invited to view the 'collection' as part of local celebrations.



Extending our Learning

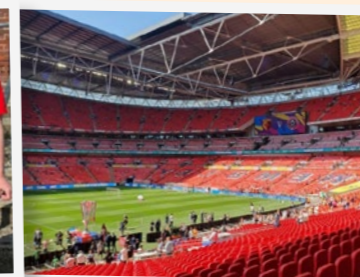
Foundation Stage 2 pupils extended their learning beyond the classroom this term. Taking the Transport topic to new heights, pupils visited the Meadowhall Transport Exchange to look at buses, trains, trams and road vehicles, and were lucky enough to have a motorbike beep their horn and chat to cyclist who stopped for a chat! Sadly, pupils did not see any boats, however, a visit to the park allowed for a conversation on water safety, as pupils observed the river, alongside investigating the forces push and pull. Everyone had a great time and can't wait for their next trip!



One to Tell the Grandchildren About!

Concord Footballers are the champions of the North of England. Huge congratulations to Team Concord who won the North of England Championship in Huddersfield. As champions of the North of England, the team played in the final of the EFL Utilita Kids Cup at Wembley Stadium.

A weekend away in a hotel, a tour of Wembley Stadium and the biggest of breakfasts just added to the amazing opportunity for our young people. It was a close game under the Wembley arch, decided by the smallest of margins. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be on this occasion as we lost 1-0. The children were a credit to the academy throughout and we are all very proud of what they have achieved. Thank you to all the staff, children and families that travelled to support!



Creative Curriculum

Year 5 pupils have been investigating rollercoasters in their Design Technology lessons, learning all about the mechanics of how they are made, alongside other large structures we are so used to seeing. To enhance what they had been learning in the classroom, pupils embarked on an exciting adventure to Gulliver's Land at Rother Valley, to find out more on how some of the rides are designed and maintained. It was a fantastic day – not only did the pupils learn so much, but they had the whole theme park to themselves, and managed to go on some rides, without any queues!



Music for All

Character Education is at the forefront of everything we do at Concord, and we are proud that we are able to give pupils so many opportunities to learn new skills. From swimming, to gardening, to cooking and playing a musical instrument, the opportunities for enrichment and personal development are endless. This term all Year 4 pupils have had the opportunity to learn the clarinet, and we are thrilled that they have risen to the challenge.

A Visit from the Beasties!

Back in June, Key Stage 1 pupils had a fantastic day with a visit from the Beasties which required much bravery! Pupils grabbed the opportunity to handle and care for an array of incredible animals, including a millipede, chinchilla, gecko, python, stick insect, gerbil and tortoises!



PRIMARY PHASE

Circus Skills!

Our extra-curricular club Circus Skills has proven incredibly popular with pupils at Hinde House. Over the last few weeks, pupils have mastered an array of skills including juggling and plate spinning at the after-school club. The challenges required great concentration, but all pupils were resilient and determined and excelled. This club is a fantastic opportunity to have fun, whilst learning new tricks and developing coordination and balance.



Art in the Garden

Year 5 pupils have been putting their artistic skills to the test during Forest School lessons. Pupils were tasked with designing a character, rolling out the clay and using tools to sculpt characters – however it did get slightly challenging as they had to do it all on a tree trunk! Pupils used 'slip' to make sure that all the parts were stuck on securely and then they enhanced them by adding anything they could find on the ground. What a wonderful art gallery we had in our playground!



Awe and Wonder in Early Years!

As part of the Animals Growing topic, pupils have learnt about the life cycle of different animals and what they need to stay happy and healthy. The children took great care of our class caterpillars and were amazed by their transformation into butterflies. There was also an exciting visit from 'The Animal Club' and pupils had the opportunity to meet a snake, rabbit, bearded dragon and tortoise. We even had the chance to explore some snakeskin! The children showed wonderful curiosity – asking questions and becoming confident scientists.



