

A close-up photograph of a young boy with light brown hair, smiling and winking. He is wearing a dark grey school suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The image is framed by a dark blue diagonal shape on the top left and a yellow diagonal shape on the bottom right.

Brinsworth Academy Newsletter

April 2018

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Welcome



It is with great pleasure I welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, which highlights the many successes of the last term. Brinsworth Academy is a hive of activity at the moment with students and staff working hard in preparation for the upcoming exam period. Students have shown great dedication and commitment to their studies by taking part in revision sessions to support them and to develop their confidence and skills when facing the challenges ahead of them. For some students, the exams have already begun, with art and textiles external assessments. Students have impressed us with the high standard of work being produced and it is truly inspiring to see the creativity and imagination of our students in action.

As well as GCSE and A level exams we are looking ahead to celebrating the achievements of students over the coming term with our Achieving Excellence Awards in addition to the annual rewards trips for those students with outstanding attendance and behaviour. We will, once again, welcome Y6 students for their extended transition period, at the end of the year which allows them to settle into the academy and to build new friendships with students from across the learning community. I am extremely pleased and proud to inform you that we are over-subscribed for the second year running, reflecting the success of the school and the high regard parents and the community have for Brinsworth Academy.

The last term has been a busy period for the LEAP Multi-Academy Trust, with a third school, Eckington School, joining our community. I have been pleased to lead Brinsworth Academy whilst Mr Riches and Mr Barsby work across the trust and our students continue to make me proud, especially watching events like our outstanding production School of Rock. Activities like this and the numerous enrichment activities and trips make the academy a very special place to learn and work. I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support and making sure the partnership between the academy and home allows our students to achieve excellence.

John Naylor
Associate Principal

Academy News

Year 11 Music Showcase

On Thursday 8th February a small audience of friends and family had the privilege of watching Year 11 Music Students final exam performances. Students worked hard to not only rehearse and perform their own 15-minute set but to also organise and consider all elements required for the event including the detailed planning and set up required for such an event. As a result of meticulous planning and organisation by the students the event itself was seamless resulting in a proud evening for parents and staff alike. We heard a wide range of excellent performances displaying the talent of all students involved. We had vocal performances from Meeval Philip, Emma Marshall, Georgia Emmett and Daisy Lockley. We also heard Rock/ pop guitar performances courtesy of Ryan Binns and Lesley Stevenson and a Classical Violin performance from Lauren Taylor. Jessica Robinson performed both vocals and guitar, sharing her talent for song writing with her own original songs.

We are incredibly proud of all students involved and congratulate you once again for such a fantastic evening!



School of Rock

Tuesday 20th-Thursday 22nd March saw Brinsworth Academy transformed into the 'School of Rock'!

46 students from years 7-13 worked tirelessly since October to rehearse and produce our very own version of the well-known film and west end musical 'School of Rock'. School of Rock follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn a bit of extra cash by posing as a supply teacher at a prestigious prep school. He quickly decides his job is to turn straight-A students into rock stars.

Students performed 3 sell out shows with live music provided each night by a student pit band. The show demonstrated their fantastic talent and enthusiasm for performing arts. It's certainly was a show to remember! We are immensely proud of the commitment, dedication, and professionalism of our students throughout the production.

Thank you to all those who came to watch and support the performances and hope you will join us again in the summer term for 'Live Lounge'.



The Amy Winehouse Foundation

The Amy Winehouse Foundation delivered an extended assembly to Year 9 students based around their drug and alcohol prevention work. Trained volunteers will be working with students in Ethics lessons this term to deliver follow up workshops for students. Students heard from an accredited volunteer about his own experiences of substance misuse and recovery and it is by putting real life experiences at the heart of education that makes the programme so effective. Students were interested to hear how the presenter had overcome personal issues to live a substance free life and how he works to empower others to make informed choices.

In Ethics lessons, students will engage in discussions about their feelings, thoughts and behaviours to enable them to address issues such as low self-esteem, body image, racism and bullying without turning to drugs or alcohol.

