

Part of

LEAP

Multi Academy Trust



Brinsworth Academy Newsletter

November 2019

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Welcome

It's been a busy and successful start to the school year. We have been joined by nearly 300 Year 7 students and almost 100 new entrants to our Sixth Form, as well as many new colleagues to the staff team. Amongst these colleagues is Mr Greg Raynor, who joins us as our Associate Principal with responsibility for driving further improvements across all of our work.

We are fast approaching Year 11 mock exams and have hosted revision self-help sessions for all of our students and run similar sessions for parents/carers of Year 11s, too. The year group are displaying good attitudes to learning and we are supporting both their progress and their welfare as they enter mock exam season.

As ever, we are grateful to all parents/carers for your ongoing support.

A Riches
Principal and CEO

Academy News

Careers Assemblies

This is a crucial time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they make decisions about their next steps on their educational journey. Y13 are being supported through the Guidance programme, with the vast majority looking to higher education at university and others thinking about higher level apprenticeships.

We have a wide range of opportunities to support our Y11 students including introductory assemblies, opportunity to visit the Rotherham Local Employment Advisory Forum, (LEAF), careers event at Magna in November, our own careers event in December to meet local post 16 providers and employers and then apprenticeship workshops later in the term/early spring. This year, all students in Rotherham schools need to apply to providers directly and we are supporting students with their applications. In Ethics lessons, students have had the opportunity to practise their interview skills in preparation for the real thing!

During the week of 14th October we held a range of employer engagement assemblies for Y7-11, inviting in local employers/employees to give short presentations about their employment sector. We were lucky to have a range of industries represented including engineering, construction, radiography, digital technology and marketing, as well as a recruitment agency talking to Year 7 about qualities employers are looking for in young people today. A huge thanks to our speakers for their informative and inspiring input. We hope that the presentations give students an insight into the world of work.



Science Club

George Foley, Brayden Crossland, Lacey Grayson, Tristan Hodgson and Jack Whelan have made a great start to Year 7 by attending Science club this half term. They have been growing bacteria to find out who has the dirtiest hands (the winner shall remain a secret!) and using Bunsen burners to make some copper sulphate crystals. Their enthusiasm for Science is fantastic. Well done to all students involved. Science Club runs every Thursday and all Year 7 and 8 students are welcome.



Writing Club

Brinsworth Academy's Year 7s and 8s have been flexing their creativity in Writing Club this half term. Since September, we've been working on historical narratives inspired by everything from the Great Fire of London to the Ancient Egyptians and even grisly killer, Jack the Ripper. Our conscientious students have worked incredibly hard on their writing, which must be both historically accurate and wonderfully creative.

We've also been celebrating the success of nine talented Year 8 students whose poems are going to be published by Young Writers following their hard work last year. Well done to everyone who attends for your brilliant imaginations, hard work, and commitment. Writing Club runs every Thursday after school. All students are welcome to join!

Dear Diary,
06th March 1538

Extract by Madison,
Year 8

Yesterday, I did enter the village centre in high hopes, pacing my way through the bumbling streets – my best basket hanging from my right arm, swaying as I pushed past the persons there. A beautiful day. I was on my way for grain, from the local farms – enclosing our small settlement of Whiston, when I lay my eyes on an oak cart of

