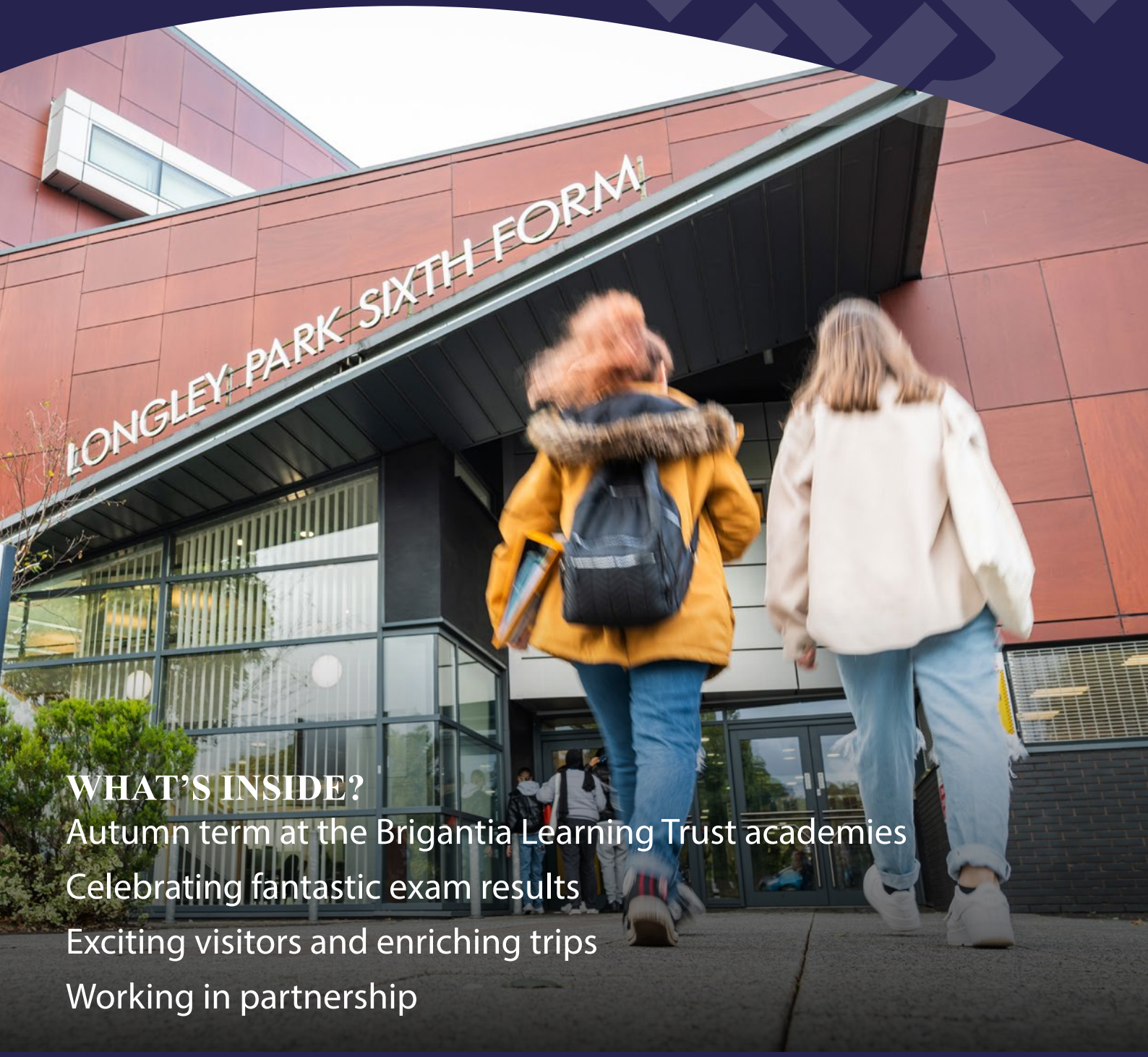
BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST
Newsletter Autumn 2023



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Autumn term at the Brigantia Learning Trust academies
Celebrating fantastic exam results
Exciting visitors and enriching trips
Working in partnership

Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

Brigantia Learning Trust Newsletter
Autumn 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Trust newsletter showcasing the very positive start to the academic year and a celebration of the successes at all our academies. Bursting at the seams with stories of pupil and student achievements, exciting enrichment experiences, competitions, and engaging classroom activities, enjoy reading all about the first half term at Brigantia Learning Trust.

