

Termabout

The news magazine of Lightcliffe Academy

Issue 4, Autumn 2015

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Festive fun

The Lightcliffe
community
teams up to
raise money
for worthy
causes



A positive commitment to charity



Bright outlook for the future

IT has certainly been a busy and eventful start to my time at Lightcliffe Academy. Our recent Ofsted Section 8 monitoring visit recognised the positive impact that many of the changes have had, alongside the support of Abbey MAT. It also commented on the way that staff have embraced change in order to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. I have been impressed by the attitude of the students, who look fantastic in their new uniform, and I hope this edition of *Termabout* reflects the optimistic feeling in school. Finally, I would also like to thank everybody connected with the school for giving me such a warm welcome.

Thomas Rothwell, Principal

Students embrace World Food Day

BRIGHOUSE and the local community were the principal beneficiaries when the whole Academy embraced World Food Day. Year 9 students took full responsibility for the event, which started with delivering assemblies and visiting primary schools, where they explained what they had learned about food deprivation in our own country. Their study had shocked them in such a way that their ideas for raising awareness were presented initially at meetings with Principal Thomas Rothwell and Academy staff. BASH (Brighouse and Surrounding Homeless), who coordinate the food bank in Brighouse, were delighted to be involved, and were surprised that the simple concept of a non-uniform day could

engage the whole school community in such a positive way. Mr Rothwell said: "The generosity of students and families was overwhelming, not only in the quantity, but the high value of items that were sent in to school. It's a fantastic start in what we intend to achieve: developing independent young people who can contribute positively to society." Sam Whitworth, parent to two students involved in the initiative, told teaching staff that her son "loved helping to raise awareness about World Food Day", while some of the students directly involved in the promotion of the day were enthusiastic about their contribution in helping to prevent hunger in Britain.



In the bank: Lydia Jay Jardine, Nathan Powell and Abigail Moxon, Year 9.

Superheroes unite for Children in Need



WE are delighted with the response by Sixth Formers who volunteered to be part of a Fundraising Committee. The Academy has a strong history of generosity and the students put themselves forward after witnessing overwhelming support for World Food Day. The Sixth Form volunteers did a fantastic job at their inaugural event for Children in Need. Having only formed 'Lightcliffe United' the previous week, the Committee, whose remit is not only to raise money for good causes but also to reach out in support of the community, pulled together an incredible fundraising event.

Combining the national theme of 'Heroes' with 'Inspiration', the catering team and a large number of Sixth Formers dressed as superheroes, while student tutor groups discussed inspirational public figures. Pudsey buns went on sale with other sweet treats, including fortune cookies that included an inspirational message. Younger students organised a 'pay to sing', 'fee to view' karaoke session, while students were able to dress up as a hero character and have their photograph taken using a peep-thru board. The day raised an incredible total of more than £500.



Teatime: Adam Bush and Chloe Hirst, Year 13.

Invitation to the party

THE Sixth Form Fundraising Committee organised a Christmas tea party for appreciative local senior citizens. Serving freshly prepared sandwiches, cakes and scones, the guests enjoyed each other's company and listened to music in the seasonally decorated Sixth Form Centre. They each returned home with a festive hamper, donated by each Form, who worked together in their vertical groups to contribute suitable items for the elderly. We'd like to thank Holmfirth-based local dairy, ice cream and coffee shop, Longley Farm for their generous donation.



Serving up a worthy cause

LIKE many other communities, Lightcliffe Academy has a personal connection with Macmillan Cancer Support. In support of the charity's annual Coffee Morning, former student Jordan Bowers and long-time family friend Jamel Goodall, also a former student, visited the Academy to lead the way raising money for the worthy cause. Jordan's courageous younger sister would have joined Lightcliffe with her fellow primary school students this month, but sadly died of cancer earlier this summer. In response, current Sixth Formers helped the boys with The Great British Bake Sale across school, raising over £280. The themed cake (pictured) was created by Joanne Taylor, a member of the support staff. Jordan and Jamel have also recently taken part in a charity Santa Run organised by Martin House Children's Hospice, which is where Jordan's sister, Nicole, spent her last days. Jordan and Jamel are both now studying a two-year BTEC in Sports Science at Halifax Elite Rugby Academy, where they combine their love for sport with academic studies, in preparation for university.



