

The news magazine of Woodkirk Academy

Issue 5 Summer 2016

# Inspire

Shaping young lives



## Forging young futures

Showcasing our students' unique talents  
across Leodis Academies Trust

## Celebration of our students' unique talents

WELCOME to the latest edition of our Inspire magazine.

This edition is slightly different to our previous ones as it focuses on young people and their achievements across Leodis Academies Trust. Woodkirk Academy, alongside East Ardsley, Hill Top and Westerton Primary Academies, have become the founding members of Leodis.

Our Inspire magazine is showcasing some of the unique skills and talents of children in each of these Academies,

their aspirations, commitment to progress and extraordinary versatility.

We are delighted to share this publication with our primary partners, and on behalf of my fellow Principals within the Trust, I hope you enjoy reading this landmark edition.

I hope it will allow you to join us in celebrating the successes of our students within and beyond the classroom.

Mrs Barton, Principal  
Woodkirk Academy



## Keep on trekking!

A TOTAL of 91 students braved the elements to complete their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions.

Over two weekends, the intrepid students walked more than 60km, carrying their equipment, food and

tents in rucksacks, which were nearly as big as them!

They walked through rain and shine, cooked their meals in the sleet and slept in frozen tents. But every team successfully completed the course – albeit with some very sore feet!



## Health and fitness on the menu unique talents

WOODKIRK recently hosted a Dodgeball competition for primary schools involved in the Academy's PE programme. There was a great turn out, with 80 students taking part in the event, and it was clear they all have a passion for the sport.

The event also offered the opportunity to promote healthy eating. We would like to thank Asda in Morley for sponsoring the event. The students were given free fruit and water, which they really appreciated.

## Legal eagles



FORMER student Yasmin McGregor, who went on to study BTEC Law, has secured a job in the legal profession straight out of university.

Other notable Law student successes are: Olivia Dowd who is at the University of Law in Leeds, and has been elected Class Representative and Subject Ambassador; Jaynie Broughton, who is working for Ramsdens Solicitors in Huddersfield; Ciara Scanlon, who achieved an A\* in A Level Law, and is currently at the University of Newcastle; Zoe Young, who is taking the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) to become a barrister; and, finally, Lauren Priestley, who is part of the external mooting team for Lincoln University.

## Inside view from our Primary Partners - East Ardsley

### Pride in our students – win or lose



LIFE is busy as always this term at East Ardsley Primary Academy.

We have been involved in a huge number of different sporting, learning and fun activities. Our learning focus has been on developing a growth mindset, ensuring we are always positive and give every learning opportunity our best shot.

We have been involved in numerous in and out-of-school sporting events and the children have competed with enthusiasm and good grace.

Nevertheless, there has still been time for relaxing and having fun, for example at our school disco.

Ms Talbot, Principal  
East Ardsley Primary Academy

## Skipping challenge

AFTER practising during PE, playtimes and lunchtimes, the children of East Ardsley Primary Academy were ready for the Woodkirk Skipping Challenge. The children started with a fun and energetic warm-up. They then revelled in showing off their skipping prowess, from 'Speed Bounce' to 'Keep the Pot Boiling', winning some certificates along the way.



## Nurturing our children's growth

AT East Ardsley Primary Academy, we have been developing our children's understanding of fixed and growth mindsets.

We had a very exciting launch week in which we taught children the difference between the different types of mindsets and the affect they have on learning. We challenged every class to

learn a new skill, which required perseverance, and to demonstrate this to the rest of the school in an assembly at the end of the week.

This resulted in a fabulous showcase of newly learned talents, from juggling to pancake flipping. One class even learnt to count to ten in ten different languages!

## The gift of kindness

AS part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th birthday in the local community, the Rev Coggins asked us to join the '90 Acts of Kindness' campaign.

