



BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST

Creating Excellence Together,
through a culture of care

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST

Newsletter

Spring 2023



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Our student journeys
Welcoming our next cohort
Catching up with our academies
Flourishing alumni

Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MIKE WESTERDALE

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Trust newsletter. Once again, we have kicked off the new year to a fantastic start, with all of our academies celebrating the highest-quality learning and enrichment experiences.

In the last edition of our newsletter, we introduced our professional partners, including The Challenger Trust, an organisation whose mission is for every child to have access to positive and life-affirming activities outside of school. Working in partnership with The Challenger Trust ties in directly with our own commitment to **Character Education**, offering a wealth of visits and enrichment activities which support the academic curriculum, whilst creating opportunities to broaden minds, raise aspirations, instil characteristics and values beneficial to their adult lives and enhance personal development. As you read on, I am sure you will see what the key focus this takes across our academies.

This term we saw the launch event of The Professional Friends at Longley Park Sixth Form, our latest initiative which served as a successful networking event between Brigantia staff and local professionals. The event provided a platform for professionals to share their experiences and insights with staff, with the aim of identifying engagement opportunities for students in the future. The event also featured impressive musical performances by students from Brigantia schools, adding a lively and entertaining atmosphere.

The Professional Friends programme will continue to build upon the connections made at this event to create opportunities for our students. By fostering collaborations between education and industry, we can ensure that our students have access to the necessary resources needed to succeed in their future careers.

I hope you will enjoy reading all about what our pupils, students and staff have enjoyed so far this term. From fashion shows to sporting excellence, and university visits to partnership activities, it has once again been an exciting term. In addition, much excitement has come from our students themselves. This term, we welcomed our new secondary cohort to the Brigantia Learning Trust community, and Longley Park Sixth Form students and staff have been working tirelessly on university, apprenticeship and career applications this term. We wish them every success.

As always, our pupils and students are at the forefront that we do. Throughout the newsletter, we place a special focus on both past and present learners, exploring their journeys both at our academies and what they have embarked on since. Celebrating our learners success and ambition forms part of our vision – *Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care* – and we take great pride in witnessing their individual aspirations and journeys come to fruition.

With 2023 now well underway, this edition of the newsletter provides the perfect opportunity to celebrate another positive term at the Brigantia Learning Trust and our academies, whilst looking ahead to what is sure to be another incredible year for our Trust, academies, pupils, students and staff.

Mike Westerdale,
CEO



Images taken at the Professional Friends programme event



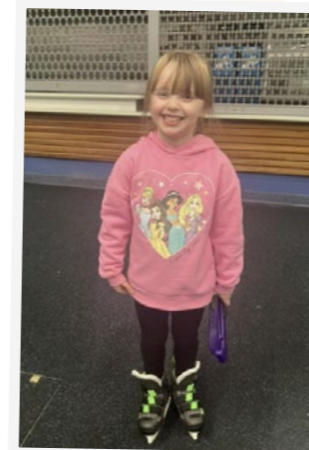
Welcoming our New Executive Principal, Kelly Howes

"I am delighted to officially become a part of the Wincobank and Concord family as Executive Principal, and proud to inherit such a welcoming community of staff, pupils, parents, and carers. Both Wincobank and Concord Academies have a dedicated team who are committed to doing what is in the best interests of our children and to work diligently to ensure their academic and personal success.

As Executive Principal, it is my role to ensure that we continue to build on this commitment and dedication to ensure we deliver only the highest standards of education and care for our young people. I am committed to embracing the positive traditions and practices that are already in place at the two academies while working diligently to ensure success for the future. I am honoured to serve as the new Executive Principal for Wincobank Nursery and Infant Academy and Concord Junior Academy and look forward to developing strong relationships with our parents, carers and members of our community."

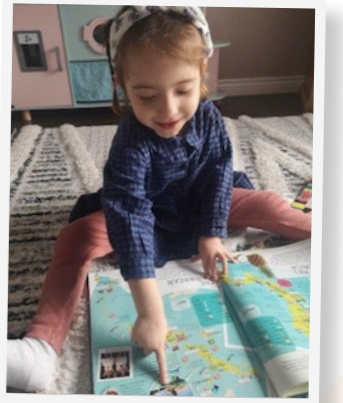
Super Star Skater

Meet Daisy! Daisy is in Year 1 Owl Class at Wincobank, and as part of the enrichment programme, she had the opportunity to visit the British Figure Skating Championships at iceSheffield with her classmates. Since this fantastic experience, Daisy has shown a real interest in ice skating, and has begun lessons in her spare time. At first, she was a little unsure, but with her Mum by her side she quickly grew in confidence and now has moved up a level and displaying great confidence and potential. Well done, Daisy!



