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

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST
A 2-19 MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Newsletter SPRING 2025

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Exciting Learning Inside the Classroom
World Book Day Celebrations
Enriching Experiences Beyond the Classroom
Taster Days, University Visits and Career Exploration

Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome, to the Spring edition of Trust newsletter.

Once again, our pupils, students and staff have enjoyed an exceptional term, bursting to the seams with experiences, trips, visits, and an exciting focus on preparing our young learners for the future. Our community has continued to flourish, and it gives me great pride to be leading the Brigantia Learning Trust as we continue to grow.

This term, we celebrated our new Reception, Years 3, 7 and 12 cohorts excitedly accepting places at our academies, whilst Longley Park students continue to work tirelessly with staff on university, apprenticeship and career applications. In addition, Year 11 students across Hinde House and Yewlands Academy have demonstrated a strong work ethic and determination, as they work hard and prepare for their examinations. We wish all of our students, every success.

In this edition, we celebrate our broad and rich pupil and student experience: visits on a local and national scale, a wealth of achievements and successes and celebrating academic prowess and creativity within our academies and beyond. 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.

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 the 2024/25 academic year now well underway, this edition of the newsletter 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.

**Best wishes,
Mike Westerdale,
CEO**

Yewlands Academy achieves National Online Safety certified status for the third year in a row!

We are thrilled to share that Yewlands Academy has successfully completed a comprehensive online safety training programme demonstrating its commitment to keeping children and young people safe online.

The academy has received a National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation for the third time in a row, for its whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world.

National Online Safety is a multi-award winning digital training provider with extensive resources in online safety, developed in line with the Department of Education's statutory requirements. Its CPD accredited courses and educational resources support UK schools in educating the whole school community in online safety– including all senior leaders, teachers, all school staff and parents – on how to make the internet a safer place for children.

James Southworth, co-founder of National Online Safety, said: *"Congratulations to everyone at Yewlands Academy on becoming a National Online Safety Certified School. By completing our training programme, the school has shown its strong commitment to implementing an effective whole school approach to online safety."*

Wincobank
NURSERY & INFANT ACADEMY
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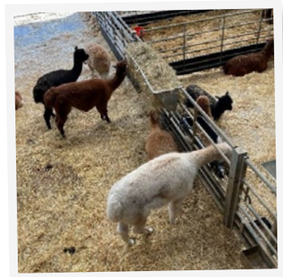
Learning about Patterns

Patterns help children make predictions because they begin to understand what comes next. They also help children learn how to make logical connections and use reasoning skills. Patterns can be found everywhere in our daily lives and our pupils in Foundation Stage 1 have recently been learning all about jungles. They have been investigating and exploring the different patterns jungle animals have as skin. Using their knowledge, pupils created their own patterns using different materials, take a look at their fantastic work!

A Visit to Cannon Hall Farm

In April, Reception pupils visited Cannon Hall Farm, a family run award-winning working farm, to learn all about the different farmyard animals that live there. Located in Cawthorne, in the rolling Pennine foothills, it's home to hundreds of animals and one of the biggest and best equipped adventure playgrounds in the north of England and the largest tube maze in Europe.

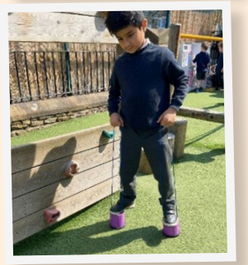
Pupils had a fantastic day, from watching a ferret and sheep race to exploring all of the different insects, snakes and even a tortoise in the Reptile House. After an exciting day filled with joy and learning, pupils blew off steam in the adventure playground, it was great to see how much they enjoyed their trip!



Body Balance

Good balance enhances overall coordination and fine and gross motor skills, making everyday tasks easier for our young people. Pupils have had lots of fun practicing their gross motor skills outdoors, using balance boards and stilts.

In addition, engaging in balance activities helps build muscle strength and endurance, contributing to overall physical fitness. Throughout the sessions, pupils have focused on balance skills, coordination and core strength – they have shown great developments and have thoroughly enjoyed using the equipment!



Beyond the Easter Egg

Prior to the Easter holidays, we focused on the cultural and historical significance of Easter exploring themes like spring celebrations, traditions, and the symbolism of eggs and bunnies. Pupils learnt all about the Spring cycle, significance of eggs to Easter and the importance of new life. The session culminated in a delicious cooking session – making Easter nests!

Concord
JUNIOR ACADEMY
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Enchanted Chairs

On Centenary Green, an installation of cast iron and stone carved chairs was investigated by our Year 3 pupils. The different styles and scales of chairs, in close proximity and in a cluster similar to a United Nations gathering of seating, had our pupils mesmerised. They had a fantastic morning and were thoroughly engaged - they enjoyed the walk and interacting with locals, including Rose, who spoke to the children about the chairs, who they were designed by and their installation in August 2010. Children also had the opportunity to sketch their own chair, and we look forward to sculpting these later in the term in our Art lessons.

