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

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST, A 2 - 19 MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Newsletter SPRING 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Hinde House attend the MOBOS and the Valley

Rock Star Times Tables and Number Day

Cross-Academy Collaboration

Working in Partnership with our Primaries and Families

Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Trust newsletter and the first of 2024. Once again, the new year has begun with a fantastic start, filled with the highest standards of learning and enrichment experiences.

The superb range of learning and enrichment experiences across our academies has been joyous to witness and be part of. The achievements and successes of our students have been of the highest quality, both within our academies and extending far beyond, and I am delighted to be able to share some of these through our latest newsletter. In this edition, we celebrate the breadth of our pupil and student experience: from visits and trips on a local and national scale to academic excellence and creativity within the classroom. At the Brigantia Learning Trust, we are committed to achieving excellence, to providing our young children and adults with the opportunity to develop academically and personally, as we strive to help them achieve their potential, in a culture of care.

This term, we welcomed our new secondary cohort to the Brigantia Learning Trust community as students accepted their offer, and Longley Park Sixth Form students continue to work tirelessly with staff on university, apprenticeship and career applications. We wish all our sixth formers every success in their future endeavours.

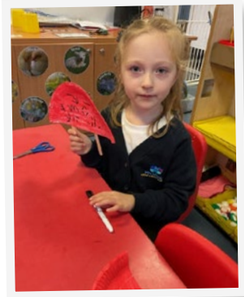
I hope this edition of our newsletter offers an insight into our Trust and academies for those thinking about joining us, and that our current families enjoy sharing in our successes. With 2024 now well underway, this edition allows us to celebrate another positive term at the Brigantia Learning Trust and our academies, whilst looking forward together, for what is sure to be another brilliant year for our Trust, academies, pupils, students and staff. You can keep up to date with our latest news by following us on Twitter: @BrigantiaLearn1.

Mike Westerdale,
CEO

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

Year of the Dragon

As we explore other cultures and learn more of the world around us, pupils at Wincobank researched and celebrated Chinese New Year, and this year it is the year of the Dragon. As part of the activities, pupils crafted dragon masks and fans, tried their hand at chopsticks and even had a go at writing their name in Chinese!



Wincobank's Young Skippers!

Year 2 pupils have begun training for Skipping School. They have had great fun learning to skip with different ropes and learning new skills, pupils had no idea of the fun that was awaiting them! As part of the training, pupils will continue to practice for the rest of the year, before participating in a summer festival where they will share their new skills with other schools. Well done Year 2!

The Tale of the Gingerbread Man

This half term in Design Technology lessons, Year 1 and 2 children are learning all about different mechanisms to make moving pictures. Before half term commenced, our focus was looking at how to make sliders. The children had a go at making their own based on the story 'The Gingerbread Man'. They did an incredible job, and we had a fantastic time retelling the story through their creative and innovative sliders.

Exploring Materials

FS1 and FS2 pupils this term have been exploring different materials and learning all about them. FS1 worked collaboratively and independently to test different materials and discuss how strong they are, before creating bridges and testing their strength. In FS2, pupils engaged in a Three Little Pigs role play, to hook their imagination and understanding, that some materials are better suited than others. We retold the story of the wolf blowing the houses down made of straw, sticks and bricks, and pupils came to the conclusion that brick is the best material to build with, just as it is in the story!

Number Day

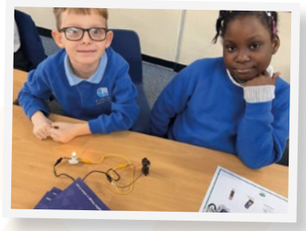
Across the academy, classes celebrated Number Day by coming to school dressed as numbers and fundraised for the NSPCC. Pupils were incredibly creative, dressed as dominoes, number blocks and playing cards. All classes throughout Wincobank engaged in exciting number-related activities and maths challenges, including colouring by number, painting numbers, finding numbers in the sand, singing number songs and making numbers out of playdough. Many families came to join the academy for the celebrations, and it served as a fantastic way to make maths creative and fun!

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

Collaborative Writing

Year 6 children worked collaboratively to plan a newspaper report based on the search for Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance. First, the children worked in groups, identifying the crucial knowledge they would need to include in their report and then used their knowledge maps to draft a report together. They created a fantastic piece of work, and we are incredibly proud of them!

