



Brinsworth Academy Newsletter

November 2018

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Welcome

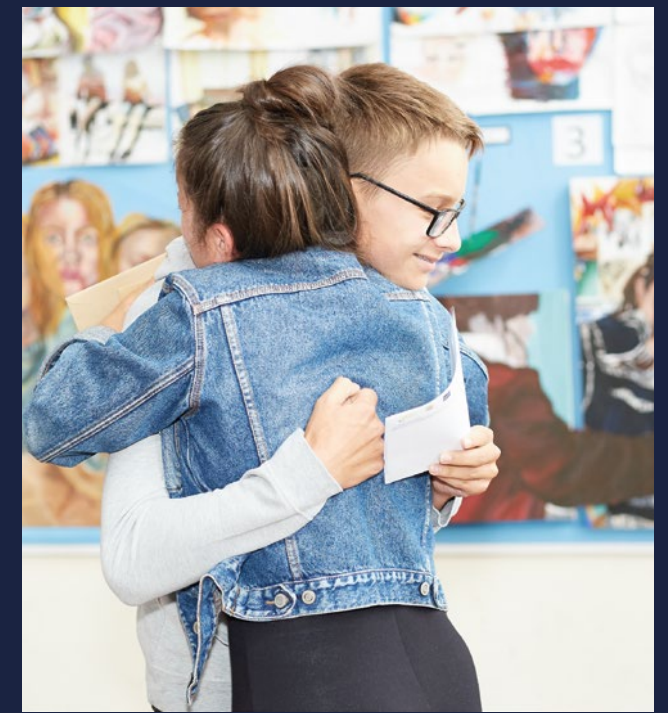
It has certainly been an extremely busy start to the new term, packed full of learning, achievements and enrichment. This follows the two results days this summer where we were able to celebrate the success stories of our wonderful students. This was a result of hard work and dedication from students and parents. We welcomed our new Year 7 students in July for their transition weeks. They quickly settled into the academy and have started the new term with a superb positive attitude and exhibiting the values of the academy required to achieve excellence.

Our students continue to make us proud in many ways including representing sports teams, enjoying curriculum trips, engaging in fundraising and participating in a range of workshops linked to personal safety and development. Many visitors to the academy comment positively on the good behaviour, excellent relationships and desire to achieve amongst our students. We are the first choice for an increasing number of parents and we expect to be oversubscribed, once again, in the years ahead.

I hope that the features and articles in this newsletter give a taste of both the quality and breadth of opportunities available at Brinsworth Academy and show what that perfect combination of hard work, high quality teaching, a love of learning and outstanding parental support can achieve for our young people.

Mr J Naylor
Associate Principal

Academy News



A Level and GCSE Results

We are delighted with our A-Level results this year and are immensely proud of all our students. These grades reflect the continual hard work of our students and their teachers as well as being a result of the excellent partnership we have with parents, which is critical for success. Our students have risen to the challenges of the new A levels remarkably well and these results do themselves great credit. We wish them all well as they begin the next phase of their lives and thank them all for the positive contributions they have made to the academy over the years.

The vast majority of our students achieved results in line with or better than national expectations. Over 90% of students secured places on their chosen university courses.

There are so many individual successes at A level,

but special mention should go to Connor Gillam who achieved A*A*A*A, Emily Horst A*A*AA, Cameron Halliwell AAAA, Joe Ellis AAA, Joe Woodcock AAA, Alex Clarke AAA, Cara Egan A*AB and Charlotte Ellis AAB.

In our Vocational courses, we have record numbers of the top grades, at a time when the difficulty of these courses has increased dramatically. A number of students can be particularly proud of their A* equivalent grades: Jack Ellis (Dist*/Dist), Sehr Rashid (Dist*/Dist), Kayleigh Payne (A*A*A*), Emily Hardwick (AAA) and Zenab Kauser (AAA).

We are delighted that the hard work of our students and staff have, once again, been rewarded with some excellent GCSE results.

