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

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST
A 2-19 MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Newsletter AUTUMN 2024

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Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Trust newsletter.

This edition of our termly newsletter showcases the incredibly positive start to the 2024/25 academic year and is a celebration of the successes our academies have already enjoyed. Filled with stories from the classroom, engaging enrichment programme and exciting trips, I hope you enjoy reading all about the first term at Brigantia Learning Trust.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our secondary and post-16 academies on their GCSE, A Level and Vocational examination results. Performance shows growth and success year on year, demonstrating our Trust wide and academies' commitment to excellence. Not only this, but the results are a testament to our students' hard work, the dedication of our teachers, and the high-quality teaching standards implemented across the Trust. Many of our former Year 11 students have now taken up their places at our partner academy Longley Park for their next chapter, and we wish those progressing on from Longley Park the very best and hope to welcome them back to our alumni network soon.

In this edition, we also welcome our new Chair of Trustees, Dr Julie Edwards, and take the time to catch up to discover her vision for the future of Brigantia Learning Trust. In addition, we find out more about our Year 7 residential which, we are thrilled to report, was a huge success.

In September, we warmly welcomed prospective pupils and their families to our secondary academies to experience what life is like as a new Year 7. In addition, many Year 11 students from across the Trust and beyond enjoyed learning about life post-16 at Longley Park Sixth Form Academy open events. It was a pleasure to welcome so many young people and hear so much positive feedback about the events. 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 a unique insight into our Trust and academies and we can continue to join in these successes with our current and new families and partners.

Best wishes,
Mike Westerdale,
CEO

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MEET DR JULIE EDWARDS, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Dr Julie Edwards has a wealth of experience and achievements to her name, including receiving a doctorate in Medical Ultrasound. Dr Edwards undertook a National Study on Medical Ultrasound whilst in her role as a Consultant for Public Health England, personally raising £100k for local charities and also assisting the delivery of the Expedition section of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award within a school setting, whilst achieving her own Gold award.

As a member of the Hinde House alumni and with fond memories of her time at the school, Dr Edwards was keen to give back to her community after her retirement, following almost 40 years working for the NHS. In 2000, Dr Edwards joined the Brigantia Learning Trust as a Trustee citing her own great school experience and desire to enable young people to have as good an opportunity as she had.

In September 2024, Dr Edwards was appointed Chair of Trustees, when she shared her admiration for the hard work and efforts of the previous Chair, David Drayson, and the Executive Team. Dr Edwards emphasised the importance of everyone's efforts and the positive changes made to pupils' lives as the motivation for putting herself forward for the role.

Dr Edwards enjoys getting involved in the everyday life of working with our academies and looks forward to seeing the progression of pupils and students throughout their education journey, witnessing their achievements and sharing their happiness as they shape their own futures. As Chair, Dr Edwards hopes to further the connections with our Professional Friends at Brigantia Learning Trust through her contacts with different professionals and organisations in the city.

"As Chair, I aim to carry on ensuring that the Trust's goals are met, that the board remains effective and remains focussed on its core strategic role. I am so proud of the work Brigantia Learning Trust has achieved in supporting our pupils and students, giving them life chances to go on and achieve great things. I look forward to the Trust's future, and I personally believe this lies in its expansion. As we look ahead, we hope to achieve the building of a new Alternative Provision Free School and establishing the Trust as a renowned flagship MAT providing education for all children aged 2-19."

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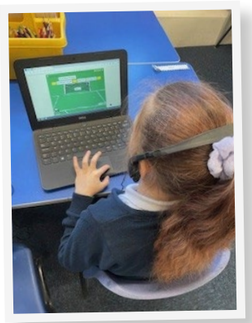
Wincobank
NURSERY & INFANT ACADEMY
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

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

Our Travelling Owls

Owl Class investigated different methods of travel in their PE lesson, practicing their skills in hopping, jumping, skipping and running. Pupils teamed up with a partner to travel in the same style but in different directions, racing each other to the finish line – it was great fun!