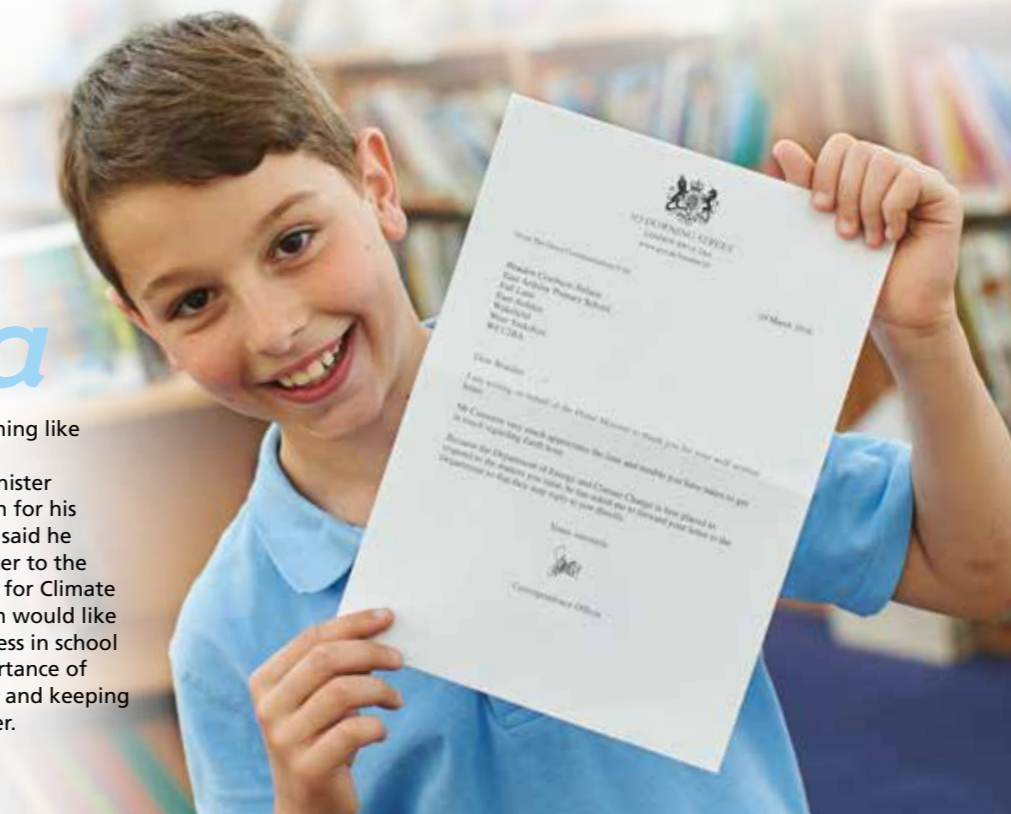
We are each trying to undertake four acts of kindness over the next month, to recognise and celebrate the good work the Queen does. Anyone can join in by posting a record of their acts of kindness in the boxes distributed in shops around the village.

## Hot topic, cool idea

YEAR 5 student Braiden decided to write to David Cameron, the Prime Minister, about global warming. His idea was that at a certain time in every country, the electricity should be turned off for one hour. This would help to stop global warming and bring families together so they could talk and play board games instead

of doing something like watching TV.

The Prime Minister thanked Braiden for his great ideas and said he had sent his letter to the Energy Minister for Climate Change. Braiden would like to raise awareness in school about the importance of global warming and keeping families together.



**Inside view from our Primary Partners - Hill Top**

**'Learning to shine together'**



WHAT exciting times we are embarking on! Here at Hill Top, we are proud to be a member of Leodis Academies Trust.

All children are at the heart of what we do, and we are passionate about making a difference every day, encouraging children to aim high, follow their dreams and embrace all challenges with confidence. We are looking forward to seeing the close relationships already forged between our schools strengthen, and we are excited about the new opportunities and experiences it will offer for our children, staff and local community.

Here's to the future and "Learning to shine together".

Mrs Hyams, Principal Hill Top Primary Academy

**Mayoral candidate**

YEAR 6 students from Hill Top, along with other schools in Leeds, were given the opportunity to compete in the Children's Mayor of Leeds competition. The winning prize? To become Mayor for the year.

