

Termabout

The news magazine of Lightcliffe Academy

Issue 3, Summer 2015



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New look for Lightcliffe

Building on success with
a new Academy uniform

Pleased with our progress

IT has been a busy and exciting time since our sponsorship with Abbey Grange Academy began in March. I feel privileged and honoured to be returning to Lightcliffe, where I spent many of my formative years teaching English to some wonderful students. I still live locally, and so it really is lovely to be working again in a place that feels so familiar and holds such fond memories.

Since March, I've been involved in the appointment of new staff, including a new Principal and Vice Principal who are already looking at development here at Lightcliffe.

Current and new staff are excited about what the future holds for the Academy. We're introducing a new curriculum for September, and we will be building on the successful visit of Ofsted who were pleased to see the progress being made at the Academy.

I hope you enjoy this term's edition of *Termabout* which, hopefully, will give you a flavour of the activities, developments and optimism here at Lightcliffe Academy.

Yours sincerely

Carol Kitson, CEO/Executive Principal



“I think the new uniform looks professional, more grown-up and much smarter.”

Miles Gardner, Year 8 (not pictured)

“The new uniform is really smart and empowering”

Rheanne Rogan Ingall, Year 8 (pictured)

Smart start: Rheanne Rogan Ingall and Jack Taylor, Year 8, and (front cover) Amy Lindsay and Bradley Hird, Year 8.

Meet our new Principal and Vice Principal



I AM honoured to be appointed as Vice Principal for Lightcliffe Academy.

I am currently Assistant Headteacher at Stretford High School in Manchester where, for the past six years, I've been responsible for a wide range of areas across the school with a particular focus on assessment, curriculum and teaching and learning. Although I'm a Maths teacher, I've spent the past couple of years developing and teaching Computing.

I'm married with a two-year-old son and, as a keen cyclist, I'm looking forward to cycling over the hill to work (on occasion) from my house in Saddleworth!

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months.
Dan Stucke, Vice Principal



I AM delighted to be appointed as the new Principal for Lightcliffe Academy, and look forward to meeting parents and students when I start in September. I feel that with the continued support of the Abbey MAT, we can build on the excellent foundations currently being implemented by Mrs Kitson and her team.

At present I am the Curriculum Deputy at St Mary's Menston in Leeds. We were recently rated as an Outstanding school by Ofsted, following 18 months when I had been Acting Co-Headteacher. Although I am a Geography graduate, my background is predominantly in Learning Support and Special Educational Needs, with a focus on teaching English.

There will be a number of new staff joining us in September and I am sure that by working together we can continue to improve outcomes for the entire school community.

Tom Rothwell, Principal

Sharing a love of languages

NICK Lumb talked to *Termabout* about returning to Lightcliffe Academy in September as an Achievement Director and Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages:

"I was a student at Hipperholme and Lightcliffe High School many years ago, and it was here that my love of languages first began. After studying A Levels in the Sixth Form, I went to university to study French and Spanish and spent my third year working as a British assistant at a secondary school on the outskirts of Paris.

"I studied for my PGCE in Leeds and, as part of my teacher training, spent some time at Calder High School in Mytholmroyd, near Hebden Bridge, and have been a teacher there ever since. I have taught both French and Spanish to A Level, was a Head of Year for nine years, and I was also the Head of the Modern Foreign Languages faculty.

"I look forward to working with my new colleagues within the Academy and, of course, to teaching the promising students that attend Lightcliffe Academy."



Leading lights

Students at Lightcliffe, and local business, are being given the opportunity to assume an increasingly prominent role in the life of the Academy

Blazing a trail

LIGHTCLIFFE Academy has embarked on two new ventures to nurture the leadership qualities of our students which, in turn, will have a positive impact on the remaining student population.

In the first of these, Year 9 students have been asked to volunteer to become Peer Mentors for next year's intake of Year 7s. Applications were selected, initial training took place in June, with further training planned in September. The objective is to ensure that the most

vulnerable of our new students will always have someone they can rely on and trust in their transition from primary to secondary school.