First and foremost, I must congratulate our secondary academies on their excellent examination results. At Hinde House, performance shows growth and success and has once again proved the academy's commitment to delivering excellence in everything they do, with increases on all headline measures since 2019. Yewlands celebrated a stunning array of subject performance increases and individual successes, with overall student progress improving on last year's figures. Many of our former Year 11 students have now taken up their places at our partner academy Longley Park, for their next chapter.

At Longley Park, we celebrated a strong pass rate of 96% and elated students accepted places at prestigious and first-choice universities, with 255 students attending higher education institutions including Russell Group universities and others securing competitive apprenticeships and employment opportunities. We hope to welcome them back as part of our alumni network in the near future.

Achievements and successes at Brigantia Learning Trust have been coming through thick and fast, and not only limited to examination results. Our student experience is far reaching, extending beyond the classroom to provide pupils and students across the Trust with opportunities to grow and develop in every way possible, within our culture of care. Similarly, staff benefit from an array of personal and professional development opportunities to enhance their teaching and working experience.

This term, we warmly welcomed prospective pupils and families to our secondary and sixth-form academies to experience what life is like at our academies and Trust, and it was a pleasure to read so much positive feedback. In early Spring, we look forward to throwing our doors open once again for our primary academies and know these will be just as well received.

I hope this edition of our newsletter offers an insight into our Trust and academies for those thinking about joining us, and that our current families enjoy sharing in our successes. You can keep up to date with our latest news by following us on Twitter: @BrigantiaLearn1.

Mike Westerdale, CEO

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Brigantia Ski Trip 2024

Our young people across the Brigantia Learning Trust at Yewlands and Hinde House Secondary Phase Academies were lucky enough to venture to Snozone, Castleford for an incredible skiing trip this term, ahead of the planned Trust ski trip in January 2024. For many, it was the first time they had been skiing and they had a fantastic time! It was brilliant to see the students enjoying themselves and experiencing something new, all whilst gaining new and improving existing skills. Well done to all for pushing yourselves out of your comfort zones and behaving impeccably, as always. This trip formed part of our efforts in curating a wide ranging and enriching students experience, extending beyond the classroom to provide students with life changing and enhancing opportunities.

The Power of Empowerment

In a collective effort to prepare our students for real-life situations and empowering them to make a difference, Yewlands Academy and Hinde House Secondary students embraced the **Restart a Heart** initiative and had the opportunity to learn CPR from trained professionals and gain hands-on experience in performing this vital life-saving technique. Through interactive workshops and simulations, they've acquired the skills and confidence to respond effectively in emergency situations where immediate CPR can make all the difference.

This initiative embodies the essence of our commitment to holistic education. We are immensely proud of our students' dedication to learning CPR, and we applaud their willingness to step up as responsible citizens. Their participation in the initiative showcases their compassion, leadership, and their desire to contribute positively to the well-being of the community.

Wincobank
NURSERY & INFANT ACADEMY
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

A Very Special Visit

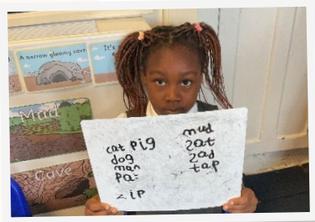
Pupils at Wincobank were incredibly excited to venture to Concord Junior Academy to enjoy a performance of the classic pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. Pupils had a fantastic time watching the production, as they sang, cheered and helped to defeat Maleficent! We would like to thank M&M Theatrical Productions for joining us, our pupils had a brilliant time.

Correspondence with the King

Earlier this year, Nursery and Year 2 pupils wrote letters and sent a card to congratulate King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation. They were absolutely delighted to receive a card from Buckingham Palace this term from Their Majesties, thanking our pupils for their good wishes!

Settling In

Starting school for the first time can be an exciting but daunting prospect for pupils and their parents, and we are thrilled that Reception children have settled well into life at the academy. This term, they have enjoyed their learning activities, particularly our Write Dance activities which serves to link their gross motor movements to the fine motor. Our class topics have focused on the seasons and learning about ourselves in which pupils created models of themselves, and they have made excellent progress learning their phonics sounds and focusing on putting them together to blend into words.