Sparking Imagination



At the beginning of term, Year 3 and 4 classes began build their own working electrical circuit, using batteries, wires, bulbs and buzzers. Working in groups, pupils tested different components to ensure the circuit was closed and to monitor what impacts its function. Later in the term, pupils created their own switch to add to their electrical circuit, working together to investigate how the circuit impacted the bulb. The pupils have loved working with electricity and have gained so much crucial knowledge!

Year 6 DT

Continuing with our Design and Technology learning this half term, Year 6 have completed creating their own drawstring bags by adding their final designs. Over the last four weeks, children in Year 6 have learnt how to sew and since refined their sewing skills using the running stitch and backstitch. Their final masterpieces are brilliant and are a testament to their hard work and skill!

In the Lab

Belonging to the Brigantia Learning Trust offers many exciting opportunities for pupils, including the opportunity to visit partner academies to utilise their learning facilities and resources. Year 5 pupils ventured to Hinde House Secondary Phase to engage in experiments and investigations linked to their learning topic of evaporation, in their well-equipped science laboratories. It was a fantastic success, with all of the pupils looking forward to their next visit!

Time Table Rock Stars Celebration Event

Pupils at Concord participated in a Trust-wide times table Maths Competition; selected by their class teachers to take part because of their dedication and rapid recall of their times tables. Miss Hardy and 14 Concord pupils visited Yewlands Academy where the live battle took place against other children across the Trust. The day was filled with success and all participants received a certificate and trophy. To further celebrate, children took part in the NSPCC Rocks Tournament Day, and as part of the festivities, children and staff fully immersed themselves in the event by dressing up as rockstars.

Everyone loved the event, and it was great to celebrate our achievements.

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

PRIMARY PHASE

Young Voices!

The melodious echoes of young voices filled the air at the Sheffield Arena, as our choir, alongside 4800 other children from the region, took to the stage for the Young Voices performance. It was an event to remember, marking a culmination of weeks of dedicated practice and musical enthusiasm under the guidance of Miss Lowe and Mr Taylor. The day of the performance was nothing short of spectacular, stepping onto the stage in front of an audience of over 6000 parents, carers, and family members and joined by special guest performers including MC Grammar, Natalie Williams, and Nandi Bushel for an unforgettable musical experience.

The journey back to school was filled with jubilant chatter and laughter, as our young performers relived the highlights of the day with many describing it as "the best trip ever!"

Early Years Unleash Creativity

At Hinde House Early Years Phase, our pupils have been immersed in the world of creativity with our exciting theme, **'MAKING STUFF!'** Through this engaging topic, children explored materials, learned crafting techniques, and discovered the significance of recycling.

One of the highlights of this learning journey was the upcycling of old T-shirts into vibrant creations worthy of a fashion show. With confidence and enthusiasm, our pupils took to the stage to showcase their terrific T-shirts to an audience of proud parents and guardians.

It was a joyous occasion filled with dancing and singing which not only celebrated their creativity but also highlighted their growing confidence and self-expression.

Empowering Young Minds at Crucial Crew!

Recently, our Year 6 pupils spent an enlightening a day at Crucial Crew, a multi-agency safety event designed to provide children with vital life skills and safety advice. This invaluable experience offered them a unique opportunity to learn essential life skills in a practical and engaging manner.

Throughout the day, our pupils delved into various aspects of safety and citizenship, exploring topics such as fire, water, and road safety, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to navigate potential hazards responsibly. They also gained insights into the workings of the legal system, learning about the court system and the importance of challenging stereotypes. These sessions fostered critical thinking and encouraged our pupils to become active participants in shaping a fair and just society.

As educators, we recognize the significance of experiences like Crucial Crew in shaping the holistic development of our children. Equipped with essential life skills and a deeper understanding of personal and societal responsibilities, they are better prepared to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

An Adventure in Rivelin Valley

Our Year 4 pupils embarked on an exciting journey to uncover the wonders of nature and study river formation firsthand. This immersive experience took them on a trek spanning over 7 kilometres through the picturesque landscapes of Rivelin Valley in Sheffield. After a day filled with discovery and adventure, our tired but exhilarated pupils were treated to a well-deserved reward—a delicious ice cream treat.

Hinde House
2 - 16 ACADEMY
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SECONDARY PHASE

Flying High at Trampolining Competition

Our academy made a remarkable impact at the recent Sheffield School's federation trampolining competition, with students showcasing not only their skills but also their exemplary attitudes and sportsmanship.