Maths Whizz Awards!

Year 4 had a very special visitor in class, Lindsay from Maths Whizz! Lindsay came all the way from London to present us with some special certificates to celebrate our progress and successes on Maths Whizz. Well done to everyone for their improved maths age and progress so far. We can't wait to see who our next Maths Whizz of the Week will be. Keep up the great work and look out for Maths Whizz goodies that will be handed out at the end of this half term!

Take a look at some of these fantastic photos from World Book Day! It was a joyous day, with pupils sharing their favourite books and taking part in exciting quizzes, all to celebrate our love for reading.

Exploring STEM!

Year 4 pupils had an incredible morning at Magna Science Adventure Centre, where they explored the exciting world of STEM and discovered a range of future careers.

Built within the Former Templeborough Steelworks, inside we all explored the four pavilions themed around the elements Earth, Air, Fire and Water which are linked by suspended walkways, stairs and tunnels. Outside we discovered the outdoor adventure playground, Sci-Tek, where we defied gravity and explored the limits of science.

Through interactive activities and hands-on learning, we got a glimpse into the many different fields our young people could one day pursue. From engineering to technology, the event sparked curiosity and imagination as they engaged in fun challenges that encouraged problem-solving skills. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect STEM learning from school with real-world careers, showing them how their skills and interests could shape their futures. We're so proud of how they embraced the experience, and we can't wait to see where their passions take them!

Going Back in Time at Gainsborough Old Hall

Year 5 pupils had a wonderful day, going back in time and recreating a Tudor Banquet at Gainsborough Old Hall. Despite the cold, we had time to tour the Tudor Manor House and relive a feast with Henry VIII as the main guest. A fantastic experience and opportunity for pupils to witness what they have learnt in class and to see the rich tapestry of times gone by come to life in front of their very eyes.

Puns Galore Crafting

The date finally arrived to view all of the fantastic entries to Concord's annual 'Easter Egg and Bonnet' competition. Pupils certainly put their egg artistic talents to the test and produced an array of Eggxcellent creations. Our Eggspert judges had a difficult time judging winners – but they eventually came out of their shells to choose winners who were announced in assembly. These were:

Year 3 – Millie Staniland & Harry Darby
Year 4 – Stanley Rhodes & Amelia May Martin
Year 5 – Ellie McClarence, Leah Hague and Isabelle Chisell
Year 6 – Tia Gleeson & Erin Jubb – Akers

Well done everyone who joined in this Eggciting event!

Brigantia Learning Trust Newsletter SPRING 2025

Hinde House
2 - 16 ACADEMY
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PRIMARY PHASE

A Celebration of Creativity

The entire academy was bursting with colour, creativity, and excitement as children and staff came dressed as their favourite book characters—or even their favourite adjectives, for World Book Day! From brave knights and clever detectives to "sparkly," "fierce," and "sleepy," our classrooms were filled with living stories and lively words.

Children proudly shared their favourite stories with their class, sparking conversations and laughter. It was lovely to see how passionate our pupils are about reading, and how eager they were to recommend their favourite books to friends. Classrooms were buzzing with the sound of stories being read aloud. It was a truly heartwarming sight to see everyone enjoying a good book and that special magic only reading can bring.

We hope the excitement of World Book Day continues to inspire a love of reading every day. Let's keep turning pages and discovering new adventures together!

STEM Day 2025

Children had a fantastic off timetable experience for this year's STEM Day, as children across the academy completed a wide range of interactive and experimental science activities.

Key Stage 1 children learnt all about habitats and began creating imaginary environments for their imaginary creatures. In Lower Key Stage 2, the focus for the day was rockets and forces. With just a few plastic bottles, tape and a bunch of scintillating scientific brains, pupils spent the morning exploring, testing and creating rockets. The collaboration and sharing of ideas led to some outstanding results, and a huge water rocket launch across the playground was a brilliant highlight to end the day.

In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils got their hands dirty! From dissecting hearts to recreating the digestive system with tights and food waste, they got completely stuck in to understanding how the human body works. It was a pleasure to welcome in lots of our parents to join in with activities across the phases and it was a joy to see the children sharing their learning at the end of a wonderful STEM Day 2025.

Celebrating Success

This term, we had the incredible pleasure of celebrating the achievements of our outstanding pupils in unforgettable reward events for our Gold and Platinum B8 winners. Keep up the amazing work, everyone!

The Gold Magician Award

Last half-term, magic filled the air as we hosted the Gold Magician Award event. Our Gold achievers were treated to a spellbinding afternoon of wonder and amazement. From the tiniest learners in EYFS to our confident Year 6s, every child was captivated by the enchanting performances that captured curiosity and joy. The magician wowed us with tricks, illusions, and plenty of laughs, making it a day to remember for everyone involved!