71% of students have achieved a grade 4 or better (grade C equivalent) in English and 61% achieved the equivalent grade in Maths. We are thrilled with the performance across many subject areas, particularly in light of the introduction of the new challenging 9-1 GCSE courses. Over 250 of our grades are at the very top end (7 or better).

Brinsworth is a truly inclusive academy that encourages and celebrates the achievements of all our students. These results reflect the fantastic commitment from students, unyielding belief from staff and tremendous support from parents.

There have been some particularly outstanding results achieved by individual students which should be commended. A record number of students achieved grade 9s this year Chloe Woolley (7 grade 9s), Adam Horst (6 grade 9s and

1 A*), Danial Asad & Luke Smith (3 grade 9s and 1 A*), Ryan Binns, Alyssa Macfarlane, Elena McKinney & Zain Shah (3 grade 9s), Daisy Quincy Brooke (2 grade 9s and 1 A*), Jess Robinson (2 grade 9s), Molly Platts (1 grade 9 and 1 A*), Taimur Ali & Taylor Nicholson (1 grade 9).

This year's GCSE results reflect the hard work, dedication and perseverance of everyone involved, at a time when there is so much change in the exam system alongside significant staffing shortages. Everyone has worked so hard to achieve these pleasing results. We would like to wish all our learners the very best for their futures in the sixth form, college or apprenticeships and to thank them for contributions to the academy over the last 5 years.

Performing Arts Showcase

The Performance Faculty hosted a Showcase demonstrating student's musical and theatrical talents to a packed-out audience. The evening was hosted by Evie Preston and Cormac Reader who enthusiastically introduced us to a range of Key Stage 4 and 5 students. The evening showcased a wide variety of performances ranging from solo vocalists and bands to drama ensembles.

Highlights from the evening were Year 10 Drama students Tamara Whitehouse, Isabella Smalley and Lydia Radford who gave a fantastic performance of DNA. Jack Bulmer really got the crowd going with his rendition of Green Day's 'American Idiot'. Sixth form students gave a variety of outstanding performances displaying their talents in both music and drama with debut performances given from our Dinnington students. We would love to be able to tell you about all of our fantastic students who performed at this event but we would be here all day. A huge well done to all students involved, we are really proud of you!

All funds raised at this event will go towards our next school production, 'A Night at the Theatre' taking place in March 2019. We hope to see you there!



Art Viewing Evening

It was an honour to welcome Mayor Alan Buckley, who is one of our Academy Ambassadors, to the Art Viewing Evening. During the evening GCSE and A level Art, Photography and Textiles students displayed and presented their work to the mayor, parents, friends and staff. Everyone was impressed by the high quality of the work, which is a result of student and staff hard work, commitment and dedication to their subjects over the year.



Happy Feet

Our fantastic students have done us proud once again! Students across all year groups have been donating unwanted shoes to a 'Happy Feet' collection. This is for a Rotherham based charity who ensure every donated pair of shoes are sold, in rural Africa, at affordable prices to empower community members rather than creating a dependence culture.

Brinsworth Academy students donated so many shoes they filled Ken's 'zebra van', which is typical

of how our students consider others and want to support others in need.



Number Ninjas

The start of the new academic year saw the launch of Number Ninjas, the Academy's numeracy after-school club.

During the sessions, students challenge each other through various activities and games, building upon their mental maths skills in a fun and stimulating environment.

The club has proved highly popular and successful amongst our Year 7 students with over 25 of them attending each week.

The club is held every Tuesday in S8 and S9, running from 2:40pm – 3:30pm. All Year 7 and 8 students are welcome.

For further information, please contact vdoyle@brinsworth.rotherham.sch.uk.



Average Joe

As part of the Ethics curriculum, Y9 students watched the 'Average Joe' performance which tells the story of how a young boy's life spirals out of control very quickly when he gets involved with people he thinks are friends but turn out to be involved with a criminal gang.

Dr Billings, S Yorks Police Commissioner said: "The way in which SAFE@LAST delivered the performance was engaging and highly relevant. The students are unaware of what is about to happen and will have thought that the beginning of the performance was a real-life incident unfolding in front of them."