A Step Back in Time

As part of our pupils' class topic Victorian Schools, KS1 children were lucky enough to visit Wincobank Chapel which was the first Victorian school set up in the area run by Mary Anne Rawson, abolitionist, campaigner and founder of the Sheffield Female Anti-Slavery Society. The visit aimed to showcase what life was like in Victorian schools, and just like Victorian times, children were expected to do exactly as they were told by Miss Read, making sure to follow all instructions. It was clear that nobody wanted to wear the dunce hat!

Pupils took home interesting lessons, including what a typical school day was like in Victorian times, writing on slate boards using chalk. They also had the opportunity to look at lots of Victorian artefacts and even dressed up in Victorian clothing. It was a fantastic trip which proved to complement learning and provide pupils with a unique insight, back in time.

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Concord
JUNIOR ACADEMY
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

Basketball Success

Year 4 pupils represented Concord Junior Academy in a recent basketball fixture and were a credit to the academy. Competing against three other schools in games hosted by Hinde House Secondary, Concord narrowly missed out on moving through to the next stage of the competition, despite excellent game play. Taqwa and Mustafa were selected as stand out players for the academy for their exceptional displays of commitment and effort, and we are incredibly proud of all players for showing great teamwork, determination and fair play.

We're Going on a Minibeast Hunt

As part of science learning last half term, KS2 pupils went outside to take part in a minibeast hunt. Pupils enjoyed searching for and naming a variety of minibeasts using a range of identification keys, spending time exploring the school grounds and the large area of banking next to our school yard, which is home to a large range of different habitats. Learning outside the classroom is a valuable aspect of our pupil experience and allows pupils to apply their new found knowledge in new contexts.

Concord Lights Up the Hill

Before the end of term, pupils in Years 3 and 4 were introduced to, and participated in, the Light Up the *Hill Lantern Procession.* In preparation for the occasion, all pupils had the opportunity to make their very own lanterns from scratch, using willow wood and paper. Learning new skills, pupils manipulated the willow into the shape of a lantern, and then covered it using paper and glue, before placing lights inside to make them light up. The children were successful in making working lanterns and were very pleased that they could take their very own lantern to the procession!

Strike for Concord!

At the start of October, pupils across Years 4-6 represented their academy with pride as they took part in a ten-pin bowling competition. They competed against many schools across the Sheffield area and at the end of the event, all children were awarded with a certificate and medal for their participation. It was a fantastic event, and the children all had a brilliant afternoon.

Hinde House
2 - 16 ACADEMY
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PRIMARY PHASE

A Visit to Kelham Island

Year 6 embarked on an exciting visit to the local museum at Kelham Island, to support their learning of why Sheffield is known as the Steel City. Before the visit, pupils researched all about the Industrial Revolution, its impact on the city and some of the trailblazers of Sheffield who were involved in the key developments. On the trip, pupils learnt more about Crucible Steel, Bessemer Convertors and much more, before investigating how the changes impacted people in the past, and longer-term impacts for us today. Our Year 6 pupils are looking forward to taking their local learning further next half term as we discover how geographical factors also impacted on historical developments in our wonderful Steel City!

Super Science

At Hinde House Primary we are incredibly fortunate to be able to utilise our linked secondary academy facilities to enhance learning. This term, Year 5 and 6 pupils have visited the secondary phase for some of their science lessons, taking place in the dedicated laboratories. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning in the new environment – Year 6 even completed a heart dissection to introduce them to their topic on the circulatory system!

A Visit From the Tooth Fairy

There was a surprise visitor to Reception Class this term – the tooth fairy! Second Year Hygiene and Therapy Student Katie Oxley is studying at the University of Sheffield, and we warmly welcomed her to our academy to work in partnership with Hinde House Primary teachers to establish toothbrushing club, an initiative we have since implemented every Friday. We are thrilled that the pupils are loving it, as we understand the importance of sustaining good oral hygiene from a young age, and how these can impact on the rest of their lives.

