

The news magazine of Woodkirk Academy

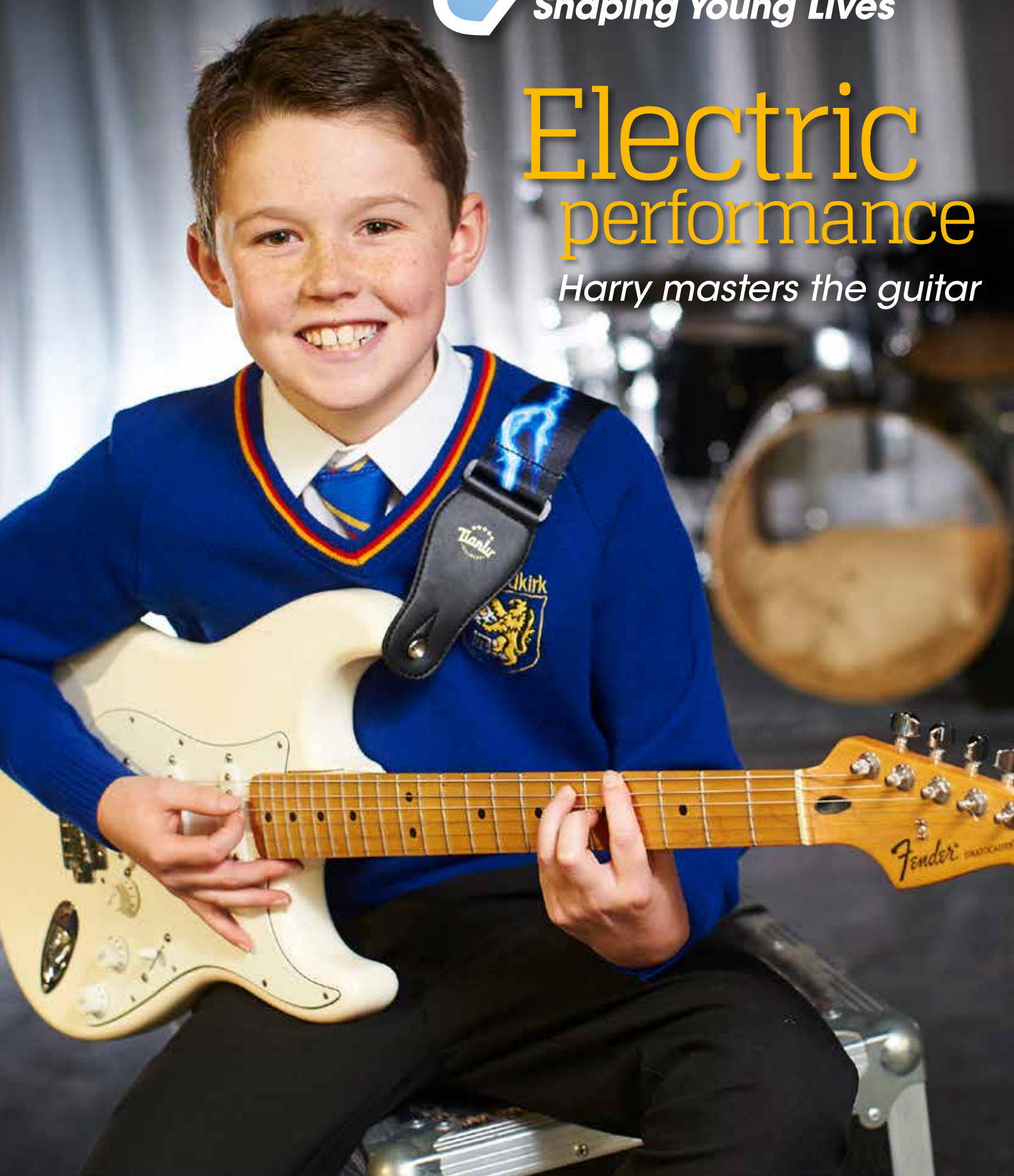
Issue 11 Winter 2019

Inspire

Shaping Young Lives

Electric performance

Harry masters the guitar





Always achieving!

WELCOME to our latest *Inspire* magazine.

Woodkirk values all aspects of a student's life, and we are extremely proud of the achievements of our young people, in and outside of the Academy. In this respect, this edition is packed with the extra achievements that Woodkirk students enjoy alongside their studies.

It also brings you an update from Leodis

Academies Trust. This year, we have been delighted to welcome Blackgates Primary Academy into Leodis, who join East Ardsley, Hill Top and Westerton Primary Academies with Woodkirk, completing our commitment to educate and serve the needs of the local community.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.
Mrs Barton, Principal

'Forging Young Futures', together

LEODIS Academies Trust was formed in 2016, bringing together East Ardsley, Hill Top and Westerton Primary Academies with Woodkirk Academy.

This academic year, Blackgates Primary Academy has joined Leodis, completing the close links the schools enjoy and offering young people, from two to 18 years of age, the opportunity to experience a first-class education with priority admission from each of the Leodis primaries to Woodkirk Academy for their secondary education.