Average Joe was a very thought-provoking performance, that took the pupils on a whirlwind tour of how easy it is to make quick decisions that could affect their lives forever. Joe made some devastating choices that resulted in him being blackmailed and abused.

"I hope Brinsworth Academy Y9 think about the consequences of such decisions and learn from Joe's mistakes."

During 'Average Joe' the students were seated for assembly, unaware of the drama about to unfold around them, as a 'Drunk Mum' crashed in looking for her son. The drama performance interlinked with on screen visuals in the style of a video diary. Pupils were led to believe that Joe's life is getting better through each decision he makes – until towards the end, when the true situation is revealed.

As the performance took a tragic turn, the audience were shocked and saddened with the outcome. Although they were reassured that what they saw was performed by actors, the screen then displayed some heart-breaking real-life footage of young people who had lost their lives in similar situations to the one acted out.

The performance concluded with a work-shop where the pupils were encouraged to talk about what they have just seen and discuss the availability of help and support in the local area through the school's safeguarding processes. Any issues raised will be discussed in Ethics lessons.

Business Trip to John Lewis

Year 12 students visited the John Lewis department store in Sheffield as part of their BTEC Business coursework. Lee Barker, Operations Manager, gave us a guided tour of the store, then talked us through the history of the company, and shared information about their strategy and goals for the store.

Pupils were impressed with the John Lewis & Partners "Never Knowingly Undersold" price matching service, and the additional warranties and guarantees offered on electrical items. Lee explained how the store is organised, and explored the roles of the departments across the business. Pupils got to talk to staff about their experience of being a "partner" in the John Lewis & Partners family and were able to see first-hand how technology is used with digital My John Lewis rewards cards and order stations in store.



Staff were busy preparing for the festive period on their Christmas floor, and the pupils were eager to find out what this year will bring in terms of the eagerly anticipated annual John Lewis Christmas advert. Some pupils were keen to gain some work experience in the store, which we are hoping to organise in the summer term. Back at Brinsworth Academy, pupils have been completing their Investigating Business coursework using their findings from the day.

Mental Health Day

It was fantastic to see so many staff and sixth form students wear #HelloYellow to support young people's mental health on World Mental Health Day.

By wearing yellow on World Mental Health Day, it showed our young people that they're not alone when it comes to their mental health and helps spread the word that they can talk to someone if they're struggling to cope.

#It'sOkayToNotBeOkay

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. Students were also invited to make their own pledges to help promote discussion about mental health. These pledges are displayed in school.



Year 6 Transition

Before the summer holiday our Y6/7 students ended their 2-week transition to Brinsworth Academy with a celebration assembly.

During the fortnight students enjoyed teambuilding challenges, street dancing, African drumming and a range of lessons across the curriculum. Being in the academy for two weeks meant that they experienced all aspects of academy life, got to know their way around the site and developed new friendships with peers from other schools.

Students were presented with 'Subject Star' certificates for their work in lessons or with SLT Transition awards. It was a difficult choice as we were impressed with the effort, enthusiasm and

engagement of so many of our new students during the transition fortnight.

After their transition period, Y7 students started the new school year in September with less apprehension and much more confidence.



Star Postcards

Student achievement and recognition (StAR) postcards have been awarded throughout the first half term to students who have gone above and beyond with their learning. Senior and pastoral leaders have been visiting lessons as much as

possible to catch students at their very best. 669 postcards were awarded in the first half term with Y11 students receiving a grand total of 253! Well done to all our students for their hard work and dedication to learning, we are very proud of them.



LEAP Rewards

Over 200 students were rewarded with vouchers for their outstanding effort and learning last term, via the LEAP reward draw.

Over 2000 reward tickets were issued to students. We continue to be proud of our students and their high aspiration to achieve excellence in all they do. LEAP Rewards will start again this term.

Music Mark

We have been nominated and rewarded with Music Mark School Membership in recognition of the value we place on music for young people. The award is down to the hard work and commitment of Miss Brunton and Mr Timmons in promoting the importance of music across school.