Performance Showcase

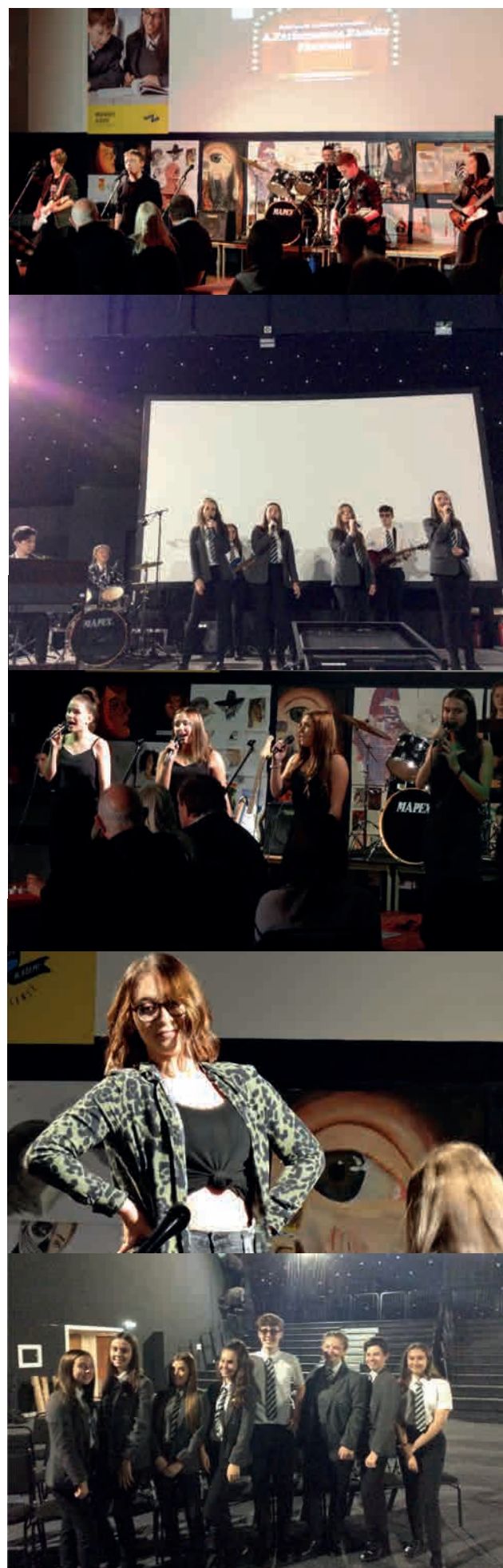
On Tuesday 15th October a number of Year 10 Music students were selected to perform at the Harms of Hate event at Magna. These students worked diligently in the run up to event which was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our talented students. Students performed 2 songs that represented struggle and defiance in the face of adversity, topics that were extremely well received by the 400+ strong audience. Thanks to the students hard work and persistence both performances were a huge success, making themselves, staff and the Academy proud.

Our annual 'Performance Showcase' took place on Wednesday 23rd October, again giving students the opportunity to exhibit their talents in front of a very appreciative crowd. Acts included solo, duet and band performances from students across KS4 and 5, along with a number of Drama and Dance pieces depicting a variety of genres and scenes. As ever, the event was hugely popular with staff, friends and family in attendance. We are incredibly proud of all students involved and congratulate you all for such a fantastic evening!

The Performance Faculty's uptake within extra curricular activities has been astronomical during the Autumn term. Weekly sporting fixtures across all year groups have been taking place in boys and girls Football as well as Netball. Students have also been able to enjoy a wide variety of activities both at lunchtime and after school across the Performance Faculty. Activities such as Dodge ball, Basketball, Rugby, Football and Badminton are just some of the sporting clubs students have been enjoying within PE. These activities alongside a new Drama and Dance club, as well as the already established Rock band and Ukulele groups are helping to give students at Brinsworth Academy wealth of knowledge and experience.

You can keep up to date with all future performances, fixtures and events organised by the Performance Faculty by following and liking them on our social media pages.

@BACPerformance (Twitter + Facebook)



Y9 Loudmouth 'Working for Marcus' CSE

In July, Y9 students watched the production called 'Working for Marcus'. This is a powerful theatre in education programme, which covers the topic of child sexual exploitation (CSE) including online sexual exploitation and abuse by individuals, organised groups or gangs. This performance has then be followed up in our Ethics lessons, where students have been able to reflect on what they watched, discuss the signs of grooming and who to speak to if they think they are in danger.