Fizzing with Maths



Our Year 2 class is participating in a brilliant scheme called Maths Whizz, an online platform that guides pupils through Maths on a tailored learning journey, filling knowledge gaps and continually adapting to their needs and pace of learning. Once a week, pupils are challenged to tackle personalised learning on the computer, participating in games and quizzes and competing against each other to get into the 'Hall of Fame', in recognition of amazing learning. Well done Year 2 sparklers!

An Investigation into Science Forces

In Science at Concord Junior Academy, Year 4 children have been learning about forces. Pupils learnt that a force is a push or a pull and carried out a science investigation to research how objects move over different surfaces. It was fantastic to see our pupils so engaged and enjoying the investigation. Their conclusion was that the car travelled the furthest on the ice as it was the smoothest surface and had the least amount of friction. We can't wait to see what other science experiments we will be taking part in this year.

Dictionary Corner

Last term. Year 3 pupils focused on adjectives and explored how they add more detail to their writing. To apply what they had learnt in a real-life context, pupils enjoyed generating adjectives in outdoor learning, and upleveled their word choices by using a thesaurus to find synonyms.
An exciting way to incorporate outdoor learning and its benefits in the English curriculum.

Crafting with Clay

At Wincobank, pupils in the Foundation Stage took part in an exciting lesson using clay. Pupils learnt how to mould the clay, using special tools to create indents and attaching clay hair to craft works of art – their faces! Pupils were rightly proud of their work, and it was a fantastic lesson utilising new materials and gaining new skills.

We've Been Framed!

Year 6 used Frames for Learning to create constructive conversation around questions such as *'How would you define the word civilisation?'* Pupils discussed images from Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt and The Stone Age and recorded their ideas on the Frames for Learning and then shared their ideas with other groups. A fantastic opportunity for learning!

Hinde House
2 - 16 ACADEMY
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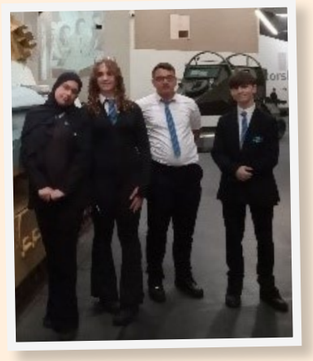
Trips Back in Time

Year 10 History students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester last term. This was an educational day full of interesting and important lessons for our students, engaging with artefacts from all over the world from WW1, WW2, the Cold War, and present day and speaking with soldiers and members of the public about historical wars. Every single student engaged with the exhibitions thoughtfully and responsibly, making thoughtful comments and asking questions sensitively.

Meanwhile, Year 5 had a truly 'vicious' experience, visiting the historic city of Jorvik. Year 5 pupils are learning about the Vikings and ventured to modern day York only to step back into the past at the Jorvik Centre. Pupils travelled around the actual Viking streets (unearthed there) and saw many artefacts while learning about the Vikings. The children got to discuss, explore and handle real Viking weapons (under the supervision of a strict Viking matron!) and experience what it might have been like, all those years ago.
An incredible trip enjoyed by all.



Another Year of Fantastic Results

We are proud to share another year of fantastic results with many amazing individual stories of success. We are thrilled that the overall Attainment 8 score is even higher than pre-pandemic scores, as well as seeing a significant increase in the number of students achieving the higher grades in Maths and English.
Results in some of our core subjects have been impressive, with a whopping 13% more students achieving a grade 7+ in English Language compared to pre-pandemic levels.
A huge number of our brilliant students achieved the grades they needed to move on in their chosen pathways. Congratulations to all – your results are a testament to your dedication, strong work ethic and commitment.

Commitment to Quality

In our last newsletter, we shared the fantastic news that the EYFS team at Hinde House was awarded the 'Commitment to Quality' Award - a recognition of our hard work and commitment to high-quality early years education. As a result of this, we were invited by Sheffield City Council to an open event at The Quadrant to showcase what we do to other settings across the city. Our fabulous exhibit received a lot of attention and we secured many bookings for other practitioners to visit our Early Years Team and discover how we implement our spiral curriculum to effectively support communication, language and literacy for all, including multilingual children and those with additional communication needs.