The CEO of Music Mark has written to say "Thank you for all the hard work your colleagues do to ensure that pupils at your school are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education. Your dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated"

Well done to all students who have contributed to the success of the Performance Faculty.



Safe@Last Fundraising

Brinsworth Academy competed against other local secondary schools in the 'Raise the Stars' competition to have Nathan Sykes (lead singer of The Wanted) perform an acoustic set in the academy!

Donations and fundraising raised over £2000 for two excellent local charities: Safe@Last who provide support to young people at risk of running away and Nightstop who provide overnight accommodation to young people sleeping on the streets.

A non-uniform day was the culmination of the fundraising challenge and we handed over money raised to a representative of Safe@Last. Whilst our students made a remarkable effort in a short space of time, we were narrowly beaten into second place. Four students from Brinsworth will go to St Bernards School to see Nathan Sykes perform and to meet him and receive a certificate in recognition and to say thank you for our efforts..



Remembrance Day

It was a great honour to represent the academy at the Brinsworth act of remembrance at St George's churchyard on Armistice Day, marking the centenary of the end of World War I.

We were proud to see student leaders lay a wreath to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

It was a poignant moment to hear ex-student Josh Smith read names of those from Brinsworth who gave their lives in the two wars. Billy Walker, in Y10, led the parade from the service to the memorial, as a member of the 10th Rotherham Scout Group.

Student leaders sold poppies leading up to the weekend and, in Ethics lessons, students learned about the significance of poppies, making their own with messages on.

Art students produced a sculpture to honour local soldiers who did not return from WWI, which is on display in "The Centre", which has just opened.



UCAS Applications

Y13 students are starting to prepare for life beyond Brinsworth Academy and for many of our students, the next step is university. As part of the Y13 Guidance programme, students have taken part in sessions delivered by a variety of institutions including Leeds Beckett University, Sheffield Hallam University and University Centre Rotherham.

They have gained information about traditional degree programmes and the newly-developed degree-level apprenticeships which has helped students when deciding on their chosen pathways. Students have written personal statements and have applied for courses via UCAS.

Sights have been set high with applications for a variety of courses including medicine, dentistry, accounting and materials science at a range of universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham and Sheffield.

As students start to receive invitations to interviews and offers of course places, the Guidance programme will support students with sessions on interview skills and student finance. They will even take part in a Ready, Steady, Cook! Style lesson to help them prepare healthy food on a budget as part of their preparation for leaving home to go to university!

UCAS

Sixth Form Leadership Elections

The sixth form team is delighted to have appointed 26 high quality Student Ambassadors who will fulfil an important role in representing the student body across the academy.

The ambassador team underwent training at New York stadium and enjoyed working alongside their Dinnington High School and Eckington School counterparts in developing key skills for the role. 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 3 Senior and 3 Deputy Ambassadors (Cormac Reader, Maddison Daniels-Smith, Sara Hopkin as senior ambassadors; Alyssa Macfarlane, Gregory Devine and Jessica Millward as deputies). The ambassador team has already taken the lead on initiatives such as the safe@last charity day and the poppy appeal. They are proving to be a real credit to the academy!



Year 11 Revision

All Y11 students participated in a revision workshop recently, led by Mr Gregson. We covered what was important when revising as well as different strategies when learning for an exam. There was a lot of discussion about how each group revised and how effective this was.

Students were presented with strategies to condense information, summarising from a revision book, memorising using a range of ideas and then reviewing what has been learnt. On-line sites and apps were recommended to support preparation for exams.

Many students were surprised how much they had been able to memorise and remember in such a short time during the workshop when they practised different techniques using Science and Diseases as an example. A number said that the workshop had given them confidence and the tips that they needed to prepare more effectively for their mock exams.

Academy Trips



Cambridge Trip

A group of Year 11 students (Isobel Upstone, Jannah Khan, Sam Wigley, Jack Millington, Louie Morris and Alex Womack) enjoyed a residential at Homerton College, Cambridge University, as part of our Raising Aspirations programme.