The vision of the Trust is 'Forging Young Futures'. Each of our schools has their own identity and ethos that reflects their specific community and the needs of their students. Underpinning this is a strong sense of purpose, order and control, which in turn produces confident and enthusiastic young people. Our focus on

quality first teaching secures a safe, happy and high achieving learning environment for all pupils. As well as achieving academic excellence, we shape our young people into fully rounded individuals, ready to face the demands of a rapidly changing society.

Staff and pupils at all Leodis Academies are working together to achieve our vision. Staff have met for a joint training day, and to share ideas and resources. Students work collaboratively through student councils and leadership, most recently representing each school at the Morley Remembrance Service. Collaboration in sport includes the work of the primary PE partnership and the competitions that stem from this, while in the Arts we have joint instrumental days and concerts.

We look forward to bringing you more news in our summer edition.



Music, mince pies and a merry Christmas!

A VARIETY of Christmas events in December included the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, hosted by Sixth Form students. Guests enjoyed a turkey lunch and mince pies, and were entertained by performances from Sixth Form and Main School Performing Arts students and the school's Soul Band.

St Paul's Church in Morley was once again the venue for the Woodkirk Academy Christmas Concert, which was organised by BTEC Music students. Filled to capacity, the matinee and evening audiences enjoyed performances from two choirs, as well as the Concert Band, Orchestra, Soul Band and Brass group. There were also brilliant solo performances from Year 13 students Bethany Furlong and Gregory Morris, and festive readings by Woodkirk students.

Students also watched a live performance of *A Christmas Carol* at Leeds Playhouse, giving them the opportunity to enhance their understanding and complement their learning of the GCSE English Literature syllabus.



Good attendance reaps rewards

NATIONALLY, there is often an increase in student absence during November.

Woodkirk Academy responded to this by promoting good or improved attendance during the month, with weekly prizes and

rewards, both for form groups and individuals.

This was followed by a round of highly motivating Celebration Assemblies to congratulate students for their incredible achievements.



Images of war

AS part of the English Department's 'Images of War' week, war hero and former student Simon Brown, a former corporal with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, spoke to students about his experiences on the front line. Meanwhile, students shared their perceptions of war through poems, music and art. In addition, the Academy presented Simon

with money raised for the Royal British Legion.

Year 11 student Kyle, a cadet in the Yorkshire (North and West) Army Cadet Force, also took part in a tour of the First World War battlefields of France, culminating in a service of remembrance at the Thiepval Memorial commemorating the centenary of the ending of the First World War.

Democracy in action

STUDENTS across the school have been asked to nominate themselves to be one of the 110 Form Representatives to act on behalf of their peers.

This is a crucial element in promoting democracy across school, giving students the chance to voice their opinions.

Two students from each year group were carefully selected to become their year group's Student Year or Deputy Leader and join the Student Leadership Group. This will be chaired by the two Junior Head Students, who are ably supported by their three Deputies.



In or out of school, Woodkirk's students lead the way in sport

Sport plays to our strengths

Leaders in their field

YEAR 10 students studying BTEC Sport Leadership or GCSE PE have been chosen to represent the Academy as Sports Leaders.

The role not only benefits them from a personal point of view, but also the primary school students they coach and lead.

Their position involves giving up their own time to organise and officiate at competitions between local primary schools, including the recent Tag Rugby Festival and the Key Stage 2 Football Festival.

Majorettes on parade

YEAR 8 students Lily and Brianna, and Chloe in Year 9, are members of Morley Allstars Majorettes.

They all have a love of dance and enjoy the different majorette disciplines – military, baton and technical.

This fun and active sport gives them the opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills. They also take part in lots of competitions, locally and nationally, and have won many trophies and medals.



Swimmers pool their talents

BEN and Harry in Year 10, and Freya in Year 9, are all exceptional swimmers. In the autumn, they were invited to take part in an Overseas Training Camp in Fuerteventura, in preparation for the Swim England National Winter Meet. During the week, they swam 72km (45 miles). Freya said: "It was very hard, but fun."



Springboard to success

YEAR 7 students Amelia and Jaeda have been diving for four years now, and both represent the City of Leeds Diving Club.

The pair recently travelled to Dublin to take part in the Irish National Championships. Jaeda achieved two gold medals and a silver medal on the three, five and seven-metre boards. It was Amelia's first

competition at a higher category, and she achieved personal bests on the same boards.

Next up for Amelia is a national competition in Plymouth, while Jaeda is due to compete in her first elite competition in Edinburgh.

We look forward to following their progress with great interest.



Students light up the stage

ISABEL Heenan in Year 8 recently starred in the chorus line of Opera North's production of *Tosca* at the Leeds Grand Theatre. Isabel loves performing, and has taken part in many other productions, including *The Wizard of Oz* at the City Varieties Music Hall in Leeds.

Other students who performed in productions over the Christmas period included Katie Crossley and Niamh Crossley in Year 7, and Ellie Crossley in Year 8, who starred in *Aladdin*. Year 8 student Sophia Wheeler was also a member of the cast of *Snow White* at the Victoria Theatre in Halifax.