The students' performance garnered high praise from the competition manager and judges, who commended them for their positive attitudes, effort, and excellent manners. One judge even took the time to write to the academy expressing her utmost admiration for our students' exceptional qualities. She noted that there was something 'truly special about them', highlighting their resilience, determination, and the inspiring enthusiasm and energy they brought to the competition.

The results speak for themselves, with our teams achieving fantastic outcomes amidst stiff competition from over 300 students including first, second and third places. We are immensely proud of our students' accomplishments and their representation of our values on and off the trampoline!

The Future is Bright

We are thrilled to share the resounding success of our recent Careers Fair, an essential part of our commitment to providing comprehensive careers information and guidance for our students. With the active participation of over 30 reputable providers, the event was a testament to our dedication to helping our students make informed decisions about their future.

Our students had the chance to engage with representatives from a range of provider and employers, receiving first-hand information about courses, entry requirements, and career prospects. The interactive nature of the event allowed students to ask questions, gather materials, and begin forming a clear picture of their post-16 options.

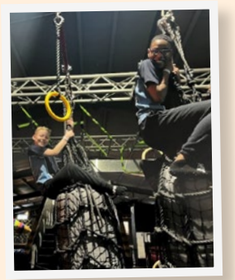
Our dedicated career guidance team was on hand to assist students in making informed decisions about their future, ensuring that each student's unique interests and aspirations were considered. We will continue to work closely with students, parents, and providers to ensure that our students have access to a wide range of opportunities and resources to help them reach their full potential.

Celebrating Academic Excellence: Year 7s Dive into Medieval History

Our Year 7 students have been diving deep into the fascinating world of Medieval England as part of their history curriculum. Guided by the thought-provoking question posed by Mark Whittow, Professor of History at Cambridge University, our students have demonstrated exceptional engagement and academic prowess.

The topic has sparked intense exploration and critical thinking among our young historians. Our students have exemplified the level of academic rigor and quality of analysis that we strive to cultivate at our academy and have exhibited a keen understanding of historical methodologies, skilfully navigating the complexities of interpreting partial sources. Their enthusiasm for learning and their willingness to grapple with complex ideas are truly commendable.

HHS Rewards Store!



This year we launched the HHA Rewards Store! Students accumulate praise points during lessons, which they can then redeem for a variety of prizes and experiences. So far, students have exchanged their points for an impressive array of rewards, including cinema trips, a visit to Jump, vouchers, ice-skating and even a mountain bike! Well, done to all students whose hard work has been rewarded!

Celebrating Hinde House Students at the MOBO Awards!

In February, Hinde House was selected to participate in the prestigious MOBO Awards celebrations organised by Sheffield Council. Our students played a pivotal role in these festivities by writing and recording a rap song, complete with an accompanying video. Their dynamic performance was showcased not only at the Winter Gardens on the day of the MOBOs but also featured on the event's big screens during the ceremony itself.

Collaborating with peers from other schools across Sheffield, our students blended their creativity and skills to create something truly remarkable. Under the expert guidance of professional rapper Jay Clique, they penned lyrics and perfected their performance, ensuring they were ready to shine on the MOBO Awards platform. Participating in the MOBO Awards celebrations has been a remarkable experience for our students and a testament to the talents and interests being nurtured at Hinde House.

Brigantia Learning Trust Newsletter SPRING 2024

Yewlands
ACADEMY
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Working in Partnership

In March, Yewlands Academy warmly welcomed Key Stage 1 children from across our partner academies to take part in an exciting cricketing event. Pupils had a fantastic time developing their gross motor skills such as throwing and catching and working as part of a team. The event also served as an exciting learning opportunity for our Year 9 students, who helped to organise and steward the afternoon. We look forward to more of these events taking place later in the year.

To mark British Science Week 2024, the Yewlands Science department visited Monteney Primary School to deliver an engaging and exciting workshop. The theme of British Science Week this year was Time, and the workshop focused on how science has changed over time, the possibility of time travel and received many gasps of amazement at the fantastic experiments. Members of staff from Monteney thanked the teachers for raising the profile of science in their school and generating an excitement for STEM related subjects.