Bringing people together: Former students Jordan Bowers and Jamel Goodall.



Passionate about pastoral care

At Lightcliffe Academy, we aim to create an environment in which students feel happy, secure, confident and valued

Learning from each other

VERTICAL Tutoring has been introduced across Years 7-11 at Lightcliffe Academy. This has involved placing groups of students from the same year in Forms with groups of students from other years.

The idea is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to develop and nurture the students within their Form group. This wŃl enable older students to educate younger students at key transitŃn points within their school career, which wŃl help them to develop confidence, leadership, respect, tolerance and dignity. With the aid of the new Pastoral Leaders and Heads of House, this wŃl provide students with wrap-around care as they progress within the school.

Supportive role models



MORE than 30 Year 11 students have been chosen to become school prefects and have undergone a day of preparation with Blue Circle Training. As well as being role models in terms of behaviour, attitude and demonstrating pride in the Academy, they will have opportunities to enrich their own school careers. These include contributing to Student Voice and representing the school at public occasions. Senior Prefects were also recruited to assist this year's Head

Boy, Chris Truelove, and Head Girl, Georgina Taylor.

Members of the Sixth Form also competed against each other to be appointed as Mentors in lower school, where they will be working as buddies, supporting students with homework, behaviour and any other issues. A number of Year 10 students have also been paired with Year 7s, helping them with the transition from primary to secondary school.

A real desire to help people



"I hope to initiate small changes that will positively change students' lives at Lightcliffe Academy, and to be a supportive role model. One of the ways I hope to do this is by fundraising for those in need."

Georgina Taylor

SkŃls for life

THE new curriculum for PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) has taken on an exciting new approach this year.

Five days have been scheduled in the school year to cover a wide variety of different topics that will help to raise every student's awareness in these areas.

For each event, the Academy timetable will be collapsed from five periods to four. This year, the focus for Year 8 was careers and financial capability in

which they developed their entrepreneurial skills and created their own personal finance plans.

Sessions in Years 8 and 11 also focused on revision and study skills in preparation for Options and exams.

The remaining year groups will focus on personal well-being, with topics ranging from relationships to mental health and drugs. In addition, we are also embedding British values into the day to give students an increased understanding of our ever-changing and diverse society.

Being Head Boy is a great honour



"I was selected to be Head Boy because of my passion for the school and my willingness to get involved in everything I can. It is helping me to develop qualities such as leadership, organisation, confidence and teamwork. As well as helping me when I apply for university, I hope it will contribute to my life's aspiration of being a Physical Education teacher."

Chris Truelove

Valuable life skills: Keirhardy Ansell, Joshua Gott, Raphael Imhans and Eden Rycroft, Year 13.

Be your best

LIGHTCLIFFE Academy launched their NatŃnal Citizen Service programme at the beginning of term to students in the Sixth Form.

The initiative is designed to engage under-18s by giving them the opportunity to learn valuable life skŃls that, in the shorter term, wŃl impress employers and universities.

The confidence-buŃding programme enables students to make new friends, work as a team, learn how to be a leader and present to others. The structured series of events across the year ultimately empowers young people to lead fundraising and volunteering projects, with a 'graduatŃn' party on completŃn to mark their achievements.

Year 13 students Keirhardy Ansell, Joshua Gott, Raphael Imhans and Sam HŃl have already pitched their idea for constructing skate parks in the local area to Calderdale CouncilŃr Daniel Sutherland. The budding entrepreneurs are also active in securing the help of design and architecture undergraduates from nearby universities.





Memorial wall: Courtney Towers, Year 8, and Jack Cavanagh, Year 10.

Tribute to the fallen

SINCE reflecting on last year's centenary of the First World War, students at Lightcliffe Academy have been researching their ancestors to see what roles they played during the conflict.

Many of them discovered that one or more relatives had died in the Great War, which resulted in students coming up with the idea of creating a Memorial Wall, using the Commonwealth War Graves website to research information.

This work continues the school's commemoration of the First World War following last year's whole-school day of activities organised by History teacher Michaela Stockman.

In 2016, students will have the opportunity to study the Battle of the Somme on the occasion of its centenary year.



Business in practice



Brand aware

LEADING luxury retailer Harvey Nichols partnered with budding entrepreneurs from Lightcliffe Academy to provide a unique insight into the luxury retail sector, with a business challenge facilitated by Ahead Partnership. The challenge – to design an edible treat to support an in-store promotional event – gave students a unique insight into the organisational process.