Reading for Pleasure

This term across the country, pupils celebrated World Book Day. At Wincobank, we emphasise reading for pleasure and took our celebrations one step further. Each day for a whole week, pupils were set reading challenges, craft challenges and English activities. On World Book Day we focused our celebrations on the novel *Aliens Love Underpants* and the week culminated with a special scavenger hunt. The children loved being detectives and it's given us a huge new list of books to go out and look for to share at the academy as well. We love to read at Wincobank!



Visit to the Space Dome

As part of our pupils' introduction to learning about famous historical events, Key Stage 1 pupils ventured to the Wonder Dome at Sheffield Mobile Planetarium. Our pupils explored the Lunar Moon Landing of 1969 and were lucky enough to have a look inside a space dome. Matt the Space Man taught pupils all about space, the different galaxies and solar systems – they were amazed that so much of space remains undiscovered. It was a truly immersive and unforgettable experience!



Road Safety Officers

Nursery pupils gained a valuable lesson, as Senior Road Safety Officer Karen Vickers delivered an important workshop on road safety. Pupils learnt how to walk safely next to the road with real life practices, whilst identifying potential hazards and practicing pressing the button at the pedestrian crossing. All our children were given reflective strips to take home to put on their coat and bag, and we were incredibly pleased to see children so engaged with the session and received many positive comments and feedback from parents.





Young Voices 2023

Pupils in Years 3-6 had an amazing experience in the Young Voices Concert, at Sheffield Utilita Arena. Our excited young people joined other schools across Sheffield to form one of the largest children's choirs in the world, learning and performing songs with Heather Small, the lead singer of the M people, beatboxing with the Beatbox Collective and had the privilege to witness the renowned violinist Anna Phoebe and the dance troop Urban Strides. Children (and staff!) had a fantastic time and spent the whole day singing and dancing! All the children were superb throughout and we are very proud of them all.



Visit to Creswell Crags

To support our pupils' History learning, Year 3 participated in an educational visit to Creswell Crags. The aim of the trip was to focus on the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and to complement their studies. Pupils took part in Arts Ancient Days, involving a range of activities including art and design Stone Age techniques, survival skills and creating their own camp. We had a brilliant day and learnt lots of interesting facts. We were thrilled to receive compliments from staff at Creswell Crags on our pupils' outstanding behaviour!



Designing Our Enrichment Programme

The Sheffield Children's University Acorn Fund enables pupils to bid for up to £250 of funding to develop an extra-curricular programme of activities. The idea is that just like a tiny acorn grows into a huge oak tree, you can use a small amount of money from the Acorn Fund to grow a wonderful CU club or activity in the academy. A group of Year 5 pupils put together a successful bid for a Warhammer Club - watch this space for photos from the club in the coming weeks!



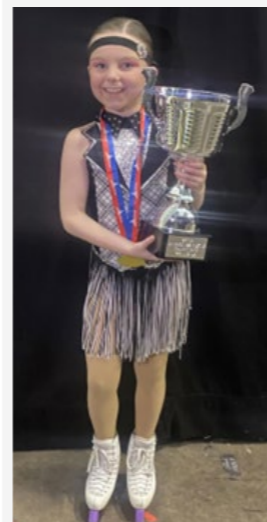
Crucial Crew

Year 6 visited Crucial Crew at the Lifewise Centre in Rotherham, an interactive safety centre. The children spent an incredible day participating in a range of scenarios including a crime scene investigation, a court case where they took on the roles of prosecutors and defenders and an incredibly realistic house fire. As well as learning about water safety and their individual responsibilities under the law, the children enjoyed sharing their views and ideas on how to be a good citizen. Our pupils were a credit to Concord and the Trust with their impeccable behaviour which was praised by all staff at the centre.