Budding Geographers

Year 1 and 2 pupils had an exciting opportunity to apply their learning to a new environment as part of their Geography topic. Pupils explored beyond the classroom and visited the local area to identify key geographical features. It was fantastic to see pupils utilising their new map reading skills to locate where they were and spot landmarks and admire spectacular views from the top of Wincobank Hill.

A Journey Through Wincobank

Year 3 ventured on a captivating journey through history, visiting nearby Wincobank Hill with its ancient Iron Age fort, and Buddy the dog came along too! Despite the rain, our young historians immersed themselves in hands-on learning about the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages. Their enthusiasm and resilience shone through as they roamed the local landscape, uncovering the past's mysteries. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Mr McDermott from Beyond The 4 Walls who made this day of discovery possible!

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Hinde House
2 - 16 ACADEMY
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

SECONDARY PHASE

Embracing Diversity

In the spirit of togetherness and appreciation for our diverse community, Hinde House Secondary held its first-ever Culture Day, a joyful event which showcased the rich mix of cultures thriving at the academy. Staff and students shared their heritage in a multitude of ways: flavourful dishes which tingled tastebuds and an uplifting fashion parade. This was filled with traditional outfits from various cultures creating a vibrant showcase of colours, textures, and history that reinforced the beauty in our differences, against a backdrop of rhythmic African drumming and captivating music from different cultures.

This day reminded us that our diversity is a source of strength. We're eagerly looking forward to the next Culture Day in 2024, which promises to be even bigger and better!

Grease is the Word!

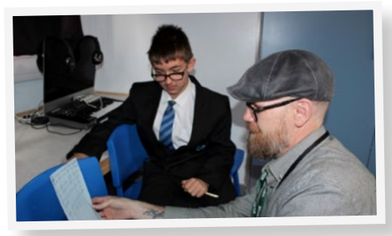
This term, we've witnessed the electrifying auditions for our upcoming production of Grease. The talent displayed across the academy during these auditions has been nothing short of extraordinary. We've seen our aspiring actors and actresses, fantastic singers, and incredible dancers step into the spotlight, displaying their passion, dedication, and raw talent. Watch out, because March 2024 promises to be a month filled with toe-tapping tunes, electrifying dance moves, and the timeless story of young love. We hope to see you in the audience, cheering on our students as they light up the stage with their talent and passion.

A National Hero

Earlier this month, people across Sheffield and the nation mourned the loss of one of the last Normandy veterans of WW2. Cyril Elliott, who died at 103, drove lorries and helped liberate prisoners in World War Two, according to the now-disbanded Sheffield branch of the Normandy Veterans Association. Hinde House students were privileged and honoured to be asked to form a guard of honour at the funeral, displaying great respect and maturity for a national hero.

Unlocking the Rhythms of Creativity

The Year 10 music group teamed up with professional rapper Jay Clique and Sheffield Music Hub to dive into rap music. They learned about the music industry, metaphors, and storytelling to level up their lyric-writing skills. Students discovered that rap isn't just about beats; it's about crafting powerful words with Jay leading a masterclass in creating catchy and meaningful lyrics. This workshop underscores our commitment to enhancing the curriculum and nurturing talents, providing real-world experiences that ignite passion and creativity through our partnerships with industry experts.



THRIVE Peer Mentors

The THRIVE approach to wellbeing is designed to positively impact the whole academy by supporting students in becoming more emotionally resilient and better placed to engage with life and learning. One of the heart-warming aspects of the THRIVE programme is our dedicated peer mentors. These mentors volunteer their time during lunch hours to provide support and companionship to younger students. Their role is crucial in fostering empathy and a sense of belonging within our school community. We are incredibly proud of the dedication of our peer mentors, who exemplify the culture of care at Hinde House.

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Yewlands
ACADEMY
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Future Pathways

At the beginning of the academic year, students from Years 8-11 attended a Careers Fair hosted by the academy, allowing them the opportunity to speak to different employers and further education providers. Students asked intuitive questions and learned a lot about potential future pathways, with all taking away valuable insights and plenty to contemplate.

Introducing the Librarian Team!

Congratulations to the newly formed student librarian team at Yewlands Academy. Responsibilities will include cataloguing, issuing and returning books, assisting visitors and supporting the launch of Mission Bookworm, a reading initiative which aims to ensure all students carry a reading book in their school bag so they can read for pleasure during the school week.