Guitarist makes the grade

HARRY, in Year 7, has recently passed his Grade 2 on guitar, scoring an impressive 96/100 and earning a Distinction, the highest award!

Harry began learning the guitar two years ago, achieving his Grade 1

within the first year. To achieve Grade 2, he had to perform five songs on the electric guitar.

Harry says: "I'm now starting to work towards my Grade 3. I really like playing the guitar and want to be in a rock band one day."



Kieran combats cybercrime

YEAR 10 student Kieran took part in the Matrix Challenge 2018, coming third in his age group. In total, 3,000 people entered the competition, so it's an amazing achievement.

The competition, supported by Yorkshire & Humber Police, aims to find promising new programming talent in an effort to cut cybercrime.

Kieran's prize? A programmable computer called the FUZE.

Careers take centre stage

MORE than 35 universities, apprenticeship providers and businesses attended Woodkirk Academy's annual Careers Fair.

Years 11, 12 and 13 all had the opportunity to visit the event, and feedback from both students and guests was very positive.

As a result, the Academy has forged new links with several organisations who are willing to support the school's careers programme going forward. Congratulations to everyone involved.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- YEAR 8 student Ted Gibson put his amazing life-saving skills to the test on holiday recently when he rescued a girl who had fallen into a swimming pool. Afterwards, her parents expressed their thanks to Ted for his quick thinking and actions.
- MORE than £1,000 was raised at the annual Children in Need Talent Show. Third place went to Year 9 student Evan McNamara who signed his way through *Shake It Off*, second place went to Year 7 students Sophie Shackleton and Jess Welldon who performed a skilful dance to *Fire – The Next Step*, and first place was awarded to Year 11 student Safa Kadir who sang a beautiful song in French and English.



Bringing literature to life

YEAR 12 Literature students were recently treated to a day filled with English enrichment activities.

In the morning they welcomed Julie Raby, a specialist from York St John University, who delivered a lecture on the different performance aspects of *Othello*.

In the afternoon, the students visited The Leeds Library which, at 250 years old, is the oldest private library in the country. After touring the site, they were given an insight into book binding, introduced to the resident ghosts, and given the opportunity to explore the extensive collection of antique and, in some cases, priceless books!

Artists rise to the challenge

WOODKIRK Art Department's summer challenge project encourages students to work independently developing their research skills, as well as their ability to be creative individuals.

Year 10 BTEC students and GCSE students arrived in September with outstanding examples of their work, ranging from BTEC skateboard designs to sketchbooks based on a visit to York Minster. Year 10 GCSE students produced extended research into the Mexican Day

of the Dead that was both decorative and personal.

Key Stage 3 students also took up the challenge, downloading tasks from the school website, and selecting areas of particular interest. There were a wide range of responses in a variety of media, and all the students demonstrated how creative they can be.



Sixth Form – The opportunity to excel

Stress awareness

ON 7 November, National Stress Awareness Day, Year 12 students took part in stress management workshops delivered by Northumbria University.

The session involved identifying stressors, and

recognising the physiological and psychological impact that they can have on emotional and social wellbeing.

Practising mindfulness, prioritising workloads, time management and

the importance of relaxation were explored to help encourage students maintain a work-life balance.

The next Year 12 workshop, on revision techniques, will take place in February.



Best seats in the house

SIXTH Form English students at Woodkirk experienced an exciting weekend in London as part of their A Level course.

Students enjoyed the authentic Jacobean experience of seeing Shakespeare's *Othello* at the Globe Theatre. Exposed to the elements, not even a near-biblical downpour could dampen the thrill of watching a production of this stature.

From rather more comfortably upholstered stalls, they also saw *Chicago* at the Phoenix Theatre, and met former Woodkirk Academy student Jordan Taylor, who is a Production Assistant at the venue.

There was also time for some shopping in Covent Garden and a visit to the Tate Modern Gallery.

Debaters return to the fray

WOODKIRK'S 2018-19 debating campaign got underway against Beckfoot and Notre Dame in December with three of last year's Year 11 team returning in the Sixth Form team.

Elliot, Jamie and Archie, who reached the Leeds Final in Headingley in March, were joined by newcomer Charlie, ably supported by Nathan and last year's captain, Caitlin.

This year's Year 11 debating team kick off their campaign in January.

Lessons in healthy living

YEAR 13 Double Health and Social Care students recently attended a complementary health day at the Village Hotel Leeds South.

While there, they took part in a wide range of activities, from health talks by a physical trainer and a HIIT-style warm-up to an intense spin class and time in the pool.

Throughout the day, they tracked their health measurements, including pulse, blood pressure, respiration rate and temperature.

Student Kelsey-Jo Ella said: "It was a fun and active way of learning, and really benefitted our Health and Social Care coursework."

Maths maestros

STUDENTS continue to enjoy success in the Senior UK Maths Challenge.

More than 50 students took part in the competition, which is designed to stimulate problem-solving and improve students' mathematical dexterity.

Congratulations to Ryan in Year 12 for achieving a silver award and best in year, and Nathan in Year 13 for achieving a silver award, best in year and best in school. Nathan said: "Every question presented an interesting problem with a solution that was fun to find."