Ice Skating Champion

Year 5 pupil Madison has been ice skating for three years, and has been part of her synchronized team, Presto, since September 2022. Madison is in the pre-juvenile team, which is the first level of competitive figure skating. She regularly competes across the country with Presto who are the current British champion and winners of the Britannia Cup. Madison has recently won another competition, the Steel City Trophy, in a competition hosted at iceSheffield. The international tournament was attended by 61 teams competing over three days, where Madison and her team were victorious, winning against teams from Canada, Australia, Scotland and Wales. Well done Madison - we are so proud of you!



PRIMARY PHASE

Fatimah in First Steps

We wanted to share the experiences of some of our pupils throughout the Trust and this is an interpretation of what Fatimah told us about belonging to First Steps at Hinde House: "My name is Fatimah, and I am in First Steps nursery provision at Hinde House. I love coming to nursery every day and exploring all of the learning areas. I like the reading and storytelling areas most of all. I loved our work in Design and Technology when we upcycled t-shirts and showed them off at the fashion show! Outside of school I like to play with my friends, and when I grow up, I would like to drive a taxi, and take people all over the town".



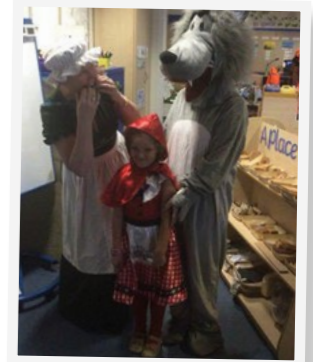
Fashion Show Fun

As part of their topic **Making Stuff**, our Early Years pupils have been finding out about recycling and design, exploring different materials and how they can join together - weaving, sewing and sticking. It has been inspiring to see pupils so engaged in their learning and enjoying projects, all whilst saving the world! Coinciding with London Fashion Week, pupils upcycled old t-shirts to create something new, which they modelled on the catwalk at our very own Fashion Show, confidently commanding the catwalk in front of very impressed parents!



World Book Day

At Hinde House Primary, we love nothing more than getting lost in a good book. World Book Day was the perfect day to celebrate - we were so impressed with the efforts from our pupils to come dressed as a character from a book. It created such a buzz around the academy, everyone was sporting their favourite characters and engaging in conversations about different stories. At the end of the day, our older students had the opportunity to share books with our younger children and this was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We already cannot wait to do this again next year!



Street Law in Phase 4

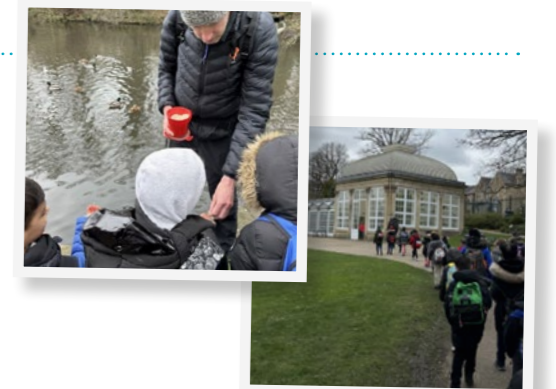
This half term, Year 5 and 6 pupils experienced a fantastic workshop learning about the different elements of street law. Led by students studying Law at Sheffield Hallam University, who shared their knowledge and experiences, the session focused on Rights of a Child and Equality. We were pleased that our pupils found the topics insightful and interesting, making the following comments:

"During our 'Rights of a Child' session, we learned about our rights and why they are important and that having them means we are all treated fairly and equally."

"We know that equality is about making sure every individual has an equal opportunity in order to make the most of their lives and talents."

Beyond the 4 Walls

Working alongside Mr McDermott at Beyond the 4 Walls, Year 3 classes have been applying their Geographical skills in the real world. Travelling by public transport to Sheffield City Centre, pupils explored the Botanical Gardens, following compass directions and bearings to lead them to the mysterious bear pit! From there, pupils read world maps to locate where the exotic plants originated from and finally, trekked to Endcliffe Park to feed the ducks and to enjoy a well-deserved hot chocolate and ice cream. What an amazing day we had!