Students from Year 11 and 12 from the 3 LEAP Academies (Brinsworth, Eckington & Dinnington) 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 two colleges (including the college where Stephen Hawking was a fellow), university lectures, workshops on writing university applications, as well as a full board overnight stay in student accommodation.

We are grateful to Homerton College for providing our students with this opportunity to experience university life at first hand and are proud of how all students conducted themselves during the visit.



Geography trip to Hull

Y11 Geography students went on a field trip to the 2017 city of culture: Hull. Across three days, the Y11 students braved the autumn weather, in order to gain first-hand experience of the data collection methods they will be examined on during their Unit 3 GCSE exam next summer and collect the data needed in order to practice data analysis techniques back in the classroom as part of their ongoing revision.

The Y11 students were a credit to the Academy across the three days with their behaviour and attitude towards collecting the data they needed and also interacting with members of the public, perhaps realising though how hard it is to persuade people to complete a questionnaire, all students persevered though and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Overall making for three good days of fieldwork in the city of culture with our Y11 Geographers!

Y11 Trip to Conisbrough Castle

In 4 trips over the 23rd and 24th of October the History GCSE groups visited Conisbrough castle to gain an insight into the function and architecture of Norman castles. Each group enjoyed a tour, given by an expert on the period, and a chance to explore the castle grounds and defensive fortifications to gain an insight into daily life and the role played by castles during Norman England.

Conisbrough played a vital role in the battle for the throne in 1066, as Harold Godwinson stopped over in the Castle as he fought to keep control of his country. The trip provided a great opportunity

for students to build on their knowledge of Norman England from their lessons, and also to develop their knowledge of our local history.

With access to one of the best-preserved keeps in England, and some bright (if a little windy) weather, all students were a credit to the Academy. Our tour guide commented that some of the questions asked were the best they had heard and demonstrated a fantastic understanding of life in the past. Year 11 have once again done the Academy proud.



University Summer Schools

Towards the end of Y12, students were given the opportunity to apply for a university summer school. These are taster courses provided by some universities for specific courses, which allow students to experience academic and social life on campus, before applying for a university place. The summer schools vary in duration, from a couple of days to a whole week. A number of our students were successful in gaining places at summer schools at a variety of prestigious universities including Oxford, Warwick, Nottingham and Sheffield.

They had the opportunity to stay overnight in university accommodation, meet lecturers and current students and gained a real understanding of what the university course involved and how the university works. The summer schools included lectures, discussions and tutorial sessions alongside information on the other aspects of student life, such as sports, music, drama and cultural activities.

Georgina Smith was successful in gaining places at two summer schools including the highly sought-after UNIQ programme: "I attended the UNIQ programme, studying materials science at the University of Oxford. This was an amazing experience where I attended lectures and got to take part in lab work. Meeting students who were enrolled on the courses was really helpful as I got an insight into the life of a student. I also went to the University of Nottingham and attended the mathematics, computer science and engineering



course. I enjoyed spending time at the university while also getting to experience the social aspect of University life".

"During the school holidays, I attended a medical summer school at the University of Sheffield. The university arranged for me to shadow a consultant for a day and this enabled me to gain insight into the life of a doctor as well as witness a full body dissection and analysis of organs in the body. A clinical skills session was carried out where we got to practice basic clinical skills such as giving injections and fitting cannulas. This worthwhile experience confirmed my aspirations for choosing a career in medicine". Zaynah Salim Hassim, Y13

Kyle Tyler also attended a summer school at the University of Sheffield as part of the ADOPT programme which aims to widen participation and encourage students to pursue careers in dentistry: "During my time at the ADOPT summer school I took part in many activities giving me an insight into the University of Sheffield and dentistry. One of the activities involved looking at the anatomy of a real human body and its parts, relating them to diseases and medical conditions. This led to me developing an interest in biomedical science. Through the ADOPT programme, I made friends with people with similar interests who I am still in touch with now."