Yewlands
ACADEMY
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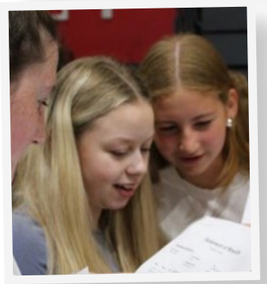
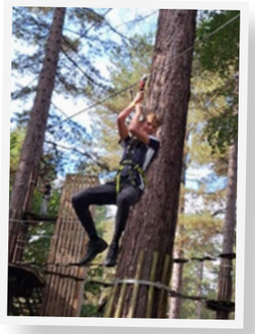
GCSE Results Improve… Again!

We are delighted that for the third consecutive year, Yewlands Academy GCSE results have increased significantly. The core subjects of English Language, Literature, Maths and Science achieved record levels for the academy and Spanish results were incredibly positive, demonstrating the brilliant work of our Languages team. In addition, results in the Humanities are improving rapidly and students have achieved well in a broad range of option subjects. These GCSE results will give our students the platform to succeed in their next level of education or training, and we wish them well as they move onto college, sixth form or apprenticeships.



Go Ape



On Tuesday 24th November our Year 11 Cambridge National Sport Studies students completed the Treetop Adventure Plus course at Go Ape, Sherwood Pines. Fear soon turned to smiles as they spent the day learning how to safely use the equipment and navigate across obstacles to earn their practical grade for the Outdoor Adventurous Activities unit.

"The course looked really difficult, but I was really pleased that I managed to complete it and was able to overcome my fear of heights" **Winston, Year 11.**

Mission Bookworm

In our Mission Bookworm challenge, students were tasked with an exciting quest – can you read 18 books this academic year? As part of the challenge, students had to submit a book review, and we were thrilled that last term, 80 book reviews were submitted by KS3 students. We would like to extend our congratulations to the 10 winners of the Mission Bookworm Book Review Competition, who were selected by the Brigantia Learning Trust Lead for Literacy, Mr Barbour. Winners received a Meadowhall Voucher to spend on a reward of their choice. Well done all!

The Chase

Last term, we hosted the inaugural The Chase – Yewlands Edition event! The House event was well attended with students from across the academy participating. Taking on the Chasers (their teachers), 30 students demonstrated incredible general knowledge, and all four Houses successfully beat the Chasers, taking home points for their Houses. It was an excellent event that was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students – we can't wait for the next game.

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AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE:
THE INAUGURAL TRUST YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL ADVENTURE

We are delighted to report on the spectacular success of the first ever Brigantia 'Core Offer' residential, a fully funded adventure that brought together 310 remarkable students for a week filled with laughter, learning, and a sprinkle of chaos! Over eight exhilarating nights, our cohort of 35 dedicated staff members provided support, guidance, and plenty of humour, ensuring that every moment was one to remember.

The logistics of this residential were nothing short of impressive. With four enormous supermarket shops required to satisfy our eager students' appetites, we embarked on over 30 minibus runs. Each journey brought its own unique blend of excitement and a few squabbles over the best seats! The tales from the road trips alone could fill a book – but let's get to the good stuff.

Over the course of the week, form groups ventured into the great outdoors, embracing a range of thrilling activities designed to foster teamwork, resilience, and friendship. From rock climbing to archery, every moment was filled with laughter and camaraderie. Not only did the students develop new skills, but they also forged lasting relationships with their peers and staff, creating a strong sense of community within each form group.

Guided by our enthusiastic teachers, the residential trip allowed students to step out of their comfort zones, making memories that will last a lifetime. We're thrilled to see how this adventure has enriched their school experience, instilling confidence and a sense of belonging as they continue their educational journey together!

In amongst the chaos, we were treated to an unexpected bonus: a magical night gazing at the Northern Lights! It was a sight that will be etched in our memories for years to come, illuminating our spirits and forging bonds among the students that will be everlasting.

Ultimately, this inaugural Brigantia residential proved to be an odyssey of experiences, allowing our young adventurers to forge friendships, build resilience, and create memories that they will cherish forever. We cannot wait for the next adventure – we hope you're ready for round two!