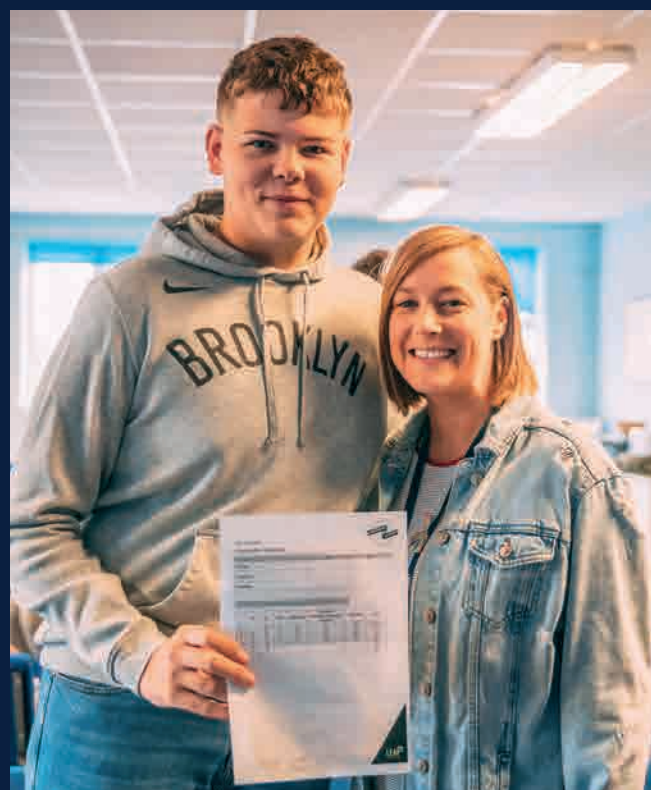


Free to Be week

In July we organised for a week of celebrations in school around the theme of inclusivity. We were fortunate enough to be able to host another visit from the Anne Frank trust, which allowed for many students across Y7-11 to attend workshops around the theme of discrimination. We had themed tutor activities for morning guidance, which included a screening of the mini film which our Anne Frank ambassadors created. Our Ethics lessons were also themed around the topic of 'Free to Be' encompassing topics such as

gender, race, (dis)ability, LGBTQ+ and age. All the celebrations culminated in our Community Afternoon Tea, where our PRIDE group were able to do some fundraising, - we had our very first Brinsworth bake off competition (won by Grace Sylvester in Year 8) and we invited in members of the community (local shops, Academy, police, guest speakers etc) who our students wanted to say a special thank you to for their support of both students and the wider school community.





Sixth Form & A Level Results

Once again we were delighted with our A Level and Applied General results and it was a joy on results day to celebrate successes with students and to see all of our students gaining places at universities of their choice. Our students have taken up places on a wide range of degree courses and have travelled to university destinations across the country. We will look forward to hearing about their first term at presentation evening on the 17th December 2019.

We were also impressed with how many of our current year 13 students applied for university summer schools via the Sutton Trust programme and they came back in September full of enthusiasm about their experiences. They are now completing their UCAS applications with a much more informed view about which courses they want to study.

The first term has been very busy in the sixth form and we started the term with our annual trip to Cambridge University. A group of year 11 students enjoyed a residential at Homerton College as part of our Raising Aspirations programme. Students from year 11 and 12 from the 3 LEAP Academies joined forces to experience aspects of university life at a high achieving university. During the stay, students were lucky to take part in a tour of 2 colleges, university lectures on Evolution and Poetry, as well as experience full board overnight stay in student accommodation. We are grateful to Homerton College for providing our students with this opportunity to experience university at first hand and are proud of how all students conducted themselves during the visit.