In the Heart of the Peak District

As the Summer Term began, Year 6 pupils headed on their travels to Thornbridge Outdoors for the annual residential. After settling into their very own lodge within the beautiful surroundings of the Peak District, pupils were raring to get going. They embarked on an array of exciting activities, from caving, sky ropes, low ropes, experiencing cargo nets and night lines alongside enjoying campfires and teambuilding games. It was a fantastic way to mark the beginning of their transition from primary to secondary school and to celebrate a hardworking year.



Core Values Heroes Day 2023

Pupils enjoyed a drop-down curriculum day where they learnt in detail about our Core Values, care, respect, confidence, ambition, integrity and creativity, which we all try to show in our academy and wider life. To enhance the children's learning and understanding, we explored famous individuals that have displayed each particular value, before identifying and sharing new heroes with the rest of the academy. It was fantastic to see children from Foundation Stage up to Year 6 collaborating and learning together on such a crucial part of our learning experience at Hinde House Primary.

SECONDARY PHASE

Future Ready

As the academic year ends, we celebrate the success of our careers programme. Trips to Oxford, Cambridge, and Sheffield Universities inspired students, immersing them in an atmosphere of academic excellence, rich history, and innovation. BAE Systems and the RAF delivered enlightening presentations, showcasing exciting career opportunities in defence, aerospace, and security. Mock interviews with local professionals enhanced our students' real-world exposure and developed confidence and vital skills like communication, articulation of thoughts, and body language. These experiences have ignited our students' aspirations and fostered personal growth, empowering them to pursue their passions with determination.



Dreaming Big

We are committed to celebrating student achievements and fostering a culture of success. A standout moment in our rewards programme this year was when our students visited Ice Sheffield and met Olympic gold medallist ice skater Christopher Dean. They skated with excitement, witnessing the artistry and skill of figure skating. Off-ice training taught discipline and resilience, pushing them beyond their limits. Engaging with athletes, students impressed with their questions, showcasing passion and curiosity. This unique opportunity reminded them that dreams are attainable with determination and hard work.



Sports Leadership

Huge kudos to our ten outstanding Year 11 students who have successfully completed and received certification for their Level 2 Award in Sport and Community Leadership! Throughout this year, our dedicated sports leaders seized multiple opportunities to gain valuable experience and enhance their self-assurance. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, hard work, and commitment to making a positive impact in both the local sporting community and our academy. These achievements exemplify their remarkable leadership skills and their eagerness to contribute to the success of others.



On Track to Achieve

We're thrilled to celebrate our second year of partnership with the esteemed Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. Together, we have implemented the OTTA (On Track To Achieve) programme, a transformative personal, social, and emotional development initiative that aims to empower young individuals by fostering physical activity and enhancing their mental well-being. Dame Kelly Holmes Trust puts world class athletes shoulder to shoulder with young people, equipping them with a winning mindset and shaping their futures - it's a teammate like no other.



In the Field

Our enthusiastic Year 11 geographers ventured to Castleton for a memorable field trip to explore the cavern's natural formations, gaining appreciation for the Peak District's geological wonders. Our geographers collected data on rural-urban inequality, conducting surveys, questionnaires, erosion assessments, and sketches that will provide them with valuable insights into field work theories and methodologies in preparation for their GCSE exam.

We commend our students for their resilience, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning during this excursion. Their dedication to their studies and resilience and adaptability exemplify the qualities we nurture and celebrate at our academy.





Online Safety Accreditation

We are happy to announce that Yewlands Academy has successfully achieved National Online Safety School Status. The achievement of this accreditation means that as an academy we have showcased a whole-setting approach to online safety, in line with statutory guidance, evidenced a commitment to safeguarding children online and engaged and educated parents and carers about online safety. We are thrilled that our commitment to keeping children safe online has been recognised.



Go Grease Lightning!

Over 50 students took part in Grease the Musical, Yewlands Academy's first full production for over 10 years! Students performed to two sold out audiences and three primary schools. Congratulations to all members of the cast, orchestra, technical team and Miss Foster for putting on such a fantastic production.