The foundation were extremely complementary about how engaged our students were throughout their session and how they were a credit to the academy.

Chelsea's Choice

Our Y8 students watched 'Chelsea's Choice', a renowned, engaging and powerful theatre performance highlighting the serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation, as part of their Ethics lesson. Students gained an understanding of the devastating impact on the character, Chelsea, of being exploited by an older male who took control of her life, as well as gaining skills and knowledge to protect themselves from this form of abuse.

The play told the story of a girl called Chelsea who was a 15 year old girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family, met a man called Gary. Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be! Chelsea's story unfolded and afterwards our students talked with the actors and discussed what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

Students displayed impeccable behaviour throughout the play and workshop, making valuable contributions to the discussion. They have been unanimous in their appreciation of the

piece and the messages around safe internet use and healthy relationships. All students received an information leaflet after the performance giving them advice on how to keep themselves and their friends safe.



World Book Day

The Beast from the East could not stop Brinsworth Academy celebrating World Book Day, a week after the official date!

The aim of the day is to celebrate and to encourage discussion about the importance of reading. Studies show that reading makes a big difference to a young person's educational performance. Reading results in a wider vocabulary, greater general knowledge and gives us an insight into the world views of others. Recent research suggests it can improve empathy, relationships with others and improve mental well-being.

On 8th March, the English department persuaded staff from across the academy to dress up as characters from well known books; even the senior leadership team joined in! Students enjoyed seeing the Mad Hatter, Stick Man, Willy Wonka, Cruella DeVile and Tin Tin walking round the site.

This year was the first time we have marked World Book Day at Brinsworth Academy, but it will certainly not be the last!



Inspire Week

During Inspire Week in January, groups of students from Years 9, 11 and 12, with aspirations of going onto Higher Education, enjoyed a range of engaging workshops, which were delivered by ambassadors from Sheffield Hallam University. On the 23rd January, 80 Year 9 students took part in a 'Zombie Apocalypse' session. As part of our raising aspirations programme, students were able to experience the team building event, whilst researching and gaining knowledge in a number of careers and skills. Students are now able to explain career pathways and post 16 and 18 options. Year 12 found the 'Why go to university?' session extremely informative. As we would expect, students involved conducted themselves in a mature and responsible manner in all of the sessions. We are looking forward to supporting our Year 12s with their UCAS (university) applications when they return to Year 13 in September.

Buddhism Workshop Y7 Ethics

As part of the Year 7 Ethics programme of study, we have had the pleasure of having 2 visitors from the Sheffield Buddhist Centre in to talk to students about the Buddhist faith. Members from the Buddhist Centre have been visiting our Academy for several years now and students always enjoy the opportunity to ask questions to the Buddhists, along with the opportunity to participate in a 'Guided Relaxation'.

These workshops were then followed up with a unit called 'Healthy Mind' where students have learnt about strategies to deal with stress and stay calm.



Africa's Gift

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Shoes For Africa

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Make space in your wardrobe, and help a Rotherham charity by donating to a Happy Feet Collection.

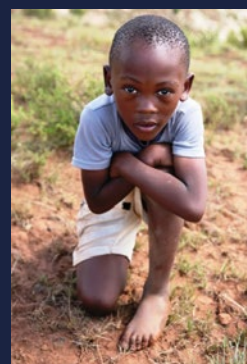
Let us take the unwanted shoes off your hands (or feet!) and rehome them in rural Africa where they will be loved once more.

We will work with you to agree a suitable collection point, and prompt pick ups, thereby ensuring that you have no storage problems.

Every pair donated will go to Africa, where they will be introduced into the communities sensitively*

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Reading League

The competition between Y7 forms and engagement with the Reading League this year has been outstanding, with some of the highest scores ever recorded. So far this year 7I, 7S and 7R have all been champions. Each half term, the form with the highest score is rewarded with a non-uniform day.