Kavita Sharma, Achievement Director for Vocational Learning and Teacher of Business, said:

“We were delighted to be involved in this business challenge with Harvey Nichols, which has complemented the Business curriculum for Year 10 brilliantly.”

Finalists from Lightcliffe Academy competed against two other schools at a grand finale hosted by Harvey Nichols at their Leeds store. Although they were not the outright winners, the students displayed outstanding understanding of creating and retailing an item that represented the company's brand values.

IT in the workplace

VOLUNTEER employees from RSA Insurance also visited the Academy to support the work of our Level 3 ICT students who are studying 'Communication and Employability Skills for IT'. Engaging in hands-on workshops, the students took on the role

of the 'interviewer' and, afterwards, presented their findings to the rest of the group, gaining accreditation for part of their unit in the process. We look forward to continuing our work with RSA in the future.



Sweet success

THE Academy also teamed up with Nestlé to design a marketing campaign. The students in Year 8 showed their maturity and independence in the creation of a portfolio of work that included research, planning, design and proposals for a new chocolate bar. Their instinctive awareness of how to use social media to promote and distribute their products and company message was inspiring.

In the finale, one of guest judges said: “Who better to create and design campaign ideas than the target audience themselves.”

Employability skills

THIS term, employees of Lloyds Banking Group also worked with a small group of Year 12 students. The focus of the day was employability skills going into university, work and beyond. Students worked on writing their personal statements and also took part in an interview workshop.



STEM continues to grow

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects – are considered to be integral to the UK's success. As a country, we are the world's sixth largest engineering manufacturer and we produce 10% of the world's top scientific research.

At Lightcliffe Academy, we are committed to providing students with the STEM knowledge and skills they need to be an informed citizen in an increasingly

scientific and technological society. In the coming year, students can look forward to being inspired through magical demonstrations as well as broadening their ideas and horizons with extra-curricular visits.

In addition to innovative, cross-curricular exam revision, we are developing relationships with local universities to equip our students with

the potential to earn high salaries in their chosen careers.

Our new virtual learning platform, FrogLearn, will also provide Lightcliffe's learners with additional ideas and enable you to support them on their learning journey. With so many improvements and opportunities, it promises to be an exciting time to be involved in STEM at Lightcliffe Academy.



Gymnast set to sparkle abroad

YEAR 8 student Katherine Slade (pictured below) has been invited to take part in Eurogym 2016 in the Czech Republic.

After joining Diamonds Gymnastics Club in Halifax four years ago, she has become one of their TnT (Trampoline 'n' Tumble) display squad. This exhibition team shows off their skills at local galas (Brighouse and Elland this year)

and further afield in locations like Manchester, Gateshead and Scotland. Katherine's commitment to the team involves around four hours of training a week and a further hour improving her trampolining skills.

A total of 4,500 gymnasts from across Europe, including 80 from the UK, will take part in a variety of workshops as well as showing off their skills in the arena.



Tennis ace courts success

PROSPECTIVE Wimbledon contender Morgan Coles (pictured above) in Year 11 has been playing tennis since he was nine.

A member of Queens Sports Club in Halifax, he won his first tournament in the Under 13 category in 2013. The following year he won the Under 16 Calderdale Championship, retaining his title again this year.

In July, he was invited by his tennis coaches to attend a week's training course at La Manga tennis facility in Spain and, in the future, he aspires to join a tennis university.

Tailored to fit

STUDENTS have designed their own rugby shirt, which is to be produced and donated free of charge by Canterbury, the official kit supplier to England Rugby.

The project is part of the All Schools programme, which was launched in 2012 by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in partnership with the Rugby Football Foundation. This aims to help more state secondary school children play rugby and encourage new players to join local clubs.

Stuart Lancaster, England Head Coach, said: "The match shirt is a source of huge pride for the players. When they are presented with it before an international, it is a very special moment for them and the whole squad."

One student from each school will be invited to Twickenham Stadium in the new year to be presented with their custom-designed shirt at a special ceremony.



Eye for design: Charlie Sutcliffe, Year 11, Jake Haynes, Year 10, Emerson Cox, Year 8, and Tom Sunderland, Year 9.