The sixth form team is delighted to have appointed 28 high quality Student Ambassadors who will fulfil an important role in representing the student body across the academy. The ambassador team was impressive at the training event and worked together to develop and present their ideas for improving the sixth form and the academy. The subsequent election for the Senior and Deputy Ambassador roles was a great example of democracy in action and students and staff voted for their preferred candidates, resulting in the appointment of 2 Senior and 2 Deputy Ambassadors (Huddy Arshid, Aysha Khan, Josh Garth and Ella Bullas). The ambassador team will work together and lead on charity projects, promotional events and student voice across the academy.

Y7 Parent & Tutor Evening

On Monday 7th Oct we held our Year 7 Parent & Tutor evening which gave staff the opportunity to discuss how our Year 7 students have settled into the academy. It was a very busy night and we are grateful to parents for their patience as they waited to speak to tutors. We would like to thank all parents who attended; working in partnership is really important and we believe this has a positive impact on the success of our students. We continue to encourage parents to contact their child's form tutor throughout the academic year if they have any questions, or are interested in the progress of their child.

Mrs Hardisty

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We were fortunate enough as an Academy to be given the opportunity to work with The Diana Award to help create Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in school. A number of our student leaders had applied for the position, each demonstrating an extraordinary aspiration and desire to support other students around them. The students were accompanied to the event by Mr Wingate and Mrs Bramley who stated that the students were a credit to the Academy. The students involved are eager to develop their roles across both the Academy and our communities.

Ahmad, a Year 11 Student Leader and Anti-Bullying Ambassador has shared his experiences of the day below:

"As young adults, we are taught to inform responsible adults when witnessing someone being bullied but are never taught how to be more responsible ourselves. Well, that is one of the main aims of the Anti-Bullying program, ran by 'The Diana Award', to teach young people that we are responsible for each other and their safety.

The program offered an in-depth study of what bullying is, the types of bullying, the damaging effects of bullying and how to tackle bullying. Throughout our experience of the anti-bullying training, we were taught how we can resolve the issue of bullying as a community but also recognised that this can only happen if this lifesaving knowledge is spread throughout our

society. The program was an eye-opener to all the students who attended as it emphasised on the everlasting, physical, psychological and emotional scars that bullying leaves behind.

We engaged in a series of activities during the day, where the information was taught in a more exciting approach. These included complementing students from other schools, whom we had never met before, planning how our school can adapt to be more effective in matters of tackling bullying and taking part in quizzes, which revealed staggering statistics of the damage bullying causes within our community, regardless of someone's position. While taking part in the activities, we realised the futility of bullying, recognising how we are far more united and have far more in common than things that divide us."



Business Trip to John Lewis

Is it really Christmas without a trip to John Lewis? Our Year 12 students visited the John Lewis department store in Sheffield as part of their BTEC Business coursework. We were lucky to have a guided tour of the store by senior members of management who then talked us through the history of the company, and shared information about their strategy and goals for the store. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain real insight in to the culture and values of John Lewis & Partners who offer a "Never Knowingly Undersold" price matching service, additional warranties and guarantees on electrical items which you would struggle to find elsewhere.

As Christmas approaches and the festivities begin, staff were busy putting final touches to displays on their Christmas floor; pupils were keen to find out what this year will bring in terms of the eagerly anticipated annual John Lewis Christmas advert. Their secret is safe with us!



Pupils got to talk to staff about their experience of being a "partner" in the John Lewis & Partners family and explored the organisational structure of John Lewis and how this influenced their decision making. Students were able to see first-hand how technology is used with digital My John Lewis rewards cards and order stations in store which helped them complete sections of their Investigating Business coursework.

Mental Health Day

On the 10th October we marked World Mental Health Day by inviting staff and sixth formers to wear yellow, in support of the charity Young Minds, which is the UK's leading charity championing wellbeing and mental health of young people. Our Ethics Committee also made yellow bracelets for students to wear. This created some fantastic discussions in the classroom, all about the importance of mental health.