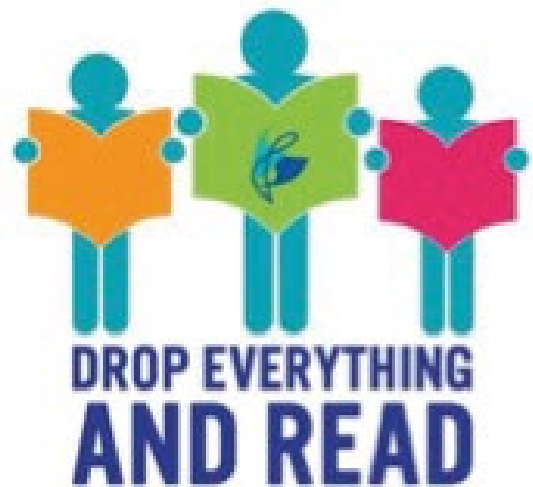
Accelerated Reader

All Y7 students begin each English lesson with independent reading as part of the Accelerated Reader programme. Many of our students are achieving the 85% success target which means they are not only reading regularly but reading texts which push them on to become stronger readers. As we all know, high level reading skills are vital for success in all subjects in school and our students are being supported to achieve excellence.



Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)

World Book Day was an even bigger celebration this year. As well as our usual focus on introducing new authors to our students to promote a wide range of reading, all subjects were able to participate in a spot of reading for pleasure with Drop Everything And Read. At 12:15 all KS3 students and staff stopped their usual lesson and read for fifteen minutes.



Numeracy Celebration

On the 31st January we held our first Numeracy Celebration of this academic year. This event involved a group of year 7 and year 8 students who had successfully completed one of the numeracy intervention programmes we run as an Academy.

Parents/carers were invited to join the students as we recognised the success and progress they had made through the completion of these.

During the event the students were given the opportunity to show the work they had produced throughout the programmes. Parents/carers and some year 11 students were then invited to spend time participating in a number of activities involved in these interventions, while refreshments were being served.

Anne Birch, Vice-Principal of the Academy, presented the students with certificates, recognising their achievements and motivating the students to continue to build on the progress they had made.

Discover US.

Discover US is an aspiration-raising programme, delivered by the University of Sheffield, for students in Y9-11 who have the potential to access Higher Education but do not have a family tradition of going to University. Students apply in Year 9 and if successful they begin the 3-year programme based around the five university faculties: Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Dentistry & Health. Students take part in mini lectures, subject tasters and explore different courses and careers. Students have been extremely positive about their experiences and have described how the programme has helped them to develop confidence, problem solving skills and helped them improve how they interact and work with others.

Our Year 9 students, Aidan Poultney, Safa Mahmood, Cameron Hewitt, Sophie Ditcher, Cloe Asher and Alizeh Aamir, have just started on their journey on Discover US with an introduction to the campus and activities to discover how university is different to school. Three of the students, Aidan, Cloe and Sophie, were presented with 'Star Student' awards for speaking with confidence and presenting to an audience with skill.

Sunder Singh-Bal, in Year 10, was identified, during a recent Discover US activity day, as being the 'Star Student' for being a 'Money Master' and getting involved in all of the student finance and budgeting activities.



Our Year 11 students will successfully 'graduate' this term at a celebration evening with their parents and staff from the academy. The students who have completed the programme are Saira Ali, Zara Darr, Adam Horst, Kayalvili Kaneshalingam, Elena McKinney, Jessica Robinson, Anna Rowbotham and Isobel Wragg. They have been outstanding ambassadors for Brinsworth and we are extremely proud to have them represent us and to learn more about the opportunities available to them in future.



Academy Trips

2017 Ski Trip

The 2017 school ski trip saw another fantastic trip to Italy. The resort of Bormio is located in the heart of the Italian Alps and hosts the world cup for downhill skiing.

Phenomenal snow fall this year meant superb conditions with all students from first time skiers to advanced groups making fantastic ski progress throughout the trip. By the end of the ski course many students were skiing the famous 'Peak to Creek' run, an endlessly brilliant ski run starting at 3,012 meters and ending at a height of 1,225 meters.

It would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our 2017 ski cohort, you were an asset to the Academy and absolute pleasure to work with!