Linking Project

In the last edition of our newsletter, we discussed our brand-new Linking Project with Hinde House, a project that couples together students in Years 8 and 9 at both academies to foster friendships across the Trust. So far, students have been matched with a partner and exchanged letters, meeting in December at the Development Education Centre in South Yorkshire for a day exploring identity. They also had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum and the Houses of Parliament in London which further explored identity as well as democracy. Students had a guided tour and a workshop focused on how laws proceed through Parliament and visited each other's secondary academies with their partner. A further visit to Rotherham Wildlife Trust is planned in the Summer Term to cement the new friendships across the Trust.



Awesome Animations

This term, Art Club has been investigating stop-motion animation, researching different examples before designing and creating their own range of plasticine models and props. Students then filmed the models, bringing them to life one small move at a time, before editing their movies and adding titles and credits. All students worked extremely well in their teams and learnt key transferable skills such as 3D modelling, camera work and editing. We look forward to sharing the animations on the academy Twitter feed.



Checkmate

It was fantastic to see students participating and representing their houses in the inaugural House Chess Tournament this term. All students showed great sportsmanship and resilience throughout the games. The winner was Jia from Rivelin who won a massive number of house points – congratulations!



Seeing is Believing

An extraordinary event took place recently when a group of influential business leaders visited Longley Park Sixth Form Academy. The Prince's Seeing is Believing programme, established in 1990 with His Majesty King Charles III as the Royal Founding Patron, was born from a simple but powerful belief that the best way to close the gap between the boardroom and the community was to take business leaders out to the communities themselves. By thinking strategically about the implications for their business, the visit provides a different understanding of the long-term impact and benefit that can be delivered for both business and communities. Over the years, the programme has been a catalyst for campaigns in inner cities and rural communities, addressing issues such as homelessness, social mobility, education and skills.

The Prince's Seeing is Believing visit to Longley Park welcomed a wide number of business leaders who were keen to better understand the complexity and interconnectivity of key issues such as food, housing, education and economic insecurities that are impacting families, and in particular the impact it has on opportunities and life-chance of children and young people. Visit leader, Tim Roberts, Chief Executive of Henry Boot, explored some of the immediate interventions and offers of support as well as considered long-term collaborative approaches to promoting social mobility and equality of opportunity for all.

Organised by our Career Ready Coordinator, Berni Edge, the delegates, from companies such as Tesco, Ikea, CityFiber and Royal Mail met with a group of students who are completing their A levels and BTEC qualifications and had an opportunity to discuss their hopes and dreams for the future and consider what business can do to enable better access to different routes to employment. This followed a 'speed networking' event where there was an amazing energy in the room.



Congratulations Shabnam!

Huge congratulations to Shabnam Safi who has been offered an internship at Simmons + Simmons, an international law firm in London. The firm serves customers worldwide, with practices covering asset management, investment funds, energy and infrastructure, finance, life sciences, technology, media, and telecommunications sectors.

Shabnam has worked extremely hard to achieve this internship, going through a very competitive and rigorous selection process. Shabnam is in her final year with us and has already been offered a place at Sheffield studying Law but is determined to use her summer to gain further insights and experience.



Future Focused

This term, we held our annual Careers Fair. Joined by over 18 universities and employers, our students seized the opportunity to find out more about their next steps and the opportunities available to them, and we warmly welcomed students from our Trust academies, Hinde House and Yewlands too. In addition, a group of students embarked on an insightful visit to the University of Cambridge to meet students and staff, experience lecture style learning and find out more about university life, expectations and requirements, as part of our partnership with HeppSY and their ElevatED project.



Healthcare & Lifestyle

Professional basketball team Sheffield Sharks in partnership with leading healthcare firm B. Braun Medical Ltd held a healthy eating and lifestyle session with our Business Level 3 Year 1 students this term at Concord Leisure Centre. Students took part in healthy eating and lifestyle activities including shooting basketball hoops with two Sheffield Sharks basketball players! It was an incredible opportunity, and to make it even better, five students from the group won tickets to watch the Sheffield Sharks play the opening game in the new stadium next season.