Ethics lessons and form time also gave students throughout the school the opportunity to discuss mental health in more depth. We discussed what it is, why it is important, and who to ask for help. We even had the chance to try out 25 self-care tips, such as mindfulness techniques, yoga and colouring in! Students were also invited to make their own wellbeing pledges to help promote discussion about mental health.



Rotherham SACRE REaward

In recognition of the fantastic work done by Mrs Mellon, Mrs Bramley and the Ethics team, Brinsworth Academy has been awarded the Rotherham SACRE REwards for Religious Education for our work in successfully hosting and conducting Anne Frank Exhibition tours. Our students did a wonderful job of informing visitors of the history and messages behind the exhibits. The award is an excellent tribute to them.

Ethics Comittee

In September students were invited to apply to become a member of our Ethics Committee. Students who are part of our committee will receive training to support them to become peer mentors, will be involved in termly student voice activities and will play an important role in supporting and leading many of our Ethics related activities. Over 50 students completed application forms and 20 were chosen to become our first group of Ethics student leaders. Well done to all those who applied and congratulations to the successful 20 students! Students who are part of the committee can be identified by their Ethics badges worn on their blazers.



DePaul/Safe at Last – Year 7 and Year 10 productions

In September we welcomed the DePaul organization in to school to deliver 2 workshops that are supported by Safe at Last. The Y7 'Choices' workshop used creative digital media design to show students how seemingly simple choices can become dangerous and can lead to a risk of youth homelessness. The Y10 'Missing' workshop furthered students' knowledge of the causes of youth homelessness and students were able to gain a better understanding about how several factors can lead an individual to run away. Our Ethics lessons were then used to discuss the workshops and safer choices in general.



Debate Club

Brinsworth Academy's new debate club has enjoyed a highly successful first half-term. The club is open to Years 10-13 and the students have already taken part in a fantastic and intriguing series of debates. Topics have included 'This house supports the death penalty', 'This house supports the right of extremist parties to exist' and in half term two the club will be discussing the climate strike, abolition of the monarchy and other issues. Moving into the next half-term, the club will be looking to elect a committee to run debating in the next half-term, so any students interested in joining just need to email Mr Nye or come and see him in J block. Mr Nye, who organises the club, said 'The club showcases the best of the talent our Academy has to offer, and the standard and quality of all debates so far have been exemplary. Going forward we will look to start debating competitively against other schools, to put our skills to the test. It promises to be an exciting year ahead!'



Y9-12 Religious Studies trip - Harms of Hate Event at Magna

Y9-12 Religious Studies students spent the afternoon at Magna listening to the victims of hate crime. The 'Harms of Hate' event focused on the impact of hate crimes, aiming to tell difficult and thought provoking stories from those who have experienced it first-hand. Our students were exemplary and many students were selected to read thoughts and reflections out loud in front of a crowd of over 400 people.

As part of our evaluations of the event, here are some of our student's responses:

'Harms of Hate was a really good event to take part in because it shows the importance of forgiveness and the importance of respect for other people's religions.' - Umaimah

'It showed me how much hate is in the world. It shows you have to tackle hate and how to stop it. The speakers really inspired me to speak out if anything is bad and forgive anyone' - Hussnain

'It showed me how people have been affected by hate but managed to forgive and move on. It showed me, you have to forgive and forget as you live life' - Hadiyha

Year 7 - Meet a Sikh Day

- In November all Y7 students met Roop Singh, who has been visiting our school for many years. He spoke about his Sikh faith and the discrimination he faced growing up. We have then followed up this experience in our Ethics lessons, as part of our unit of work called 'Me and Others'.





Rewards

Rewarding students is extremely important to the staff at the Academy and we believe that by ensuring that students are recognised for their achievements, it will motivate them to continue to Achieve Excellence. Students are able to earn rewards for outstanding Attitude to Learning during a lesson and also whilst around the Academy. Throughout half term 1, staff have given out over 130,000 Achieving Excellence Points to the 1302 students in Key Stage 3 and 4.