Faye said "We each had to write a manifesto, and mine was chosen to be entered into the competition. I never imagined making it into the final, and although I didn't win, the evening presentation was very exciting.

As Hill Top Primary School Council Chair, I also successfully put myself forward to be the Chair of the Morley Schools Cluster Council."



**Raising money for Rwanda**

IN 2011, Hill Top forged links with Muhazi Primary School in Rwanda.

Corresponding with the school has proved difficult over the years, but we have successfully raised funds so that they have fresh, clean water in the village.

Year 6 are currently raising money through an

enterprise task, after being given £100 as a starting amount. This is in the early stages, and Year 5 will continue to build on their work next year. Muhazi School needs £15,000 to build new toilet blocks and a new classroom, and we are hoping to raise £1,000 to help them.

**Fun and games**

YEAR 6 Playground Pals and Buddies at Hill Top ensure that children have a safe, fun and active play and lunchtime.

We organise games for younger children and make sure that everyone is having a good time. The best part of the role is seeing the huge

smiles and hearing the laughter of children enjoying themselves.

We began training Year 5 in June so that they can take over when we leave.



**Inside view from our Primary Partners - Westerton**

**Pianist makes the grade**

EVEN though Kyran is still only in Year 4, he has already completed his Grade 2 piano exam.

Kyran had to choose three musical pieces for the exam. He also had to memorise and play 20 different scales and, in a sight-reading task, was given just 30 seconds to practise a piece

before playing it. The examiner then played a line of music and Kyran had to sing the melody accurately.

Kyran's advice for other budding pianists is to read the music carefully, even when you are nervous and under pressure!



**Positive role models**

WESTERTON Primary Academy is delighted to be working closely with colleagues from Hill Top Primary, East Ardsley Primary and Woodkirk Academy as part of Leodis Academies Trust. Our children benefit hugely from great role models provided by supportive, intuitive parenting and excellent teaching. It has been especially rewarding for our teaching team at Westerton this year to welcome new colleagues, two of whom are the familiar faces of former pupils who flourished on their learning journeys through both Westerton and Woodkirk.

Mrs Makin, Principal Westerton Primary Academy

**The learning journey continues...**

MISS Kerr and Mr Long started their learning adventures as students at Westerton, before their transition to Woodkirk. They are now thrilled to be back as teachers at Westerton, working alongside many familiar and memorable faces, as well as a multitude of new and wonderful staff. Miss Kerr said: "We are looking forward to what the new collaboration between the schools will bring, and are thoroughly enjoying giving something back to the schools that afforded us countless opportunities in our own learning journeys." Mr Long added: "We hope that we can give as much excitement and enjoyment to our children's education as we were given."

**Medals galore!**

TWO Westerton students, Freya in Year 6 and Emma in Year 5, have had more sporting success in the pool and the gym. Freya, a member of City of Leeds Swimming Club, recently won nine gold, five silver and seven bronze medals in competitions across Yorkshire.

Emma, who trains at Armley Leisure Centre, has won two silver and two bronze medals in gymnastic events. Both girls are committed to their sports and enjoy training hard. Freya swims seven times a week, including early morning sessions, and Emma trains once a week for two hours.





## Let's get digital

DIGITAL Leaders are a team of enthusiastic students in Years 7 and 8 who voluntarily work with teachers and students to improve learning. The group started in April this year, and evolved when keen members of the Computing Club wanted to share their enthusiasm, skills and knowledge of Computing with others.

The aim of the group is to lead activities, promote Computer Science, and research and explore new technologies. Their first task will be to support the introduction of the BBC Micro:bits to Year 7 students.

If students are interested in becoming a digital leader, see Mr Walton in W5.

## Shaping the future

TWO of our enthusiastic Year 8 Student Leaders, who are part of Woodkirk's Student Leadership Group, have been making their mark at the local Morley Town Council meetings.

Rachel and Jenson have been sharing their thoughts and ideas with the Morley

councillors, with the aim of helping to shape and improve the local environment for the benefit of young people in the area.

Recently, they met with Mrs Barton to discuss implementing some of these strategies at Woodkirk.