World Book Week 2024

Students and staff at Yewlands got into the spirit of World Book Week in March. Lessons focused on the emotional benefits of reading and how to overcome barriers to reading, with check-in sessions focusing on graphic novels, audiobooks and exploring their own reading barriers.

Throughout the week, the library was decorated by the Student Librarian team, with bunting, and a Mystery Bookworm challenge, with the chance for students to leave reviews of books in the library. Form groups decorated their classroom doors linked to favourite books or genres which encouraged discussion, reminiscing and a buzz around the academy! The inspiring week culminated with staff dressing up as their favourite book characters, and students were challenged to complete a character quest. It was a fantastic, explorative, immersive week that nurtured our love for reading.

Exemplary Behaviour

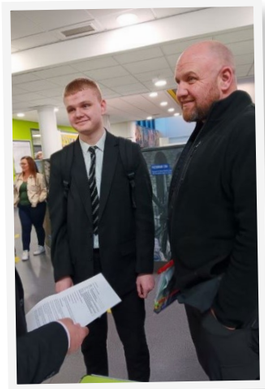
An incredible 458 students were rewarded with an Easter egg before the end of term, to celebrate their fantastic behaviour and for being outstanding ambassadors for Yewlands Academy. These students have not only modelled excellent behaviour but have served as role models for the rest of the academy this term, embodying our values of **Ambition, Determination, Respect** and **Responsibility.**

Future Ready

We are grateful to the employers, across a range of industries and sectors, who visited our academy last term to host mock interviews for our students, as part of their careers education. We were truly impressed with the commitment, maturity and professionalism shown by our students throughout the process of applying and interviewing for mock roles, and it was rewarding to hear their appreciation for the opportunity and feedback gained from the experience.

Working with our Families

In March, we hosted our very first Revision Evening for parents, designed to provide parents with an understanding of how they can best support their child in the run up to final examinations and offer a revision stationery pack. The event was very well attended with positive feedback from families, who had the opportunity to learn of the tried and tested ways of revising, before attending a Subject Fayre, where subject leaders offered information about the content and top tips.



Longley Park
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
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Exploring Careers on the Stage

In February our A Level English Literature students took a tour of Sheffield Theatres three venues - The Crucible, The Lyceum, and The Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse. Students discussed different ways of bringing drama to the stage, enjoyed exploring the costume department, and pitched their unique proposals to the theatre team. The tour gave them to opportunity to learn about the wide range of careers available within the theatre industry, and to learn more of the opportunities offered by different dramatic spaces.

In our Community

A massive thank you to Sarah Turton and her amazing class for their incredible efforts in bag packing at Morrisons Ecclesfield! Their dedication raised a remarkable £133 for Marie Curie UK. This generous contribution translates into over 5 hours of vital support from a Marie Curie nurse. Together, they made a meaningful impact on those in need. Thank you to them all for embodying the spirit of giving and making a difference in our community.

Insightful Opportunities

Our Business cohort students ventured to London for an incredible learning opportunity, to meet with a Director from Alpha FMC, a London City business. Graciously guided through WeWork offices, students even had the privilege of stepping into one of their boardrooms! Meanwhile, our Law students, during our annual London Trip, were honoured to tour and hear from the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, one of the four Inns of Court in England and Wales, they call barristers to the Bar. Students made the most of these trips, exploring the impressive facilities, learning all about the rich history, and gaining valuable insights into the legal profession. We did all the wet British weather!

STEM Event

In February, we opened our doors to surrounding secondary schools for an incredible STEM event. Our Curriculum Lead for Science, Matthew, orchestrated an engaging student-led bridge-building session that showcased creativity and teamwork. Excitement soared as we welcomed guest speakers from Sheffield Hallam University's Engineering & Microbiology Departments and from The Sheffield University Physics and Astronomy Department. Their insights ignited curiosity and inspired our students to reach for the stars. A big thank you to everyone who made this event a success! Together, we're fostering a passion for STEM and shaping future innovators. Stay tuned for more thrilling events to come.

Shining a Spotlight

We would like to shine a spotlight on our A Level Photography Year 1 students. Currently immersed in a self-directed project, they are focused on blending traditional and digital photography techniques with incredible finesse. This fantastic group of hardworking, creative and endlessly inquisitive students go above and beyond to achieve excellence, making every moment of teaching them an absolute joy. Their dedication is truly inspiring! Keep pushing the boundaries and exploring the art of photography.