Being a librarian gives students the opportunity to learn new and transferrable skills such as teamwork, literacy, and computing which can be included on their CV. Tobias B (Year 9) says *'being a librarian is a great learning opportunity, my favourite part of the job is loaning books and helping other students who are using the library.'*

A Visit from Sheffield County Council

Patrick Butterell (Assistant Director, Sheffield City Council) visited Yewlands Academy in September to observe lessons and meet with students. His feedback did much to affirm the progress made by the academy. The Assistant Director praised the dedication and enthusiasm of all our students and staff and the positive impacts Yewlands is making on the community: *"The commitment and passion displayed by the leaders, staff, and students within the Brigantia Trust, especially at Yewlands Academy, are truly commendable. Your hard work and dedication are shaping a bright future for our community, fostering growth, learning, and nurturing our future leaders. Thank you for opening your doors and allowing me to witness the positive impact you're making within our community. Keep up the great work!"*

PROUD at Yewlands

Teachers at Yewlands nominated students across the academy for PROUD awards, celebrating excellent effort, work and progress, with all those nominated receiving house points and letters home, to recognise and celebrate their hard work. Well done to all those who received nominations.

Supporting our Local Community

This term, Yewlands Academy undertook two events to fundraise for Sheffield Children's Hospital. The hugely popular Bake Sale saw students and staff across the academy donate delicious homemade cakes, whilst the Fun Run saw 140 students gain sponsorship, where not even the rain could dampen anyone's spirits. We are so proud of the charitable efforts of our students who raised £2,500 during these two events.

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Longley Park
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

Outstanding Outcomes for the Class of 2023

Over the summer, 300 students celebrated their A Level and Vocational results at Longley Park Sixth Form Academy, with a strong pass rate of 96% and almost 240 receiving the highest grades of A*/A and Distinction*/Distinction. Among the many individual success stories and subject highlights, we celebrate students progressing on to excellent destinations, with 25 students transferring to university, and others securing competitive apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

"We are so proud of all our students, their dedication and hard work have provided them with the skills, knowledge, and qualifications to move onto their next chapter and we are incredibly proud of their ambition and achievements. We very much look forward to seeing them flourish as they embark on their next steps and hope they will return to Longley Park in the future to inspire the next generation".

Jamie Davies, Executive Principal

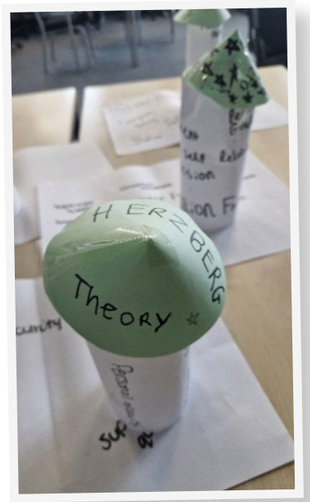
Freshers' Fair 2023

Students and staff created a memorable start to the year with our annual Freshers' Fair. Filled with dancing, laughter and food, the event allows students to showcase the spirit of our vibrant community and mark the beginning of an exceptional year that will be filled with enthusiasm and positive energy.

Building Connections

We recently launched our very first *New to Sheffield* group meeting this term to much success. Designed to create a welcoming space for students who are new to Sheffield where they can connect with others and build long-lasting friendships, the turnout was fantastic! It was great to see a dynamic and diverse group taking shape, sharing stories, experiences and ambitions. At our next meeting, families are invited to join us, as at Longley Park we understand and value the positive impact and input families can have on every student's journey.

Academic Excellence: Business BTEC



Year 2 Business BTEC students have been investigating motivational theories as part of their Leadership and Management module, including Maslow's Hierarchy on Needs and Herzberg's two factor theory. It was encouraging to witness students' applying their newfound knowledge to practical situations, examining and exploring the theories before making predictions and evaluations.

The Next Cohort

At the start of November, Longley Park threw open its doors and welcomed visitors to its vibrant campus for Open Day. Prospective students and their families had the chance to meet with the dedicated network of staff, learn more about courses and enrichment offer, support available and the high-quality education that the academy prides itself on. Student Ambassadors were on hand to answer questions, lead engaging tours and offer an insight into life as a Longley Park student through shared experiences, so young people could truly imagine themselves as part of the community.