## Drummer rocks!

CONGRATULATIONS to Tom Hinton for achieving a merit on the drum kit in his Grade 8 Rock School. This is an exceptional accomplishment and shows what a talented musician he is.

Tom has been heavily involved in Music throughout his seven years at Woodkirk, and staff are proud to see him progress to this standard. Tom is hoping to study Music at Nottingham next year and is on target to achieve an A in A Level Music.



## STEM students branch out

WOODKIRK Academy STEM group, which is made up of students in Years 9 to 11, has been busy learning about the applications of Science and Mathematics in the real world and the job opportunities these subjects offer.

This year they have visited the National Space

Centre, met engineers from the University of Houston, Texas, and taken part in workshops including flood defences, sustainable water treatment and microbubbles in cancer treatment. In July, they will present an electrochemistry research project into the spiciness of chillies to academics at Oxford University.

## Viva Espana!

HOLA! Woodkirk Academy recently hosted its second Spanish Language Cultural Day. There was a personal tutor time quiz on Spain, its culture and its people, and a limerick challenge bonus round with a Spanish theme.

At lunchtime there was a Spanish/Mexican-themed menu with some tapas dishes and enchiladas. ¡Qué delicioso! And students were lining up to release goodies from the piñatas.

Year 8 Spanish students also helped students with some basic Spanish vocabulary, quizzing them on Spanish-speaking celebrities and asking them some general knowledge questions.



## Sixth Formers construct their future

CONSTRUCTION students were given the chance to gain some practical experience when they were invited by Kier Group plc to spend a week working on the Leeds Sovereign Square site, which will connect the centre of Leeds with the newly regenerated South Bank.

The Sixth Formers also spent time with one of the sub-contractors, Keith Walton Brickwork, which reinforced the learning undertaken as part of their Bricklaying course.

### FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Currently, the only girl at Woodkirk who has chosen to study construction, Caitlin in Year 9 says, "I enjoy being given a brief and working within the constraints of the materials or the design of the job. It's about finding solutions to problems and making sure you use sustainable products that are environmentally friendly."

Caitlin would eventually like a career in architecture, and is working hard to achieve her goal.

## Maths on the menu

EIGHT Woodkirk Academy Mathematicians recently competed in the Further Mathematics Feast at Lawnswood School against students from schools across Leeds.

The activities included a geometrical challenge, and a relay activity in which teams used each other's answers to solve problems.

The students were a credit to the Academy, conducting themselves in an excellent manner and winning the award for the best teamwork. Well done to Jamie, Ammar, Gregory, Luke, Theresa, Joe, Adam and Joshua.

## Students bake cakes for charity

FANS of The Great British Bake Off enthusiastically took part in a morning of baking with a sporty, charitable twist.

The two judges, Mrs Barton and Mr Lazarus, had the difficult task of reducing an initial 136 entrants down to eight pairs of finalists.

Overwhelmed by the quality of baking, Mrs Barton said: "Everybody has worked extremely hard, and this will be a very difficult decision."

However, after much deliberation and plenty of cake eating, Year 8 students Josh and Jérôme were eventually named the winners.



## Bethany rides high

YEAR 7 student Bethany Edginton continues to excel in her equestrian pursuits.

She recently took part in the British Young Riders Dressage Scheme (BYRDS) on her pony Daliena.

Competing against 97 other riders, she rode her way to success, winning the ultimate title of Overall Supreme Champion (Northern Region).

## Climber scales new heights

YEAR 13 student Tom Shaw is an avid climber.

He first caught the bug aged 11 at The Leeds Wall, and immediately started working towards his National Indoor Climbing Award. After completing this by the age of 14, Tom started looking for bigger and better challenges.

He was then scouted by the Leeds Climbing Team and began training alongside Team GB athletes. With high-level coaching, Tom's performance soared, and within a year he became one of Yorkshire's top three climbers.

Tom has enjoyed success at the Grand British Finale and achieved an excellent second place in his most recent bouldering competition. He now coaches The Leeds Team.