Congratulations to Mrs Beardshaw and Mr McKenzie's form, 8H who are currently storming ahead with over 6,500 points collectively!

Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership team have also been visiting lessons to award Star Postcards to those students who are striving for excellence and devoting their time inside the classroom to maximise their potential. We are delighted to say that 788 post cards have been delivered to students throughout September and October.

It is our aim to ensure that whilst at Brinsworth Academy, our students develop into well rounded members of their communities, both academically and socially. We actively encourage students to engage in extra-curricular activities both inside and outside of the Academy and we are proud to support our students and their families in helping to reach their goals.

Please "like" our school facebook page where we will often share the achievements of our students. If you would like the Academy to help celebrate in the successes of your child, please contact their form tutor with a brief overview of their accomplishment, photos if there any available and your written permission to share these on our social media outlets.

Humanist UK School Speaker

Year 12 RS students have had the pleasure of having Mike Granville in to their lessons to talk about his humanist beliefs. Mike was a very welcome addition to our lessons, providing an insight in to his humanist beliefs! This compliments the RS A Level where students are expected to learn about different beliefs, including those with no faith.

PREVENT- Awareness of extremism and how to report concerns safely

On the 22nd October some of our GCSE RS classes, Ethics classes and our Ethics Committee were able to participate in a workshop delivered by Remedi. Remedi deliver sessions in schools to increase awareness of extremism and the ways in which young people can be vulnerable, to try to give students the confidence to identify the signs and report extremism in a safe, responsible way. Students who received the training will then take on a leadership role to share this work with other classes.

November

'Movember is a global charity that aims to have an everlasting impact on men's health. When it comes to their health, many men don't talk, don't take action and die too young. We want to help men live happier, healthier, longer lives by focusing on two key areas of men's mental and physical health' Movember charity campaign.

To support Movember, staff and sixth formers were invited to grow their facial hair to raise awareness and teach understanding of two key issues affecting the health of men of all ages: mental health and testicular cancer. Our Ethics lessons for Y9-11 and Y12 Personal Development lessons have allowed for students to discuss mental and physical health in greater depth, whilst also inspiring students to create their own fundraising ideas to support Movember.

Anti-Bullying Week

For anti-bullying week our Ethics lessons have been used to discuss the ways in which bullying can occur, and how to access support. Our Ethics Committee were also able to attend an anti-bullying workshop delivered by 'Stand against Violence' on the 13th November, which allowed them to discuss anti bullying strategies and plans for how they will support and share this information with their peers.



Trust Update

Our Trust Schools all experienced successes in summer exam results, thanks to both the skillful efforts of our staff and the determination of students in Year 11 and Year 13.

On the back of this, we are delighted that two primary schools are applying to join LEAP. These are 'feeder' schools to one of our secondary schools, and both schools share the same values that LEAP is all about – helping students to engage and achieve their potential via a strong partnership between home and school.

We believe that our Trust will only be strengthened by primary schools joining us, as it will allow us to chart the full educational journey from age 3 to 18.



Wayne Barsby
Executive Principal



Andy Riches
CEO

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

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Dates For The Diary

Key Dates up to February half term:

- Year 7 Buddhism Workshop: 7 Jan
- Year 11 Parents Evening: 13 Jan
- SHU Presentation to Year 12: 15 Jan
- Year 12 / 13 National Justice Museum Visit: 16 Jan
- Year 11 Art Trip: 21 Jan
- Year 11 Poetry Live Visit: 22 Jan
- Year 10 London Galleries Visit: 28 Jan
- Year 12 Art Trip: 30 Jan
- Year 11 Photography Trip: 3 Feb
- Year 11 Geography Trip: 4 - 5 Feb
- Year 8 Options Fair: 6 Feb
- Year 11 Geography Trip: 10 - 11 Feb
- Year 13 Art Trip: 13 Feb



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