A Sweet Celebration

Our Platinum achievers – those who earned over 90% of their B8 points – were invited to an exclusive Afternoon Tea & Cake afternoon. These relaxed and joyful gatherings gave us a optimal chance to acknowledge their dedication, effort, and fantastic behaviour in a truly elegant way. There were smiles, treats, and proud moments all around! A huge thank you to all our families for your ongoing support, these celebrations wouldn't be possible without you.

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

SECONDARY PHASE

Year 11 Final Exam Countdown!

As the final exams approach, we want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible efforts of our Year 11 students. Over the past year, you have shown resilience, determination, and an unwavering commitment to your learning. We are immensely proud of the hard work you've put in, both in and out of the classroom.

This is a significant milestone in your educational journey. The weeks ahead will be challenging, but they're also a chance to showcase everything you've learned and achieved. Remember, exams are just one part of the bigger picture—your growth, attitude, and persistence speak volumes about who you are becoming.

To the parents and caregivers: thank you. Your ongoing support, encouragement, and presence during this important time have made a world of difference. Whether it's helping with revision, keeping routines on track, or simply offering a listening ear, your role has been invaluable.

To our students: believe in yourselves. Trust the preparation you've done and approach each exam with confidence and focus. You've got this! We are behind you every step of the way and look forward to celebrating your achievements in the weeks to come. Good luck—your school community is cheering you on!

Sheffield's Young Carers Shine at the Excellence Awards

In Sheffield we have some truly remarkable young people making a difference every day. With over 7,000 young carers in our community, these dedicated students support their families with unwavering commitment while balancing their own education and lives.

One such student, Haleem Imran, has been nominated as a runner-up in recognition of his outstanding efforts as a young carer, demonstrating the resilience and strength that our young carers embody. Additionally, Eva Williamson from Year 11 had the incredible opportunity to meet the Sheffield Mayor just yesterday through her involvement with Sheffield Young Carers.

Eva was delighted to share her experience of meeting the mayor, describing her as polite, caring, and incredibly informative. During their chat, she learned about her dedication to young carers, as she actively hosts various events and charities to support their vital work. Eva also highlighted her group's efforts in raising awareness for young carers, providing them with a welcoming space to socialise and gather support. It's heart-warming to see local leadership connecting with and uplifting the community, especially those who can often be overlooked.

These inspiring individuals were celebrated at the Sheffield Cares Excellence Awards, which also honoured the vital contributions of our 17,500-strong care sector workforce and 11,000 unpaid carers in the community. Join us, as we applaud the efforts of our young heroes!

A Memorable Visit to the National Holocaust Museum

Recently, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the National Holocaust Museum and Memorial Centre in Newark, an experience that left a profound impact on everyone involved.

The museum is beautifully designed, featuring a tranquil memorial garden surrounded by striking statues that invite contemplation and reflection. As the students walked through the exhibits, they were provided with detailed insights into how the Holocaust began and the horrifying consequences that followed, deepening their understanding of this critical chapter in history. This enriching experience not only enhanced their educational journey but also served as a reminder of our collective responsibility to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated.

The visit was an invaluable opportunity for personal growth and understanding, highlighting the significance of historical awareness in shaping a compassionate society.

World Book Day Celebrations

Hinde House Secondary's World Book Day exploded with literary joy. Classroom doors became vibrant book covers, showcasing student and staff creativity. Staff dressed as beloved characters, adding a playful atmosphere. Students embarked on a captivating story trail; hearing tales read aloud throughout the day. Tutor time quizzes and activities fostered friendly competition and collaboration. The day culminated in a vote for best-dressed staff and most creative door celebrating everyone's efforts. The event successfully ignited a passion for reading and strengthened community spirit, making World Book Day at Hinde House Secondary a truly memorable celebration.

Yewlands
ACADEMY
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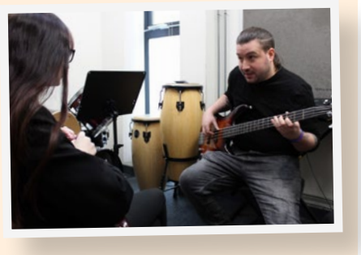
An Insight into Artificial Intelligence

Year 8 students took part in an engaging and thought-provoking presentation delivered by BAE Systems, exploring the growing importance of AI in shaping future careers.

The session introduced students to the incredible possibilities AI offers, from revolutionising manufacturing to advancing medical technology, and even aerospace engineering. Students also participated in a hands-on activity highlighting how crafting effective AI prompts can lead to better and smarter outcomes, and how learning to use AI ethically and effectively will be a key employability skill for the future.