In the second programme, Year 10 students have been given the opportunity to become Prefects in Year 11. This will give them a number of privileges, including priority both at lunchtimes and on the buses. Training will take place on 13th July and applications, which need to be made in writing, are already being received.

Partnering with business

LIGHTCLIFFE is currently forging links with local industry, and building a programme of exciting events, with the help and support of Ahead Partnership – an organisation based in Leeds that seeks to improve educational outcomes through partnerships with business.

With their help, we have arranged for the Year 12 A Level Business Studies group to be educated directly in marketing, budgeting and production within a small manufacturing firm.

Other plans in the pipeline include enlisting the aid of Human Resources personnel from various local businesses to improve the interview techniques of our Sixth Form students. In addition, we are investigating the prospect of local businesses challenging gender stereotypes to raise aspirations among our Year 8 students. We are also developing the presentation skills of a number of high achieving girls in Year 10.

Wise counsel

SOME of our students were among the first people to meet our new Principal, Mr Rothwell, and Vice Principal, Mr Stucke. Alongside staff members – Mrs Dobrucki from the Finance Office and Mr Bemrose who was representing the teaching staff – they were invited to be part of the selection process on the interview panel.

The students who took part are also members of our Student Council: Matthew Rhodes and Lexxi Sedgwick in Year 7, Abigail Ryan in Year 8, Chris Jones in Year 9 and James Wilczynski in Year 13. All made a significant contribution to the appointments that were made.

The candidates said that the student panel interview was one of the most difficult elements of the two-day interview, and our congratulations and thanks go to all the students concerned.

“It was a good experience to see how others overcome their nerves in a pressurised situation.”

Lexxi Sedgwick, Year 7

Meet and greet: Lexxi Sedgwick and Matthew Rhodes, Year 7, Chris Jones, Year 9, and Abigail Ryan, Year 8, take part in the interview process.

Better together

The sponsorship of Lightcliffe Academy by the Abbey Multi Academy Trust continues to play to our strengths

“Together we can work towards developing the best way to educate and nurture our students.”

Laura Evers



Fresh approach: Nathan Hopwood, Laura Drury, Bradley Cross and Daniel Leek.

Spotlight on our staff

Jon Paul Craig, Assistant Headteacher/Director of Post 16

"I'm excited to join the Academy in September, and relish the chance to be a part of the Lightcliffe community. I started my teaching career at Abbey Grange Academy in 2005 where I have gained experience as a teacher of Sociology and Subject Leader, and on the Extended Leadership Team as a Director of Achievement. I am looking forward to joining the Senior Leadership Team at Lightcliffe as an Assistant Headteacher/Director of Post 16. I feel the connections already made between Abbey Grange and Lightcliffe are beginning to have a positive effect on both Academies. Both will benefit from sharing good practice and developing the skills and resources we already have."

Damien Mellor, Achievement Director for English

"I'm really looking forward to joining Lightcliffe Academy in September as the Achievement Director for English. I've spent the last nine years working at Abbey Grange in Leeds, and before that I worked at Thornhill Academy in Dewsbury. I'm excited by the prospect of Lightcliffe and Abbey Grange working closely together to the benefit of students in both schools."

Laura Evers, English Teacher (right)

"As clichéd as it may seem, I have always wanted to be an English Teacher. My time as a student at Abbey Grange prepared and inspired me to help people, to be an active part of society, to express myself and to travel the world, but – more than that – to learn. Having taught English in Nottingham, Devon and across the globe, I am thrilled to be a part of the partnership with Abbey Grange in my new role this term at Lightcliffe. Lightcliffe has its own identity and personality and, with the support and experience of the Abbey Multi Academy Trust, we can work towards developing the best way to educate and empower our students."

Laura Drury, PE NQT

"I have loved my NQT year. After completing my training year at Lightcliffe, I've been able to build strong relationships with both students and staff. A

particular highlight was when Ofsted observed one of my lessons which, thankfully, worked brilliantly. The PE department is a fantastic department, and I would like to thank all those who have offered me their support. I am looking forward to starting another great year at Lightcliffe in September."