Miss Booth



Chester Zoo Visit

On Monday 12th March Year 13 Biology students visited Chester Zoo. The aim of the visit was to allow students the opportunity to put some of the work that they have covered during their biology course into a real-life context. Students spent the day observing the zoo exhibits and researching how the zoo is involved in projects that are helping to support the conservation of animal species in the wild, the orangutan being one of the more charismatic species!

The zoo also provided the opportunity for students to look at how the anatomy and

behaviour of different animal species can be used to classify them into similar taxonomic groups. The winner of this year's 'zoo selfie' competition clearly shows the close links between humans and chimpanzees!



Students are now busy putting together a report based on their visit which will summarise how the research they gathered from the visit links into the work that they have carried out in class.

Performing Arts Trip to London Theatres

To end a fantastic term for the Performing Arts Department, 48 students from Years 9-12 made their way down to London on 27th March to experience 2 days of live West End theatre. After travelling down to London we stopped off at our hotel and then made our way into Central London, taking in sights such as Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, The London Eye and Oxford Street. After a civilised dinner in Zizzi's we made our way to see 'A Comedy about a bank robbery'. This slap stick play had staff and students alike in hysterics. From our front row seats students were able to be truly immersed into the play with some lucky students even getting soaking wet!

The following day we made our way back into central London to experience a backstage tour at Les Miserables. We had the privilege of seeing costumes used in the show and several students



even got to try them on! We were then able to get onto the main stage and see how the revolving stage works, where the orchestra pit is and even experience what life is like for performers in the wings.

Following the backstage tour we made our way to The Apollo Victoria for our final performance of the trip 'Wicked'. Students and staff were mesmerised by this fantastic performance with

were inspired by the amazing vocal and acting abilities of the cast. Following a jam packed couple of days we made our way back to Brinsworth with a sing-a-long to Mamma Mia on the coach trip home.

A fantastic trip was had by all. Staff involved would like to congratulate students on their exemplary behaviour on the trip, you were a real credit to Brinsworth Academy.



New York

During the early hours of a cold, rainy day in February, excitement and anticipation filled the air as we began our annual Sixth Form trip to New York. Students were plunged into a five-day packed itinerary, experiencing the vibrant city scape of what seemed so familiar from films and TV, yet alien in reality.

One of the main highlights was witnessing the stunning views of Manhattan, set against clear skies, from the iconic Rockefeller observation deck. Students were able to see the Empire State Building and all of the incredible views over Manhattan in sunlight, dusk and at sunset, allowing for clear views over visited attractions, such as Central Park and down as far as the Statue of Liberty and its surrounding waters. In the grand scheme of things, everything looked miniature.

Experiencing the 9/11 memorial and Ground Zero museum was a sobering experience. The impressive marble falls, Freedom Tower, exhibitions and illustrations gave everyone time to reflect and pause for thought. Emotion during this experience was felt by all and students displayed great understanding and empathy.

The Manhattan Skyline transformed into a panoramic photograph as we took the morning cruise out to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Exploration began instantly, climbing the 354 steps of the Statue of Liberty to reach views out along the Hudson River to witness the location of the 12 million immigrants who entered America through Ellis Island. After disembarking in Battery Park, we made our way through New York's financial district, where we managed to capture group shots in front of the iconic 'Charging Bull' and the 'Fearless Girl' Bronze Statue on Wall Street (temporarily installed for International women's day which represents women's rights and gender equality).

In order to get an insight into the busy New York lifestyle, students had the opportunity to take the subway when travelling uptown or downtown Manhattan, as well as eat from street vendors offering remarkable fast food and explore the huge array of shops on 5th Avenue. Students also had the opportunity to eat at the Tick Tock Diner where they could experience American dining first hand with pancakes, waffles, burgers and so much more. To add to the enormous range of experiences offered on our trip to the city that never sleeps, students experienced a nail biting basketball game between the Brooklyn Nets and New Orleans Pelicans at the renowned Barclays centre, Brooklyn.