Sporting Update



Sporting Leaders

Our fantastic sports leaders have been supporting our learning community by setting up, demonstrating, and running events at sports days, held at the EIS, for a number of our primary schools. They have received superb feedback about their energy, enthusiasm and maturity. They are excellent role models and have been outstanding representatives for the academy. We are so proud of them; they are a wonderful group of young people.



Boys Football

Year 7 have made a blistering start to the year recording 4 victories and 2 losses so far, including an unfortunate loss 8-6 in the cup against a strong Wingfield team. The team come together very well and have grown each game.

Year 8 have taken well to their new and enthusiastic American manager Mr Pearson, using all his expertise from his years playing and coaching in the American Soccer leagues! They too have recorded a strong set of results including their victory in the first round of the Rotherham Cup 4-2 against a great Maltby team. Year 10 had an unlucky cup fixture against Wath being beaten 3-1 by 3 exceptional goals that any other day would have not been scored.

Year 9 and 11 are through to the next round of the Rotherham Cup by defeating St Pius 4-2 and St Bernards 2-1. This season has been an excellent start and hopefully the boys can carry this on into next year and not only make a few finals but bring home some silverware.

Girls Football

Girls Football has started with U14 playing against Wath and Swinton winning both games. The U16 played against Wath and lost by 1. The girls have been attending training each week with Rotherham United Academy and shown excellent commitment as well as determination to improve each week. Well done to all girls involved for your great efforts and commitment to Football.

Girls Netball

Year 8 and 9 Girls Netball have had fixtures playing against Swinton, Wath and Wingfield. Their effort has been excellent and at times have come close to winning their first game. It's been a great effort from all the girls who have been at training or fixtures each week. Well done.

Trust Overview

It's been a busy start to the year at Brinsworth Academy, as it has been at all of our schools. As always, we are hugely grateful to parents and carers for your ongoing support. With a strong home-school partnership, our students will have the best opportunity to 'Achieve Excellence'.

We have seen lots of collaborative ventures across the Trust since the start of the academic year, including a residential trip for students to Homerton College, Cambridge, and a student leadership event for Sixth Formers at New York Stadium. We look forward to many more similar opportunities for students in the months ahead.

As part of LEAP's work to improve learning and progress for all of our students, we have developed Leadership Networks for English, Maths and Science that are coordinated by a senior colleague. These Networks aim to develop the very best practice and to share expertise across all schools for the benefit of our students. We are confident that they will help to achieve just this.

LEAP was delighted to host the Department for Education's Regional Academy Trust Network at Brinsworth last half term. This allowed us to showcase and promote our Trust to a range of stakeholders in education from across South Yorkshire, and to promote the work of Brinsworth Academy.

Best wishes



ARW
Andy Riches
CEO



wf
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 well-being.

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

- Sixth Form Parents' Evening: 5 December
- Parents' Evening: 11 December
- Year 11 Interviews: 11/12 December
- Achieving Excellence Awards: 17/18 December
- Class of 2018 Presentation Evening: 18 December
- Break up for Christmas Holiday: 20 December
- Start of Spring Term: 7 January
- Y10 Exams: 14-25 January
- Y11 Art Visit to Liverpool: 17 January
- Y12 Art visit to Manchester: 22 January
- Y11 Photography Trip: 23 January
- Y9 Parents' Evening: 24 January
- Y10 Photography Trip: 29 January
- Y11 Visit to English Poetry Live: 30 January
- Y8 Options Fair: 6 February
- LEAP MAT INSET Day: 8 February
- Y7 Parents' Evening: 13 February
- Break up for Half Term: 15 February
- Y11 and Y12 Mock Exams: 25 February - 15 March
- Y13 Art Visit to London: 27 February
- Y10 Parents' Evening: 7 March
- Y12 Geography Visit to Sheffield: 8 March
- Sixth Form Parents Evening: 25 March
- School Production: 26-28 March
- Y12 Geography Visit to Holderness Coast: 29 March
- Y11 Parents' Evening: 2 April
- Y10 Geography trip to Burbage Rock: 8-11 April
- Break up for Easter Holiday: 11 April



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