Nathan Hopwood, Maths NQT

"It would be honest to say that my NQT year has had its ups and downs! It's been an incredibly stressful year and at times I've been overwhelmed by the amount of work teaching encompasses. Thanks to the support and encouragement I have had from other members of staff, I've managed to progress through the difficult times and end my first year on a high – being judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted is the reward and recognition I needed."

Bradley Cross, Performing Arts NQT

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year teaching and have particularly enjoyed my extra-curricular work with the Hiplight Players, who will be performing *We Will Rock You* next academic year. I'm excited to continue my teaching career at the school and thrilled that they can continue to employ NQTs – they will be a true asset to us."

Daniel Leek, Business Studies and Travel & Tourism NQT

"The whole NQT year has been brilliant, I've genuinely had a great time and look forward to the summer results. Thank you for all the support from teachers and students."



Much ado about Shakespeare

ON 13th May, after months of rehearsal, Year 9 Drama students from both Lightcliffe and Abbey Grange academies presented three reduced Shakespeare class productions to a live audience, as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

First up was *Much Ado About Nothing*, in which the eternal love-hate relationship between Beatrice and Benedick was set against the backdrop of the Second World War.

The second performance was the slapstick *A Comedy of Errors*, one of Shakespeare's

earliest comedies about mistaken identity.

Finally, the Festival closed with a modern take on *The Taming of the Shrew*, in which the class experimented with gender reversal against a high school setting.

The classes have worked in a unique way this year by becoming their own theatre companies – with students learning about, and taking charge of everything from directing, acting, lighting design, sound engineering, costume and make-up. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Chris Cresswell

County champions

THE U19 football team recently won the Yorkshire County Cup, beating Lawnswood 2-1, with goals from Year 13 students Daniel Abel and Daniel Beadsley.

The team also came second in the Yorkshire County League and runners-up in the Calderdale Cup, as well as going through to the last 32 of the English Schools' Competition.

In other football news, Andreas McIntosh in Year 9 and Emmerson Cox in Year 7 are contracted to the academy section of Bradford City Football Club, while Harry Sanderson in Year 7 and Oran Thompson in Year 10 play for the academy section of Huddersfield Town.

Competitive sport:
Oran Thompson, Year 10, Harry Sanderson and Emmerson Cox, Year 7, and Andreas McIntosh, Year 9.



Dancers ring the changes

LIGHTCLIFFE Academy's annual Dance Festival on 22nd April was a fantastic success. The event raised just over £900, with all proceeds going to Meningitis Now and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Students from Year 7 to Year 12 performed even more styles this year, from street dance and ballet to tap. As always, it was great to have support from Ravenscliffe High School, Northowram Primary School and Shelf Primary School. In addition, we were joined by Magpie Movers and PM Gibson School of Theatre Dance.

The whole event was organised by the Year 13 Higher Sports Leaders, who have all gone on to pass their course, gaining valuable UCAS points for university.

Students raise their game



OUR Sky Sports Living for Sports Mentor, Rachael Mackenzie, has been working with a number of our students on two separate projects to improve attitudes to learning and educational attainment.

The first project was a group Thai boxing session with Year 10 boys, followed by one-on-one sessions to change their metacognition and develop independent study skills.

In a second programme, she worked with a small group of underperforming students to address their approach to work. Hopefully, this will have a positive impact on their results in August.

A new life in the USA

FRANCESCA Wild, a former Hipperholme and Lightcliffe student and Brighouse Juniors player, has grabbed the chance of a lifetime to head across the Atlantic to America to pursue a career in football. Frankie has also starred with Huddersfield Town Ladies since joining the club in July 2014.

The 17-year-old will be studying at Park University in Missouri, just outside Kansas City, and playing in the NAIA league. After completing her scholarship, Frankie hopes to continue playing in the States before applying for a place in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

Isobel excels in judo

MY name is Isobel Kitchen and I started judo around three years ago when Judo Excellence ran an after-school activity at my primary school. I attend regular training sessions at two of their clubs, in Northowram and Hebden Bridge.

In June 2013 I entered my first international competition in Holland, representing the Yorkshire and Humberside region for England. I also won silver representing Lightcliffe at both the British Schools Championships in Sheffield and the British Judo Council Championships in Kettering.