Speaking about the event, one student said, *"I loved seeing the Co-bot dog and learning how AI is used in so many industries. It's inspired me to think more about a future in aerospace engineering and how AI can help me do this. The session gave us an inspiring glimpse into the exciting possibilities of a future were humans and AI work together".*

Music Lessons with Sheffield Music Hub



Is your child interested in learning to play the drums, piano, guitar or a brass instrument such as the trumpet or cornet? Yewlands Academy, in partnership with the Sheffield Music Hub, are offering peripatetic music lessons to all students. Through peripatetic music lessons, students will learn instrumental techniques, develop musical knowledge and increase self-confidence. If you would like your child to take part in music lessons, email enquiries@yewlandsacademy.org or ask your child to speak to Mr Elliott or Mr Bissatt in the Music department.

Be Inspired!

As part of the National Careers Week 2025, 22 of our Year 11 students visited the South Yorkshire Be Inspired Fair. The fair, organised by Opportunity Sheffield, gave students the chance to speak to over 70 employers and to apply for over 100 different apprenticeship vacancies. Tiffany in Year 11 commented that she left the event feeling informed about apprenticeships and the prospects they can bring, and having spoken to three employers, it is a career path she is now considering.

Sheffield Young Artists Competition

Congratulations to Year 9 Yewlands students Asvigan, Clark, Lily and Miley who have been selected to represent Yewlands Academy at the Sheffield Young Artists Competition! Their work in researching surrealism and portraiture has helped them to create impressive pieces, which will be exhibited at a city centre art exhibition later in the year.

In Front, Behind and On the Stage!

Year 10 and 11 Drama students this term have toured several Sheffield Theatres and watched a performance of The Little Shop of Horrors at the Lyceum Theatre. The theatre tour, in collaboration with Sheffield Theatres, was an excellent opportunity for students to explore and learn about the different theatre spaces located within Sheffield. Students were taken on a guided tour of the world-famous Crucible Theatre, Lyceum Theatre and the Montgomery Theatre. Students inspected performance spaces, backstage areas and technical equipment including light and sound.

"It was so inspiring to meet an ex-Yewlands student who now works in the Sheffield Theatres props department!"

Abby, Year 10

Longley Park
SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
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Future Ready

In March, more than 15 employers from some of Sheffield's largest companies gave up their time in support of our students and their career aspirations by participating in a speed networking event.

Tim Lyddiatt, LPSF Futures Manager and organiser of the event, said: *"The aim of the event was to start breaking down barriers to employment by enabling students to speak with multiple employers in a safe, supportive environment. These students are not long at Longley Park and, when they leave us, they are going to need to know how to speak to employers, adapt to changing environments and be confident in presenting themselves. This event was the start of them realising not only that but that they can do it too. I'm really pleased with how it went."*

Along with the speed networking element, many of our volunteers shared their own career paths with students, revealing that very few of them planned to be where they are now or even knew that their current roles existed. Tim added: *"Careers are not about making single, straight-line steps that that can be seen well before we need to take them. Career journeys are formed from dynamic steps that are taken because we have made decisions based on our circumstances now, and how they can positively impact our future."*

This event marked the start of **Progression Season** which culminated with a series of events in April all designed to demystify work, workplaces and employment. We were thrilled that more than 40 organisations have signed up to support those and are incredibly grateful to all who have participated in our events, helping our students to realise their career ambitions.

Step into Science

The spring term has been packed with exciting enrichment opportunities across our Science department, giving students valuable experiences beyond the classroom.

Our Level 2 learners had a successful visit to the Get up to Speed with STEM fair at MAGNA, where they explored cutting-edge developments and careers in science, technology, and engineering. For our A Level Physics students, a visit to Sheffield Hallam University provided the chance to complete required practical assessments using the university's state-of-the-art physics workshops – a brilliant opportunity to enhance both skills and confidence.

To kick start the summer term, all 120 Level 3 Applied Science students visited Sheffield Hallam to complete an ester synthesis practical, and our A Level Chemists will visit the university's Chemical Engineering Department for a hands-on insight into applied chemistry at degree level. It's been a fantastic term for enrichment, and we're proud to continue offering experiences that inspire, challenge and support progression.

Where Next?

First year Level 3 Extended Diploma Health and Social Care students visited Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) for a taster day last term and discovered the wide range of courses available in Health. Students were introduced to a variety of degree courses including Nursing, ODP and Radiography and really enjoyed different interactive sessions too. One was in SHU's state-of-the-art simulated hospital ward where they met their 'patients', a second was a 'fake injuries' session where students observed a demonstration and designed their own 'bruises' and lastly engaging in a VR activity which promoted excellent communication skills, vital for working in health and social care.

Meanwhile, Business students visited University Centre Rotherham that included an advice and guidance workshop, a tour of facilities, as well as interactive workshops on Human Computer Interface Design, and Cyber Security. Students were exemplary throughout and engaged well with staff at UCR.