"It was great opportunity for my daughter to explore, make new friends, learn new skills and boost her confidence" ***Parent***

"I wish we could have stayed forever! I can't believe I got to the see the Northen Lights in Sheffield while I was away!" ***Student***

Longley Park
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
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Celebrating Success: Outstanding Results at Longley Park Sixth Form Academy

Nearly 400 students at Longley Park Sixth Form Academy celebrated their A Level and Vocational results at the end of summer, achieving an impressive 97% pass rate. Half of all students earned high grades (A*-B/Distinctions), and the academy proudly reported that almost 30 courses achieved a 100% pass rate.

Across the academy, high-grade achievements soared, with almost 600 top grades awarded to our dedicated and talented students. Additionally, students in their first year of the T-Level Education and Childcare course excelled in their exam units, complementing their work placements and preparing them for careers in teaching, social care, and child psychology.

Longley Park students are moving on to exciting futures, with 340 heading to university and others securing competitive apprenticeships and job opportunities.

Students Become Teachers

Exciting times are ahead for our new T Level and Level 2 Early Years students at the Sixth Form! Over the next few weeks, they will begin their placements in local nurseries and primary schools, going out one day a week as part of their course. These placements give students the chance to build valuable practical skills and apply what they've learned in the classroom to real-life settings. We can't wait to hear about their experiences and see how they grow through these hands-on opportunities.

It's an exciting step in their journey toward becoming future Early Years professionals!

Business Breakfast Success

In September, we hosted a successful Business Breakfast in partnership with the See It Be It initiative, bringing together over 20 local businesses. This fantastic networking event allowed business leaders to learn about the powerful impact they can have on our students' futures by getting involved with the sixth form. From offering work experience and mentorship to sharing career stories, businesses discovered how their support can inspire and shape the next generation.

A Day of Fun, Friendship, and Opportunities

The Freshers' Fair in September was a vibrant event, filled with activities and opportunities for students to connect. Highlights included the popular Henna Station, where students could get creative with intricate designs, and the Enrichment Stalls, which offered a range of clubs and extra-curricular activities for everyone to explore. The Photo Booth was a hit, capturing fun memories, while friendly games of table tennis and chess helped break the ice and forge new friendships.

The event was a huge success, giving students the chance to bond, sign up for new experiences, and kickstart the academic year on a high note.

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Longley Park
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
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Ofsted report that Longley Park deliver an ambitious and challenging curriculum for all students

Longley Park was inspected by Ofsted in early October. We are so pleased that the inspectors were able to see the excellent work that our team here do every day to ensure that young people get the best out of their time with us and can succeed. Sixth form staff, students and trustees are highly praised in the report.

Highlights from the report include:

[Longley Park] are aspirational for their students… to achieve well at the academy. Staff skilfully equip students with the academic and life skills needed to be successful. As a result, a high proportion of students' progress to higher education.

Students make positive progress from their starting points and achieve very well. Teachers use effective teaching strategies. They provide a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive … Teachers use assessment effectively to ensure that students make good progress and gain the knowledge that they need to be successful.

Leaders and managers have established a culture of continuous improvement throughout the academy.

The only area for improvement the team were able to identify is for the academy to keep doing the excellent work that we do every day so that students continue to benefit from a consistently very high quality of education.

Jamie Davies (Executive Principal) reflecting on the report says: *"The whole team here at Longley Park is so proud of the report and the opportunities we provide for young people. We will continue to prioritise learning, promote resilience, and make sure that every day our students get excellent learning experiences that provide them with the skills, experiences and knowledge necessary to be successful. He would like to say a huge thank you to all the students who have demonstrated an excellent approach to their studies; you are genuine ambassadors for our community. A special thank you goes to all the staff who relentlessly support students academically and pastorally to make sure everyday matters. Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers: your support is vital and very much appreciated."*

Brigantia Learning Trust CEO commented: *"Congratulations to everyone at Longley Park on the fantastic report shared by Ofsted. The report not only highlights the quality of the provision offered at the Sixth Form Academy, but its strength, and is recognition of all of the hard work that has gone in to creating an excellent learning establishment. I am incredibly proud of the ambitious, successful committed and supportive staff and student community, and feel privileged to be part of the team".*

The full report can be accessed via the QR code.

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