SECONDARY PHASE

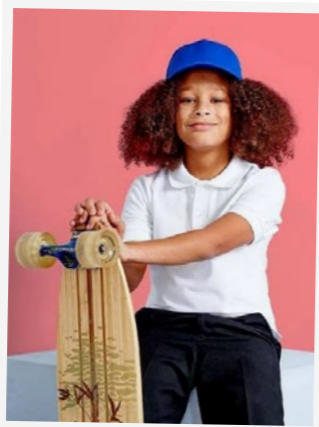
Impressive Alumni

At Hinde House, we take great pride in our students' pathways beyond the academy. Nazar Khapsalis graduated from Hinde House in 2016, and since then has progressed to the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), under the tuition of former Liverpool Philharmonic concertmaster, James Clark. A passionate musician and talented violinist, Nazar discovered his skill when he was given the opportunity to learn violin at Hinde House aged only 9. Since then, he gained a place at Sheffield Music Academy and was scouted to become a founding member of the National Orchestra for All. Nazar later joined the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra (CSYO), received the Bradfield Festival Young Musician Award for recognition in musical achievement as well as the top award from Awards for Young Musicians (AYM), and has toured across the globe with acclaimed musicians and conductors. We look forward to hearing more when he has completed his PGCE – and hopefully welcoming him back!



A Class Act: Meet Tristan

After joining the Drama Club in Year 8, Tristan uncovered his talent for acting, and pursued his talents. Not long after, Tristan was signed to an agency and has since featured in the BBC's Waterloo Road, alongside a number of music videos. Tristan plans to choose Drama at GCSE and audition for roles in Hinde House performances and aspires to have a successful career as an actor. We can't wait to see him as a regular on our TV screens!



Half Term Fun

Over the half term, we warmly welcomed some of our Year 7 cohort into the academy for a series of enrichment days. Filled with immersive learning experiences – from sampling international cuisine to balloon modelling workshops, students truly had a great time. We look forward to hosting further half term fun, in the future.

Hinde House Rocks!

In February, a number of our GCSE music students showcased their talents at Longley Park Sixth Form for the launch of the 'Brigantia Professional Friends Network'. The students raised the roof with their renditions of classic indie and rock songs as well as a cultural composition. Guests at the event commented on the students' confidence, conduct and character with one visitor describing them as 'credits to the academy and the community'.



Our Rising Stars

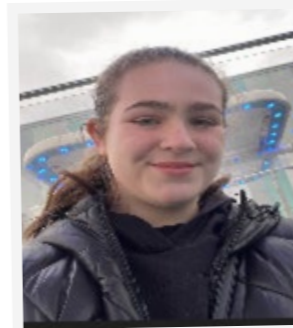
This term, our sports teams and leaders have worked tirelessly in their quest for sporting excellence. Our Year 10 girls and sports leaders have taken part in coaching at the TSAT Year 1 Gymnastics Event and Concord Leisure Centre judging the Next Steps Year 3/4 and 5/6 Gymnastics competition. They have gained their Arches Silver Leadership Badges, celebrating 30 hours of volunteering, and been praised for their 'excellent efforts' and being 'such positive role models, representing themselves and their academy exceptionally well'. Well done!

Meanwhile, Year 9 students Mosiah and Iziah have been incredibly influential in helping Hinde House reach their first cup final in years! Alongside giving their all for the school team, both are achieving great things at their current clubs with Iziah representing the Sheffield Wednesday Academy and Mosiah Sheffield United. Respectful and hardworking in all aspects of school life, both boys are outstanding role models with their work ethic, commitment and ability all working hand in hand to ensure they become the best that they can be. We look forward to celebrating your future successes.



Meet Paige, Year 9

Passionate about Drama, Art, English and History, Paige hopes to work in the Theatre industry following her A Levels and university placement, and is getting her practice in, as she is currently starring in the school musical Grease! In her spare time, Paige takes advantage of the wide enrichment offer at Yewlands, as a member of the Netball and Rounders team, alongside the extra-curricular clubs to develop her confidence and support her career ambitions.



Class of 2016

Bethany Oakley left Yewlands Academy in 2016, before moving on to Longley Park Sixth Form where she achieved an impressive portfolio of A Level results. With her career goals set in mind, Bethany studied Sport and Exercise Science at York St John University, before achieving a Masters at Sheffield Hallam University in Sport and Exercise Psychology. Throughout her years at Yewlands and in those following, Bethany has embodied our value of Determination, and now works at Ellern Mede, an institution supporting young people with eating disorders.