Students glided across the ice at the iconic Wollman Rink in Central Park, and experienced navigating their way around the city. Many hired bikes and some took a stroll to explore and grasp the vastness of their surreal yet splendid location independently. Following on from this, the final day offered students an exciting opportunity to explore behind the scenes at the United Nations Headquarters, where students had the chance to see the main conference rooms and the General Assembly Hall.

Overall, students experienced a fine balance between education and leisure in the city that never sleeps; an experience they will never forget. Plans for the 2019 New York trip are in motion and students currently in Y11/Y12 will receive initial interest letters in the coming weeks, prior to May half term.

Sorrento

Over February half term, a mix of sixth-form Geographers and Historians spent a wonderful few days in Sorrento, Italy. Aply led by Miss Elsdon and Mr Nye, the group had 4 days to soak up a mix of subject specific sites such as the working farm where we made our own pizza, and culture through visits to Pompeii and Vesuvius. The scenery wherever we went was beautiful, a particular highlight was our day visit to the exclusive island of Capri. We conducted research on how it developed as a result of tourism and had the opportunity to visit some beautiful sights such as the Arco Naturale, a giant sea arch.

While the trip was generally without incident, one did occur when Mr Nye (not a Geography teacher) decided

to override his groups navigation towards the Arco Naturale on Capri. This led to the group turning round from the site (which turned out to be a couple of hundred meters away) to head up into the hills on the opposite side of the island. This 5-10KM detour was not ideal, and as a result Mr Nye will no longer be allowed to intervene in any map reading and will remain teaching exclusively in the History department.

As you can see from our photos, we were blessed with good weather which made some of the sites even more magical. Our hotel, perched on a cliff edge, made for a great base from which to visit the surrounding area.

The group were a credit to the Academy and we look forward to continuing the trip in the coming years.



Lego Club Trip

The Brinsworth Academy Lego Club went on a trip to the University of Nottingham to compete in the First Lego League competition. The group had spent the term leading up to the competition preparing: a robot for the robot games; a presentation on their robot; and developing an idea for an invention that would improve the water cycle. The team fought hard in all three areas of the competition and managed to win gold for their project which was about reducing the amount of water used by a toilet! A truly excellent performance by all the students involved!

We would like to thank Eadon Consulting, Castings technology International and Rolls Royce, all based at the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Waverley, for their support of the team. Without their sponsorship, this success would not have been possible, as it allowed us to purchase the equipment and pay for transport to Nottingham.



Tutor2U Grade Booster

19 Year 13 A level Psychology and Sociology students were involved in the Tutor2U Grade Booster Revision Workshops which were held at Manchester's Vue Cinema in March 2018.

Students took part in a full day of interactive revision sessions run by experienced subject specialist examiners, that focussed on various aspects of their two-year course(s) including 'dealing with tricky areas' and techniques for planning and writing essays of varying degrees of difficulty.

Staff who accompanied students on the trip were impressed not only by the engagement and effort displayed by the students in the interactive sessions but also at their confidence for speaking in front of a large audience and their willingness to share their answers and opinions. Those who

were directly involved in speaking aloud were awarded 'caught being amazing' nominations and received letters of praise.

Student feedback from the trip indicated that they felt more confident about their upcoming summer examinations and have a workbook to continue their learning outside of the session. Staff have incorporated strategies from these sessions into class revision lessons to ensure all students benefit from the knowledge gained whilst on the trip. Workbooks have been provided for all students who were unable to attend the event themselves and are putting on additional P6 sessions.

Sporting Update

Brinsworth Football Teams

The season has been a great season for year 7, 8, 9 and 10 with all year groups making it to their semi-final stages of the cup competition. Years 8 and 9 both came through a tough set of semis to reach their final of the Rotherham Schools Plate Competition. Unfortunately, both teams came up short of victories losing 3-0 and 4-2 on the day.

Year 7 came through their tough semi-final against Oakwood winning 4-3 in extra time to set up a final in the Rotherham Schools Cup Competition against the strongest team in the area, Wickersley.