Academy Exchange Visit

Students from across Years 8 and 9 at Yewlands and Hinde House Academy participated in an exchange visit, as part of the Sheffield School Linking Project, created to raise self-confidence and build social capital. Over the course of the project, students have visited art galleries and worked on projects, and are now looking forward to further enrichment activities with their Hinde House counterparts, including visits to the London Science Museum and Houses of Parliament! We are thrilled that the project is already having so many benefits and positive impacts, with one student commenting that they have made a 'friend for life'.



Reading Leaders

We are delighted that a group of Year 10 students have engaged in training from Coram Beanstalk, to become Reading Leaders. Students will be paired with identified Year 7 students to support with reading and confidence, and we applaud them for their maturity, focus and dedication displayed throughout the training. Upon completion of the course, students will receive a highly valuable reference from the charity - we look forward to hearing more soon.



House Captains

This term, our House System has continued to grow from strength to strength, with the introduction of our House Captains. During their short time in role, students have displayed excellent team work, problem solving and key communication skills, and hosted our very first Yewlands Christmas Market and Bake Sale. Both events combined raised a massive £1500 which was donated to our 4 chosen charities (Dementia UK, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Mind and Cancer Research).



In Partnership with Universities

Throughout the first term of 2023, students in Years 8-10 visited Oxford and Sheffield Universities, to help them make informed decisions about their future. Students also participated in a range of workshops offering further guidance and support and developing their academic confidence.



We are PROUD

At the beginning of March, students and teachers across Yewlands came together to celebrate PROUD. Together, SLT and students focused on the quality and presentation of student assignments, tasks and homework, praising the high-quality of work completed every day at our academy. Students were each awarded certificates and house points to mark their achievements.



International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, we were very lucky to welcome female representation from employment sectors such as the Fire Service and Rescue as well as South Yorkshire Police. It was particularly impactful as women in these job roles are not often widely represented. We hope that this has inspired many of our students to consider an alternative career path, one which they may not have believed a possibility. Money raised from our IWD badge competition, won by Jessica, one of our Art and Design students, will be donated to Ashiana, a Sheffield based charity which aims to help protect women and children from Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities from violence and abuse. A wonderful charity that we hope to support again in the future.



I Went to Longley Park Sixth Form

We caught up with Khalid, Longley Park Sixth Form alumni and trainee teacher. Following his impressive stint at Longley Park, which saw him gain an impressive portfolio of results,, Khalid obtained a place at Sheffield Hallam University to study Aerospace Engineering and is now undertaking a PGCE in Mathematics to become a qualified teacher. For Khalid, his job satisfaction comes from changing young people's lives, implementing the same approaches that considerably changed his own when he was a student. He encourages students to set the same goals that his own teachers at the Sixth Form instilled in him: *"set yourself high personal and academic standards, strive to learn, believe in your potential, trust yourself, and take advantage of every opportunity"*.

Meet Shabnam

One of our Student Ambassadors, Shabnam is currently in Year 13, studying Law, History and Psychology, with plans to study Law at Sheffield University. Within her role as Student Ambassador, Shabnam works closely with the Marketing and Liaison Manager to promote the Sixth Form, from supporting open days to attending academy assemblies and ensuring the academy is well-presented to working with small groups across the Trust to raise our profile. Of her role, she comments:



"The best thing about being a Student Ambassador is getting involved with many different types of projects, allowing me to develop skills that I already have, as well as gaining new ones".

Future Focused

Students across the academy have engaged in a wide range of enrichment activities, visits and workshops to supplement their careers education and broaden horizons. We place great emphasis on extending learning beyond the classroom and encouraging students to think about their post-16 journeys, and as such, A Level Psychology students attended an open day, to get a real insight into life at university – campuses, lectures, you name it. Meanwhile, A Level Maths students engaged in the Discover Risk Programme, developed by the Chartered Institute of Insurance, allowing them to gain an insight into the world of risk, and career opportunities in the Insurance industry.

Kingswood Trip

In early March, a group of Extended Diploma Business students ventured to a popular destination for activity residentials located at Kingswood Dearne Valley. Students took part in a variety of team building activities ranging from wall climbing to buggy building, all led by qualified instructors. It was a joy to see the students step out of their comfort zones, develop essential team building skills and work together. It was an experience which has certainly had a positive impact on all involved.



"This was a fantastic experience which pushed all of us out of our comfort zone and try out new things, enjoy activities that we wouldn't have on our own and the chance to develop relationships with our peers and teachers".