Brinsworth found it tough against the South Yorkshire semi-finalists Wickersley with an eventual score line of an 8-0 defeat. However, all players from Brinsworth gave it their very best and experienced their first final which will be something to build on for next season.

Brinsworth Golf Team

Brinsworth Academy entered two teams at the Yorkshire Schools Golf competition this term. Jack Aldridge, Isaac Marks and Abi Mumby finished in 8th place overall out of 22 teams that competed. Scott Kealy and Brandon Perry finished in 15th position overall. Well done to all concerned particularly Jack, in Year 7, who was not far behind the winning individual player.



Brinsworth Year 9 Football Team:

Top Row:

Marcel Tschirch, Corey Parkin, Ryan Durkin, Dylan Ramsden, Fin Aldam,

Bottom Row:

Aiden Poultney, Ross Whitfield, Harrison Clark, Ben Talbot, Harry March, Cameron Hewitt, Alex Constantin, Ben Matheson



Brinsworth Year 7 Football Team:

Top Row:

Ben Sheppard, Ryan McKinney, Dom Wilde, Joe Sellars, Chris Kondolo, Harrison Glossop, Ben Catley

Bottom Row:

Will Gregory, Salman Kartout, Seth Waymouth, Lewis Sterland, Kian Allott, Jack Howell, Josh Doyle

Trust Overview

It has been an exciting and busy term across our Multi Academy Trust, which now includes a third large 11 to 18 school in Derbyshire. We are also in discussion with a number of other local schools about the exciting opportunities that our Trust has on offer.

We are delighted to welcome Eckington School into LEAP Multi Academy Trust. We are committed to helping all students to 'Achieve Excellence' and are pleased with the very positive start that has been made at the school since it joined the Trust on 1st April.

The drive, support and challenge provided by LEAP is ensuring that we continue to improve both the quality of provision and the progress of students in all our schools. As a Multi Academy Trust we are committed to implementing innovative practice to develop high quality teaching and learning, and improve our approaches to how we care for and guide our students.

In February we held a whole Trust training event to further enhance our provision, focused on restorative practice. We also regularly ensure that colleagues have opportunity to share best practice in order that we constantly refine our approaches in the classroom in order to promote the best possible experiences for our students.

We now look forward to the summer exam season and wish all of our senior students the very best. We are sure that their hard work, coupled with the dedication of all our staff, will help them to achieve good outcomes and ensure another positive set of results for the Trust.

Best wishes



ARW

Andy Riches
CEO



WBS

Wayne Barsby
Executive Principal



The LEAP Vision

Achieving excellence is the overriding ambition of our Trust. We place students at the centre of everything we do, creating a culture of success and a love of learning which enhances students' achievements and their personal, social and emotional wellbeing.

We achieve our vision through:

Excellence for our Students

Inspiring, challenging, engaging and supporting all of our students to achieve excellent outcomes irrespective of their starting points. Every student is provided with a clear progression route to the next stage of their education and career.

Excellence for our Staff

Driving excellence in teaching and learning, and implementing a knowledge-rich curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of all students.

Excellence for our Schools

Enhancing central and shared services to maximise organisational and cost efficiencies.

Excellence for our Communities

Building positive partnerships with our parents, primary schools and the wider community

Part of

LEAP

Multi Academy Trust

Dates For The Diary

- Y8 Rewards Trip: 7 June
- Y10 Drama Exam: 13 June
- Y12 UCAS Convention: 15 June
- Y9 Rewards Trip: 18 June
- Y12 Progression Exams (Phase 2): 18 -29 June
- Y10 Exams: 25 June – 6 July
- Y7 Rheine Trips: 21 – 24 June & 28 June – 1 July
- Y11 Prom: 28 June
- Sixth Form Induction Morning: 3 July
- Achieving Excellence Awards: 3 & 4 July
- Y10 Rewards Trip: 9 July
- Live Lounge: 12 July
- Y6 Transition Weeks: 9 – 20 July
- Academy Closure Day: 23 July
- A Level Results Day: 16 August
- GCSE Results Day: 23 August
- Sixth Form Interviews: 24 August







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